


March 14, 2023

FIRST CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation 

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

FIRST CHURCH Weekly News

(Be sure to scroll all the way down.)

The Wright Stuff



Escaped Slave Returned as Missionary

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

(John 20:21)

Rick was kidnapped at the age of sixteen by foreign invaders. They took him to their country and forced him to work as a slave tending the herds of his master. For six bleak years in slavery, Rick often turned to the Lord for strength. Instead of becoming disillusioned with God, he found strength in his Christian faith. Rick escaped but was captured again. Eventually, he did make it back home.

Rick felt God calling him into the ministry. He studied for 15 years and was ordained. Then he had a dream in which voices from the country where he had been enslaved called for him to return to them with the gospel. Incredibly, Rick went back as a missionary. He suffered and was imprisoned at least once. Some of Rick's converts were killed. Although Rick constantly faced the threat of martyrdom, his evangelistic efforts were successful. Many pagans converted to Christianity.

Perhaps you thought (Pat) Rick's story had to do with shamrocks, leprechauns, Guinness, corned beef and cabbage, and pinching people not wearing green. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Dr. Sam

8:30 Chapel Service

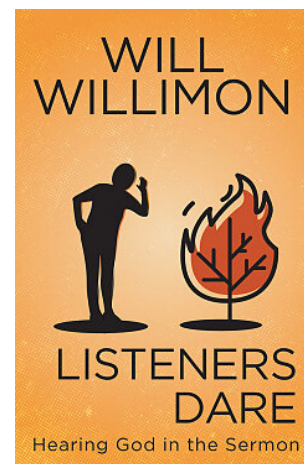


From fellowship in the aisles, to a hymn sing led by Laura McKenna, to refreshments in the Narthex, to music by Michael and the congregation, to the prayer by Tony Kenworthy, the people of the 8:30 a.m. service start our Sundays with joy and excitement!

Faith Café Sunday Group

New Study
Listeners Dare by Will Willimon
Begins Sunday, April 2
9:40 a.m. ~ Room 104 and Zoom

Retired theologian and UM bishop helps us understand how sermons are heard, internalized, and acted upon. Learn and make new church friends. Contact Luis Montes (lmontes@altez.com; 323-640-6769).



Potluck and Magic ~ March 30



**Thursday, March 30 ~ 5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy a potluck dinner and magic from Pastor Woody and some of the members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 81, which meets at First Church. A fun family affair!

Sundays - Indicate number attending on Attendance Form
Weekdays - Call the office with number (941-955-0935)

Opportunities to Help with Easter Egg-Stravaganza

**Sunday, March 26 ~ 12 - 2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Sign up to volunteer at table in narthex or contact the office (office@firstsrq.com; 941-955-0935).

Donate a bag of individually wrapped candy by March 19.

Read the Bible In One Year

Join the 5-day reading plan at www.FiveDayBibleReading.com.

Readings for Week 11

- Day 1: Numbers 26-29; *Luke 2*
- Day 2: Numbers 30-33; Psalm 35; *Luke 3*
- Day 3: Numbers 34-36; *Luke 4*
- Day 4: Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 36; *Luke 5*
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 4-5; *Luke 6*

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