

February 13, 2024

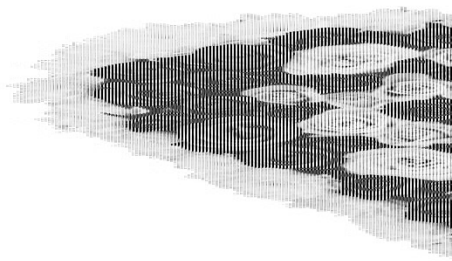


Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Weekly News

(Be sure to scroll all the way down.)

The Wright Stuff



Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15)

The calendar combines both days tomorrow. It's a day to celebrate love, examine ourselves, and repent of our sins—a strange combination.

At times life juxtaposes happiness and sadness. On the same day in the same hospital, I visited an elated mother and father with their newborn and a family receiving bad news in an ICU waiting room.

I attended a wedding where the families were celebrating. After the couple left for their honeymoon, the mother of the bride received terrible news that her brother had taken his life. Grief displaced joy.

The disciples were filled with joy on Palm Sunday when the crowds hailed

Jesus as king but grieved on Good Friday when the crowds shouted for him to be crucified.

As we fulfill the Lord's command to love one another, may the Holy Spirit fill us with compassion so that we may celebrate with one and grieve with another.

Dr. Sam

P.S. If you received a text about helping someone, it was NOT from me. My phone was hacked. I've taken measures to prevent it, but thieves may continue sending texts to stolen phone numbers. Please report it, and you delete it from your phone. Thank you.

Ash Wednesday Services - February 14



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - FIRST DAY OF LENT
12:00 and 6 p.m.

Services, including the imposition of ashes, in the Chapel.

Mission Fair a Tremendous Success



Many visited the Mission Fair on Sunday to learn about what First UMC does in the community and the world. Dozens signed up to volunteer with one or more of the 16 Mission and Ministry groups on display! Thank you to Missions Chair CG Kauffmann for coordinating the event, Joy VanDeMortel for making the delicious refreshments, and the many volunteers who created the displays and represented their groups!

Valentine's Day for First Church Kids



First Kids and their friends gathered for crafts, games, story-telling, and refreshments at the Valentine's Day Celebration in Youth Hall. Thank you to Yvonne Wright for coordinating and the volunteers and parents who helped make this event so much fun!

Michael Stuart and Friends ~ February 25 at 4PM

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2024
4 PM**

Michael Stuart
AND FRIENDS

VIOLIN



MARGO
Zarcycka

SOPRANO



LAURA
McKenna

TRUMPET



BEN
Hauser

CELLO



TROY
Chang

Clara Schumann,
Trio in G Minor, OP 17

Leo Sowerby,
Pageant

John Williams,
Schindler's List

Carlos Gardel,
Por Una Cabeza

*and...
**TWO
TO
TANGO***

Zavio Javier and Nicolette Fornasari

Complimentary Admission



**First United Methodist Church
of Sarasota**

104 S. Pineapple Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-0935

www.firstsrq.com

For a listing of the Program, go to Firstsrq.com/events

Save the Date!

Jazz @ First Church
Sunday, March 10 ~ 4:30 p.m.
The Daniel Bennett Group

52nd Annual Sarasota Prayer Breakfast



Thursday, February 29 ~ Breakfast at 6:30, Program 7- 8:45
Robarts Arena - 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
FUMC Sponsors a Table for 8.

Speaker – Jared Hudson of Liberty College, former Navy Seal Cofounder of Covenant Rescue to combat human trafficking.

Contact Joyce Johnson (941-374-1666; jjohnson@firstsrq.com).

Special Thank You to Joy VanDeMortel!



Joy VanDeMortel has been the driving force behind the Gospel Sunday refreshments served in the Narthex and the creative and delicious food served at the recent Mission Fair, among other events. She spends days preparing, hours serving, and cleaning up after events. If you see her, let her know how much we appreciate her generous time and talents! She also serves as the Wedding Coordinator for First UMC!

Mission Moments



Family Promise/Francis House

Supports families in transition, funds housing, provides cleaning supplies, helps with utility bills, and offers counseling to find a job. FRANCIS HOUSE is a sub corporation that provides housing for single mothers who will soon give birth to a child. Volunteers deliver one weekend meal for 4-5 weeks, three months per year, as well as help with other tasks. If you want to volunteer for Family Promise, or for tasks for Francis House, contact Jan Via (cjvia2007@yahoo.com).

H A P P Y
VALENTINE'S DAY



First United Methodist Church | 104 S. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

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