



336 South Halifax Drive
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@firstumcommond

AUGUST 2023



It's that time of year when everyone talks about getting back to the basics. You've got school teachers reviewing the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, getting everyone up to speed. Across the United States, football coaches emphasize the essential "fundamentals" of

blocking, tackling, throwing, running, catching, etc. So, why shouldn't we follow suit? As we enter September, we will look at some basic habits of faith that will help us deepen our connection to God.

In ancient times we called these spiritual disciplines. Today we call those spiritual habits and practices. They are tried and true ways to connect to God. Starting September 10, we will begin a sermon series called "There's an App for That."

Our smartphones have become essential to our lives, offering us various applications to meet our diverse needs. We can do everything from calling a friend to banking with our phones. More than 9 million apps are now available to do all

of these everyday jobs. Drawing inspiration from this app concept, we will look at spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are tools, practices, and habits that deepen our faith. They help us connect with God daily. This series will be about deepening our faith. We will look at spiritual disciplines in the Christian faith that can transform our relationship with God.



This will be a practical series on praying, studying scripture, meditating, journaling, fasting, spending time in silence and solitude, and more. We will even have some during-the-week events to help us on the journey.

Just like in school and sports, the more you practice, the better you get. The same is true with our spiritual disciplines.

Grace and Peace,
Scott



Choir Starting Practice on the Christmas Cantata



No, it's not Christmas yet. But, our choir is starting to practice on this year's Christmas Cantata that will be performed on December 10th at 3 p.m.

Would you like to join them for a few weeks as they prepare for it? Practice for the Cantata will be each Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

We are called to make a joyful noise unto the Lord in our music and song. Please join us!

Talk to our choir director, Linda Dares, after church, or contact her at <ladares@cfl.rr.com> or phone her in the evening at 321/279-7089.



August 13, 2023 Traditional Worship

Bible Studies and Growth Groups Expanding in the Church



Were you aware that our church has over thirty individuals who guide various study gatherings every week?

During a recent dinner held at D. B. Pickles Restaurant, Pastor Scott and Terri Lynch, the Growth Groups Leader, expressed their gratitude towards these individuals. Terri underlined the profound significance of this approach in fostering our spiritual growth.

She said she was pleased with the launching of several new study groups in the fall. Be on the lookout for further details in the Weekly News announcements.

Reasons to Be in a Growth Group

- Being in a group deepens faith
- Being in a group gives a structured and scheduled time to focus our lives on Jesus and our faith
- We pray for each other when we are in a group
- Being in a group develops real friendships
- Being in a group encourages transparency and sincere conversation.



- Being in a group gives us a safe place to work out our personal faith/life issues.
- Being in a group helps us to see we're not alone in our struggles and challenges.
- Being in a group allows us to see God working in and through others (and ourselves!).
- Group members provide accountability and strengthen each other's faith.
- In a group, people use their gifts and talents to help one another.



THE EIGHT DECADES CLUB

We are highlighting those wonderful seniors in our church that have reached that young age of 80 or over. Send them a card, or if you see them, wish them a Happy Birthday.

Aug 19—Marge Lippert—336 Woodland Ave, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3344

Aug 26—Jerry Hiatt—290 Morningside Ave, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3318

Aug 30—Don Willis—3719 Longford Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-2805

Aug 31—Charmar Simes—636 Main Trl, Ormond Beach FL 32174-8510

Sep 2—Jim Himsel—12 Ridge Trl, Ormond Beach FL 32174-4938

Sept 5—Kathy DiBenedetto—13 Meadow Brooke Lane, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Sep 9—Shirley Dupree—40 Bosarvey Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32176

Sep 11—Celie Day—P O Box 883, St. Augustine FL 32085

Sep 11—John Saunders—4605 Golf View Dr, Brighton MI 48116-9773

Sep 23—Dottie Black—1135 Glengad Run, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Sep 23—Joan Kelly—89 S Atlantic Ave, Apt 1004, Ormond Beach FL 32176

Sep 26—Gil Ward—1212 Regents St, Ormond Beach FL 32174-0690

Sep 28—Will McLaughlin—626 Easy St, Daytona Beach FL 32117-4003

Sep 28—Karol Wunk—27 Gale Ln, Ormond Beach FL 32174-9224-9224

Sep 28—Kay Banner—4119 Osage Ln, Ormond Beach FL 32174-9331

If you know of a name that should be on the list, or if a correction is needed, please let Frank Johnston know at :

fjohnston@firstunited.org

It's "Messy Church" Time!

"Messy Church" provides an opportunity to connect with God through shared play and a meal.

Throughout history, the church has served as a hub of community activity. In many instances, Wednesday nights were reserved for prayer services and communal potluck dinners, making the church the focal point of social life within various communities.



From Caitlin Bookwalter, Director of Family Ministries:

Our welcoming activities range from light snacks to engaging games like pick-up sticks.

Next, we move into a segment we call "Creativity Time," during which participants can explore diverse activities related to the evening's theme.

For instance, our theme for July was "Rooted, Built Up and Overflowing." During this session, we crafted trees and delved into the significance of roots in providing stability during life's storms. We also created prayer beads and enjoyed a lively game of Kerplunk, which proved to be highly popular.

We've realized the value of connecting with familiar faces and new acquaintances during these moments.

Next, we move into "Celebration Time," a time for worship. We may sing a song and talk about the theme. Finally, it's time for dinner, allowing us to talk to others and share experiences.

And just to clarify, you need not worry about getting "messy" during the process!



Beachside Elementary Project

The chance to make an ongoing impact at Beachside Elementary School continues!



Over the past several years, your generous contributions have enabled us to provide essential resources. These include food bags distributed every Friday to families facing food insecurity, a steady supply of books, jackets, shoes, and clothing for children throughout the year, teacher luncheons, gift cards for classroom supplies, and numerous other forms of support. Your faithfulness and generosity have actively fueled positive change at Beachside Elementary, a testament to the presence of divine intervention.

For a comprehensive overview of our projects, please refer to the flyer and accompanying photos displayed at the Beachside Table in the Lobby throughout August.

To maintain this remarkable partnership, our target fundraising goal for this year remains at \$10,000. With your cooperation, we are confident in our ability to achieve it! You have several convenient options for making donations: online, by sending a text reading "beachside" (all lowercase) to 386-643-0155, or by writing a check to the church with "Beachside Elementary" indicated in the memo line. A heartfelt THANK YOU to FIRST UNITED for your generosity and unwavering concern for our Beachside families, educators, and students!

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Our church staff served breakfast to the teachers on the opening day of school.



Scott Smith, Senior Pastor
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Phone 386/677-3581
firstunited.org

We need your help in providing suggestions for our newsletter. We will be publishing it each month and we need your help in writing articles and news stories. Contact Will McLaughlin, <willmcla@gmail.com>