

April 9, 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



#### Getting Off Course

*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 28:19-20a)*

Pilot over intercom to passengers: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we are ahead of schedule. The bad news is we are lost."

Jesus commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of everyone. That is where the church is always to be headed—in the direction of others to bring them to Christ. There is no one method of doing that. All the ways to evangelize involve teaching others through word and actions the good news of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. That is our purpose and our goal. It's easy for the church to be distracted and get lost in all the different ideas about what

a church should be and do and what different people want and expect. Jesus' instructions focus on where we should be going and what we should do. May God keep us on course.

Dr. Sam

## Gospel Sunday at First United Methodist Church



Toe-tapping music, beautiful solo by Rickey Tedesco, and refreshments by Joy VanDeMortel made for an exciting (and delicious) Gospel Sunday!

## Giving Challenge April 9-10



**Help First United Methodist Church Help Students in Need**  
(See more info on **Day4Hope** in **Mission Moments** below!)



2024  
**GIVING CHALLENGE**  
Be The One

Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

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

**GivingChallenge.org**

**An opportunity to double your donation for FUMC's Day4Hope today and tomorrow (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 Tuesday and noon Wednesday to take advantage of this matching program!

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))

## Volunteer Recognition Sunday



**8:30 and 11 a.m. Services – Sunday, April 14**

Recognition with Celebration and Appreciation of  
FUMC Volunteers (present and past) and Community Volunteers  
**Refreshments by Joy in the Narthex ~ 9:15 – 12:30**

## Upcoming Sunday Events

**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.

June 17 – 21

Vacation Bible School

June 30 – ONE SERVICE – 11 a.m.

**Celebration of Freedom**

Patriotic Picnic

July 27

Day4Hope

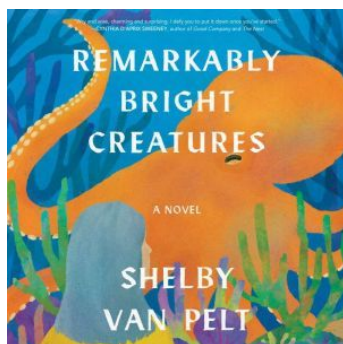
## Dr. Sam's Bible Study

Wednesdays, Noon and 6 p.m.

### **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.

## First's Book Club



Monday, April 22 ~ 10 a.m.

Room 105 and Zoom

*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Contact Leah Pittard ([rockpitt38@gmail.com](mailto:rockpitt38@gmail.com)).

## Please Be Careful

### **SCAM ALERT!**

Recently, some people received emails and text messages supposedly from Bishop Tom Berlin asking for gift cards to help ill people. This was a SCAM. Pastors, churches, and bishops will NOT send you personal requests for gift cards or other monetary donations to be made directly to them for some reason - no matter how good it may sound! If in doubt, contact the Church Office (941-955-0935) to make sure any requests are legitimate!

## Altar Flowers

To donate flowers in memory or

honor, sign up in the Office Lobby  
or contact Administrative Assistant  
Tammy (941-955-0935;  
[office@firstsrq.com](mailto:office@firstsrq.com)).

The cost is \$125 payable to FUMC  
by check or online.



## Mission Moments



### Day4Hope

Supports children from a local Title 1 Elementary school whose family housing is transitory. At our 9th Annual Day4Hope this July 27, 175 children (from 50-60 families) will be given given backpacks full of school supplies, gift cards, fresh fruit, packaged groceries, and toiletries. We also provide funds for gifts to teachers during teacher appreciation week. Volunteers are needed to gather, pack, and distribute items.

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

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