

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

"Morning Prayer"
Venita MacGorman

Fellowship Of The Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Morris

New every morning is God’s love for us.
New every day is our opportunity to practice gratitude for what we have,
to seek ways to heal the world,
and to draw closer to our Creator.
So let us worship God.

HYMN

UMH 131

"We Gather Together"

¹ We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

² Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

³ We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the creator and creative God who clothes the wild flowers and is the true Friend of all creatures great and small.
We believe in the God of Jesus Christ, the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth.
We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine, and brings healing with his every touch.

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

Michael Knowles

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 Hendeson

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

Together We Thrive!

Pastor Beth Snarr

Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow

Psalm 46

HYMN

FWS 2008

"Let All Things Now Living"

¹ Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days. God’s banners fly o’er us; God’s light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

² The law God enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine. We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

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

Michael Knowles

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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 Kathleen and Robbie Olson in loving celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary.

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>.

STEWARDSHIP 2026

We are in the midst of our annual Stewardship Campaign and today is Commitment Sunday. All members and regular attenders should have received a packet either after worship or from us in the mail. We hope that you have taken the time to prayerfully consider the information in the packet and how you can support the ministries and operations of First UMC in 2026.



During the final hymn today, you will have the opportunity to bring your pledge card forward - if you need a pledge card, they are available on the Welcome Table. You can also submit your pledge card via our web site at <https://fumcgnv.org/pledge> or through the First UMC app. Thank you for supporting your faith family in this necessary and tangible way.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

The Church Office will be closed next Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Church Office will reopen under its normal schedule on Monday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Next Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent and we are starting a new sermon series titled "What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent". Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold on to hope because we believe that Christ did come - that's the promise of the season. In this sermon series, we reflect on a hope that is not flimsy or fleeting. Our hope is gritty, resilient, and can endure - no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope, peace, joy, love, and light, trusting that the Good News is greater than fear.



COMMUNION AVAILABLE AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

A brief Service of Holy Communion (approximately 15 minutes) will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel (adjacent to 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!



SAVE THE DATE - DICKENS INN

Dickens Inn, our traditional First UMC potluck holiday dinner will be on Tuesday, December 16th, and Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. There will be lots of fun, singing and special entertainment, and of course, a special visit by Mr. & Mrs. Claus for the children and wonderful photos for folks of all ages! Reservations can be placed starting next Sunday after the service or via the church office during the week.

COOKIES AND POINSETTIAS

We are sending cookies and poinsettias again this year to members of our faith family who are homebound. We have cookie tins and will buy the flowers, but need cookie bakers (or buyers) and delivery helpers. To volunteer, you can sign up in the courtyard after church, contact Diane Loyless at 352-284-7419, or send Larry an email at larry@fumcgnv.org.

We need your cookie donations by December 1 - cookies can be dropped off at the church office during the week or at the Welcome Table next Sunday. If you wish to donate to this ministry, please include "Cookies and Poinsettias" on your check or you can donate online.

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