

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SARASOTA
Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.
Contemporary Service
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2024

(This service was recorded from the previous week.)

Baron Garriott, Director of Praise Music
Rev. Woody Woodward, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Sam Wright, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Jennifer Boris

PRAISE SONGS

Celebration Praise Band

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Woody Woodward, Associate Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC

Celebration Praise Band

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Leader: May God speak to us through the Scriptures.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE

The Other Side of Christmas

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

PRAISE SONG

Celebration Praise Band

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

We are grateful for you, for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. To give your gifts, you may mail a check to the church or give through the church's website www.firstsrq.com, click GIVE. Thank you for your generosity.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE

Upcoming Events and Announcements

DR. SAM'S BIBLE STUDY

Where was Jesus' hometown?

Wednesdays at 12 Noon and 6 p.m.

Join us as we compare Matthew 2 to Luke 1-2.

GRIEFSHARE BEGINS JANUARY 22

Looking for help and encouragement after the death of a loved one? The GriefShare support group at FUMC is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. During this 13-week series of videos and discussion time you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

Mondays from 10 a.m. till noon, starting January 22

To register: Pastor Woody (wwoodward@firstsrq.com; 941-955-0935).

DIAPERS FOR FIRST 1000 DAYS

This nonprofit serves the prenatal ward of Sarasota Memorial Hospital where Janice Houchins, FUMC member, works. Low-income parents are struggling to provide necessities. If you would like to help, bring diapers on Sunday, January 21, or during the week. If you prefer, give online, and designate your gift for FIRST 1000 DAYS.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request, you can write it on the back of the in-person Attendance Form. You can also make your request at <https://www.firstsrq.com/ministries/faith-community-nurse/> and <https://www.firstsrq.com/resources/prayer-and-visit-requests/>.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

We want to stay connected with all our church family. Everyone, do let us know if you have a change of address (residence or email) and/or phone (cell or landline). Seasonal family, please let us know when you are in Florida and when you are in your other state. Send updates to office@firstsrq.com or call the church office (941-955-0935). Thank you!

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Human Relations Day is a denomination wide Special Sunday set aside to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach. A special offering is taken the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Gifts received for the offering build King's vision of "the beloved community" through programs such as Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Thank you for your generosity.