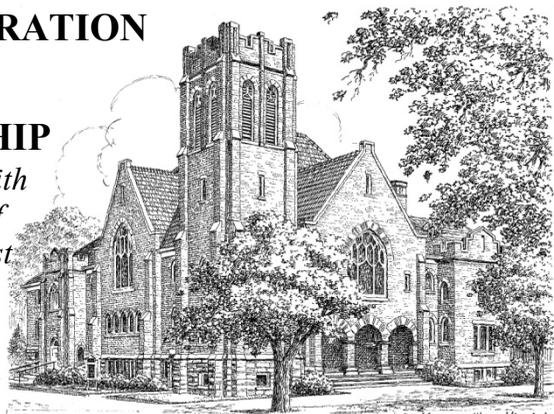


CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*To shine with
the Light of
Jesus Christ
so that
others will
know and
love him*



+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Lord, You know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So, we sit here and wonder where you are. Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful Light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the Good News of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign.

Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. Amen.

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 577*

God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant**

us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

- 2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God's right hand and holy arm have gained the victory. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of God.

Singing: **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and sound of music.

Singing: **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Singing: **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.

Singing: **Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.**

Spoken All: **O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.**

- 3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**
- 4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.**

+INVOCATION

O God of all creation, become for us once again the solid foundation upon which we build our daily lives. We gather before you, this first day of the week, to align our lives to the strong teaching and life of Jesus Christ. Receive our praise and thanksgiving as expressions of faith and love. We come to you, O Lord, as people who desire to learn and serve like Christ. We are ready to receive your blessing and direction today.

Amen.

THE CHURCH AFFIRMS ITS FAITH

METHODIST SOCIAL AFFIRMATION *UMH 886*

Responsively

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom: in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, gender, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference; through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF PETITION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSE *UMH 549*

Where Charity and Love Prevail, vv. 1 & 2

- 1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.**
- 2. With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.**

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *FWS 2030*
First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

WIGGLETIME

The children are invited to join Steve at the Chancel.

THE WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*
Sweet By and By

SERMON *Rev. Steve*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 157*
Jesus Shall Reign

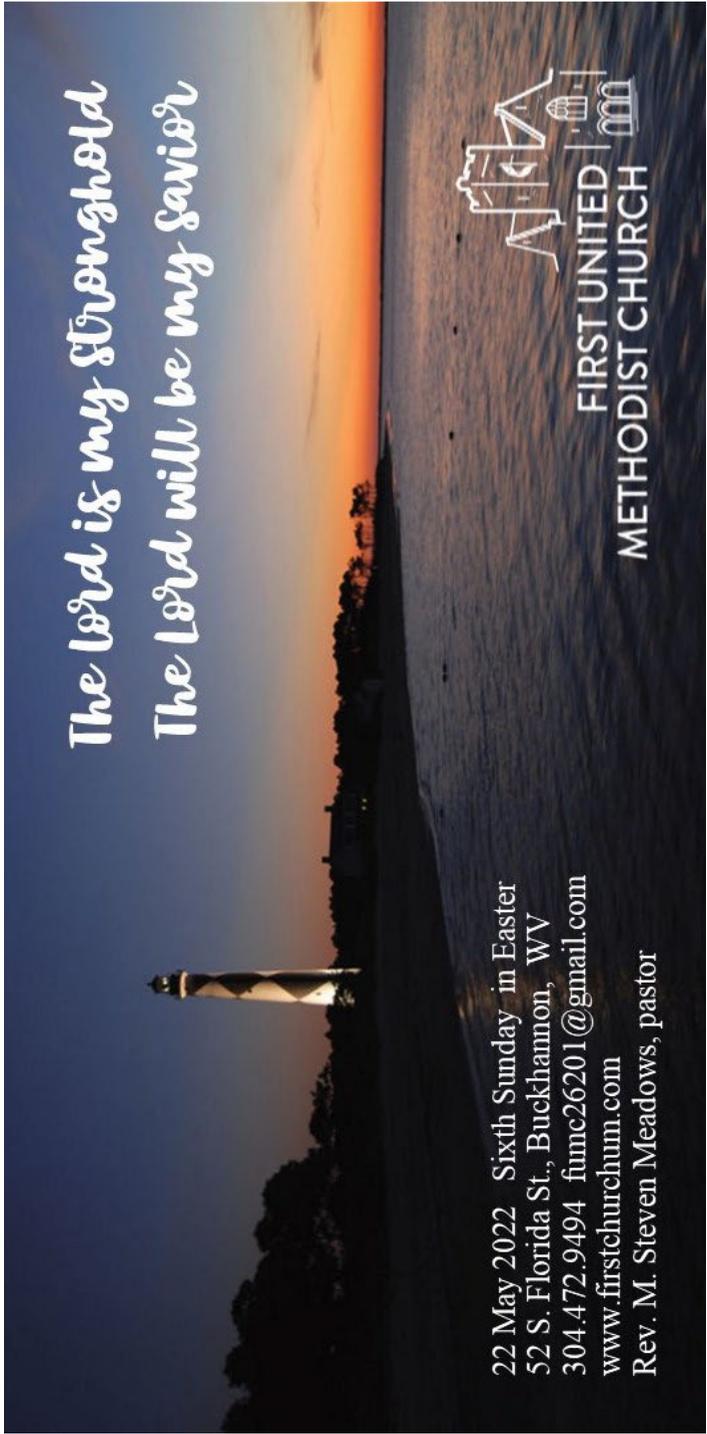
+BENEDICTION

Send us in your love, O God, strengthened by the breath of your Spirit, sustained by the peace of Christ, and rejoicing in your victory over death that brings abundant life to all who call on your name. Alleluia!
Amen.

+POSTLUDE

Go in peace and may the Love of God surround you everywhere you go.

...and the worship continues.



The Lord is my Stronghold
The Lord will be my Savior



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

22 May 2022 Sixth Sunday in Easter
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www.firstchurchum.com
Rev. M. Steven Meadows, pastor