



336 South Halifax Drive
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MARCH 2024



Holy Week and Easter are here! It is the good news of great joy for all people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave. Death has been defeated. The old has gone; the new has come. It's not Jesus' birth that changed the world. It is

not his death. The resurrection is what transformed the disciples. It changed everything. A story that shows the power of the resurrection is Peter and John before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4.

A few months earlier, they fled this place. Pete denied he knew Jesus, and now they stand on trial in the same spot as Jesus and boldly proclaim Jesus is Lord. There is power in the resurrection. Paul says he preaches Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. The resurrection is the story that transforms hearts. On the third day, he rose again.

Following Easter, I have a sermon series based on the book "The Third Day" by Bishop Tom Berlin. Go ahead and mark your calendars. Bishop Berlin will be here on May 19 to lead us in worship. In this series, we will celebrate the stories from the New Testament of people whose lives were transformed by the resurrection of Jesus: Mary Magdalene, Peter, Thomas, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and Paul. There is a study guide to go along with this series for you and a small group to do. Get some friends together and share the experience. Talk to Terri Kraft about how to get the book.

I'd love to be able to share some modern stories of how Jesus transformed lives. The word spread quickly about Jesus' resurrection because Mary, Peter, and others told how Jesus changed them. If you have a story about how Jesus made a difference in your life, I'd love for you to share it with me. You can email me at ssmith@firstunited.org, and we can talk about how to share in a way that others may hear. The good news is spread through good stories.

Grace and Peace,
Scott

Maunder Thursday at Tomoka UMC

Christ in the Passover

Thursday, March 28 at 7pm

An Exploration of Passover, The Last Supper, & Your Communion Experience

Good Friday at First United

The 7 Last Words of Christ

Friday, March 29 at 6:30pm

Through song, sermon and reflection, we'll journey together, embracing the humanity of Jesus as we delve into the profound meaning behind each word spoken from the cross.

Join us for a service that invites you to connect intimately with the emotions and experiences of Christ, drawing us closer to the essence of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST
6:30 AM AT CARDINAL APPROACH

FIRSTUNITED.ORG

Youth Retreat

Thirty students and adults traveled to El Caribe resort in Daytona Beach FL. Over the weekend we had worship led by students from Gator Wesley at UF, had fun activities at the beach, Daytona lagoon, and other places. We were joined by Suntree United Methodist Church as well! It was a great trip and we look forward to going back!

—Dylan Reed, Youth Minister



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.

- Mar 25—Jodi Howe—547 Sandy Oaks Blvd., Ormond Beach FL 32174-6129
- Mar 26—Joyce Ellis—6083 Shallow Brook Ct., Port Orange FL 32128-7147
- Mar 27—Nancy Kleinsmith—4 Tomoka View Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-3852
- Mar 28—Carole Lytle—8884-A SW 93rd Lane, Ocala FL 34481
- Apr 2—Doris Rand—256 Spreading Oak Ln, Ormond Beach FL 32174-6708

- Apr 4—MaryAnn Lemery—9 Gale Lane, Ormond Beach FL 32174
- Apr 10—Dale Vranik—29 Bay Pointe Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-9233
- Apr 13—Bobbie Harden—141 Cumberland Ave, Ormond Beach FL 32174
- Apr 14—Ed Kelley—53 River Ridge Tri, Ormond Beach FL 32174-4342
- Apr 17—Ann Clements—55 Greenwood Ave, Ormond Beach FL 32174-5325
- Apr 19—Janet Willis—3719 Longford Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-2805
- Apr 21—Lee Bullwinkel—8 Pine Valley Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-3821

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

Easter Egg Hunt at Beachside Elementary on March 16th



This

TOWN HALL MEETING

February 18, 2024

New Building Plans

As you may know, First United is collecting information prior to constructing a building addition to the Halifax campus for offices and meetings. Five informational meetings were held with over seventy attendees. The following is a summary of the principal points of the plans.

The proposed **MAIN ENTRANCE** for weekly business, nightly meetings, and worship will be through the grand lobby connecting the two buildings. Wayfinding and signage will be important as we open the

new building, and over time, we will adjust this to help visitors get to the proper rooms. We expect to gain 25 parking spaces even with the added building.

(You will find the current **BUILDING PLANS** on the church website under the tab "About," then scroll down to "Building our Future Together" for the plans.)

The **KITCHEN** is proposed to be a catering-style kitchen. This space will be for warming and serving food, with the option for some light preparation. The kitchen will not be designed to prepare meals, nor will there be an oven/range, deep fryer, or a range hood fire suppression system.

The **MUSIC** area will be located at the rear of the sanctuary. Several rooms will have the walls removed to provide a larger area for music, instrument storage, and gathering.

Storage and accommodation will be added to the multi-purpose room to support **YOUTH MINISTRIES**. Further, it was suggested that youth would prefer outdoor courts and gaming areas. The landscape plan will include a green area for playing games, a basketball court, and perhaps an area for pickleball, 4 square etc.

Sanctuary modifications include changing the flooring and reducing the overall size. A **SOUND ENGINEER** will address these changes. We expect other technical improvements to be incorporated during this renovation. The pews will be replaced with beautiful padded chairs that can be moved for different uses of this area.

The building team plans to update this information every quarter..

Lenten Suppers

With the conclusion of the Lenten Suppers, we contacted some of the group leaders to get their comments on the experience.

From Aimee and Glenn Wiener – We usually had about five or six people who came to our home on Sunday evenings for a meal and discussion. We both felt there was some spiritual growth during these meetings. We enjoyed getting to know more people in the congregation and hope the church continues to have this program again.

From Judy Barefield – One of our participants was from another church,

which caused us to open our minds to other ways of thinking.

From Jan Jasanis – We met on Sunday evenings, so the sermon was still fresh in our minds.

When we met in each others' homes, the host provided the entrée, and the rest brought appetizers, salads, and desserts. We had a delightful time getting to know two women we did not know previously.

From Ann Smith – I was humbled by the

openness and honesty of the participants. They were willing to share stories about life-changing events that have had a lasting impact on them.



Scott Smith, Senior Pastor

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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>