Christmas Eve

Candlelight and Children's Nativity
4:30 p.m. Worship Service

We welcome and affirm those of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability into all aspects of the life of this congregation.

FIRST UMC united methodist church GAINESVILLE-FLORIDA with

OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS

WORSHIP GUIDE

WELCOME Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE Marlene Udell

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Rockwell Family

In Jesus Christ, our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed. A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

CAROL UMH 234 (vs. 1, 3, 6) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

[1] O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

[3] Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

[6] Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION From "Waiting Well" to "We Made It!" Pastor Beth Snarr
Isaiah 9:2-7

RECEIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

THE READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY Pastor Beth Snarr and Charles Sanders-Ekbladh
The children will present the characters of the story as the carols are sung.

MARY AND JOSEPH

CAROL UMH 217 (vs. 1, 2) "Away in a Manger"

[1] Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

[2] The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

ANGELS

CAROL UMH 240 (vs. 1, 3) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

[1] Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

[3] Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

SHEPHERDS

CAROL UMH 238 (vs. 1, 2) "Angels We Have Heard on High"

[1] Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

[2] Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

THE WISE PERSONS AND THE STAR

CAROL UMH 254 (vs. 1, 5) "We Three Kings"

[1] We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

[5] Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

THE NATIVITY

CAROL UMH 219 (vs. 1, 3) "What Child Is This?"

[1] What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

[3] So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

(To light your candle, please turn your unlit candle into the lit one to avoid spilling melted wax.)

CAROL UMH 239 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

[1] Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

[2] Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

[3] Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

[4] Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

CAROL UMH 246 (vs. 1, 4) "Joy to the World"

[1] Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

[4] He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Marlene Udell

(Please extinguish and deposit your candles in the baskets in the Narthex as you leave.)

Thank you for joining us tonight!

We made it!

As a community of faith that believes in
Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors,
we're so glad you're here and we hope you can join us again for worship!
We worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary and online.

Christmas Day Praise in Your Pajamas

Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.
A special worship experience of sharing the A, B, C's of Christmas
through scripture, story-telling, and song.

New Years Day Worship Service

Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 a.m.
Start the new year off right in worship.
Holy Communion and coffee will be available!

Every Sunday Starting January 8

Adult Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Children's Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Child Care available during Sunday School and Worship

All of our services are available online at
Web site: *fumcgnv.org/watch*
Facebook: *facebook.com/fumcgnv*
YouTube: *youtube.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurch*

419 NE 1st Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601
(352) 372-8523 | contact@fumcgnv.org

CONNECTION CARD

Please place the Connection Card in the basket on your way out of the Sanctuary today.
You can also fill this out online using our First UMC app or at *fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard*

Name(s): _____

☐ Member ☐ Guest ☐ Regular Attendee

Please add/update my contact information:

☐ Mobile
☐ Home

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please add me to your email list

☐ Please have a Pastor contact me

Please have someone contact me, I am interested in

☐ Volunteering ☐ Membership at First UMC

☐ Growth Groups ☐ Other

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests

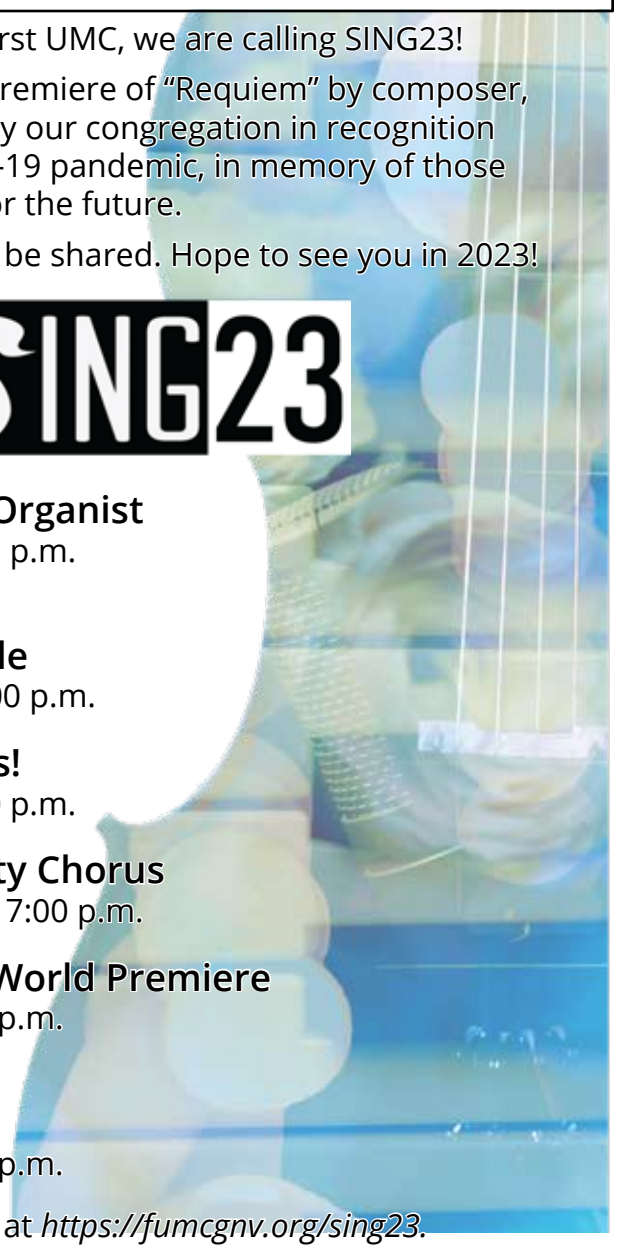
☐ Please share only with the Pastors

Join us as we kick off a special year of music at First UMC, we are calling SING23!

Our Center Stage Concert series includes the world premiere of "Requiem" by composer, Heather Sorenson. This piece was commissioned by our congregation in recognition of all the world has endured throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in memory of those we have lost and with hope for the future.

Thanks be to God for the gift of music that is made to be shared. Hope to see you in 2023!

Spring SING23



Dr. Leon W. Couch III, Organist
January 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
(live-streamed)

Tritium Ensemble
February 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Gainesville Pops!
March 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Voices Rising Community Chorus
April 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Heather Sorenson's *Requiem* World Premiere
April 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
(live-streamed)

Capella Nova
April 29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

More information about SING23 can be found at *https://fumcgnv.org/sing23*.

Our Sanctuary is adorned with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas season in dedication to loved ones. Listed below are the many who have joined together to create this beautiful worship space.

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

My grandmother, Annie Cannon Pound
by Betty Alsobrook

Ray & Jane Cason and Clare Noble
by Olivia Cason & Pam Winn

Mrs. Mayme E. Evans, Mr. Andrew J. Evans, Mrs. Teresa R. Livingston, Mr. Henry T. Harris, Mrs. French L. Akire, Mr. French L. Alkire
by Sandy Evans, Karen Harris, Wesley Evans, and Sarah Evans

Our parents
by Alex & Beth Gibson

My parents, Edith & Jack Jackson
by Robert Jackson

My friends, Dan Francabandiero and Debi Tyree
by Robert Jackson

Carolyn Schaeffer
by Nancy Merrow

Our parents
by Sondra & Jack Moorhead

My parents
by Melanie Pate

Betty and Frank O'Byrne
by Betty Prindle

Nora Rockwell
by Sarah Rockwell

Betty Bell and all the FUMC Saints who passed in 2022
by Charlene Smith

Fred Llana and the Springer Family
by Michelle Springer Llana

My husband and parents
by Joanie Thompson

Robert Van Winkle
by Joan Van Winkle

Our parents
by Joe & Carol Ward

Our parents, Lena & John Belcher and Bess & Ernest Williams
by Charles & Linda Williams

GIVEN IN HONOR OF

DeLana & Steve Aiton, my sister-in-law & brother
by Monica Aiton

Matthew, Stephanie, Drew, Diane, Ryan, and Amelia Core
by Olivia Cason & Pam Winn

The Greathouse Family
by Dan & Kay Greathouse

My dear friend, Lynn Sandefur-Gardner
by Robert Jackson

My husband and rock, Tim Leslie
by Robert Jackson

Our children and grandchildren
by Sondra & Jack Moorhead

Gerald Pate
by Melanie Pate

Our daughters, Valerie White & Chrissy Resch and their growing families
by Larry & Cheryl Resch

Our parents, Richard & Karen Snarr and Tom & Carol Morris
by Phil & Beth Snarr

My sons, wives, and grandchildren
by Joanie Thompson

My children and grandchildren
by Joan Van Winkle

Our family
by Joe & Carol Ward

"Because Christmas has a magic of its own"
by "Strega Nona", Ann Warne

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

TEXT TO GIVE
Text FUMCGNV
to
1-888-364-GIVE (4483)

GIVE ONLINE
Visit our website
www.fumcgnv.com/give-online
or via the First UMC app

GIVE BY CHECK
Mail or bring your check
to the Church Office
419 NE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Have you considered long-term support of our church ministries through our Legacy Endowment Fund? For more details, contact legacy@fumcgnv.org

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