

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

Maggie Tran

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carl Rocap

The good news of the gospel is:

mana in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

The good news of the gospel is:

release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.

So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

HYMN UMH 733 "Marching to Zion"

¹ Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

² Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

³ The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.

⁴ Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world.

And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.

I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world.

Thanks be to God! 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

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 Harold Henderson

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...
So Good It Catches Us By Surprise
John 2:1-11

Pastor Beth Snarr



HYMN UMH 292

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

- ¹ What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
- ² What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.
- ³ To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.
- ⁴ And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

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

lyrics used by permission - CCLI License #20865697

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by
Stephanie Hines in honor of all those in need in our international communities.
and
Lynda Knight in loving memory of her husband, Jim Knight.

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@fumcgvn.org or go to <https://fumcgvn.org/PrayerRequest>.

MISSION FOCUS - FAMILY PROMISE

Last year, the 11th annual Family Promise of Gainesville Bed Race raised \$30,000 to end childhood homelessness. This year's race is coming up next month, on March 21 at Trinity UMC (4000 NW 53rd Avenue) so it's time to support this great event for an even greater cause! For more information about the event or to donate online, visit <https://www.familypromisevl.org/bed-race>.



OUR SERMON SERIES FOR LENT

Our new 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!

One of our Stephen Ministers is present each week at the Service of Holy Communion if you need someone to talk to and/or to pray with you after the service. Our Stephen Ministers are lay persons who share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Have questions about Stephen Ministry? Contact them at StephenMinisters@fumcgvn.org.

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 fumcgvn.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@fumcgvn.org



GIVE ONLINE

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