

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

"In the Garden"

Sadie Court

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tony Witts

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God!

Amen.

HYMN UMH 277

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

¹ Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

² First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

³ Into the city I'd follow the children's band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand; one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in an inviting God who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.

We believe in a radically welcoming God who eats with the overlooked and the outcast, the hungry and the downtrodden.

We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us that all are welcomed, all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed.

Pull up a seat at God's table. There is good news to be shared here. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Light of Grace"

Chancel Choir

CALL TO PRAYER FWS 2025

"As The Deer"

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Beth Snarr

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GATHERING SONG UMH 156

"I Love to Tell the Story"

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON

The Good News Is...
Protection and Care For The Vulnerable

Pastor Harold Henderson

Matthew 19:13-15

Luke 4:16-21



HYMN

“See The Precious Children”

- ¹ See the precious children seated on the lap of Christ our Lord. Called the greatest in the kingdom, held so gently and adored. They are precious in the sight of God who made each tiny toe. In their weakness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow.
- ² See the precious widowed women gleaning harvests from the field, then returning to their kitchen to prepare their daily meal. They are precious in the sight of God who holds their broken hearts. In their sorrow they're held by love that redeems each fragile part.
- ³ See the precious foreign strangers as they carry all they own to a land that's full of dangers for the powerless and prone. They are precious in the sight of God who made their homeland, too. In their journey they're held by love as each day they start anew.
- ⁴ See the precious dispossessed ones asking for some food to eat, sleeping under starry heavens, daily living on the streets. They are precious in the sight of God who loves them as a child. In their hunger they're held by love as they guard their human pride.
- ⁵ See the precious world impoverished by our malice and our greed. Humans, animals, and planet crying out for some relief. We're all precious in the sight of God who made each holy thing. In our living we're held by love as we care for every being.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE W&S 3154 “Draw the Circle Wide”

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle. Draw the circle wide.

POSTLUDE

Maggie Tran

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ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Michael and Erin Bruce in celebration of the day they met 20 years ago on St. Patrick's Day in 2006.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to prayer@fumcgv.org or go to <https://fumcgv.org/PrayerRequest>.

MISSION FOCUS - UMCOR SUNDAY

UMCOR Sunday seeks to increase awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday play a vital role in enhancing the church's global humanitarian response because these funds cover UMCOR's administrative costs. This support ensures that 100% of donations given to UMCOR throughout the year can be directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it's needed most.

By investing in UMCOR's operations, we empower the church to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently, making a meaningful impact in communities affected by disaster and hardship around the world. Your donation helps continue this vital ministry - please note “UMCOR” on your gift.

OUR SERMON SERIES FOR LENT

Our current sermon series is titled “Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent”. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. Jesus' ministry can be described as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis” meaning “root” or “ground”. Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be “good news” people in a world too often burdened by bad news? Yes! We can and we must!



COMMUNION SERVICE AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

A brief Service of Holy Communion will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel (located off the Fellowship Hall) immediately after worship today. If you'd like to receive this tangible expression of God's grace, please join us. Everyone is welcome!

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



The light of Jesus shines most brightly when our God-given time and talents are shared in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit fumcgv.org/ways-to-serve



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@fumcgv.org



GIVE ONLINE

use the QR code above or visit fumcgv.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app