

150
YEARS
1875-2025

MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2025

Comics and theology — a match made in heaven?

By Jim Patterson

Oct. 6, 2025 | WASHINGTON (UM News)

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/comics-and-theology-a-match-made-in-heaven>

Key Points:

- † The Comics X Theology book club meets once a month in a Washington comic bookstore to discuss how faith and comic book storytelling intermingle with each other.
- † The group was founded by the Rev. Jonathan Brown, a comic fan and pastor at Foundry

United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C.

- † At a recent meeting at Fantom Comics, the group examined Islam through the hit comic novel “Persepolis” by Marjane Satrapi.

The bearded, heavily tattooed man wearing the Wolverine T-shirt was talking about his weekend, which he spent in Atlanta attending [Dragon Con](#).

“Dragon Con is just a big nerd-fest,” said [the Rev. Jonathan Brown](#), who is associate pastor at Foundry United Methodist Church. “‘Nerd Church’ was the early working title of this.”

“This” is Comics X Theology, a book club that meets once a month at [Fantom Comics](#) in the vibrant D.C.

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Happy Thanksgiving



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neighborhood of Dupont Circle. In this club, the texts are comic books — or graphic novels if you prefer a more adult term. They all tie in varying degrees into issues of faith.

The Aug. 31 meeting marked Brown's return to the group after taking parental leave.

"It's good to be back surrounded by the art form we all love," he said at the beginning of the 90-minute group talk. Twenty people participated, seated in a circle and putting up with the occasional customer squeezing past them while shopping.

The diverse group included some curious Foundry members who saw it listed in the church bulletin, a graduate student at United Methodist-related American University, religion believers and skeptics and one "cradle Methodist who has also dabbled in Wicca and Unitarian Universalism."

Most, but not all, had read "[Persepolis](#)" by Marjane Satrapi, the book to be discussed. Some came with a friend or were simply curious.

"Persepolis" recounts Satrapi's early years in Iran during the 1979 overthrow of the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and subsequent ascension of Islamic cleric Ruhollah Khomeini. It was a time when soldiers might grab a relative off the street without explanation, and under Khomeini, women again had to cover themselves almost head to toe. Despite the weighty plot, it contains bursts of humor throughout.

To get the discussion rolling, Fantom owner Jacob Shapiro asked what others thought the book is about.

"To me ... this book is about compartmentalization of trauma in a lot of ways," Shapiro offered. "These people are all getting killed. You got these two panels: 'The key to paradise was for poor people. Thousands of young kids, promised a better life, exploded on the minefields with their keys around their necks.'

"And then the next panel is, 'Meanwhile, I got to go to my first party.'"

Other readers offered their takes, which included:

- † A story about how it feels to be an alien elsewhere or even at home.
- † An examination of how far people go to protect innocence.
- † Using gallows humor as a coping mechanism.
- † An exploration of hypocrisy.
- † Different and sometimes conflicted ways to be rebellious.



The Rev. Jonathan Brown, associate pastor at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, chats with Anna Phillips before the beginning of the Comics X Theology event on Aug. 31 at Fantom Comics. Brown, who has been a comic book enthusiast since childhood, founded the book club as a ministry.

Photo by Jim Patterson, UM News.

- † A portrayal of parents maintaining good relationships with their children even when under considerable stress.
- † An example of how people sometimes push God aside when bad things happen.
- † A statement about how every religion has a variant that oppresses others.
- † A warning about the path the U.S. is on, based on what happened in Iran.

"I've heard a lot of arguments that America is going down that path of what Iran was going through," said Tayler Powell, the American University student. "They would want you to feel despair, but finding little pockets of joy is like a form of rebellion."

During the meeting, one participant said the book "is heartwarming and heart-wrenching at the same time. There are also bits of humor."

In one anecdote, the family of central character Marji spends a day protesting the government.

"The parents are exhausted because they were out demonstrating all day, and the child wants to start a game of Monopoly," said the participant. "They're like, 'No.' And then they start laughing. 'She wants to play Monopoly.'"

Participant M.J. Jean told UM News that she already loved "Persepolis" after reading it years ago.

"I've read it several times," Jean said. "Her experiences are very specific, but there was also a lot of

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2025 September Budget Summary

The Finance Committee appreciates your contributions and donations. With your support we will be able to continue sharing God's love with those around us.

Income

Total Income:	\$22,531
Change in Payables:	\$864
Total Income:	\$23,395

Expenses

Church Programs:	\$747
Finance:	\$507
Church Administration:	\$3,000
Facility Maintenance:	\$12,869
Personnel:	\$20,488
Conference Apportionments:	\$3,256
Total Expenses:	\$40,867

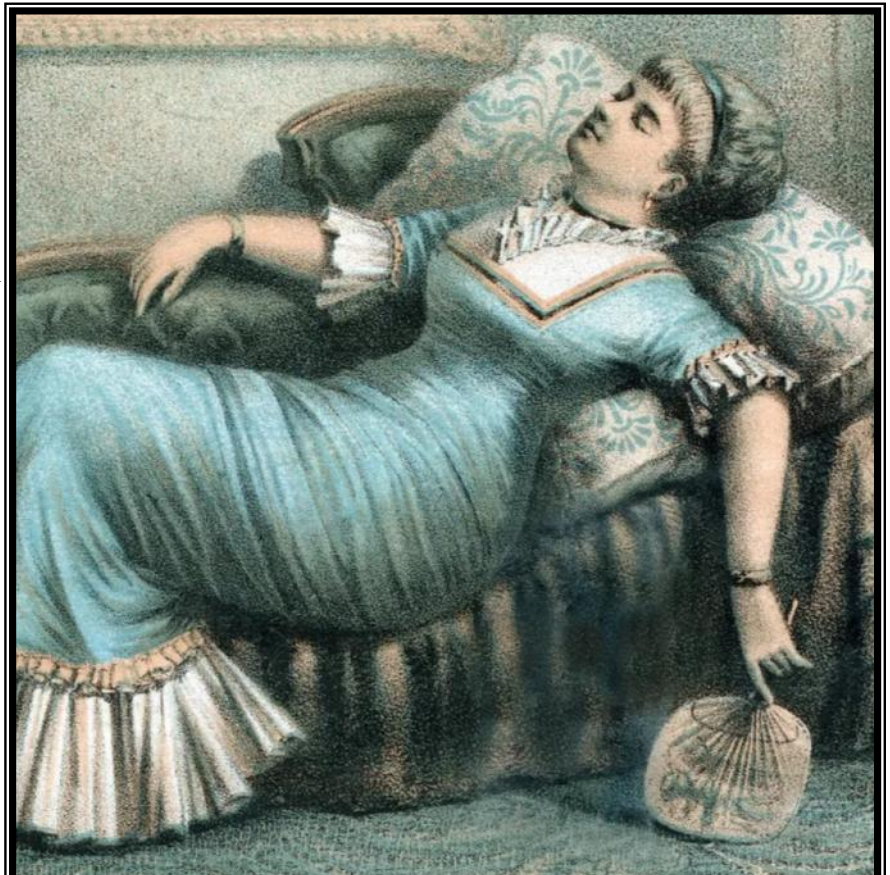
Income Under Expenses: \$17,472

The budget for 2025 is **\$500,000** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$41,667 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating! Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the storms that will inevitably come.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Ted Page	16 Glenda Waring
5 Alma Lasure	18 Charlene Shireman
8 Roselle Hanson	19 Lynn Coleman
9 Janet Cook	28 Kay Mustard
13 Cindy Lennard	30 Ginger Schindler
14 Jack Bouchez	30 Pam Smith



Here's to another 150 years!
(at First United Methodist Church)

"Gracious! I am worn to a frazzle!
That 150th Anniversary weekend certainly was lit!"

#Weary #IYKYK #Partay #67 #ThankYouToAllWhoParticipated



(Continued from page 2)

universality in it and there's a lot of things you can resonate with. ... I was never a Middle Eastern woman in a war zone, but I find a kind of hopeful meaningfulness from the book."

Shapiro said he turned down Brown when first approached to host the meetings.

"I knew that it was a great idea, but I wasn't ready for it yet," Shapiro said. "We host a ton of events here: book clubs, art workshops, gaming tournaments. ... I think that's sort of the lifeblood of the store because most things we sell, people could buy on their phone. The human community part of it is what makes people care and what makes people come through. So that's been really integral for us."

Shapiro said Fantom is a good fit for Comics X Theology because of its "built-in audience of folks who are not just content to read their comfort-food books, but to read things that challenge them."

Brown got into comics as a kid through "X-Men," but the character he identifies most with is "Nightwing," an older version of Robin from the "Batman" comics.

"I remember putting on blankets and running around pretending I was Robin," he said.

"Both my parents are (United Methodist) pastors. So, here's this hero that grew up in it, but he found his own path and made his own voice. As someone who went into the same line as their parents, that character was always affirming to me."

After drifting away from comics, he was reengaged as a college student by a show on The History Channel.

"They were doing a history of comics, and they talked about a run on Green Lantern where it was written by [Dennis O'Neil](#)," Brown said.

Green Lantern comics were not selling well at the time, resulting in O'Neil being told to do whatever he wanted with the title.

"He came in, and he started writing a lot of social justice stuff," Brown said.

In the first issue written by O'Neil, Green Lantern intervenes when another superhero sweeps in to rescue a man being beat up. The twist is that the victim was a slumlord being attacked by tenants.

"An elderly Black man walks up to the Green Lantern and says, 'Mr. Lantern, I know you have done so many good things for the blue skins of this planet, the purple skins on this planet. Why have you never done anything for the brown skins?'"

"Green Lantern doesn't have an answer. The



Members of the Comics X Theology book club discuss the graphic novel "Persepolis" on Aug. 31 at Fantom Comics in Washington, D.C. Organized by a United Methodist pastor, the book club meets once a month to discuss a comic and how its story relates to religious issues.

Photo by Jim Patterson, UM News.

Black man says, 'Well, you got to figure that one out for your own self.' And walks off.

"It brought me back in as an adult, and since then, I have been reading regularly," Brown said.

Anna Phillips, who participates in the book group, was brought up in the Catholic Church but does not consider herself religious now. She has been a regular at Comics X Theology, and said it has piqued her interest in religion.

"I noodled around the idea of going to Pastor Jonathan's church," she said.

She added that while she's not in a rush to get back to faith, she's not nearly as opposed to it as she was "when I was in my more rebellious youth and trying to distance myself from it.

"Seeing all these thoughtful people who do hold faith very close to themselves, but don't use that as a cudgel against others, that definitely makes it more palatable for me."

Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the [free UM News Digests](#).



United Methodist tours explore civil rights struggles

By John W. Coleman
Oct. 8, 2025 | UM News

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/united-methodist-tours-explore-civil-rights-struggles>

† Key points:

† United Methodist churches, conferences and universities are promoting advocacy against racism and encouraging reflection on the ongoing struggles for racial justice by sponsoring pilgrimages to civil rights sites.

† The tours are inspired by the denomination's Dismantling Racism campaign, launched by the United Methodist Council of Bishops in 2020.

† "There's no way I could explain what I saw," participant Walter Thomas said. "I'm an old person, and I thought I was pretty smart. But I learned a lot of things through this tour that I did not know...."

United Methodist-sponsored groups are making pilgrimages to iconic sites in America's civil rights history to learn about the blood-stained roots of the nation's anti-racism movement.

The tours, a recent trend inspired by the denomination's 5-year-old [Dismantling Racism campaign](#), are intended to educate participants, promote advocacy against racism, and encourage reflection on the ongoing struggles for racial justice. The United Methodist Council of Bishops launched the churchwide campaign in 2020 to respond to frequent police killings of African Americans, including George Floyd that year, and the Black Lives Matter movement that was spreading across the U.S.

Forty-two members of four annual conferences — Susquehanna, Western Pennsylvania, Upper New York, and West Virginia — visited 14 Southern locations together by bus July 12-19, a trek that took them from Virginia to Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee.

They saw themselves as "not sightseers but spiritual pilgrims," recalled the Rev. Michelle Bodle, visiting "sacred sites of the Civil Rights Movement and hearing firsthand stories from those who lived through it, with each stop deepening the call to continue the work for justice." Bodle wrote about the experience in "[Pilgrimage of Justice: A Journey Through the Civil Rights Movement](#)," an article for the Susquehanna Conference.

At the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the group spent time at the

Memorial to Enslaved Laborers, which remembers enslaved African Americans who helped build the university. In Atlanta, they visited the King Center, where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King are buried amid the center's memorial library, archives and museum. In Albany, Georgia, they learned about the courageous young people of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the music of the Freedom Singers, who inspired marchers in the Civil Rights Movement.

In Alabama, the pilgrims learned the emotional saga of the Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights. And they walked across the famed Edmund Pettus Bridge, where police attacked peaceful marchers March 7, 1965, on what is known as Bloody Sunday. The group concluded that experience by celebrating Holy Communion. They also visited the Equal Justice

Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice, its Legacy Museum and surrounding gardens, all of which share the tragic legacy of slavery, lynching, and other violence of the slave trade and Jim Crow era.

The group heard from several speakers, including activist and author Anthony Ray Hinton, who spent 28 years on death row for a wrongful conviction before he was exonerated in 2015 through the Equality Justice Initiative's legal efforts. And they heard from other presenters at Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young girls were murdered in an infamous 1963 bombing.

"Seeing the things that we saw, walking around those spaces where the stories unfolded, talking to some of the people who were involved — it was heartbreaking and grief-filled," recalled Western Pennsylvania Conference Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, a tour participant. "The past calls us to question how we truly see and treat people (and) how we continue to need to be transformed today."



On Sept. 15, 1963, four girls lost their lives as they prepared to worship inside 16th Street Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala. Addie Mae Collins (top, left); Cynthia Wesley (top, right); Carol Denise McNair (bottom, left) and Carole Robertson were killed in a bombing committed by a white supremacist terrorist group. The church is among the historic locations on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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Before the journey, she led a conference-wide book study of “While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement.” The author, Carolyn Maull McKinstry, who survived the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in which her young friends were killed, also addressed the group.

Tour participants were encouraged to share their experiences once they returned home. The Rev. Kim Foos, pastor of Fells United Methodist Church in Rostraver Township, Pa., is doing that at her church, sharing what she experienced and learned on the Civil Rights Journey over four weeks in October.

In mid-March, Mississippi Conference Bishop Sharma D. Lewis Logan led that conference’s “[No Stone Unturned for Justice](#)” five-day civil rights tour, as members visited most of the same museums, memorials, institutes, historic homes, and churches as the later Susquehanna Conference-led tour. But their immersive journey began at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, before continuing through Alabama, with stops in Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, and concluding in Atlanta.

Bishop Lewis Logan called the tour, organized by Educational Opportunities, a time “for us to dig a little deeper as a conference, and maybe in our families, too, to learn what ... God is saying to us now in 2025.”

Such tours typically include daily times for reflection with questions, discourse and community-building activities. The Mississippi Conference advocacy task force created a daily devotional and worship guide using Scripture, song, prayer and readings. Members discussed daily what they saw, heard, and learned, and what assumptions of theirs were challenged.

While they were encouraged to share with others at home what they witnessed and felt, at least one participant, Walter Thomas, expressed difficulty in that expectation after viewing exhibits and presentations on the horrors of human slavery and the brutality of mob lynchings.

“There’s no way I could explain what I saw,” he said in the [post-tour video](#). “I’m an old person, and I thought I was pretty smart. But I learned a lot of things through this tour that I did not know. ... How can I go back and tell somebody what I saw and expect them to understand what I’m saying? They need to see what I saw.”

Bishop Lewis Logan emphasized the importance of people of all races learning and valuing such poignant history that many have forgotten — especially young people.

“We have the End Racism for Good initiative in the Mississippi Conference, and I want to continue to build our relationships,” the



College students, adult guides, and family members visit the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., where four young girls were murdered in an infamous 1963 bombing. The stop was part of a March 2024 civil rights history tour sponsored by the Wesley Foundation of Texas Southern University. File photo courtesy of the Rev. Tabitha Mock.

bishop said. “So, this was another opportunity for us to travel through history together, to worship, dialogue, and heal together, and also to open it up to the youth who came on the tour with their parents.”

The tour’s redemptive theme was drawn from [Ezekiel 11:19](#): “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them. I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.” It echoed “God’s call for justice, healing, and reconciliation in a fractured world; a promise of new life and hope, even in the midst of struggle and pain.”

Other conferences have led civil rights tours in recent years. West Ohio sponsored the “Micah 6:8: Love Your Neighbor Tour” in 2024. The Northern Illinois, Great Plains, North Georgia and Louisiana conferences led tours in 2023. And North Alabama led one in 2022. The Michigan and Mountain Sky conferences led tours in previous years.

Districts in several conferences also have led tours. In Western North Carolina, the Blue Ridge District led two civil rights pilgrimages to Alabama for clergy and laity in 2022 and 2023, according to the Rev. Lisa Moore, a member of the conference’s Justice and Reconciliation Team.

“It was a journey of the heart as much as the mind,” Moore said. “The experience of seeing hundreds of jars of sand at the Legacy Museum, which represented ground that African Americans had been unjustly hanged on, will stay with me always. It is a call to action and

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(Continued from page 6)

remembrance — a reminder that my people’s suffering is not distant; it reverberates through generations, shaping identities and communities.”

Many churches across the connection also have led tours, lasting up to six days, some including participants from predominantly Black and white congregations to offer racial diversity in their interactions and insights.

Trinity United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, plans a [Civil Rights Pilgrimage](#) Oct. 19-25. First United Methodist Church of San Diego has led [Sankofa Pilgrimages](#) annually to different parts of the country since 2023. Those have included the five-day “Midwest Migration: A Movement Towards Justice” tour in June, which took pilgrims to St. Louis, Springfield, Illinois, and Chicago. A Sankofa Pilgrimage in 2027 will go to the West African country of Ghana.

And three historically related Washington, D.C., churches — Foundry United Methodist, Asbury United Methodist and John Wesley African Methodist Episcopal — shared a [cross-racial tour](#) in June [as part of their ongoing efforts to reconnect and reconcile after nearly two centuries of racial separation](#).

Some churches intentionally include teenagers on their civil rights tours to benefit their education and development. Meanwhile, universities with United Methodist ties are offering the experience to their young adult students.

McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, led a tour through the South in May, visiting important sites in the Civil Rights Movement and museums that tell the stories of key people and events. Students and faculty discussed the value of the tour and later produced a video titled [“Why We Walk: Leading Students Through the Civil Rights South.”](#)

In March 2024, the Wesley Foundation of Texas Southern University took 27 pilgrims — mostly students from Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M University, and Houston Community College — on a civil rights tour of sites in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. Besides the typical civil rights sites, the group visited the Atlanta University Center, including United Methodist-related Gammon Theological Seminary, to learn about civil rights achievements that happened at those historically Black higher learning institutions.

They embarked on the tour after a worship service that featured a foot washing and a sermon about “the importance of receiving the baton as the next generation charged with knowing and sharing the stories and struggles of those who came before them,” recalled foundation director the Rev. Tabitha Mock. She credited foundation board members and supportive pastors with organizing the journey.



Members of the Western North Carolina Conference’s Blue Ridge District visit a mural in the basement of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. first served as a pastor and led meetings to plan the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott. The district led two civil rights pilgrimages to Alabama for clergy and laity in 2022 and 2023. File photo courtesy of the Rev. Lisa Moore.

“I saw God move on several occasions during this trip,” Mock wrote in an [article about the tour](#). “I felt the trip was causing them to think: ‘How we can continue this progress in peaceful Christian-like ways and not give up on being the change we want to see in the world.’”

More United Methodist-sponsored civil rights history tours may continue to pose that question to pilgrims in the coming years.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation, a spiritual nurture ministry of The Upper Room, based in Nashville, will lead [“The Long Road Toward Justice and Beloved Community: A Civil Rights Pilgrimage”](#) Feb. 23-28. Visiting “places that hold sacred stories of Black resilience, survival and tenacious hope,” the tour will also offer times for communal prayer, contemplation and group reflection to provide “a deeper understanding that cannot be found in books and documentaries.” The application deadline is Dec. 5.

And the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas plans a [“Civil Rights Journey for Laity,”](#) scheduled for April 21-25. The foundation will subsidize half of each participant’s cost as part of its commitment to the Arkansas Conference’s Dismantling Racism Initiative.

With the denomination’s ongoing emphasis against racism, civil rights tours will likely continue, with new pilgrims participating for the first time while others return to learn more.

“As future journeys are planned and offered, may all who hear these stories be inspired to take part in the ongoing work of seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God,” Bodle wrote in her



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Susquehanna Conference article.

She ended with words she found engraved on a memorial at the Charles M. Sherrod Civil Rights Park in Albany, Georgia: “May God grant you the power to continue.”

Coleman is a UM News correspondent and part-time pastor. More information on church civil rights tours can be found in [United Methodist Churches Journey in Many Directions to End Racism](#) (United Methodist Insight, July 17).

News media contact: Julie Dwyer, news editor, newdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free UM News Digest](#).

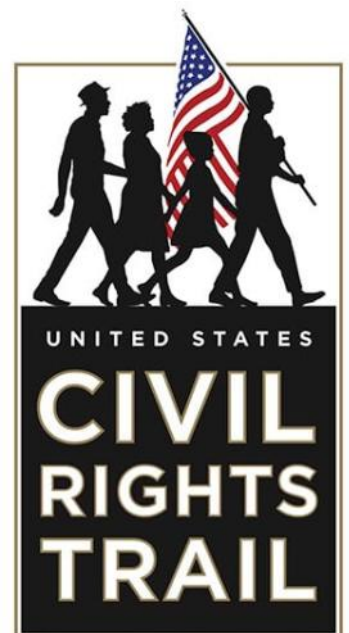
About the U.S. Civil Rights Trail

Many civil rights tour groups journey to historic locations on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail, an assortment of mostly Southern churches, courthouses, schools, museums, memorials, and other landmarks that remember the roots of racism and honor the activism that challenged it. Since 2018, the trail has documented, preserved, and promoted important sites in 15 states, commemorating infamous racial atrocities, famed protest events, and integration victories.

Celebrated sites include the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; Little Rock

Central High School in Arkansas; the former Woolworth’s restaurant in Greensboro, North Carolina, where sit-in protests began; and three places significant in the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. — in Atlanta, where he was raised; Mobile, Alabama, where he began his civil rights work; and Memphis, Tennessee, where he was assassinated. The [Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Sites](#) in Montgomery, Alabama, including the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, is an especially popular and inspiring destination.

The U.S. Civil Rights Trail provides ways for church groups, families, educators and others to experience this living heritage firsthand. For details, visit www.civilrightstrail.com.



All Saints Day

In Loving Memory

*Our prayers are with each family member and friend
of those who have gone before us since All Saints Day 2024*

Elizabeth Diane Styles — November 26, 2024

Florence Llewellyn — November 27, 2024

Bernard "Bernie" Coveney — February 17, 2025

Mary Jean Thompson — March 10, 2025

Jeanne Mags — April 20, 2025

Elizabeth Ann Thompson — April 22, 2025

Gary Pittman — May 2, 2025

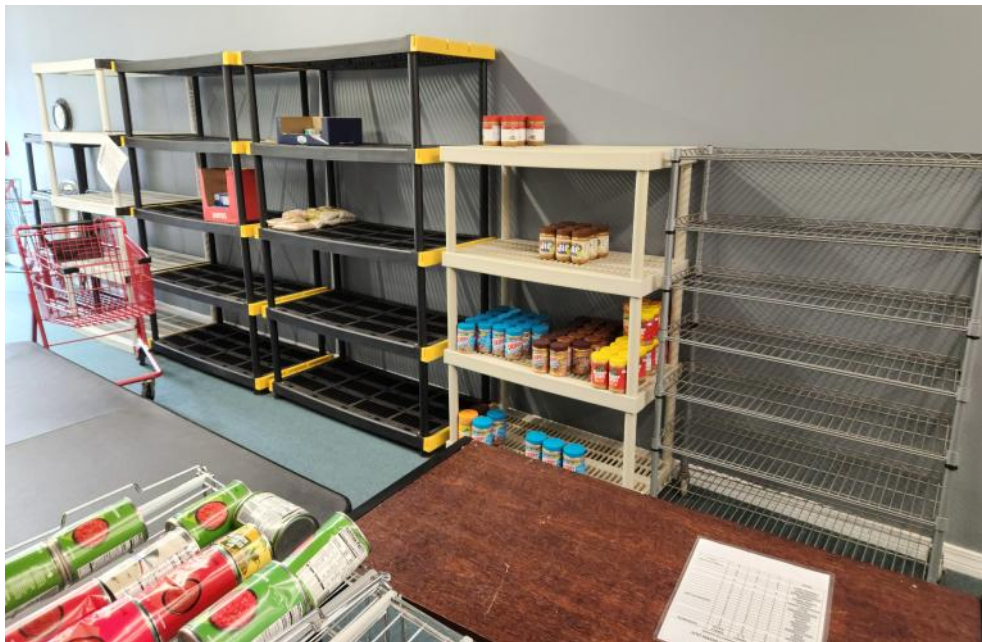
Linda Haas — July 27, 2025

Thomas "Tom" Hammond — September 18, 2025

The Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Below is a picture of our United North Brevard Food Pantry half-way through serving the community on October 21st. With the government shutdown, we have more people than usual in need of food for themselves and their families. We are running out of food before we even finish serving.

How can you help? We need funds to purchase more food from more locations. We are also accepting donations of canned goods. We can only give out items that have not passed their "best by" date, so please check your donations to help keep our community healthy and fed. The community needs out help now more than ever.



Ways to share gratitude at Thanksgiving

United Methodist Communications

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/easy-ways-to-share-gratitude-this-thanksgiving-2>

Thanksgiving Day elicits a bounty of wonderful memories for many people in the U.S. The crisp air. The smell of a turkey roasting and a pumpkin pie baking. The sound of a cheering crowd at a football game. All these can create warm feelings during this special time of year.

While the Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S., thanking God for our blessings is a spiritual discipline that should not be limited to a single day. Along with expanding our waistlines, our preparation for and celebration of the holiday can be the impetus toward growing an attitude of gratitude that will carry over into the rest of the year. In his [commentary on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#), John Wesley writes, “Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it.” Giving thanks is as essential to our spiritual growth as prayer, which [1 Thessalonians](#) calls us to do continually. These creative ideas will help us get started this Thanksgiving.

- † **Fill a family Thanksgiving box.** As part of your Thanksgiving preparation, create a [Thanksgiving Box](#). Each day family members write on slips of paper something for which they are thankful that day and place them in the decorated box. The box will make a nice Thanksgiving table centerpiece, and when opened, a way to remember how blessed we are every day. You could add to it all year too of course.
- † **Serve someone.** In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, many agencies serving those in need expand their work. Food banks, churches, and other service organizations supply meals to the hungry on Thanksgiving. Ask your pastor for suggestions of places near you to serve or donate.
- † **Take time for quiet reflection.** As the big day approaches, things get busier. Set aside some time each day to say thank you to God for all he has provided.
- † **Make a Thanksgiving frame.** As you and your family reflect on those things for which you are thankful, compile a list. A few days before Thanksgiving, neatly transfer the list onto a piece of paper you can then insert into a frame for a beautiful expression of gratitude to decorate your home.
- † **Share blessings together.** When gathered around the table, many families will ask guests to



Youth of Centenary United Methodist Church in Los Angeles serve a meal during their annual "Turkey Lock-In." Photo courtesy of Jonathan Oyama, Centenary United Methodist Church.

share something for which they are thankful. In Thanksgiving Celebrations for the Home, MaryJane Pierce Norton suggests creating a list together, such as foods each person enjoys. Then together offer “thanks for the Earth and all with which we are blessed in the world God created.”

- † **Send cards to those we miss.** Remember those who are not able to be with you this year. “On Thanksgiving Day,” Norton writes, “invite all who are gathered in your home to sign and/or write a note on the cards to those who are missing.” Mail them the next day to share the gratitude.
- † **Create a keepsake of thanks.** When you take that group photo around the table or in front of the fireplace, record not only the names of those in attendance, but also something for which each person is thankful. This will be a great item to revisit when everyone gathers again next year.
- † **Include children.** Involve the children celebrating with you by sharing the [Child’s Thanksgiving Prayer](#). Use this prayer at the kids’ table as a grace or an after meal blessing, having one of the older children lead. Then encourage the kids to write their own Thanksgiving prayers, with which they could lead the adults in prayer later in the day.
- † **Voice your gratitude.** If your family is musical, consider a Thanksgiving sing-a-long, as you might do with Christmas carols. Discipleship Ministries offers [Musical Thanksgiving](#) ideas from our United Methodist Hymnal and songbooks that would be a great way to celebrate.

However you can, find ways to give thanks to God for all of his blessings throughout your celebration this year. Instill the habit of an attitude of gratitude, which will extend far beyond Thanksgiving Day.

This story was published November 14, 2015.



Oaklawn Memorial Gardens

&

North Brevard Funeral Home

Annual Candlelight Remembrance

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025,

at 6:00 P.M.

2116 Garden Street





Residing Hope
CHILDREN'S HOME

Christmas Collection

On November 2nd, we will begin gathering our Christmas Gifts for Residing Hope. Again this year, we will be sharing batteries and gift cards.

Gift cards: Visa, Ross, Walmart, Epic Theater, McDonald's, Chick-Fil-A, Burger King and Dairy Queen

Batteries: Any size, but especially AAA

Contact our Children's Home reps:
Kitty Baldwin & Cathy Spencer



CONFIRMATION

Beginning January 11th, students in grades 6-9 will have the opportunity to take part in the Confirmation process during the Sunday School hour.

Over the course of three months, students will:

- Explore the United Methodist faith
- Learn about life in a faith community
- Study core Christian beliefs and theology
- Reflect on God's calling in their lives

At the conclusion of the program, students will have the opportunity to affirm their faith and join First United Methodist Church as active members.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

CONTACT LAUREN GOOD FOR MORE INFORMATION



A Thanksgiving Evensong

Sunday
November 23rd
6:30 p.m.

Bring canned foods and/or monetary donations for community needs.



LET'S GO AGAIN!

We will reopen our medical debt campaign from

Oct. 1st—Dec. 31st



Current Medical Debt in Brevard: Over \$45 Million

Nancy Burgess is once again coordinating with [UndueMedicalDebt.org](https://www.unduemedicaldebt.org) to organize a campaign to help local residents pay off their medical debt. When we did the first campaign at the beginning of this year, your contributions helped pay off **over \$2 MILLION** worth of medical debt. According to Undue Medical Debt, there is currently **over \$45 MILLION owed in Brevard County, Florida alone!** As daunting as that number may seem, when good people come together, great things can be accomplished...and the possibility of success is magnified beyond numbers when we join together with Christ in our hearts.

This is how it works:

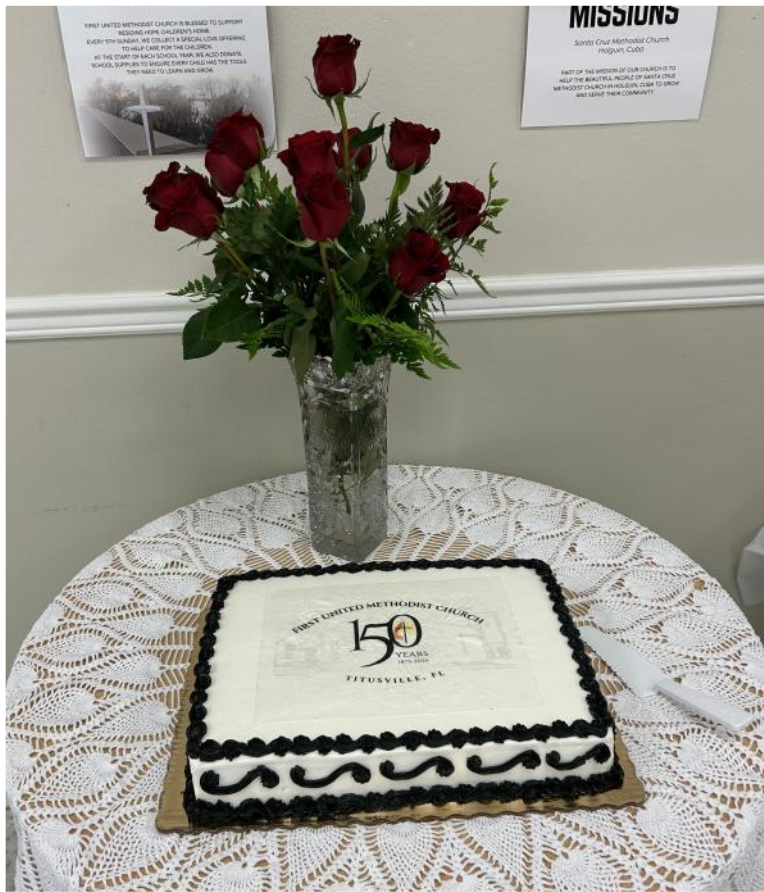
- † **We start a campaign**
We coordinate with [UndueMedicalDebt.org](https://www.unduemedicaldebt.org) to create and promote a campaign that collects donations.
- † **You make a donation**
Undue Medical Debt uses data analytics to pinpoint the debt of those most in need: households that earn less than 4x the federal poverty level (varies by state, family size) or whose debts are 5% or more of annual income.
- † **Undue buys medical debt at a steep discount**
Undue Medical Debt buys debt in bundles, millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. This means your donation relieves about 100x its value in medical debt.
- † **Together we wipe out medical debt**
People across the country receive letters that their debt has been erased. They have no tax consequences or penalties to consider. Just like that, they're free of medical debt.

First United Methodist Church in Titusville Florida is determined to eliminate MORE medical debt in Brevard county in 2025.

Our hope for this short campaign is to extend our love of God to our neighbors in need. This campaign runs October 1st thru December 31st, 2025. We would love to join with other churches around Brevard County to increase our impact in.

Please visit <https://www.fumctitusville.com/undue-medical-debt.html> for more information including a secure link to donate!

Thank you for contributing as we help address the #1 cause of bankruptcy in the United States, medical debt.



150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our 150th Anniversary Block Party was a huge success!

The rain cleared up just in time for a great turnout, with a steady rush starting around 11am. Although we don't have an exact attendance number, we distributed over 100 FUMC bags and pamphlets. All our vendors and food trucks were very pleased with the event, and we even had two families stop by our information table specifically to learn more about our Sunday services—exactly the kind of connection we hope to make through these community events!

Sunday's anniversary luncheon was just as wonderful, with more than 200 people attending.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped plan, organize, and volunteer throughout the weekend.



NOVEMBER 2025

First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All Saint's Day 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
2 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	3 7pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	4 11:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	5 9:30am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm We Gather	6 10:00am Ladies Day Out 6:00pm PEO Meeting	7 11:00am Food Pantry	8 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	10 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study 7pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	11 Veterans' Day 11:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 	12 9:30am Kids' Playtime 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir	13 9:30am Retired Teachers of North Brevard	14 11:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Mom's Night Out	15 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 10:00am Moonlight Quilters
16 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	17 7pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	18 7:15am Rotary Club Meeting 11:00am Food Pantry 5:00pm Solos Meeting 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	19 10:00pm ADK Meeting 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir	20 12:00pm Ladies Day Out 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg.	21 11:00am Food Pantry	22 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
23 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:30pm Thanksgiving Evensong	24 7pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	25 11:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Moonlight Quilters 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	26 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir	27 Thanksgiving —OFFICE CLOSED— 	28 —OFFICE CLOSED— 11:00am Food Pantry	29 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
30 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship						

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FUMC Staff

Reception Desk	Ext 201
Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 202
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 203
Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary	Ext. 204
Leah Patterson - Finance Secretary	Ext. 204
Lauren Good - Family Ministries	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson - Custodian	Ext. 206
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Henn - Lights and Visuals	

1st UMC Ministries

OUTREACH

Bags of Grace	Patchwork Friends <i>(Quilting group providing quilts to the community)</i>
Christmas Store	
Community Breakfast	School Outreach <i>(Apollo Elem., Madison MS, Andrew Jackson MS, Astronaut HS, & Titusville HS)</i>
Community Garden	
Cuba Missions <i>(Santa Cruz Methodist Church in Holguin, Cuba)</i>	Stop Gap Community Dinners
Food Pantry	Shoe Ministry
Good Shepherd <i>(Funds to help the community with bills & other needs)</i>	Undue Medical Debt

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Church Choir	Holiday Cantatas
Evensong Services	Special Concerts
Handbell Choirs	Specialty Ensembles

FAMILY MINISTRIES

1st Wednesday Dinners	Theater Programs <i>(Children & Adult)</i>
Children's Ministry	Vacation Bible School
Street Festivals	Youth—Longest Day of Your Life
Open Play <i>(1st Monday, safe playtime for parents & kids)</i>	Youth Ministry
Rock the Universe	Bus Ministry
Summer Youth Camp	

NURTURE MINISTRIES

United Women of Faith	Solos
Bible Studies	

First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave
Titusville, FL 32796

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8am – 4pm, Monday - Friday
Closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 269-7631

Fax: (321) 269-8359

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com

Website: www.fumctitusville.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/682694095204027

Instagram Handle: [@UnitedChurch321](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedChurch321)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChscOeLDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q>

[UChscOeLDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChscOeLDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q)

