

COMMUNITY



FIRST UNITED Methodist Church



FIRST UNITED Methodist Church

2025-2026 Ministry Magazine



We asked **your Directors** what excited them this coming year. **They said...**



I am looking forward to seeing The Commons space come alive as a place where our church family can share space and get to know one another better. I can't wait for the day that a 60-something-year-old is playing air hockey with a 6-year-old.

Rev. Amy Strader, Pastor of Young People, Families, and Ranch Campus



I am most excited about our Pathways for Discipleship focus. We are offering a wide variety of opportunities for you to learn, grow, and experience hope! I'm also excited for the launch of the new Foothills Campus, engaging with folks who feel disconnected from faith and community.

Rev. Carrie West, Pastor of Foothills Campus and Caring Ministries



I am excited for the number of people who will find a safe, thriving, relevant faith expression at FUMC in 2025-2026! Don't forget to invite someone to join you here!

Rev. Eric Strader, Pastor of Worship, Discipleship, & Administration



After the last few months of physical transition in the building, I look forward to seeing how we will live into 'a whole new world': new opportunities for learning, music to discover, guests and members to welcome, new friendships to be forged, new opportunities to live out our faith.

Douglas Grogan, Director of Music and Arts



I am excited for our Sanctuary to step up its game in the Music and Arts venue scene in Colorado Springs. With working HVAC and fully controllable multicolored lights, we will be on par with the likes of the Pikes Peak Center.

Bryan Hurst, Director of Operations



I am excited to build upon the learnings and deepenings from my recent renewal leave, especially how the congregation grew less pastor-centric and lay leadership was raised up in meaningful ways.

Rev. Patty Walker, Pastor of Prairie Campus



WORSHIP

SERMON SERIES

September

The Contoured Path

We'll explore the mountains and valleys of our lives. We'll delve into the moments of mountaintop joy—those times when we feel closest to God, filled with peace and purpose. But we will also navigate the valleys—the seasons of struggle, doubt, and loss where finding God's presence can feel like an arduous trek. Our journey with God is not a flat, smooth road; it is filled with significant ups and downs.

December

The Redemption of Scrooge

We know the beloved story of Scrooge, but have we applied it to our own faith journey? Journey through each character in the Scrooge story and find your own redemption this Christmas.

February

Season of Rest: Finding Peace and Renewal in a Busy World

April

World Religions

For this series, we will journey beyond our own traditions to explore the rich tapestry of the world's great religions. By understanding how others seek meaning and connect with the divine, we hope to deepen our own faith and appreciation for God's presence in all of creation.

June-July

The Story of John the Beloved: The gospel, the letters, the revelation.

October-November

Fables for Families

Family is important, both the family of origin and the family of choice. This series will foster intergenerational dialogue, practice applications, and help families understand ways to be in relationship with one another.

January

When Christianity Got It Wrong

Exploring the dark side of Christianity and how our failures are learning moments for the best of Christianity.

March (Lent)

The Gaze of God: Seeing and Being Seen Through Art

This theme uses famous artworks to explore how God sees humanity, and how we, in turn, are called to see God and our fellow human beings.

May

Musicals That Made Us

During this series, we'll explore "The Sound of Music", "Come From Away", "Wicked", and "Les Misérables"



ADDITIONAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Service and Meal

November 23rd | 10am
ONE SERVICE

Join us for a celebration of all we are thankful for: family, church, community, faith, and God. Following worship, a special thanksgiving meal. Bring a side dish or dessert to share; the church will provide turkeys!

Ash Wednesday
February 18th
6:30pm

Christmas Eve Eve

John Wesley Ranch
December 23rd
7pm | Chapel

Palm Sunday

March 29th
8am | Chapel
Informal Traditional
9am | Sanctuary
Contemporary
11am | Sanctuary
Traditional

Christmas Eve

2pm - Wiggle Friendly
with Contemporary Band
5 & 7pm - Traditional with
Chancel Choir and Brass
11pm - Contemplative
with Communion

John Wesley Covenant Service

December 28th
ONE SERVICE
10:00am

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd | 6:30pm
Follow the Steps of Jesus
to the cross with a
community night.

Good Friday

April 3rd | 6:30pm
John Rutter's Requiem

Easter

April 5th
8am | Chapel
Informal Traditional
9am | Sanctuary
Wiggle Friendly
11am | Sanctuary
Traditional with Brass

Love Lights A Candle

December 5th, 12th, 19th
12:00pm | Chapel

Love Lights a Candle is a beloved worship service at FUMC-CS focusing on those who are grieving in loss during the holidays. This year, we will host 30-minute services of singing and reflection to engage all the elements of loss and grief during the season of Christmas.

PRIDE SERVICE

In Collaboration with
Prairie Campus
June 14th
9am | Theatre

155th Anniversary
September 13th | 10:00am
ONE SERVICE

Join together as one, as we celebrate 155 years of being this community we call church in Colorado Springs.



ALL CHURCH EVENTS



Volunteer Appreciation & Church Conference NOVEMBER 16th

Church Conference is an important day in the life of the church, both as the day we come to celebrate our volunteers, reflect on the year we've had, and vote on various topics.

Christmas Treasures

DECEMBER 14TH
10:00am

Christmas Treasures is a special opportunity for kids to create meaningful gifts for the people they love. Since children can't do it alone, we need your help! Please consider volunteering to make this a truly intergenerational event. Grandparents, we especially encourage you to bring your grandkids and create gifts together!



OWL: Our Whole Lives

An 8th and 9th grade OWL class is starting in January, followed by a 1st thru Kindergarten class. If interest exists, there are also adult and older adult courses.

OWL is a sexual health curriculum designed to help people of all ages make healthy, responsible decisions about their bodies and relationships. Since God created us, it's essential that we are able to discuss all parts of ourselves within the church. This class will be co-facilitated by OWL-certified leaders, Rev. Amy Strader and Rev. Josh Rumble (First Congregational Church).



UWF Bazaar

November 15th | 9am-5pm
November 16th | 8:30am-12:30pm

The Bazaar is a yearly event to sell items for missions. Come find next-to-new goods, crafts, quilts, meals, nuts, and more!



Rend Collective Concert

November 8th | 7:00pm

With hits like "My Lighthouse" and "Build Your Kingdom Here," folk-rock worship band Rend Collective wants to be known as a worship band. Hailing from the coast of Northern Ireland, Rend Collective is coming to Colorado Springs. Keep an eye out for tickets in the Encounter.



Winter Fest

JANUARY 31st 2026 | 10:00am
John Wesley Ranch

Join us for a cozy and fun-filled day at our annual Winter Fest! We'll have classic winter activities like sledding and warming up by the fire. The highlight of the day is our famous chili cook-off, so bring your best recipe and a warm sweater! It's a perfect day to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and fellowship with our church family. Keep an eye out for signups in the Encounter.

Ranch Camp

AUGUST 21st - 23rd 2026 | John Wesley Ranch

Ranch Camp is designed for everyone – whether you're a long-time member, a new face, lovin' the single life, or a family with kids, we are one big church family. Keep an eye out for sign ups in the Encounter.



CARING MINISTRIES caring@fumc-cs.org



Prayer Group

Our prayer group meets one Wednesday a month to offer prayer for a myriad of concerns.



Grief Groups

When a person has experienced the loss of a loved one we offer assistance and care through Voices of Grief and special services like December's "Love Lights a Candle"



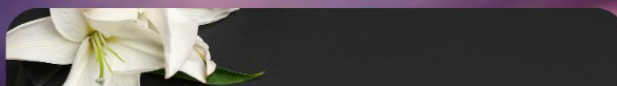
Homebound Visitation

This team of dedicated volunteers visits homebound church members, showing them our love and concern.



Prayer Shawls

Our beautiful prayer shawls are knitted and crocheted by dedicated church members. Together they pray over the tangible warmth and comfort of prayers.



Bereavement

Funerals are a difficult time for families and friends. Our Church offers both a Sanctuary and Chapel for services. After the service, families can gather in our reception area to share memories. First United Methodist is also home to a Columbarium, which is a consecrated space created to serve as a final resting place and home for safekeeping of our beloved's ashes.



NOAH

Never Old At Heart (NOAH) is a group of Senior Adults (60+) that meet for breakfast or lunch monthly

JOHN WESLEY RANCH ranch@fumc-cs.org

Where the Wifi is Low and the Connection is High

Every year, Sunday Schools, Choir, United Women of Faith, Youth Group and the staff make their way up to this little slice of FUMC, for a retreat away from the bustle of downtown. Several times a year, the whole church is invited up to The Ranch to share in a day of Creation, Community, and Christ. You too can make this Ranch your home away from home in of Divide, whether that be through a stay, service, or your support.

Whether you're looking for a weekend camping retreat, a place to host a conference or wedding, a cozy cottage for a romantic getaway, or a group retreat out in nature, the ranch has something for everyone.

With your help, we can continue to maintain our ranch and ensure our guests have a safe and enjoyable experience.



We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year, from seasonal projects to lawn maintenance, fire mitigation, forestry. Even events like Winter Fest and Ranch Camp always offer an opportunity to give back. You can help make a difference in our community, learn new skills, and meet new people all while experiencing the beauty of the Ranch.

CARING MINISTRIES



JOHN WESLEY RANCH



ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sunday Morning Groups

Sunday Morning Classes often explore new curriculum or topics. Please check the Monthly Encounter for the most Up To Date topics.

BEREANS | 9:30am | N2 Rm 210

A community of adults learning from lively discussions of current day topics with biblical relevance.

EARLY BELIEVERS | 9:30am | NB Rm 10

Early Believers is a small group discussion class with shared leadership, using Bible themed study books and amplify videos.

KERYGMA | 9:30am | NB Rm 202

Kerygma invites a variety of speakers to present topics of their choice.

PAIRS AND SPARES | 9:30am | N2 Rm 205

A diverse community of Christians who discuss current issues and Biblical teaching, self-taught by members of the class.

PARENTS | 10:10am | N2 Rm 203

A community for parents of FUMC, meeting at the same time as Children's Sunday School.

Monthly Groups

Find the Encounter for ways to Register.

SHEBREWS 1.0 | *First Wednesday of the Month*

A gathering of women for fellowship, relationship building, and lots of laughter!

WHEREVER THEOLOGY | *First Friday of the Month*

Our men's group that comes together wherever—pubs, backyards, garages—to discuss theology.

SHEBREWS 2.0 | *Date Varies*

A small group of women who sit down to discuss God at work in the world using the lens of Black Woman and Feminist Theology.

Up and Coming

These classes don't have firm dates yet, keep an eye out for them in the coming months!

SAVING GRACE | *Jan Caffey*

A finance and debt freedom course.

BASIC THEOLOGY

Introductions to Theology.

SPIRITUALITY | *Deb Teagan*

Growth in Faith using "Falling Upward."

BIBLE IN A YEAR | *Jan Caffey*

Accountability and discussions as we read through the entire Bible in a year.

BIBLE BASICS

We will offer several courses exploring different parts of the Bible.

EXPLORE

Bible Studies,
Community Engagement,
& Learning.

adults@fumc-cs.org

Weekday Groups

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Mon. | 9:30am | N2 Rm 204

A study group, focusing on various texts.

BIBLE BASICS

Tues. 9/23-10/28 | 5:30pm | N2 Rm 204

All about the Bible: history, variation, and archeological records.

DISCIPLE 1

Wed. 6:30pm | 9/10-11/19 | N2 Rm 204

An overview of broad swathes of the Bible.

UNITED METHODIST

Wed. 10/8-11/12 | 5:30pm | N2 Rm 204

Discussing Wesley's Covenant Prayer

Seasonal Studies

ADVENT CLASS | *Rev. Carrie*

Sundays 11/30 - 12/20 | 10:00 am

N2 Rm 204

LENTEN PRACTICE

Sundays 2/22 - 3/29 | 10:05 am



MISSIONS

CONNECT

Fellowship Groups,
Tables of Grace, &
Group Dinners

New Member Sundays

November 16th
February 15th
May 17th
August 16th

Tables of Grace

If you want to meet new people, make new friends, and enjoy a common meal together, we invite you to join one of these small dinner groups. Tables of Grace Sessions begin with a large potluck, after which groups split up for weekly dinners. *Tables of Grace begins new sessions every 3 months.*

Giving Sundays

WORLD COMMUNION
October 5th

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES
November 30th

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY
January 18th

UMCOR
March 25th

UM STUDENT DAY
April 26th

PEACE WITH JUSTICE
May 31st

Missions Events

RIDES FOR RUBBISH

Every 3rd Sunday | 1:00pm Marian House

Walk with clients of the Marian House to pick up trash in downtown parks. Clients then earn bus passes.

HANDS ON MISSION EVENT

11/8, 2/14, 2/28, 5/2

Be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world through mission work with one of our ministry partners.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARKING LOT

December 25th | FUMC Parking Lot

Our annual Christmas Party for the unhoused in our neighborhood. We give away Christmas gifts in the form of sleeping bags, coats, socks and underwear, hats and gloves, coffee, food, and lots of Christmas cheer!

Mission &
Outreach Events

SERVE

missions@fumc-cs.org

Justice Work
& Studies

ADVOCATE

Sand Creek Massacre Site Visit

September 20th

Join Pastor Carrie for a day trip to the Sand Creek Massacre site. Here we will learn of the atrocity of the massacre and our Methodist connection to this tragedy.

Good Trouble Justice Series

8/12, 1/11, 4/12 | 12:20pm

Lunch, a Documentary and discussion about injustices our faith would require us to speak and act on behalf of the marginalized and oppressed in our community



MUSIC & ARTS

Lessons and Carols

"THE GUESTS OF CHRISTMAS"

December 5th, 7:00pm & 7th, 3:00pm

This year, join us for a unique and moving Lessons and Carols service, as we tell the Christmas story through the eyes of its most extraordinary visitors. From the shepherds who came in haste to the wise men who followed a star, we'll celebrate all who were drawn to the manger on that holy night.

Come Sing With Us!

All are invited regardless of the campus or worship service you regularly attend, and outside friends and family are welcome too! Come join us this season as we sing and celebrate "The Guests of Christmas"

music@fumc-cs.org

Chancel Choir &
Festival Orchestra Present

REQUIEM

by John Rutter

Good Friday

April 3rd | 6:30pm

**Come Sing
With Us!**

March 2026



RUNA returns for a Celtic Concert

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Interested in getting involved in the Music Ministries of First United Methodist Church?
Below are all of our active music groups.



Chancel Choir

We provide leadership in the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service, as well as at concerts and special services

Contemporary Worship Band

An auditioned group of instrumentalists and vocalists who provide leadership in the 9:00am Contemporary Service.



Chancel Ringers

The Chancel Ringers provide music in worship services throughout the year.

The Overtones

Designed for those 50 and over, this group rings melody chimes, a lighter weight than traditional bells.



FIRST COMPANY THEATRE PRESENTS

Brigadoon

A MUSICAL BY ALAN JAY LERNER
& FREDERICK LOWE

OCTOBER 10TH - 26TH

Visit go.fumc-cs.org/brigadoon for tickets.

FUTURE SHOW DATES

11/20-11/23: *"Christmas Carol:
A Live Radio Play"*

2/27-3/8: *"I Remember Mama"*

5/29-6/7: *"The Philadelphia Story"*

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



SET DESIGNERS

Made "The Play That
Goes Wrong" go wrong.



TECH TEAM

Made "She Loves Me"
so emotional.



ACTORS

Bring shows to life.

First Company always needs passionate individuals looking to bring stories to life on stage,
in front of the audience and behind the scenes.

FIRST COMPANY



YOUTH MINISTRY

6th-12th Grade | youth@fumc-cs.org

719FUMY is a safe place where young people can grow in their relationship with God, the church, friends, and even themselves. We focus on learning, mission, worship, and fun! Knowing that schedules are hectic, we offer events at various times throughout the month so you can find one that fits your schedule. Be sure to fill out our one time a year Family Registration Form at go.fumc-cs.org/youthregistration

Events Schedule

September 21 | 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Youth Group: At Church

October 17 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Youth Group: Farm Party

October 26 | All Three Services

Young People's Sunday

November 23 | 11:00 am

Youth Group: All Church Thanksgiving

December 7 | ushering 2:00 pm

Lessons and Carols

December 14 | 10:10 am

Christmas Treasures

There's no perfect day and time for youth group, but many youth are already around on Sundays. Attend worship as a group. Share a meal. Connect.

December 21 | Noon-3:00 pm

Youth Group: Christmas Party!

January 11 | 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Youth Group: At Church

January 31 | 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Winter Fest: John Wesley Ranch

February 8 | 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Youth Group: At Church

March 8 | 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Youth Group: Downtown Scavenger Hunt

OUR WHOLE LIVES

8TH & 9TH GRADE / WEDNESDAYS 6:00-8:00PM
MID-JANUARY THRU MID-APRIL

FUMC will soon begin to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL). OWL is a sexual health curriculum designed to help people of all ages make healthy, responsible decisions about their bodies and relationships. Since God created us—mind, body, and spirit—it's essential that we are able to discuss all parts of ourselves within the church. Many topics related to sexual health have moral and ethical implications. Providing a safe, faith-based environment for these conversations helps young people navigate these complex issues without shame. As many schools scale back on their teaching about these subjects, it is crucial that our youth receive reliable information from trained leaders and be guided by our faith and values. This class will be co-facilitated by OWL-certified leaders, Rev. Amy Strader and Rev. Josh Rumble (First Congregational Church).



YOUTH SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15-11:00 AM

Just Be

This year's Sunday School lessons will help youth be. Be yourself. Be creative. Be brave. Be kind. Be rooted in God's word.

OCTOBER

Be Real: Forgiving Others (and Yourself)
Lessons from the Motion Picture "Coco"



NOVEMBER

Be Rooted: Bible Basics

DECEMBER

Be Ready: The Coming of Jesus

JANUARY

Be Aware: Exploring the Darkside
of Christianity

FEBRUARY

Be Present: A Season of Rest and Spiritual Practices
Be Still: Exploring Prayer from Holy Disruptions

MARCH

Be Creative: Bible Stories Come Alive
Through Art

APRIL

Be Diverse: Religions from Around
the World

MAY

Be Inspired: God Is Everywhere
(Even Musicals)

GETTING AWAY TO GROW CLOSER

Retreats are the heart of our youth group. Every fall and winter, youth head up to the John Wesley Ranch in Divide, Colorado, to be with God and without our devices.

FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 7-9 JOHN WESLEY RANCH

WINTER RETREAT FEBRUARY 20-23 JOHN WESLEY RANCH

MISSION TRIPS

LOCAL MISSION TRIP MAY 30-JUNE 1

Open to all ages with a parent.
Entering 4th may attend unaccompanied

MISSION TRIP JUNE 7-12

Open to youth who have
completed 6th-12th grade



SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship | children@fumc-cs.org

We believe worship is a core element of spiritual development for children and adults. Even though programming is offered during the 9:00 am service, all children are welcome to attend all worship services.

Children's Church

9:10 - 10:10 am

While many children enjoy sitting with their families during worship, we know that an additional way to connect is helpful for some. During the 9:00 a.m. worship service, younger children are invited to leave the service for Children's Church.

Sunday School

10:10 - 11:00 am

Preschoolers - 5th grade

This year in Sunday School, we'll be exploring faith in new and creative ways! Each month will feature a different theme.

October

Family, Forgiveness,
Unconditional Love:
Lessons from the
Motion Picture
Coco

December

The 12 Questions
Of Christmas:
Was Jesus Really Born on
Christmas?
Do Santa and Jesus Know
Each Other?
And Many More,
Well...10 More

January

Let Your Light Shine:
Winter Can Seem
Dark. How Can We
Shine Our Light?

November

Back to Basics:
Beloved Bible
Moments

February

Season of Rest:
Prayer Practices
for Kids

April

Kids' Choice:
Children Will Vote
on a Favorite
Theme

May

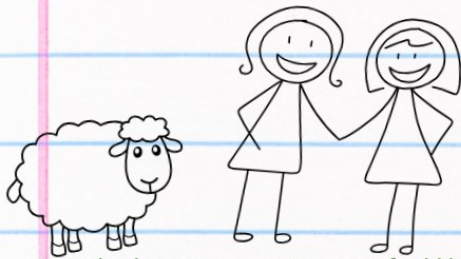
Musicals: Bible
Lessons from
Musicals (Kids'
Edition)

Bible Camp

Sundays October 12, 19, and 26, 9:00-10:00 am

The Bible is foundational to the Christian tradition, but it is old, long, and confusing. It's crucial that young people learn who wrote it, how to use it, what United Methodists believe about it, and perhaps most importantly, why it still matters today. Bible Camp allows 3rd-5th graders to do just that and culminates with a cherished tradition we call "3rd Grade Bible," where all 3rd graders receive their very own Bibles. Plus we will have a Bible Camp Funday at Main Event (date based on participants' schedules.)





PARENTING IS HARD: FUMC CAN HELP

Let's be honest: parenting can feel like an emotional rollercoaster. There are days filled with joy and laughter, and days that feel defined by meltdowns—and sometimes those meltdowns are our own. The truth is, parenting is hard, messy, and at FUMC, we believe that raising children in faith and love is a community effort. We want to be a place where you can be open about the challenges you face and find real, tangible support.

Parent's Night Out

Free | 4:00 - 7:00pm
Registration Required

September 13, October 25,
November 8, December 20,
January 3, February 14,
March 14, April 18, May 16

No School Camp Registration Required

We're planning a few fun-filled days to keep your kids happy and engaged while out of school, including exciting STEM activities from our friends at Mathnasium.

D11: November 24,
December 6, April 24
D 20: October 15,
November 24, March 19

Mini-Mission: Big Impact

May 30 - June 1

All ages are invited to head north for a local mission and cultural worship experience. Projects could include working in a community garden, distributing food, or sorting clothes for a clothes closet.

Family Matters

As parents, we are our children's first teachers of faith, and raising children as Christians brings its own set of tough questions. The Family Matters series is designed to provide resources to help you navigate your children's faith journey (and maybe a little bit of your own, too) and help you create friendships for the journey.

September 27 | Faith 5 | 4:00-7:00 pm

Can your family actually include God talk into your weekly schedule? We won't know if we don't try. AND... there will be mocktails and a massage chair.

October 17 | Farm Party | 5:30-7:00 pm

Join us at Wishing Star Farm for a private party! Pumpkins, apple cider, and hay rides are always fun family outings. We think it will be even better with your church family!

November 22 | A Parent's Guide to Emotional Regulation 4:00-7:00 pm

Guest speaker, Janet Kerr, Licensed Professional Counselor

January 31 | Winter Fest | 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Sledding and Chili-Cookout at John Wesley Ranch

February 28 | Shine Your Light Glow Party | 4:00-7:00 pm

Fun with glow stick crafts as we learn how to shine brightly for Jesus.

April 4 | Screen Sanity | 4:00-7:00 pm

Expert perspectives on digital wellness and strategies for boundaries and safety.

May 3 | Mission Sunday | 1:00-3:00 pm

Rides for Rubbish: Walk with clients of the Marian House to pick up trash in downtown parks. Clients then earn bus passes.

Hey Parents!

Childcare is available for most church events including outside concerts or theatre events here at First United Methodist Church with pre-registration at go.fumc-cs.org/childcare

Theatre & Arts Camp

June 22-26

PreK - 5th Grade

Youth Helpers Also Needed!

Step into a vibrant world inspired by the motion picture Encanto. Children will discover how their unique gifts reflect God's love and purpose! At this fun and faith-filled camp, children explore Bible stories that celebrate individuality and family. Through music, drama, art, and set design, children will experience the power of imagination.



CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION



FIRST UNITED Methodist Church CAMPUSES



Prairie Campus

Each day we aim to be Christ's disciples, to follow in his ways of self-sacrifice for others, love for our enemies, reaching out to the poor, marginalized, and outcast.

Looking ahead, we are eager to continue being a healing place for those who carry religious trauma, including exvangelicals, LGBTQ+ folks, and others seeking a safe and grace-filled community.

Foothills Campus

Launching this year, 2025, we offer a non-traditional, safe space for those disillusioned, questioning, or wounded by the church into a community of love, where faith can be explored freely and lived out together.

We meet in small groups for deep connection and conversation, and gather in larger groups for communal healing and action.



FIRST UNITED
Methodist Church

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