

+++++ **The 11:00 AM Order of Worship** +++++  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 16, 2018**

**GATHERING THE FAMILY OF GOD** “All the believers were gathered together in one place” Acts 2:1

**Piano Selections** **Sylvia Spencer**  
**Welcome & Announcements** **Walt Hause, Lay Leader**  
**Joys & Concerns of the Church**  
**Greeting of Guests & Church Family**

**OUR PRAISE TO GOD** “They were praying and singing hymns to God” Acts 16:25

**Prelude** **“O Holy Night”**  
**Madison Chancey, Clarinet** **Julia Chancey, Bass Clarinet**  
**Lighting of the Altar Candles** **Sara & Sandy Snyder, Acolyte**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle – Joy** **George & Ina Ogden**

**\*Hymn: UMH # 224** **“Good Christians Friends, Rejoice”**

**\*Invocation** **Walt Hause**

**Anthem** **“Song of Emmanuel” (insert)** **Intergenerational Choir**  
**Director: Bonnie Allen**

**Children’s Time** **Kaitlyn Gattie**  
Children are welcome to join Mrs. Gattie for Sunday school in the children’s worship room

**Gathering of Tithes & Offerings**  
**Offertory Prayer**  
**Offertory Music** **“Noel” (Lee Chapman)**  
**Bill Wright, Organ**

**\*Doxology**  
**\*Hymn: UMH # 213** **“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

**GOD’S WORD TO US** “He started from scripture and told the good news about Jesus” Acts 8:35

**Scripture:** **Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)** **Walt Hause**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

**Sermon:** **“To Prepare or Not to Prepare”** **Pastor Armando Rodriguez, Jr.**

**SENDING FORTH THE FAMILY OF GOD** “And now I commend you to the care of God” Acts 20:32

**\*Hymn: UMH # 382** **“Have Your Own Way, Lord”**

**\*Benediction** **Pastor Rodriguez**

**\*Postlude** **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”** **Sylvia Spencer, Piano**

+++++ **Finance Report** +++++

**Our church is trying to pay 100% of our conference liabilities this year. Every week we will post a report of our progress here. We appreciate your contributions.**  
**Weekly amount needed: \$697.00.**  
**Amount received last week: \$800.00**

**A full financial report will be included in the newsletter.**

**\* = Those who are able are invited to stand**

*Please remember these in your prayers, visits  
and other expressions of Christian love.*

**Not at home:** Mary Grose (Savannah Court, Lake Wales)

**At home with medical issues:** Ed Etheredge, Judy Gay, Marjorie Gay,  
Pastor Jim Hatch, Walt Heidel, Brandon Hess, Marianne McMillin, Sylvia Mears,  
Ann O'Berry, Ruth O'Berry, Sara Odom, Bill Poe, Carolyn Presnell, Holly Sutherland,  
Lee & Louise Taylor, Ed & Eldora Thorn, Shirley Waller, Roger Waters,  
Chuck & Barbara Weaver, Greg & Kathy Wood, Pat Wright

**In military:** Chris Brooks, Victor Orem

**Needing prayers:** Pastor & Staff, District Supt. Candace Lewis,  
Bishop Ken Carter, Christian, Dawn & Joshua Williams, Pioneer Missions, Indonesia  
Cuba Covenant Sister Church: Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz del Sur, Camagüey, Cuba  
*The family of Mary Gray*

### **Opportunities for Ministry**

#### **Sunday, December 16**

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service + Children's Church  
~12:30 pm Lunch Bunch meet at El Ranchito Mexican Restaurant  
3:30 pm Messiah Sing-along at First Baptist Church  
6:00 pm Golden Girls go see Christmas lights on bus (from Asbury UMC)

#### **Monday, December 17**

7:00 am Men's & Women's Breakfast & Bible Study (Perkins Restaurant)

#### **Wednesday, December 19**

5:00 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (Annex, Music Room)  
5:30 pm Youth Fellowship (Annex, Youth Room)  
6:00 pm Christmas Fellowship Dinner: Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes,  
gravy, broccoli casserole, squash casserole, roll (bring dessert)  
(Reservations needed by Monday Noon)

#### **Thursday, December 20**

3:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (Annex, Music Room)  
6:00 pm Bartow Christmas Parade

#### **Saturday, December 22**

11:00 am Memorial Service for Mary Gray (Sanctuary, Reception in F Hall)

#### **Sunday, December 23 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 – 10:30 am Disciple & Joy Sunday school classes  
11:00 am Blended Worship Service – Choir Cantata - **March to the Manger**  
Covered dish Lunch at Asbury UMC – (Reservations needed Dec. 16)

#### **Monday, December 24**

4:30 pm Contemporary Family Candlelight Service  
7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

## **First United Methodist Church** **“Building Bridges for Christ for 150 Years”**



**Sanctuary: 310 South Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830**  
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**Pastor Armando Rodriguez, Jr.**