

April 2, 2024



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

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## Weekly News

(Be sure to scroll all the way down.)

### The Wright Stuff



Sent or Called, Appointed or Hired?

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Matthew 28:18-20.*

When I was an American Baptist pastor, a search committee would contact me. If I were interested in serving that church, I'd send them a resumé. After they studied my resumé, they'd set up an interview with me, hear me preach at a (neutral location), have me come to the church to preach a trial sermon, and then have the church vote on whether to call me to serve as their pastor. I went through that process four times and, as a result, had the privilege of being

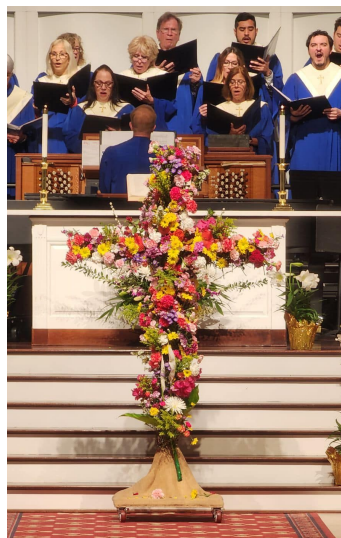
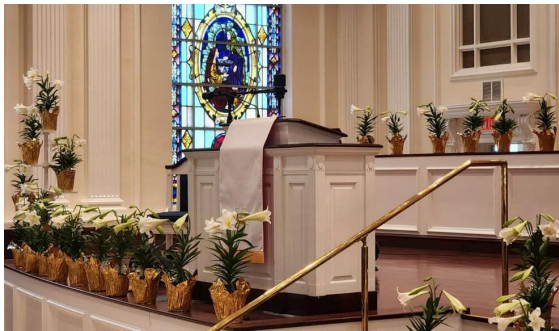
called to serve four different ABC churches from 1978 to 1994.

When I became a United Methodist pastor in 1994, I agreed to go wherever the bishop sent me. United Methodist pastors are sent, not called. We are appointed by the bishop, not hired by the church. The bishop's concern is not just for one church to have the right pastor but for all the churches in the conference to have the right pastors. So, the bishop meets several times over months with the district superintendents in careful study and prayer to match as much as possible the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a particular congregation or ministry setting. Over the past thirty years, I've been appointed to five UMC congregations.

I've experienced God's grace in the "called" and "appointive" systems and in all the congregations I've served. I have complete confidence that God is going to send the right pastor to FUMC. Let's be in prayer for her or him, for FUMC, and for the congregation, she/he will leave as we prepare for this transition.

Dr. Sam

## Easter Sunday at First UMC



Almost 700 people joined First UMC for Easter Sunday services! Heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers and staff who helped make this year's services so meaningful!

## Upcoming Sunday Events

April 7 – GOSPEL SUNDAY (11 a.m.)



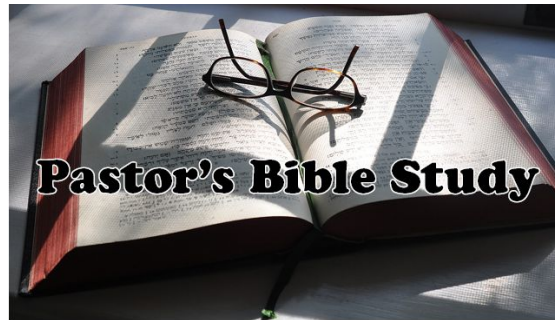
Refreshments by Joy ~ 9:15 – 12:30  
Invite others for this lively Sunday!

**April 14 – VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY**  
Celebration of Church Volunteers (present and past)  
and Community Volunteers

**April 21 – CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY**  
Rev. Brian Carr from the Florida UM Children's Home  
will be preaching.

**May 19 – PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
All invited to wear RED as we celebrate the birth of the church.

## Dr. Sam's Bible 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.

## Giving Challenge April 9-10



» HAPPENING  
**APRIL 9-10**  
**NOON TO NOON**

**GivingChallenge.org**

Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

**An opportunity to double your donation for FUMC's Day4Hope  
next Tuesday and Wednesday!**

By giving through the **Giving Challenge**, 100% of your donation not only goes to **First UMC's** efforts to help needy children through our **9th Annual**

**Day4Hope** this July, but the **Patterson Foundation** will **match** your donation up to \$100! 50% of **that increase** will go to FUMC's event and 50% to Hope4Communities to help other children through other churches!

Just click [HERE](#) between noon next Tuesday and noon next Wednesday to take advantage of this matching program! Look for a special eBlast next week!

For more information on Day4Hope or the Giving Challenge contact:

**Susan Quigley** ([susanq1@verizon.net](mailto:susanq1@verizon.net)) or

**Jan Via** ([cjvia2007@yahoo.com](mailto:cjvia2007@yahoo.com))

## United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Tuesday, April 9 ~ 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

Room 104/Zoom

### **THE READING PROGRAM**

Books related to specific areas of our faith. Beginning Summer Reading with a Purpose at the unit meeting.

Contact **Leah Pittard** ([leahpittard38@gmail.com](mailto:leahpittard38@gmail.com))

## Caritas Still Needs Volunteers



**Caritas needs volunteers to help out Sarasota's less fortunate.**

Monday Morning ONCE a Month at Caritas Office  
Contact **Leah Pittard** ([leahpittard38@gmail.com](mailto:leahpittard38@gmail.com)).

Monday Morning ONCE a Month at Food Pantry  
Contact **Chris King** ([chriskingod@gmail.com](mailto:chriskingod@gmail.com)).

## Rebekah Circle Invites FUMC Women and Friends

**Tour All Star Children's Foundation**

5300 17<sup>th</sup> St. – Sarasota

**11-12 pm Thursday, April 18**

Reserve ticket and box lunch with  
Shirley Adams (443-745-4981; [shirleyaadams@comcast.net](mailto:shirleyaadams@comcast.net))

## Help Out New Ukrainian Families

A number of Ukrainian families have recently moved to our area and are in need of household items and furniture. If you have anything you might be able to contribute, please contact Maya Lane, the president of Nicerfl.org, who coordinates the Ukrainian Support Group at FUMC. Thank you!

Maya Lane ([mlane@nicerfl.org](mailto:mlane@nicerfl.org))

## Mission Moments



### All Faiths Food Bank:

All Faiths Food Bank is the only food bank and largest hunger relief organization in Sarasota and DeSoto counties. The Food Bank was founded in 1989 by a group of individuals who, through their respective organizations (including First United Methodist Church), were feeding the hungry. All Faiths provides millions of meals each year through robust programs and partnerships with hundreds of charitable organizations throughout the community.

For more information: <https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/>

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

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