

March 26, 2024



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

Weekly News

(Be sure to scroll all the way down.)

The Wright Stuff



Easter Hope

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
(1 Thessalonians 4:13)

Early Christians expected the imminent return of Jesus. So, when members of the Christian community in Thessalonica died, new Christians were confused about what they had been taught. Paul assured them that those who had died in Christ would be raised as Jesus was raised from the dead. We all grieve when we lose someone we love, but Christians have hope that death is not the end and that we will see our loved ones again. That is Easter hope. It is powerful.

Easter hope has sustained many of us in the face of devastating losses and will continue to carry us until that day.

Dr. Sam

Palm Sunday at First UMC



Almost 400 people joined First UMC for Palm Sunday services! Team Treble, SongSquad, the FUMC String Quartet, and the Chancel Choir, all under the direction of Michael Stuart, gathered everyone for the 11 a.m. service. The children waved their palm fronds as they marched around the Sanctuary before the service of beautiful music, Biblical scripture, and a Palm Sunday message from Dr. Sam (presented by Pastor Woody).

Easter Egg-Stravaganza



110 children and their families shared this egg-citing day! “Thank You” to Janice Houchins, Yvonne Wright, and Michael Stuart for co-directing this fun family Easter celebration and to Diego Gaston’s incredible transformation of the fellowship hall (assisted by custodian Jeff Croy).

Grateful thanks also go to Candy Bell, Ray Cattley, Diego Gaston and Maria Mossbarger who prepared a picnic-style lunch, Michael’s Song Squad choirs which provided “after-dinner music,” Martha Mackey for sharing the Easter story, the many volunteers who helped lead games and crafts, and to the church members who donated candy to fill over 1000 eggs!

New Website is Up and Running



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≡ MENU



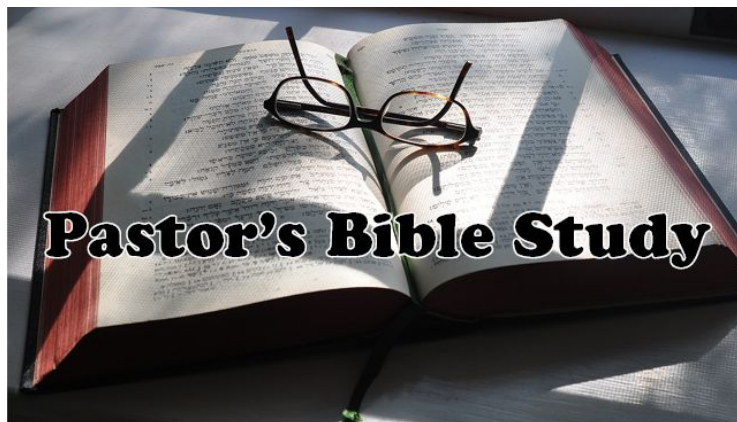
Firstsrq.com

Associate Pastor Woody Woodward has been working (in his spare time) to redesign the First UMC website to make it more accessible and intuitive, and to update photos and activities. The new site is easier for us to update and change and saves us money as well! Please take a look and let him know if there are any corrections or updates needed, or if you have ideas to make it better. Pastor Woody (wwoodward@firstsrq.com)

Dr. Sam's Bible Study

NOTE:

**Tomorrow's last session of the Lost Gospels Bible Study
has been canceled!**



Join us for the next study...

Wednesdays, Noon and 6 p.m. ~ Begins April 3

The Defeat of the Dragon: The Book of Revelation

Bring a Bible. This class will answer questions about this kind of literature, why it was written and why it was popular among Jews and Christians. We will address common futuristic interpretations and wrestle with its difficult imagery, violent storyline and theme of hope for the oppressed.

Invite Someone to Easter Services at First UMC

Invite Someone to Easter!

**This year invite friends, family members, and neighbors to
join you for Easter at First United Methodist Church.**

Research shows that the vast majority of people who don't attend a church regularly, but who go to an Easter Service, choose where to go because of one reason: Someone invited them to their own church.

Invite Someone to an Easter Service at First UMC This Year!

Holy Week Services



March 28: Holy Thursday Communion Service, 7 p.m. (Learn about the Last Supper and what it means to Christians.)

March 29: Stations of the Cross Good Friday Walk, 7 a.m. Regal Hollywood Theatre, 1993 Main St., Sarasota

March 31: Easter, Identical Services, 8:30 and 11 a.m. – Music Begins 10:45 a.m.; Sanctuary

Rebekah Circle Invites FUMC Women and Friends



Tour All Star Children's Foundation

5300 17th St. – Sarasota

11-12 pm Thursday, April 18

Reserve ticket and box lunch with

Shirley Adams (443-745-4981; shirleyaadams@comcast.net)

Faith Café and Christian Fellowship Groups

**Due to Easter Sunday Services,
Faith Café and Christian Fellowship Groups
will NOT meet
this Sunday, March 31.**

They will meet again on April 7.

Easter Sunday Flower Cross

Help decorate the Flower Cross for the Easter Service! Bring a flower from home. We will also have flowers at each entrance so everyone can adorn the cross before it is processed to the front at the 11 a.m. service.

Mission Moments



The Holy Thursday offering and this Easter's offering will go towards Day4Hope and scholarships for First UMC's Early Care Center (ECC).

This annual event in July serves about 175 children who are homeless or borderline homeless and in desperate need of school supplies. Ways to serve include packing backpacks, sorting food, and getting things ready for the day of the event. On event day volunteers help set up the tables, take registrations, hand out gift cards, load backpacks and food bags, help with refreshments, and more.

Visit Hope4C.us
Contact Jan Via (cjvia2007@yahoo.com).

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