# Save The Date!

MAR	New Member Brunch
2ND	12:15 PM
MAR	High School Beach Bible Study
5TH	5:00 PM
MAR	Ash Wednesday Worship
5TH	6:00 PM
MAR	Men's Club Guest Speaker
13TH	6:00 PM
	~ MAR Tea Room 21ST 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
APRII	Easter Egg Hunt
6TH	12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
APRII 13TH	
APRIL	Good Friday Service
18TH	6:00 PM
APRIL	Easter Sunday
20TH	9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

March/April 2025 FUMC IOP Vol 2 Issue 2

# FUMC IOP Newsletter

# WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Fellowship Opportunities
- Volunteer Opportunities

#### THE SEASON AHEAD

The season of Lent consists of forty days from Ash Wednesday and end the day before Easter. The forty days of Lent are fast days where we remember our mortality and the need to let go of constraints. It is a time of discipline and self-restraint. I realize that the idea of fasting may not be particularly appealing, but the spiritual discipline of fasting is an ancient practice. You may feel led to observe a brief fast, in moderation of course.

Sundays throughout the Lenten season, however, we feast on the presence of Christ in the midst of the Church. We acknowledge the grace God poured out on all humankind in the person and work of Jesus Christ. In short, we may fast through the week, but each Sunday is a day of celebration of God's grace.

Then why forty days? In biblical terms forty is a round number symbolizing fullness. It's a span of time sufficient to accomplish what needs to take place; therefore, the number is used frequently and becomes a kind of shorthand for much of sacred history. Rain fell in Noah's time for forty days and nights. For forty days Moses and Elijah (who represent respectively the Law and the Prophets) dwelt at Horeb. Moses ascended Mt. Sinai for forty days and nights to receive the Law of the Lord. For forty days Jesus endured temptation in the wilderness and later the same period was revealed to the disciples after the resurrection. Nineveh was given forty days to repent. For forty years Israel wandered in the wilderness prior to admission into the Promised Land.

Often, spiritual formation practices are seen as something "added on" to our personality that solves all our emotional, psychological, physical and mental problems. When this happens, problems can be repressed or covered over with a veneer of "spirituality" that claims to solve the problem. Perhaps someone has told you, "You just need to pray more, go to church more, read your Bible more, be more obedient to God, have more faith, deal with unconfessed sin in your life, and everything will be fine." Spiritual formation, however, is a life-long endeavor enabled by God's grace and calling.

Some people have said, "we are human beings in search of a spiritual experience." Think of this for a moment or two: "We spiritual beings who are in search of a human experience." Here are three practices that may aid your spiritual experience for the forty-day journey through Lent:

PRAYER – Set aside intentional time and place to speak to and listen to God.

SPIRITUAL READING – Sometimes we read Scripture to develop a lesson plan, a Bible Study, of a sermon. Spiritual reading is about formation not simply for information.

Meditate on and truly listen to Scripture for the word, phrase or theme that God reveals in the Word.

LITURGY – As we gather for worship throughout Lent, consider approaching the services of worship in new ways; come expecting to see, hear and experience something new and holy each Lord's Day.

In closing, although we walk together along this journey through Lent, we each must take each step for ourselves. May the love of God sustain you along the journey.

Grace and peace,

Charles
Pastor Charles

Looking Ahead

### **UPCOMING SERMONS**

03/02 - "Down from the Mountain"
03/05 - "These Forty Days"
03/09 - "Three Simple Rules"
03/16 - "Do No Harm"
03/23 - "Do Good"
03/30 - "Stay in Love with God"
04/06 - "Putting it All Together"
04/13 - "Prevailing Voices"

04/18 - "Love Crucified" 04/20 - "On the First Day" 04/27 - "That You May Believe"

04/17 - "A New Commandment"





## VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

They say it takes a village to raise a child, I think it takes a church to raise a Christian!

Please help out with our children and youth ministry programs here at First Church.

Please see weekly E-Blast with sign up links and contact Courtney with questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610

# Reoccurring Events



# CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

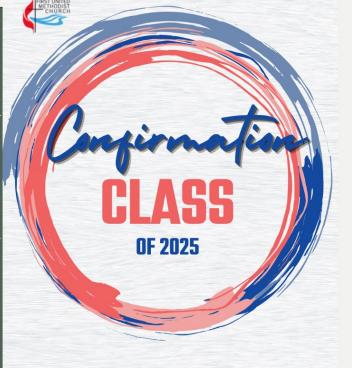
3:15 - 4:00pm 2nd through 5th graders.

4:45 - 5:30pm 6th through 12th graders.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025

7th graders are invited to join us in a semester of deepening faith and learning what it truly means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of First Church.

If you are older than 7th grade and have not yet been confirmed, you can join as well!



# Reoccurring Events



#### CHANCEL CHOIR-

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 6:00PM-7:30PM CHOIR ROOM

#### KIRK CHOIR- SHOW UP AND SING! SUNDAY MORNING 8:30AM (CHOIR ROOM)

### CHAMBER CHOIR-

MONDAY AFTERNOON 4:00PM-5:00PM CHOIR ROOM

#### HANDBELL CHOIR-

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 5:00PM-6:00PM HANDBELL ROOM

#### CHILDREN'S CHOIR SUNDAY AFTERNOON 3:15-4:00PM CHOIR ROOM

#### YOUTH CHOIR SUNDAY 4:45PM-5:30PM

SUNDAY 4:45PM-5:30PM CHOIR ROOM

## WE WANT YOU! BE INVOLVED!

firstiopmusicministry@gmail.com

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Whether you drum on the steering wheel or a drumset, whether you sing opera or in the shower, there is a spot for you! Check out the many offerings of First Church. Be plugged in. Be involved! Help us share God's love through music to the IOP community and beyond!

# CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Kids: Sundays at 4:00-5:30pm.

Youth: Sundays at 5:30-7:00pm.

This is a time for children and youth to explore God's word through play and recreation.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610

# Looking Ahead



## NEW MEMBER BRUNCH

Sunday, March 2nd at 12:15.

Come and learn what it means to be a member of First Church.

Jen and Pastor Charles will lead and speak to you about next steps of becoming a member.

Register on Realm or call the Church office.

### TEA ROOM

March 19th through March 21st.

We need the help of our congregation to make this endeavor a success. We need a lot of hands in place on March 19th-21st but there is also an opportunity to get involved before the Tea Room even opens. We need assistance getting everything ready on both Monday, March 17 and Tuesday, March 18.

For more information, call Kathy Elliott (843) 834-6198



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610

# Looking Ahead



### Services

Ash Wednesday 3/5/25 at 6:00PM
Palm Sunday 4/13/25 at 9:00 & 11:00AM
Good Friday 4/18/25 at 6:00PM
Easter 4/20/25 at 9:00 & 11:00AM

### Activities

Kids Palm Sunday Processional 4/13/25 at 9:00 & 11:00AM

Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon 4/6/25 12:00 - 1:30PM

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Fun fellowship Church event for ALL! Children will hunt for eggs at 12:15 and free lunch for all will begin at noon.

RSVP in Realm for lunch or call the church office.

## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Plan to attend these meaningful services as we begin the Holy season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday 03/05 6:00 pm

Palm Sunday 04/13 9:00 am & 11 am

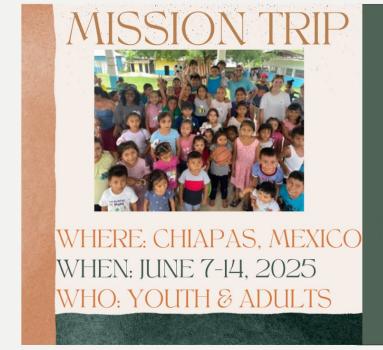
Good Friday 04/18 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday 04/20 6:00 pm



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# Looking Ahead

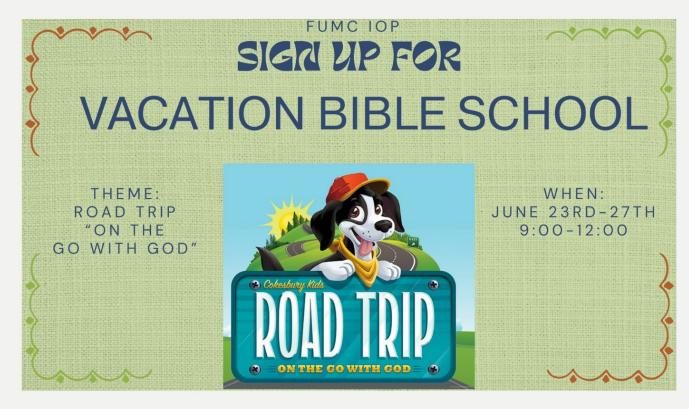


# INTERNATIONAL MISSON TRIP

First Church has the amazing opportunity to go international this summer to Chiapas, Mexico.

June 7-14, 2025.

Email lindamarie727@yahoo.com for more information.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the Church Office: 843-886-6610