

May 28, 2024



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

Weekly News

(Be sure to scroll all the way down.)

Pastor Woody's Words



In the same way, I urge you who are younger: accept the authority of the elders. And everyone, clothe yourselves with humility toward each other. God stands against the proud, but he gives favor to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

My wife and I moved to Florida in the summer of 2018. I had been appointed as Associate Pastor at a church in Maine until then, and began trying to transfer to the Florida Conference before we left. However, transfers between conferences don't always go smoothly. Dr. Sam proposed hiring me as an Assistant Pastor, assuming I'd soon be approved by the Florida Conference. I was finally appointed by the Bishop as Associate Pastor in 2022.

I thank Dr. Sam for his trust and faith in my abilities to be a positive part of First UMC, and for allowing me to grow and try new things while here. In

addition to taking over the duties of the former Marketing Director, I was able to start the GriefShare ministry, bring the Ukrainian Support Group to our church, and begin a school partnership with Gocio Elementary. I also performed pastoral duties and kept things going during the senior pastor's vacations and retreats. I have learned and done things during this time which will help me in my new role as senior pastor at my new church in Bradenton, and I am humbled by the love and acceptance shown me by the congregation. May we all find people willing to guide us in our faith journey and beyond.

Pastor Woody

Bidding Farewell to Dr. Sam ~ June 2 at 10 a.m.



This Sunday, June 2, at 10 a.m., will be Dr. Sam's final service at First UMC. Be sure to be here to hear his farewell message. Also, following the service we will celebrate his retirement at a reception in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that all of our church family will stay for some refreshments and have a chance to wish Dr. Sam farewell!

Remember...
Only ONE service this Sunday,
June 2 at 10 a.m.

Special Church Conference Announcement



NOTICE OF SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

6:00 p.m. on May 29 in the Sanctuary

Our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Debbie Allen has authorized and will preside at a Church Conference of First United Methodist Church, Sarasota, on Wednesday, May 29, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The purpose of the church conference is to consider approving the sale of the green space along the west side of Mira Mar Court, which includes the ECC playground, to Seaward Development for \$7.5 million. A new playground will be constructed using part of our Mira Mar parking lot. The lost parking spaces will be replaced by parking spaces in the new parking garage built by Seaward on Mira Mar Court.

All members of First UMC, Sarasota, are welcome and have a right to vote at this Church Conference.

News from Ukraine



From FUMC member Andy Roman:

The sun rises on a damp morning in central Ukraine as Pastor Sergey and team prepare for a long day's work of clearing rubble and leveling the ground for a new "hope home." Last week the village of Krasylivka, near Kyiv, was bombed. A woman whose home was destroyed is recovering in the hospital. Sergey has already sprung into action so she will have a cozy tiny house.

If only this were an unusual story. Unfortunately, her story is too familiar to Sergey and the Ukrainians. By sunset, there is a new home where the rubble

was. This is the 293rd home Sergey and team have built since the beginning of the war, changing the lives of countless people doing God's work.

Pastor Sergey is also overseeing the building of a second church in Moshchun to house refugees, facilitate food distribution, and for worship services. These missions are only possible by the continued support of generous congregations such as First United Methodist Church of Sarasota. Sergey and team, plus the refugees, thank YOU for all you have done. The impact of your loving care is felt every day. Praise God!

Congratulations to Tammy Ralston



With Pastor Woody leaving, Tammy Ralston, our Administrative Assistant, has been promoted to Director of Communications. She has done an outstanding job already with graphic design and will add publications and marketing to her duties. Thank you, Tammy, for all you do!

Upcoming Sunday Events

June 2 – ONE SERVICE at 10 AM

Followed by RETIREMENT CELEBRATION and FAREWELL to Dr. Sam in Fellowship Hall

June 16 – Father's Day ~ ONE SERVICE at 10AM

Followed by FAREWELL to Pastor Woody

June 30 – ONE SERVICE at 11AM

Celebration of Freedom Followed by Patriotic Picnic in Fellowship Hall. **Wear patriotic colors!**

July 7 – 8:30 and 11 a.m.

First UMC's New Minister's (Rev. Brett DeHart) First Sunday

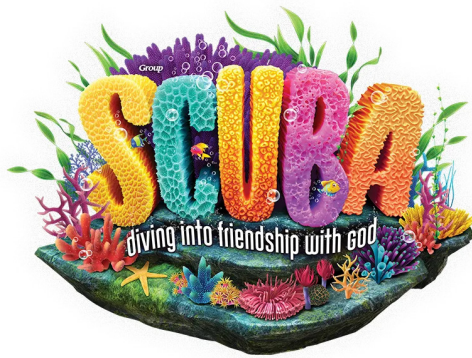
Caritas Needs Volunteers

IMMEDIATE NEED FOR CARITAS OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Can you serve Monday morning once a month (9-11 a.m.) at the office on Fruitville Rd.? One volunteer gets the information from each client. Another volunteer enters the information in the computer. There are usually 4-7 clients each Monday.

Contact Leah Pittard (941-586-0185; Rockpitt38@gmail.com).

FUMC Vacation Bible School Needs



FUMC's VBS Still Needs:

**Gently used beach towels and EMPTY 16 oz. water bottles
WITH CAPS.**

Bins will be at Entrances on Sundays and in Office Lobby weekdays.

Can you help decorate any day(s) the week of June 10?

Contact Donna Maynard (dmaynard@firstsrq.com;
941-539-8560).

Father's Day Photos

We Want to Add Your Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 16. FUMC would like to feature you and your father in a slideshow with beautiful music in our June 16 worship services. Send your photo by Tuesday, June 11, to

techcoordinator@firstsrq.com.

FUMC Honors Grads

Last Call for Graduate Photos

We want to recognize and congratulate the graduates in your family in early June. Submit the grad's photograph and school/college/technical school by Friday, May 31, to Donna Maynard (dmaynard@firstsrq.com). Best wishes to all the graduates!

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