

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"
arr. Valerie Stephenson

Pastor Beth Snarr
Celebration Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered once again, Lord of all and Lord of us.

We come to lift our prayers and to sing your praises once again.

We come to ask and hope and long to see your justice in the land.

We worship in that hope and will work in that Spirit.

Marlene Udell

HYMN UMH 103

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

¹ Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

² Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

³ To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

⁴ Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, creator of all life. Maker of past, present, and future. Lord of all people and of all memories and hopes.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Word of grace and love made flesh, who came to declare good news to those in despair, to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor, to proclaim God's mercy as our hope.

We believe in God's Holy Spirit, who takes our shattered dreams and makes us whole again, who lifts our dying spirits and gives us courage, who resurrects us to new life.

We believe that the Church is of God and will endure to the end of time, and calls us into a life of love and service.

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

"Fantasia on AZMON"
arr. Jason Krug

Celebration Ringers

CALL TO PRAYER FWS 2193

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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

Choosing Faith: Persistence
Luke 18:1-8

Pastor Beth Snarr

HYMN UMH 526

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

¹ What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

² Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

³ Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

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

"Postlude on AZMON"
Richard A. Williamson

Maggie Tran

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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 an anonymous donor in gratitude to God because God loves us!

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

MINISTRY FOCUS - IMMIGRATION FUND

Our Immigration Fund was established this summer as we became increasingly aware of the incredible challenges facing those affected by the recent changes in our nation's immigration policies. So far, First UMC has used these donations to pay legal, educational, and other expenses for our dear family from Iran, Hamid, Mitra, and Janan who are seeking religious asylum in the U.S. This fund may also be accessed in the future for others with refugee or immigrant status who have similar needs. Thank you for your continued generosity as we embrace our privilege and responsibility to "welcome the stranger" among us as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Please indicate "Immigration Fund" on however you give your second-mile gift.

OUR SERMON SERIES

Our current Sermon Series is titled "Choosing Faith". Is faith a gift or a choice? Is it something God does in us or something we do for God? The answer is, "Yes!"

Faith is a mixture of all that and more. It's a partnership with God as we enter into relationship for our good and the good of the community and the world around us. We have the choice every day to live by our faith, to be shaped by our faith, and to submit all our actions and relationships to the measure of faith. In this worship series, we'll examine what it means to be people who choose faith.

COMMUNION AVAILABLE AFTER WORSHIP

A brief Service of Holy Communion (approx. 15 minutes) will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel immediately after worship today. 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@fumcgnv.org.

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2025

All are welcome to attend this year's Charge Conference on Tuesday, October 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Bartley Temple UMC (1936 NE 8th Ave, 32641) This will be a time of worship with other United Methodist Churches in the District as well as signifying the time when each individual church performs administrative tasks required for the operations of their church. One of those tasks is the completion of a yearly membership audit to keep our membership rolls up-to-date. We have copies of the inactive lists on the Welcome Table - please take a look to see if you know anyone on the list and ask them to contact us.

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 fumcgnv.org/ways-to-serve

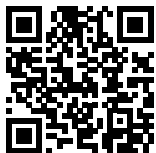


GIVE BY CHECK

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@fumcgnv.org



GIVE ONLINE

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