



MusicFineArts

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2026-27

CONCERT & WORSHIP

S E R I E S

Michael Stuart, *Music Fine Arts Director*

First United Methodist
SARASOTA

104 S. PINEAPPLE AVE.
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
www.firstSRQ.com



MusicFineArts

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MUSIC FINE ARTS AT FUMC

The Music Fine Arts Concert and Worship Series

is one of the church's largest commitments to the greater Sarasota area. Our Concert Series has a long and distinguished history. The large seating capacity and prime downtown location make First United Methodist Church a prominent concert venue. In 2010 the sanctuary underwent significant renovations which resulted in the expanded chancel area and locally unparalleled acoustics. More than twenty-five large stained glass windows adorn the Sanctuary and chapel.

Music of all genres—jazz, gospel, classical, modern, choral, orchestral—are breathtaking in the exquisite sacred space.

CONCERT SERIES

The MFA Concert series showcases an impressive variety of programming. Beginning in September and continuing through the end of June, you can choose from a series that boasts “something for everyone.” You might be interested in the large and eagerly awaited Christmas Gala, or you may prefer the intimate setting of an evening cabaret. It's all possible here at FUMC.

Our amazing variety of concerts is primarily underwritten by members of the First Methodist congregation, who provide complimentary performances to everyone in our area—cost is never an issue. There are rare occasions where tickets are required, but costs are offset and inexpensive when necessary. This is unique to our setting and we pride ourselves in providing this to our very cultured community.

WORSHIP SERIES

Our MFA Worship Series is brand new. MFA Sundays are scheduled throughout the year: Thanksgiving Celebration, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter, Pentecost, Celebration of Freedom and our very popular Gospel Sundays. Our MFA services are saturated with concert level music, the FUMC String Quartet, FUMC Festival Brass, many professional instrumentalists, and soloists like Maicy Powell, our unmatched resident gospel artist, and our very own Laura McKenna. In addition, it includes the Mira Mar Music Camp Performance in June and the Children's Christmas Musical in December.

All 2026-27 performances are free of charge.
Complimentary valet on-site.

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Throughout this booklet, events that are denoted with the  symbol are performed during our Worship services. Events denoted with  are solely our Concert series.

CONCERT SERIES

Sunday	September 13	<i>Laura and Order, a cabaret</i>	7:00pm
Sunday	October 25	<i>Spooktacular</i>	4:00pm
Thursday	December 10	<i>ECC Christmas Pageant</i>	4:00pm
Sunday	December 20	<i>Christmas Gala</i>	7:00pm
Saturday	January 30	<i>Jazz Event</i>	
		Piper Kemmer (<i>Tampa, FL</i>)	11:00am
		Sarah Santiago (<i>Sarasota, FL</i>)	2:00pm
		Ben Rosenblum (<i>New York, NY</i>)	7:00pm
Sunday	February 21	<i>Maicy Powell & Michael Stuart</i>	7:00pm
Sunday	March 7	<i>Olga Dubossarskaya</i>	4:00pm
Sunday	April 4	<i>Klassika</i>	4:00pm
Sunday	June 20	<i>Mira Mar Music Camp Musical</i>	11:00am



WORSHIP

S E R I E S

Sunday	September 6	<i>Gospel Sunday</i>	11:00am
Sunday	November 22	<i>Thanksgiving Celebration</i>	11:00am
Thursday	December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight</i>	5:00 & 8:00pm
Sunday	January 17	<i>Gospel Sunday</i>	11:00am
Wednesday	February 10	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	6:30pm
Sunday	March 21	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	11:00am
Sunday	March 28	<i>Easter Celebration</i>	11:00am
Sunday	May 16	<i>Pentecost / Gospel Sunday</i>	11:00am
Sunday	June 27	<i>Celebration of Freedom</i>	11:00am



W

Sunday, September 6
11:00am

Gospel SUNDAY



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September 6 is a special celebration this year. During this service we will pay a special tribute to the Gaither Band Gospel legends featuring their greatest hits in Southern Gospel Quartet singing, piano features and the inspirational and thrilling sounds of soloist Maicy Powell.

Come prepared to be on your feet clapping your hands and joining in from your seat.

C

Sunday, September 13
7:00pm

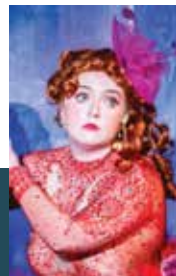
“Every song tells a story. These songs tell mine.” —Laura McKenna

LAURA & ORDER

A CABARET

Join Laura McKenna for an intimate story-telling as she shares the moments that have shaped her life through the songs that have accompanied her every step of the way. From childhood sing-a-longs and church solos to college performances, auditions, and a career in musical theatre, each selection marks a chapter, a cherished memory, or a pivotal turning point.

Filled with laughter, heartfelt reflections, and unforgettable music spanning classical repertoire, Broadway favorites, and timeless standards, the cabaret is a joyful celebration of the people, experiences, and the melodies that have shaped both the artist and the woman Laura is today.





Known for her “full, rich, soprano”,

Laura McKenna is a Sarasota native who now splits her time between NYC and Sarasota. Laura is thrilled to be returning to her favorite place and second home, FUMC Sarasota, for her solo cabaret, *Laura & Order*, with Music Fine Arts Director, Michael Stuart.

She was most recently seen performing here in Sarasota in *Confederates* at West Coast Black Theatre Troupe as Missy Sue & Candice. She was also seen in *Frozen* at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre and in residency with the Ohio Light Opera Company as Gianetta in *The Gondoliers* and Sombra in *The Arcadians*. Some of her favorite credits include: Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime* (American Stage), Sister Mary Leo in *Nunsense* (Mountain Playhouse), *The Music Man* (St. Petersburg Opera Company), Celia in Shakespeare's *As You Like it*, Helga (Cabaret), Patience (Patience), and Woman 2 (Songs for a New World).

Laura is a proud graduate of Florida Southern College with a BFA in Musical Theatre & BM in Vocal Performance with a minor in Dance. Laura is also a proud product of Sarasota High School, Diane Partington's School of Classical Ballet, & Sarasota Young Voices.

Laura can be found singing around the Sarasota and NYC areas, specifically at First United Methodist Church of Sarasota and Morrow Memorial Methodist Church of Maplewood, NJ.

Laura would like to thank all of her amazing teachers and mentors throughout her life who have helped make her dreams a reality. Mom, Dad, Lindsay, & Grammy, this one is for you!

Website: www.laura-mckenna.com

Instagram: [laura_mckenna_](https://www.instagram.com/laura_mckenna_)

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Sunday, October 25
4:00pm

SPOOKTACULAR



This season, **Spooktacular** returns to the Concert Series in it's sixth version. Get ready for a **Spooktacular** afternoon with the FUMC Pipe Organ and the spooky soloists of First United Methodist.

Celebrate Halloween in a fun and unforgettable way with Omar Urbina, Thomas Thai, Leela Sundaram and Maicy Powell. PERFECT FOR KIDS under 12, this lively, one-of-a-kind musical event features movie tunes, Disney favorites, and a special appearance by our version of ELTON JOHN performing hits like *Your Song*, *Daniel*, and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*?

Spooktacular is a unique experience that will put the whole family in the Halloween spirit! Don't forget you costume for a festive 'costume parade' across the stage.

(Silly and creative costuming is encouraged. Please refrain from frightening options inappropriate for a family event with young children. Keep the celebration fun and safe!)

Performance time: 60 minutes



W

Sunday, November 22
11:00am

Thanks giving

CELEBRATION

**Let's celebrate
gratitude, music,
and community
together!**

**Experience the powerful
sounds** of FUMC Festival
Brass, timpani, and organist
Michael Stuart, under the
direction of Ross Holcombe.

The service is filled with
inspiring music featuring the
FUMC Chancel Choir and
soloists, the combined
FUMC Children's Choirs,
and featured soloist
Maicy Powell.

Come gather with family
and friends, lift your voice,
and celebrate the many
blessings we share.
A joyful morning of music.
A grateful heart.
A celebration for everyone.

Sunday, December 20

AS THE GLOW OF CANDLELIGHT

fills the sanctuary and the first notes rise into the vaulted ceiling, we invite you to leave the hurried pace of the season behind and enter an evening of beauty, wonder, and celebration.

The evening opens with a candlelight procession before the Chancel Choir presents the Christmas portion of George Frideric Handel's immortal masterpiece, *Messiah*. Joining the choir are the outstanding soloists of First United Methodist Church—Jade Weiss, Omar Urbina, Jasmine Martin, and Leela Sundaram—accompanied by the FUMC Christmas Orchestra and organist Michael Stuart.

The celebration continues with the enchanting Christmas carol arrangements of Disney arranger Derrick Johnson, performed by the choirs of First UMC and joined by the phenomenal youth choirs of Rowlett Academy and Dan Nolan Middle School. Together, these gifted musicians will fill the sanctuary with the warmth, excitement, and joy that have made Christmas music a treasured part of our lives.

Adding further richness to the evening are luminous works by Morten Lauridsen and John Rutter, along with the heartwarming *O Joyful Children* by Lee Holdridge, creating a musical journey that spans centuries while celebrating the enduring message of Christmas.

Admission is complimentary; however, seating is limited. We encourage guests to arrive early to enjoy this unforgettable celebration of Christmas.

Performance time: 75 minutes

W

Thursday, December 24
5:00pm & 8:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Unto us... a Child is Born!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services have for a long time been a favorite holiday stop for Sarasota families. Our Colonial/Georgian Revival styled Sanctuary at First United Methodist Church is breathtaking during the holidays. Come early to enjoy sounds of the season by the First United Methodist Church string quartet, the Chancel Choir, Ensemble, children's choirs, soloists, and organ.

Join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus and take a family photo in front of the

magnificent 18' Sanctuary Christmas tree or the dazzling Nativity and poinsettias at the altar.

All Christmas Eve services are traditional style with Scriptures, the Christmas Story, children's choir, your favorite carols and Pastor Brett's hope-filled Christmas message.

First United Methodist Church wants to be part of your holiday tradition. Bring your friends and family and be part of this exquisite experience!



Sunday, January 17
11:00am

Gospel SUNDAY

Gospel Sundays became a treasured component of FUMC worship in 2022. From that first service, Gospel Sundays have become a favorite occurrence and are some of the highest attended Sundays of the year. From Yolanda Adams to Bill Gaither to Lauren Daigle... we feature your favorites and create a spiritual-filled music driven service with the highest energy.

There's **more** to Music Fine Arts than Concerts and Worship Music...



Worship Choir, Children and Youth Programs, Music Camp and Vacation Bible School -
Contact Michael Stuart, Music Fine Arts Director, for information on how to get involved!
mstuart@firstSRQ.com



Saturday, January 30

11:00am / 2:00pm

7:00pm

Jazz ALL DAY

THE INCOMPARABLE
Piper Kemmerer
(TAMPA, FL)

11am

Run time: Approximately 30 minutes.



ACCOMPLISHED JAZZ SINGER
Sarah Santiago
(SARASOTA, FL)

2pm

Run time:
Approximately 30 minutes.

C

Saturday, January 30

11:00am / 2:00pm

7:00pm

Jazz ALL DAY

PIANIST, ACCORDIONIST AND COMPOSER

Ben Rosenblum

(NEW YORK, NY)



7pm

Run time: Approximately 60 minutes.



W

Wednesday, February 10
6:30pm

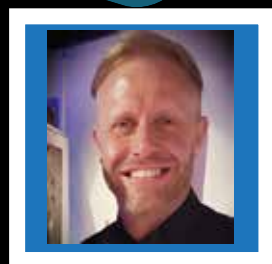
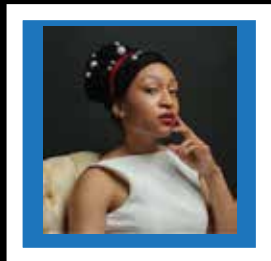
ASH
WEDNESDAY

Enter the solemn beauty of Ash Wednesday
in the dimly lit Sanctuary, where stillness, reflection,
and sacred music invite us to pause and prepare
our hearts for Lent.

Begin your Lenten journey with the evocative sounds of oboe,
strings, and chant, culminating in the ancient and meaningful
gesture of receiving the sign of the cross in ashes.
A quiet, moving service of remembrance, repentance,
and renewal.

C

Sunday, February 21
7:00pm



I wish you love.

A native of Sarasota, singer and actress Maicy Powell has captivated audiences across the United States with her extraordinary artistry and magnetic stage presence. Her voice has been described as “overwhelmingly beautiful and angelic,” and she is passionate about uplifting and inspiring others through the power of music.

Maicy has performed professionally with the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for more than a decade, beginning at just 15 years old in the organization’s acclaimed Stage of Discovery Program.

Some of her WBTT credits include featured roles in *Black Nativity*, *Once on This Island*, and *Dreamgirls*. She has written, produced, and starred in two of her own sold-out Young Artist Showcases, most recently *Growing Pains of a Young Lady*—an intimate evening of jazz and '80s pop that led audiences through the joys, challenges, nostalgia, and triumphs of young adulthood.

The voice and presence of Maicy Powell have become a cherished part of our popular Gospel Sunday Series. From the moment she first stepped into our chancel, she captured our hearts and souls with a breathtaking performance that left a lasting impression. As a child, Maicy shaped her vocal style after artists like CeCe Winans, Julie Andrews, and Whitney Houston. Like Whitney, she possesses the rare ability to transform nearly any song into a deeply moving and

unforgettable musical experience. She holds nothing back—every performance exceeds expectations. Her voice is powerful, transformative, and guaranteed to leave you on the edge of your seat.

Now, Maicy and Michael have joined forces to present a concert unlike anything our Music & Fine Arts Series has offered before. Prepare for an electrifying evening celebrating the timeless music of Whitney Houston, Yolanda Adams, Stevie Wonder, and songs from her EP, *I Wish You Love*. Joining Maicy will be EJ Porter on drums, Logan Martin on guitar, Michael Stuart on keyboards, and members of the FUMC Ensemble, creating a dynamic full-band experience with rich vocal harmonies. Special guests include pianist, organist, and bassist Matt Mykel and a few other surprise artists!

Run time: Approximately 70 minutes.

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Sunday, March 7
4:00pm



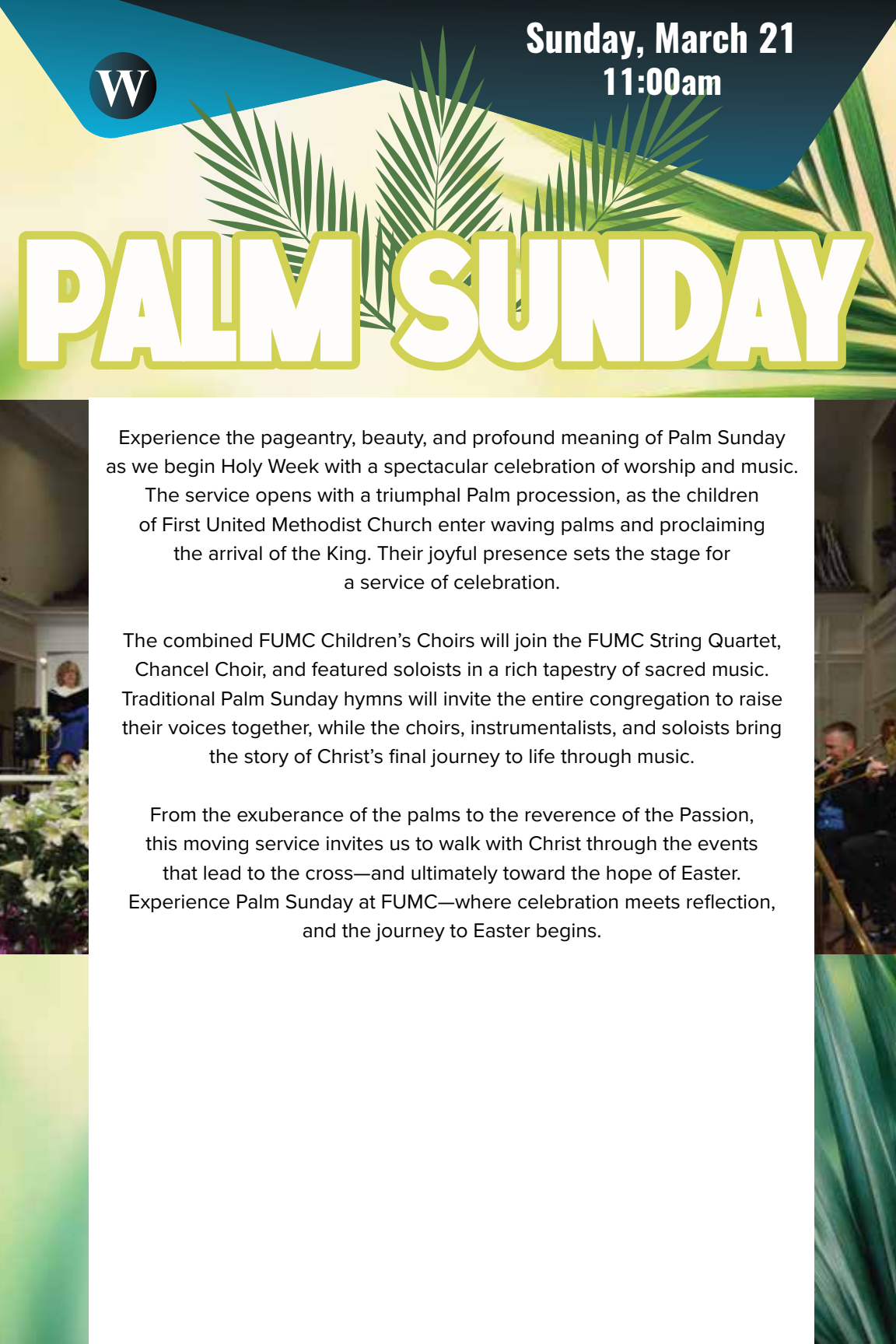
Ilya Kaler & Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler

An Extraordinary Musical Partnership

Few musical partnerships combine such extraordinary artistry, international acclaim, and devotion to the next generation of musicians as that of violinists Ilya Kaler and Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler. Together, they bring to the concert stage a rare blend of virtuosity, depth, and expressive power.



Run time: Approximately 60 minutes.



W

Sunday, March 21
11:00am

PALM SUNDAY



Experience the pageantry, beauty, and profound meaning of Palm Sunday as we begin Holy Week with a spectacular celebration of worship and music.

The service opens with a triumphal Palm procession, as the children of First United Methodist Church enter waving palms and proclaiming the arrival of the King. Their joyful presence sets the stage for a service of celebration.

The combined FUMC Children's Choirs will join the FUMC String Quartet, Chancel Choir, and featured soloists in a rich tapestry of sacred music. Traditional Palm Sunday hymns will invite the entire congregation to raise their voices together, while the choirs, instrumentalists, and soloists bring the story of Christ's final journey to life through music.



From the exuberance of the palms to the reverence of the Passion, this moving service invites us to walk with Christ through the events that lead to the cross—and ultimately toward the hope of Easter. Experience Palm Sunday at FUMC—where celebration meets reflection, and the journey to Easter begins.

A white letter 'W' inside a black circle, which is set against a blue and white geometric background in the top left corner of the poster.

Sunday, March 28
8:30 & 11:00am

Easter

The word 'Easter' is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. The letter 'E' is light blue, while the 'aster' part is a gradient of red and purple. A decorative flourish extends from the top of the 'E'. Below the word, the letters 'ARTF' are written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

**Celebrate the joy and triumph of Easter at
First United Methodist Church with a glorious morning
of worship, music, and the timeless message of hope.**

Both Easter services will feature the FUMC Chancel Choir, the brilliant sounds of FUMC Festival Brass, the artistry of soloist Maicy Powell, and the FUMC Ensemble, our professional choir. Accompanied by the majestic organ, these extraordinary musicians will fill the sanctuary with music proclaiming the resurrection and the joy of Christ's victory.

At the heart of each service will be Pastor Brett DeHart's Easter message of Hope—a powerful reminder that even in the midst of life's challenges, the resurrection declares that God's love, grace, and hope are never defeated.

Join us for this beautiful and triumphant celebration as we gather together to proclaim the Easter message:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!





**Sunday, April 4
4:00pm**

Klassika



Klassika is a Tampa Bay-based classical crossover vocal ensemble distinguished by its elegance, artistry, and refined musical storytelling. Since its founding in 2012, the ensemble has become a sought-after presence at premier performing arts venues, exclusive private events, and distinguished cultural programs.

Klassika's international profile includes a debut in Ireland in 2016 and an invited performance in South Africa at the Free State Arts Festival in 2019.

The ensemble—Chris Romeo, Jolanda Nel, Derek Roura, and Stephanie Kelly—is composed of classically trained vocalists, each bringing exceptional technical mastery and extensive stage experience to the group's signature sound. With a distinctive style that transforms beloved repertoire into sophisticated classical interpretations, **Klassika** delivers impeccably curated programs defined by lush harmonies, bespoke arrangements, and a polished visual aesthetic.

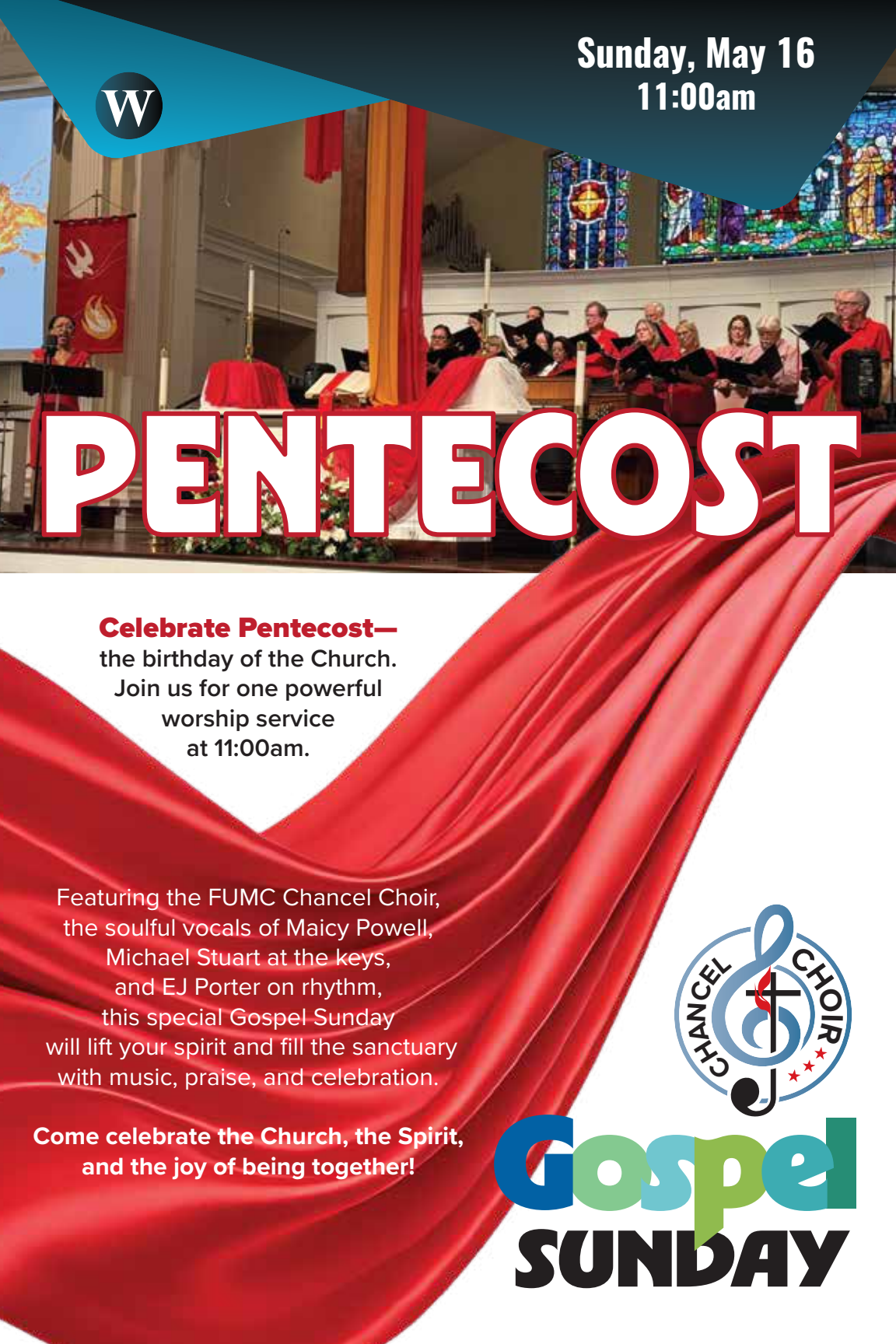
What do you get when you combine classically-trained singers with pop music?

You get Klassika! Merging the starkly different genres of pop and opera, Klassika has created a fresh, unique sound for its listeners. Known as Popera, or Classical Crossover, the genre features the best traits of each style, creating a beautiful partnership that's music to the ears – literally! With their special style, Klassika brings a seasoned flair to the popular songs of today, adding a whole new level of depth with their refinement. Their song choices include *Just The Way You Are, All Of Me, Hero, Unchained Melody, You Raise Me Up, Your Song, My Way, I Will Always Love You*, and many more!

Run time: Approximately 60 minutes.



Sunday, May 16
11:00am



PENTECOST

Celebrate Pentecost—
the birthday of the Church.
Join us for one powerful
worship service
at 11:00am.

Featuring the FUMC Chancel Choir,
the soulful vocals of Maicy Powell,
Michael Stuart at the keys,
and EJ Porter on rhythm,
this special Gospel Sunday
will lift your spirit and fill the sanctuary
with music, praise, and celebration.

**Come celebrate the Church, the Spirit,
and the joy of being together!**



Gospel
SUNDAY

Monday, June 14 - Friday, June 18
9:00am - 1:30pm



**High intensity
MUSIC
CAMP
for grades K-5!**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA



For more information about this week-long event,
contact Michael Stuart
mstuart@firstSRQ.com



Sunday, June 27
11:00am



CELEBRATE FREEDOM with us each summer on the Sunday before Independence Day. We honor those who have served and sacrificed to protect our freedoms—including the freedom to worship together.

The celebration comes alive with organ and brass performing Sousa marches, alongside the FUMC Ensemble in stirring Americana arrangements by Disney's Derrick Johnson.

Enjoy this spirited midsummer celebration of music, faith, and freedom—followed by a festive church picnic - RSVP required.



Make Friends. Find Purpose.

Let's Worship Together

Sundays 8:30 & 11:00am

www.firstSRQ.com

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