

WELCOME	Pastor Beth Snarr
PRELUDE	
CALL TO WORSHIP	Tony Witts
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? <b>The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?</b> We gather in the presence of God. Let us open our hearts and minds in worship.	
HYMN FWS 2218	"You Are Mine"
<sup>1</sup> I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here. <sup>2</sup> I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me. <i>Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.</i> <sup>3</sup> I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name. <sup>4</sup> I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk, and live.	
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	
<b>We trust in God the Holy Spirit, the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples that Jesus is Lord, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.</b> <b>In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"</b>	
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	"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" <i>James K. Manley</i> Chancel Choir
CALL TO PRAYER UMH 393	"Spirit of the Living God"
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Pastor Harold Henderson
LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895	
GATHERING SONG FWS 2233	"Where Children Belong"
This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: this is where children belong.	
CHILDREN'S MOMENT	
SERMON	Awakened to Grace Fasting <i>Isaiah 58:3-9 &amp; Matthew 6:16-18</i> Pastor Beth Snarr
HYMN UMH 396	"O Jesus, I Have Promised"
<sup>1</sup> O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide. <sup>2</sup> O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin. <sup>3</sup> O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul. <sup>4</sup> O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.	

**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*

WE WELCOME AND AFFIRM THOSE OF EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given by Pam Winn and Olivia Cason celebrating 27 wonderful and loving years together and Chris Leigh, Peggy Stone, Chris Hoffman, Susie Belyew, and Devony Harnist in loving memory of Debbie Johnson

**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](mailto:prayer@fumcgvn.org) or go to <https://fumcgvn.org/PrayerRequest>.

**OUR SERMON SERIES**

Our current sermon series is titled "Awakened to Grace". This series invites us to begin the year by rediscovering the simple, transformative practices that open us to God's presence - Prayer, Scripture, Silence, Fasting, Sabbath, and Service. May these practices, made visible in ordinary life and everyday discipleship, open us to extraordinary love.



**COMMUNION AVAILABLE 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 are 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](mailto:StephenMinisters@fumcgvn.org).

**HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE 2026**

The crafters are now accepting donations of resale items in excellent condition for Holiday Marketplace 2026. Place donated items in the basket located in Bell Hall or contact Olivia Cason at [oycason@yahoo.com](mailto:oycason@yahoo.com) or Lynda Knight at [lyndaknight726@gmail.com](mailto:lyndaknight726@gmail.com) If you have questions.

**A HISTORIC MOMENT AT FIRST UMC**

This past Wednesday, Pastor Beth was overjoyed to preside at the wedding of two lovely young people who are members of the LGBTQ+ community. This is a historic moment for our church because the ceremony was held in our Sanctuary!

Until the 2024 UMC General Conference removed the harmful and discriminatory language that prohibited same-sex weddings in United Methodist Churches, this celebration of covenantal love was prohibited in our buildings or on our grounds. Many of you, along with countless others in our denomination and beyond, have worked hard for decades to make this essential change possible. Thanks be to God and congratulations to Ingrid and Cam as they begin their journey as wife and wife!

**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](http://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](mailto:legacy@fumcgvn.org)

**GIVE ONLINE**  
use the QR code above or visit [fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline](http://fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline) or via the First UMC app