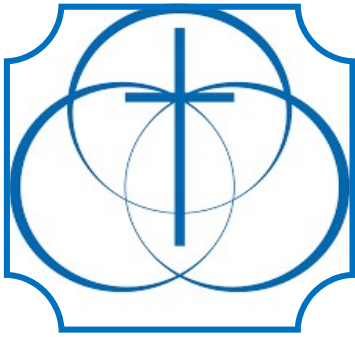




The Spire

First Methodist Church of Lake City
To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship
passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.



Celebrating 186 Years !

Volume 52, Issue 125



in happy moments,
PRAISE GOD
in difficult moments,
SEEK GOD
in quiet moments,
TRUST GOD
in every moment,
THANK GOD



A SUMMER BLESSING

May you walk with God

This summer

In whatever you do

Wherever you go

Walking with God ...

Walking with honesty

And with courage,

Walking with love

And respect

And concern for the feelings of others

May you talk to God

This summer

And every day and

In every situation

Talking with God ...

Praying words of praise

For the beauty of creation

Saying prayers of thanks

For friends and good times,

Asking God's help

In all your decisions

Expressing sorrow

When you have failed

May you talk with God

Every day.

Amen.



Author unknown

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

What an amazing and powerful time we have been having here at church recently! We are receiving reports of transformations and healings occurring within the congregation almost every week during Sunday services. We've even had some stories come from people watching online and being touched by God. Hallelujah! God is on the move in a mighty way here at First Methodist!

In April and May, we got to know the Holy Spirit better. In June, we learned how to put on our armor for battle. Now, throughout July we will discuss spiritual warfare so that we are equipped and ready. And then in August, we will be taking it to the streets, talking about how we can take what we've learned and apply it in our daily lives with all those we encounter.

The VBS this past month has been out of this world! Martha and her team of volunteers really outdid themselves. If you missed it, you should be kicking yourself. But don't make the same mistake again. Don't miss out on what we're doing next.

Starting September 2nd, we are going to **host Alpha on Wednesday nights** through mid-November. I know what you're thinking, what in the world is Alpha? Alpha is an eleven-week program that will help us to continue transforming and solidifying the culture of the kingdom of God in our church. It is my hope that we will continue doing this course twice a year. And that by our participation and celebration of it, we will become a church that is even more inviting, hospitable, relational, and mature. Alpha consists of eating a meal together, listening to a short bit of teaching, and then breaking into small groups to allow everyone to share what's on their heart and ask any and all questions they may have in a safe environment without fear of judgment or ridicule.

The purpose is that you can invite your friends and family to come and participate with you. And you can do so knowing that no matter where they are in their walk with Christ, this will be a blessing to them. Over 80 million people have attended an alpha course worldwide. A year after completing the course

82% of people who were not Christians describe themselves as a follower of Jesus, **78% of Christians** that aren't very active in their faith have become active, and **91% of active Christians** say they feel stronger in their faith because of having participated in Alpha.

Read that again.

No matter who you are, this program will benefit you. And not just you, invite your neighbors, invite your friends, invite your coworkers. You may not feel confident to help them in their walk with Christ, but show me anything that's had a greater success rate than those numbers I just gave you.

If you want to sit back and say that this is for someone else or that you don't have time, or any other excuse, then we can continue telling each other that the world's going to hell in a handbasket. But if you'll just come and support it with your attendance and your attention, perhaps we will see God's kingdom come here in Lake City. And maybe you'll see HIS will done in your families and in your neighborhoods - just like it is in the kingdom of heaven. We start Wednesday, September 2nd and will go through November 11th. There will also be a special day apart on October 10th.

All of this is free! So go ahead and start thinking of who you will invite. And let's work together to usher God's kingdom here!

In Christ, Pastor Tim

July Birthdays

1 Kelley Willis
 3 Hope Crawford
 5 George Maxwell
 11 Ira Lee
 Rick Fortney
 17 Sam Summers



20 Andy Dukes
 22 Jerry Leszkiewicz
 Dekle Yancey
 Brad Wheeler
 Brian Pitman
 27 Gigi Register
 29 Patience Banks
 31 Muriel Caldwell
 Charles Banks



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August Birthdays

1 Frankie Powers
 4 Chip Stevens
 Robert Woodard
 7 Viki Case
 9 Wittleigh Summerlin
 12 Ava Bailey
 15 Sybil Hunziker



18 Wendy Tonetti
 19 Henry Haggerty
 24 Kevin Bailey
 Eric Stevens
 26 Bobby Case
 30 Elisabeth Stafford



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

If you're looking for a cause that helps children, this is the one for you!!!! Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national non-profit ministry that gives children a safe and comfortable place to lay their heads at night and is for children living in Columbia County.

The beds are delivered complete with a mattress and bedding. If you would like to donate new twin sheets (twin only not twin XL), comforters or thick quilts and shams (matching sets would be great) please drop by the church office during the week. The office is open Monday-Thursday 10a.m – 3p.m.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Please make your checks payable to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and add FL-Lake City in the check notes to make it specific for our Lake City Chapter. The mailing address is:

Sleep In Heavenly Peace

PO Box 2905

Phoenix, AZ 85062

Checks can be dropped off at our church office, or donated on-line at shpbed.org.

These past few months have been very busy for our chapter. We had a bed build on June 6th at the Christian Service Center. We built 25 beds and had a good turn-out of volunteers and a good weather day. We also received 6 beds from the students at the Columbia High School trades program. They will resume building more beds for us when school starts in the fall.

On May 19th we were invited to speak at Parkview Church with the United Way. We were well received and thankfully a number of folks attending have heard of our mission!! The word is spreading!!

Over the past several months we have been working with several folks seeking to start a new Sleep in Heavenly Peace Chapter to cover the Suwannee County area. Well plans are moving forward!! Two of the new chapter members attended a 3 day SHP training session in Salt Lake City. They are now working to get a building and setting up their chapter.

We always have a need for more volunteers. We can use help with Media Support, helping to obtain Sponsorship and donations.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to an even greater year of helping our kids!!

Please volunteer and join the team, or join us for a future bed build!!!!



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**





(Pictured: Norman McRae)



.. sleep in
heavenly peace



(Pictured: Carlucci Family & Monty Ashby)



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR YOUTH PASTOR

Hello First Methodist family,

I am David Amerson, and I am honored to serve as your new Youth Pastor.

At the heart of our ministry is Jesus. He is our foundation, and my philosophy is simple: God above people, people above programs, and depth over breadth. I am here to walk alongside our students as we learn together how to pray, share our faith, and apply Jesus' teachings to everyday life. While we may explore historical or chronological studies in the future, our priority will always be practical discipleship—following Jesus in the real world.

While I have many ideas for the upcoming year—including worship nights, Bible studies, service projects, and mission field trips —this is our ministry, not just mine. I want to hear from you. What topics are you curious about, and what activities would your students enjoy? Your input is invaluable as we shape our direction.

I do not keep traditional office hours, but I would love to connect with you. Please feel free to find me at Wednesday night dinners or leave a note for me at the front desk.

I look forward to building something meaningful together.

Warmly, David Amerson, Youth Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY



11 VERSES FOR YOUTH

Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be kind and compassionate to one
another, forgiving each other, just as
Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or
vain conceit. Rather, in humility value
others above yourselves. Philippians 2:3

So then, submit yourselves to God. Resist
the Devil, and he will run away from you.

James 4:7

Do all things without complaining and
disputing. Phil. 2:14

RESIDING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME

This is part of a letter from the President & CEO of Residing Hope, Kitwana McTyre:

“The Florida United Methodist Children’s Home was first established in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage. Thanks to the generous support of friends like you over the years, the Children’s Home has grown into a holistic organization serving abused, abandoned and neglected children from across the State of Florida.

Our new name “Residing Hope” is a name that we believe is reflective of a time tested ministry that has long enjoyed a strong connection with Methodist churches around the State. Our commitment to these longstanding partnerships remain steadfast.

In selecting our new name, we wanted one that reflected the organization we have become while staying true to our history. We believe it also reflects our steadfast mission as a faith-based organization: Empower children and families to experience the transforming love of Christ through evidence-based care and holistic services.

*The word **Hope** is commonly used to mean a wish or desire. But in the bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength of His faithfulness. **Residing Hope** defines us both figuratively and literally, as a place where hope lives and grows.*

*We believe that **Residing Hope** expresses optimism and the opportunity of a better life for the children and youth we serve. It’s that compassionate care that drives everything we do across all of our services and locations. IT’S YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT THAT MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE, FOR WHICH WE REMAIN GRATEFUL.”*

Thank you First Church members for allowing us to be your Local Church Representatives to Residing Hope! It is a blessing!!

Steve & Elaine Stafford



Residing Hope



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Vacation Bible School 2026 was a ton of fun for the children as they learned about the Armor of God and the life of David in a "Kings Castle" setting.

Thanks so much to our Children's Pastor, Martha Rine, and to all of the volunteers who made it possible. We are blessed!!





BACKPACK MINISTRY**School starts August 10**

You can help needy kids who may not have enough food on the weekends.

**1.**

Donate child size nonperishable food, water or juice that fits in a child's backpack. Collection bin will be in the narthex beginning August 2nd

- Breakfast or granola bars, small boxes of cereal, oatmeal, grits
- water, juice, Crystal Light packets
- cheese/peanut butter crackers, soup
- ramen noodles, Chef Boyardee meals
- cookies, chips, trail mix, nuts, jerky, pudding, fruit snacks/cups
- mac & cheese, tuna packets, peanut butter, jelly packets

**2.**

Donate cash to the backpack ministry

3.

Color and write an encouraging message to a student on Scripture cards which will be with the bin in the narthex. These go in meal packets.

4.

Join the backpack meals packing party after church Sunday August 30th

5.

Pray for teachers, struggling families and children returning to school

The **Backpack Ministry** is the **Ministry of the Month for August**. Please check out the display in the narthex during this time and find out more about this very special program.

Ministry of the Month for August

STUFF THE ARK

The month of July our church will have the opportunity once again to bring in stuffed animals so we can distribute them to area law enforcement, Kada' Promise and other charities for children to have a comfort animal in times of need.

We encourage you this round to Stuff the Ark. We have an ark in the narthex of the Sanctuary that we want to overflow with stuffed animals. Bring them in and drop them off. You can grab one to sit with you in the pew during Sunday service if you wish because they can give us love and comfort as well.

At the end of July, we will distribute the animals to where they are best needed in our area.

Don't worry, we will keep our fall and winter animal collections going next year. Thank you for supporting this ministry so well this past year.



Collecting
Through July



FLORIDA CARE PORTAL

1st Methodist Church is a member of the Florida Care Portal. This is a national non-profit organization that has churches working with local care organizations to help local families with needs.



By joining Care Portal, First Methodist Church will have the opportunity to give the congregation a powerful way to not only meet urgent needs, but also build new relationships in the community. Each time the church responds whether with food, clothing, or a bed, it opens the door to connect with families who might otherwise never walk through the church's doors. These personal connections can naturally lead to invitations to church services, small groups, and ministries, allowing the church to grow while living out its faith in action. Care Portal has proven to make churches more aware of the needs around them and makes it easier to respond, all while creating opportunities to share Christ's love in tangible, relational ways. For First Methodist, it's a chance to meet new people, serve them in their moment of need, and invite them into the life of the 1st Methodist Church.

Since our last Spire update, we have been able to help two families in need. Both of the requests were for the same need. **Another Way** is an organization here in Lake City that helps women and children involved in domestic violence situations. They provide confidential crisis intervention, safety planning, information, and emotional support which is available to all survivors, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The two requests we answered were to help two new moms with small children, living at the facility, getting help, but in need of double strollers. Two strollers were purchased and delivered to them. We also provided church gift bags and a Bible to let the moms know we are there to support them and we care for them and their children.

If you have questions about the Florida Care Portal, please speak with Bob Santos.

LITURGISTS NEEDED

Want to add your voice to worship? We're always looking for people (5th grade and up) to serve as liturgists. It's easy to do and is a great opportunity for the congregation to share in the leadership of worship. If you're interested please speak with Blaine Wheeler.



Interested in serving?

You can volunteer on your schedule.

It's a low commitment.





Summer Word Search

S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	B	P
T	B	H	S	W	N	D	P	A	E	S	C
M	H	A	X	H	F	L	O	A	T	M	A
V	S	M	R	V	C	L	C	U	H	S	N
A	Z	M	H	B	I	H	S	N	U	P	O
C	N	O	U	I	E	H	C	L	D	R	E
A	U	C	D	P	K	C	L	N	T	I	I
T	L	K	V	M	L	I	U	C	M	N	N
I	T	N	W	Q	P	H	N	E	X	K	G
O	C	E	A	N	S	T	C	G	D	L	P
N	W	P	S	N	O	W	C	O	N	E	M
W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	R	S

FLOAT

HAMMOCK

SPRINKLER

OCEAN

BEACH

SNOWCONE

WATERMELON

VACATION

CANOEING

HIKING

BARBECUE

SUNGLASSES



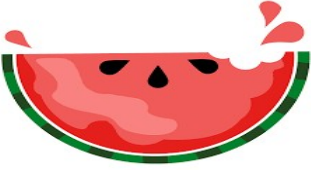
JULY

AMERICA
250

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	2 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	3	4
5 Communion Worship 11 am	6 LiFe Group 6 pm	7 Outreach Meeting 6 pm	8 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	9 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	10	11
12 Worship 11 am	13 LiFe Group 6 pm	14 	15 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	16 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	17 	18
19 Worship 11 am	20 LiFe Group 6 pm	21 	22 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	23 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	24	25
26 Worship 11 am	27 LiFe Group 6 pm	28 Administrative Board 6 pm	29 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	30 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	31 	

AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Worship 11 am	3 LIFe Group 6 pm	4 Outreach 6 pm	5 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	6 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	7	8
9 Worship 11 am	10 First Day of School LIFe Group 6 pm	11	12 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	13 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	14	15 
16 Worship 11 am	17 LIFe Group 6 pm	18 	19 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	20 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	21	22
23 Worship 11 am 30 Worship 11 am Testimony	24 LIFe Group 6 pm 31 LIFe Group 6 pm	25	26 Wednesday Meal Bible Class All Ages 5:30 pm	27 Grief Share 5:30 p.m. Craft Club 5:30 pm	28 	29

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 3	80	June 7	60
May 10	125	June 14	77
May 17	67	June 21	79
May 24	65	June 28	72
May 31	65		

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP**

Our dedicated group of prayer warriors meet every **Tuesday morning @ 10 a.m.** in the youth room in Fellowship Hall.

They would love to have you join them!



Please call the office if you would like more information @ 386.752.4488.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child or “Shoe Boxes for Children” works all year round to provide special Christmas gift boxes for children! First Methodist Church offers YOU multiple opportunities to show your love for children in need. Our church gathers “goodies” all year round which we then pack at a packing party which will be scheduled for early fall, individuals may also wish to go on line at

samaritanspurse.org/occ to have them pack and send a box for you, OR may pick up pre-folded boxes and enjoy filling boxes themselves to return to the church office for bulk sending!



At this time we are collecting goodies for children ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 to pack into colorful Christmas boxes of shoebox size. All kinds of goodies will fit including school supplies, jump ropes, balls, dolls, toy cars/ trucks, socks and various personal care items. Shoe Box gift ideas and information will be available in the Church Narthex, Office and Fellowship Hall. Enjoy your shopping and have fun looking for great bargains of fun!

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH GROWTH**MONDAY NIGHT LiFe GROUP**

Each week a few of us gather for a life group on Monday evenings at 6 PM in the youth room.

What is a LiFe group?

Living

In

Fellowship



The main purpose is to support and encourage one another during the hard time of life while celebrating the good times. We live life together - open and in front of each other. There's also a Bible study component. We are working our way through the book of Acts, looking at the power and the person of the Holy Spirit. And sometimes we eat together too! If you want more information, talk to Pastor Tim. Or simply show up Monday night at 6 PM.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

The evening starts with dinner @5:30 p.m. and then there are classes for all ages afterwards.

For adults: "The Chosen" with Chris Costello –Meets in the Youth Room

"Proverbs" with Blaine Wheeler– Meets in the Front Office Lobby

Children's Ministry meets in the Children's Classroom.



DAY OF TESTIMONY

Has the Lord been faithful in your life? Have you seen any difference in your life? Because you're a follower of Jesus? Well, then, scripture commands us to declare that!

Sunday, August 30 will be a day of testimonies. If you have something you would like to say, please talk to Pastor Tim before that day. If you're not comfortable speaking in front of others, that OK. We have ways around that. Don't let your shyness talk you out of it. You don't have to stand in front of the church if you don't want to. Just talk to Pastor Tim and share your testimony with him.



Sunday, August 30th

MINISTRIES OF THE MONTH FOR JULY



If you are grieving for any reason and need support to help you then please join us for this program. It is open to anyone and everyone in the community.

The program meets on **Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Please call the office if you would like more information @ 386-752-4488.

CRAFT GROUP

The crafting group meets on **Thursdays @ 5:30 p.m.**
All are welcome!!



Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Tim Dunavant
Children's Pastor: Martha Rine
Youth Pastor: David Amerson
Worship Leader, Pianist: Amelia Tompkins
Choir Director, Organist: Avery Wallace
Audio/Visual: Rusty Bailey, David Smith, Karl Plenge
Administrative Assistant: Lee Gober
Custodian: Hope Crawford
Grounds Keeper: Austin Reiter

