



Messenger

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE
206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796

JUNE 2023

What is Pentecost?

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-pentecost>

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in [Acts 2](#) describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the [birthday of the Christian church](#).

The word [Pentecost](#) comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day



*Pentecost mosaic Image by Holger Schué from Pixabay
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after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the [commissioning of new members into ministry](#). Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good

news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

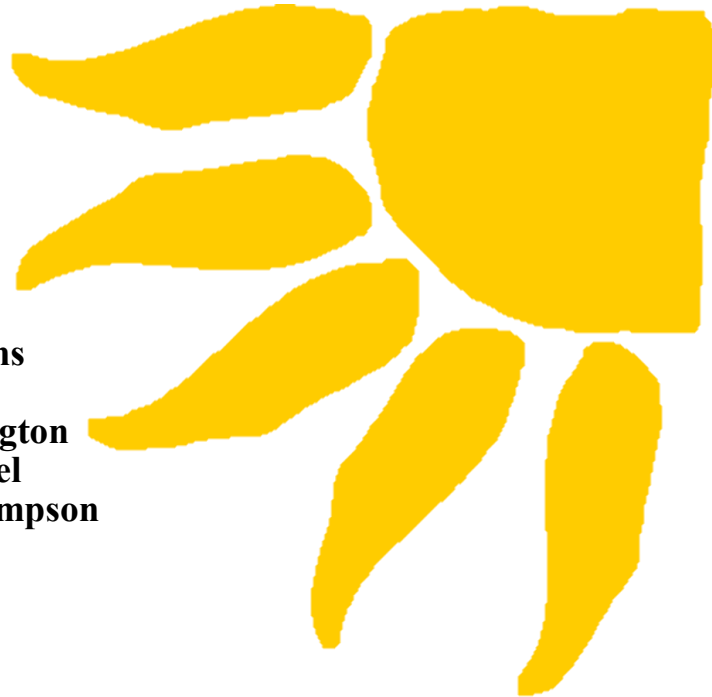
The [Season after Pentecost](#) is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

June Birthdays

3 Ingrid Patterson
9 Michael Evans
10 Fred Henn
12 W.O. Brown
15 Ed Grimes
16 David Stephens

18 Lois Garnett
20 Jennifer Evans
21 Fran Nolan
23 Ralph Howington
26 Enis Nathaniel
29 Laurilee Thompson



June Anniversaries

9 Frank & Linda Russell
16 Wayne & Janet Cook
21 Truman & Barbara Scarborough
22 Hudson & Grace Haile

23 Mike & Judy Brooks
26 Jan & Fay Kikta
30 Jake & Debbie Huether

2023 April 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: \$33,120

Expenses

Church Programs: \$1

Finance: \$0

Church Administration: \$1,434

Facility Maintenance: \$6,908

Personnel: \$20,444

Conference Apportionments: \$0

Total Expenses: \$28,787

Income Over Expenses: \$4,333

The budget for 2023 is **\$489,821** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$40,818 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year. Although we have begun trying to cut expenses where we reasonably can, we are still feeling the financial pinch. If you are able to still contribute during these lean times, please help us to maintain our regular operating costs as you find you are able. Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the current storm we are in.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating!

THANK YOU FOR DONATING!

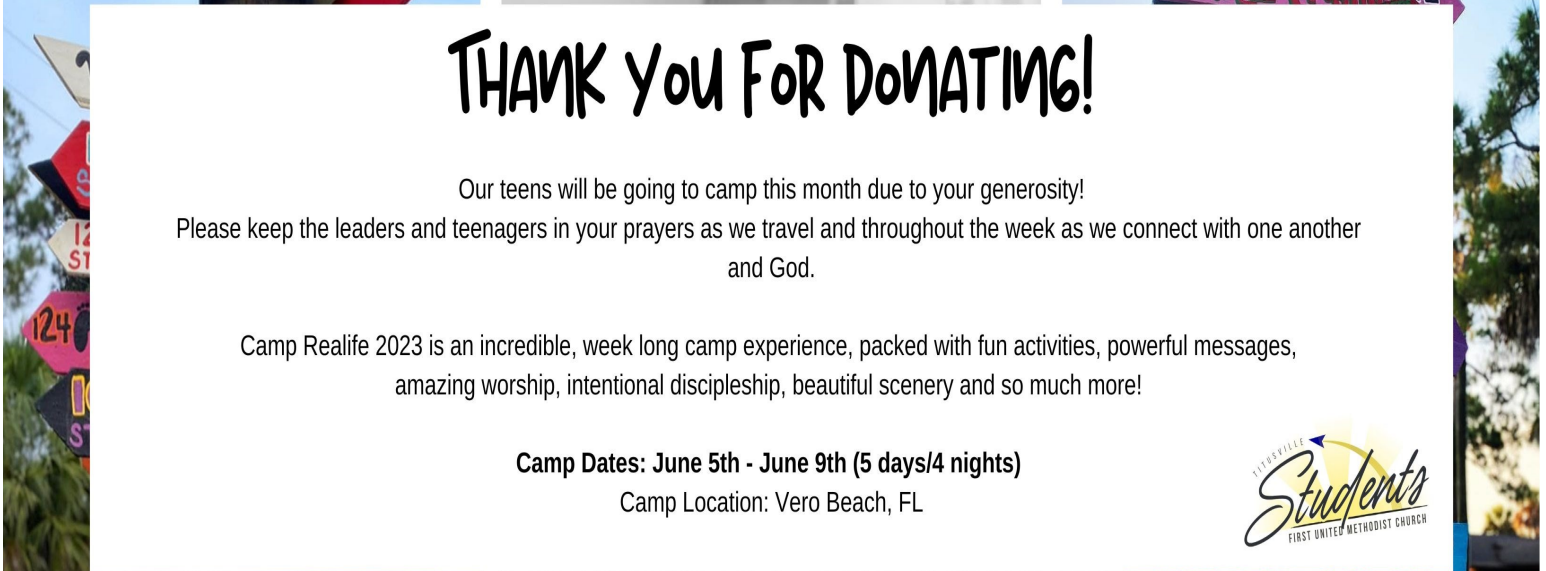
Our teens will be going to camp this month due to your generosity!

Please keep the leaders and teenagers in your prayers as we travel and throughout the week as we connect with one another and God.

Camp Realife 2023 is an incredible, week long camp experience, packed with fun activities, powerful messages, amazing worship, intentional discipleship, beautiful scenery and so much more!

Camp Dates: June 5th - June 9th (5 days/4 nights)

Camp Location: Vero Beach, FL



Apollo Outreach Thank You



Dear congregation,

A great thank you for your donations to our outreach to Apollo Elementary School. From August 2022, our church has provided goodie bags monthly to the entire staff of 100.

Coffee and donuts helped welcome staff back in August. Then each month, several of us gathered to pack items to brighten their days. Kleenex, hot chocolate, water, cookies, chips, etc. were given. Along with a note and a smile, our church gave a needed lift to their days! Thank you all!

Debbie Grimes

Church court clarifies disaffiliation rules

*By Heather Hahn
Feb. 9, 2022 | UM News*

www.umnews.org

Key points:

The Judicial Council released the first batch of decisions from its 22-item fall docket.

All six rulings deal with questions raised about a new provision that allows churches to leave the denomination with property if they meet certain criteria.

The United Methodist Church's top court released six decisions Feb. 9 related to a new provision governing how congregations can leave the denomination with property.

All six rulings from the United Methodist Judicial Council stem from questions of law raised about [the Book of Discipline's new Paragraph 2553](#) — approved by the 2019 Special General Conference in St. Louis.

Passed during the same legislative assembly [that strengthened church bans against same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy](#), the church law allows congregations to exit with property for "reasons of conscience" related to homosexuality if they meet [certain requirements](#).

The disaffiliation plan offers a limited way to release congregations from [The United Methodist Church's centuries-old trust clause](#), which states that church property is held in trust for the benefit of the entire denomination. The provision permits such disaffiliations through Dec. 31, 2023.

In 2019, the Judicial Council [upheld Paragraph 2553](#) as in line with the denomination's constitution. In that ruling, the church court [also spelled out](#) that any disaffiliation must include:

- Approval for disaffiliation by at least a two-thirds majority of a church's professing members present at the vote.

- Establishment of terms and conditions between the exiting local church and the conference board of trustees.
- Ratification of a church's disaffiliation by a simple majority at annual conference.

[Already more than 130 U.S. congregations](#) have used Paragraph 2553 to part ways with the denomination. However, that is a small fraction of the more than 31,000 United Methodist churches in the U.S.

The provision also continues to spark questions of law at annual conference sessions. The Discipline — the denomination's policy book — requires bishops to respond to questions of law raised during the sessions at which they preside and that [any bishop's decision of law go before the Judicial Council for review](#).

The new Judicial Council rulings cover decisions of law that bishops made during the 2020 and 2021 annual conference seasons.

One question before the court was whether annual conference members can amend a congregation's disaffiliation agreement when it comes to the floor for a vote.

In [Decision 1420](#), the Judicial Council affirmed the decision of law by North Georgia Conference Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson that an annual conference's authority is limited to a simple yes or no vote.

The church court notes that under the Discipline, a local church "cannot sever its connectional relationship to The United Methodist Church without the consent of the annual conference." The Judicial Council has construed this provision to mean that the annual conference must ratify any disaffiliation agreement.

"Consequently, ratification in this context denotes the retroactive approval by a vote up or down by the members of an annual conference but does not include the right to amend the disaffiliation agreement," the church court ruled.

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In [Decision 1422](#), the Judicial Council affirmed another decision by Hauptert-Johnson. During annual conference, a lay member asked the bishop whether a church that identifies itself as traditional could use Paragraph 2553. In this context, “traditional” means a church that supports the denominational restrictions around homosexuality.

Hauptert-Johnson said she found no ruling of law was required “because the North Georgia Annual Conference Board of Trustees has indicated that it will not question ‘the reasons of conscience’ behind a church’s decision to disaffiliate.”

The North Georgia Conference and its largest-member church, Mt. Bethel, are engaged in [a civil lawsuit and countersuit in county court over church property](#). Mt. Bethel has invoked Paragraph 2553 in making its case.

However, the United Methodist Judicial Council made no mention of that court case, and explicitly said it was focusing on the questions of law submitted to it.

In [Decision 1421](#), the Judicial Council addressed two questions: Whether the sale of property can be completed before the conference votes and whether the conference board of trustees can enter into a nondisclosure agreement with a departing church.

The church court said the Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Trustees acted unlawfully by closing sale on the property of a church before the annual conference voters ratified the disaffiliation agreement.

“The execution, delivery, and filing for record of any deed to property cannot be accomplished prior to such ratification,” the Judicial Council ruled.

However, the church court also said that the board of trustees can enter into a nondisclosure agreement as part of a negotiated settlement, where permitted by local laws. The ruling reversed in part and modified in part a decision by Bishop David Graves.

Judicial Council member Beth Capen wrote a separate opinion, concurring in part and dissenting in part with the ruling. She agreed that the annual conference should vote on any disaffiliation settlement before property changes hands. Specifically, she said it was improper that the conference board executed the quitclaim deed and release of trust clause months ahead of the annual conference vote.

But she disagreed with the use of a nondisclosure agreement. “The Annual Conference must have access to all information concerning a congregation’s proposed disaffiliation,” she wrote.

Judicial Council member Warren Plowden, chancellor

for the South Georgia Conference, recused himself from deliberating on the decision related to the Alabama-West Florida Conference because the two conferences now share a bishop.

In [Decision 1423](#), the Judicial Council affirmed a decision by New England Conference Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar that United Methodist clergy members in good standing can make a motion for a church’s disaffiliation.

“Clergy members have the right to vote on disaffiliation resolutions that come before an annual conference,” the Judicial Council ruled. “This voting right includes the right to make a motion to approve such resolutions.”

The Judicial Council also agreed with Devadhar that one of the questions he faced was parliamentary in nature and outside the Judicial Council’s jurisdiction.

In two decisions, the Judicial Council dealt with what terms an annual conference can set for any disaffiliation agreement within its boundaries. Paragraph 2553 says annual conferences “may develop additional standard terms that are not inconsistent with the standard form of this paragraph.”

In [Decision 1424](#), the church court affirmed Arkansas Conference Bishop Gary Mueller’s decision that “the requirement that Arkansas Annual Conference Board of Trustees seek ‘repayment of district, annual conference or general church grants made in the past 10 years, excluding benevolent grants’ does not invalidly negate, ignore or violate church law.”

In [Decision 1425](#), the Judicial Council also affirmed Devadhar’s decision that the New England Conference can require churches considering disaffiliation to go through at least an eight-month discernment process, seek assessments of the impact of the departure and hold at least four listening sessions with members.

The Judicial Council’s ruling said the disaffiliation process established by General Conference constitutes minimum standards, “which do not preclude additional procedures and standard terms created by annual conferences, provided that the latter do not negate or violate the former.”

The Judicial Council is continuing to deliberate on [a 22-item fall docket](#). Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church court has been meeting online over a period of months and publishing decisions as they are ready.

Hahn is assistant news editor for UM News. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org. To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free Daily or Friday Digests](#).

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JUNE 2023

First United Methodist Church








Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00am Ladies Day Out	2 1-3pm Food Pantry	3 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
4 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	5 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel 9:30am Kids' Playtime	6 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	7 8:00am Conn. Kids Event 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 5:30pm We Gather 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	8 10:30am PEO Meeting	9 1-3pm Food Pantry	10 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
Y O U T H C A M P - Y O U T H C A M P						
11 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	12 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study 11:00am Birthday Party for W.O. Brown	13 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	14 Flag Day 8:00am Life Line Screening 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 	15 11:30am Ladies Day Out 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg	16 1-3pm Food Pantry	17 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 3:00pm—7:00pm Juneteenth Party @ Sandpoint
18 Father's Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 	19 Juneteenth 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel 	20 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Lion, Witch, & the Wardrobe 6:30pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	21 Summer Solstice 8:00am Conn. Kids Event 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:00pm Family Yoga	22	23 1-3pm Food Pantry	24 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
25 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	26 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel	27 10:00am Conn. Kids Event 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	28 8:00am Conn. Kids Event 3:30pm Joyful Noise 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	29 8:00am Conn. Kids Event	30 1-3pm Food Pantry	

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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
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	

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.

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