


May 2, 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



55 Florida Churches Disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

I am privileged and honored to continue to serve as the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Sarasota for an eighth year. I am grateful to God for allowing me this privilege. Thank you for being such a wonderful congregation.

I've heard there are questions regarding disaffiliations from the UMC. So, I attempt to answer them below. If you have more questions, please send them to me. Thanks.

Dr. Sam

Why are churches disaffiliating from the UMC?

[\[Click here to read more\]](#)

Mira Mar Parking Garage

**Please do NOT park in Mira Mar Garage
until further notice.**

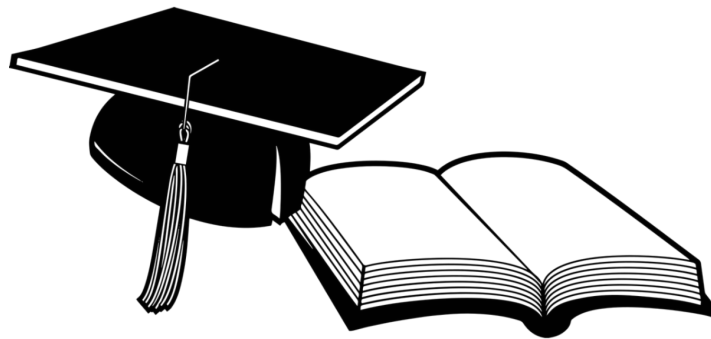
Questions? Contact Financial Director Julie Miller
(941-955-0935; financial@firstsrq.com)

Teacher Appreciation Week



First Church is thankful for all teachers – the ones in our Early Care Center, our Sunday School, plus current and past teachers at all grade levels. Thank you for your impact on our lives! Pause to remember your favorite ones, maybe even write a note if you are still in contact with any of them.

First Church Honors Graduates

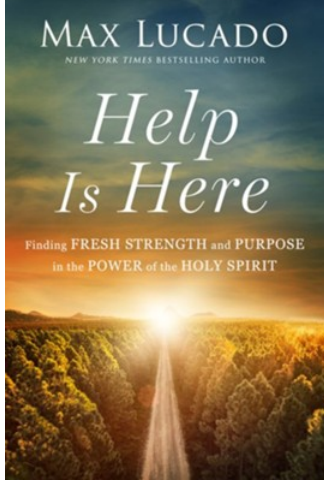


We want to recognize the graduates in your family. Please submit: photograph, school/college, future plans to dmaynard@firstsrq.com.
Deadline –Tuesday, May 23. We will honor graduates in June.
Congratulations, graduates and families!

Faith Café Sunday Study Group

**9:40 A.M. IN Room 104
New Study Begins May 21**

Help Is Here by Max Lucado



This study reminds us that God keeps us on track and that we find strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit. Enjoy learning while you fellowship and make new church friends. Contact Leader Luis Montes (lmontes@altez.com; 323-640-6769) for more information

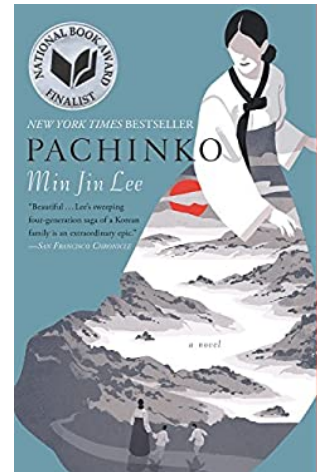
First's Book Club

**Monday, May 22 – 10 a.m.
Room 104 and Zoom**

***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee**

Historical fiction that follows a Korean family who immigrates to Japan and encounters racism, discrimination, stereotyping – also love, sacrifice, and ambition – as they thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

Leader – Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com)



Keep the Church Updated on Your Address(es)

We like to share a variety of news and information with you all year – via email and occasional USPS. We invite/encourage you to keep us informed of your correct email address and residential address (addresses) plus when you are in this area and when you are in your other state. Also, let us know if your phone number(s) change. Call the church office (941-955-0935) or email Sally Hires (office@firstsrq.com). Let's stay in touch!

Read the Bible In One Year

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

Readings for Week 18

- Day 1: 1 Samuel 18-19; 1 Chronicles 3; Psalm 59; *Acts 13*
- Day 2: 1 Samuel 20; 1 Chronicles 4; Psalm 56, 57, 142; *Acts 14*
- Day 3: 1 Samuel 21-22; 1 Chronicles 5; Psalm 52; *Acts 15*
- Day 4: 1 Samuel 23-24; 1 Chronicles 6; Psalm 54; *Acts 16*
- Day 5: 1 Samuel 25; 1 Chronicles 7; *Acts 17*

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