

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE, FL

150
YEARS
1875-2025

MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2026

How small congregations can flourish

By Heather Hahn

Sept. 21, 2026 | UM News

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/how-small-congregations-can-flourish>

- **Key points:**
- **Small churches have distinctive strengths that The United Methodist Church should embrace, argues a new report from Wesleyan Impact Partners.**
- **That's important since most U.S. United Methodist churches, and Protestant churches in general, are**

small.

- **The report profiles nine congregations across the U.S. — most of which average 50 or less in worship but excel in community impact.**
- **The congregations, which are thriving in both rural and urban settings, share certain qualities.**

The tiny, adobe-style sanctuary of Mancos United Methodist Church only has space for 15 pews — and each pew only can seat five people comfortably.

While the congregation in rural, southwestern Colorado will never be a megachurch, it already has made a mega-
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impact on its community and the broader national conversation.

Just look at the experience of Rosa, a beloved local resident who found another kind of sanctuary inside Mancos United Methodist. During the first Trump administration, the small congregation sheltered and protected her from the threat of deportation. In the process, congregants also brought her case national attention that helped her eventually win legal authorization to stay in the U.S., where she had already lived and worked for more than 30 years.

“The church has been very welcoming, and I have felt the love of all of them and all of you,” she told supporters in 2022 shortly after a court granted her request to remain in the country. “This embrace has helped me in so many ways.”

Wesleyan Impact Partners, a Texas-based nonprofit that invests in ministries nationwide, sees hope for the future of The United Methodist Church in small congregations like Mancos. The nonprofit — with funding from the Texas Methodist Foundation — profiled Mancos and eight other United Methodist congregations across the U.S. in its new, 36-page report “[Flourishing Small Churches](#).”

Most of the nine churches featured have an average worship attendance under 50. Nevertheless, the report establishes that they all have an outsized impact in representing the Kingdom of God — like the wee mustard seed [Jesus described in his parable](#).

The Rev. Kathleen McShane, director of learning and innovation at Wesleyan Impact Partners, is also the pastor of a small congregation — First United Methodist Church in Paso Robles, California. She began the study with the question: “What if the smallness of so many churches in United Methodism isn’t a problem, but an asset?”



Image courtesy of Wesleyan Impact Partners

Wesleyan Impact Partners drew on a small, year-long cohort of United Methodist churches with average attendance below 50 for its report “[Flourishing Small Churches](#).”

The report offers new insights about what is happening in small congregations that are cultivating belonging, deep faith, community partnerships, and resilient leadership.

See and download “[Flourishing Small Congregations](#).”

Why it matters

That’s an important perspective given the current U.S. religious landscape. [Nearly 70% of the country’s Protestant churches](#) — no matter whether they are part of a denomination or not — average fewer than 100 in weekly attendance.

Most U.S. United Methodist churches are even smaller. As of 2024, the General Council on Finance and Administration reports, 12,607 U.S. United Methodist churches — 64.5% of those that reported their attendance — had an average of 50 or fewer people in either in-person or online worship each week.

Wesleyan Impact Partners gave McShane the go-ahead to explore how these small United Methodist churches can thrive. To do so, McShane and her team first gathered nominations from other church leaders of already-thriving churches. They then recruited the pastor and lay leader from each congregation to join a cohort that met periodically with three facilitators in-person and online throughout 2025 and into January 2026.

In addition to [Mancos](#), the cohort included [Bryson City United Methodist](#) in Bryson City, North Carolina; [Eastside Church](#) in Atlanta; [First United Methodist](#) in Liberty, North Carolina; [Glendale United Methodist](#) in Nashville, Tennessee; [Joseph United Methodist](#) in Joseph, Oregon; [Nehalem Bay United Methodist](#) in Nehalem Bay, Oregon; [San Marco Church](#) in Jacksonville, Florida; and [Trinity United Methodist](#) in Memphis.

The Rev. Anjie Peek Rivers, Eastside Church’s senior pastor, said the cohort’s conversations were unlike any she had experienced before. “It wasn’t about teaching us things. It was talking about how things work at our churches,” she said. “It was a sharing and learning together, or learning from us and our churches.”

Like an ecclesial version of science’s [observer effect](#), the Wesleyan Impact Partners team soon discovered that merely examining these congregations’ ministries ended up changing them.

“When someone said to them, ‘We see you; we see you’re doing good work,’ ... it was like they were sunflowers that turned their face up to the sun,” McShane told UM News.

“There were moments when the facilitators asked each other: Are we making flourishing small churches just by using this process? Because what we heard from every one of them was that shining a light on what they do made them better, made them more confident and more expansive in continuing to do the things that they were already doing.”

With that in mind, Wesleyan Impact Partners plans for this report to be only the start of a study of small congregations

with more cohorts planned for congregations in
(Continued on page 3)

August 2026 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: \$35,335

Expenses

Church Programs: \$9

Finance: \$69

Church Administration: \$1,152

Facility Maintenance: \$12,321

Personnel: \$24,000

Conference Apportionments: \$3,515

Total Expenses: \$41,066

To-Date Income Under Expenses: \$5,465

The budget for 2026 is **\$518,032** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$43,169 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year.

Your faithful generosity is the very reason we are able to operate our church and continue our mission. Because of your donations, we can maintain our ministries, care for our facilities, and provide a welcoming place for worship and fellowship. Just as importantly, your support empowers us to reach beyond our walls to serve and uplift our local community. Thank you for making this vital work possible through your continued partnership and commitment.

October Birthdays

4 Will Merklinger	13 Diana Barnhart
7 Phyllis Lackey	15 Laura Capozzi
8 Susan Delmas	16 Adrienne Herrell
9 Diane Carter	21 Susan Adair
9 John Rinehart	28 Kathy Irelan
10 Sally Bradford	29 Pam Delnero
11 Kitty Baldwin	30 Todd Holmes
12 Georgia Smith	

October Anniversaries

6 Bob & Judy Titus

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different kinds of communities and contexts that showcase the diversity of U.S. United Methodists.

By the end of this cohort's sessions, leaders of both Eastside and [Glendale United Methodist](#) acknowledged that they now exceed 50 in average attendance. But the report concluded that small churches can be successful in nurturing deep faith and spreading the Gospel even if they don't get bigger.

McShane and her team found vital small congregations share distinctive strengths that are often overlooked within broader denominational conversations.

These strengths include a solid sense of identity and robust relationships.

"They're not trying to be everything to everyone," McShane said. "They're very, very clear about their identity — what you might call the vocation of that particular congregation."

Secondly, she added: "It's not about programs. It's about the trust and intimacy that builds between people inside the congregation, specifically between the pastor and the congregation."

Strong identity

The experience of Mancos United Methodist shows how boldly proclaiming its identity helped expand the church's ministry in the relatively conservative U.S. Four Corners region.

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About a decade ago, the congregation voted to become a [Reconciling congregation](#) — joining the network of United Methodist churches that openly embrace LGBTQ people at a time when they still faced restrictions in the broader United Methodist Church.

Looking back, the Rev. Craig Paschal — Mancos' pastor — said becoming a Reconciling church was a crucial step because “it gave us permission to love our neighbors and not to be apologetic about it.”

“It just opened up the doors of not just our church, but also our hearts,” said Paschal, the church's pastor for the past 22 years. “This is what it means to follow Christ. And different people started coming into the church because that's what they were looking for — what I just call a bigger God.”

In 2017, Mancos United Methodist members voted again to become a [sanctuary church](#) and soon put that decision into action. Rosa, the local Catholic church's secretary at the time, faced deportation even though she was working through the legal process for permanent residency. Within a week of the church taking her in, a congregant had installed a shower in the church's nursery.

For the next five years, the church and broader Mancos community provided her with food and shelter. Paschal added a bed to his office, so each night someone could stay onsite to halt immigration enforcement and unwanted visitors from entering.

Congregants also raised money for her mortgage and legal bills under the banner of “Rosa Belongs Here.” They did everything they could to draw attention to her plight — eventually getting her story on the front pages of the Los Angeles Times and Washington Post.

That public attention brought wider awareness to [how complex and capricious the U.S. immigration system can be even for people following the rules.](#)



Mancos United Methodist Church in the U.S. Four Corners region in southwestern Colorado rallied community support when Rosa, a beloved local resident took sanctuary in the small church building during President Trump's first term. That community support helped garner her case national attention, and a court granted her legal authorization to stay in the U.S. in 2022. The Mancos congregation is an example of a church with influence beyond its small membership. *Photo courtesy of Mancos United Methodist.*

It also helped her case. A court eventually granted her a stay of removal in 2022, allowing her to safely leave the church and work again.

The second Trump term is different, with houses of worship no longer safe from federal immigration enforcement [even as multiple religious groups challenge that policy change in court.](#)

However, Paschal said local immigrants know they have friends at Mancos United Methodist, and the wider community knows the congregation's welcoming approach to disciple-making. The Mountain Sky Conference honored Paschal with an award in 2025 [for his Spirit-led ministry and commitment to faith, inclusivity, and justice.](#)

“Especially with us being Reconciling and having been a sanctuary church, no one sits in our pew for a couple years trying to figure out if they like the church or not,” Paschal said.

“They can read that Reconciling statement and hear the prayers and messages, and they know really quick whether they want to be there or not. ... People have become disciples at our church. But it's not because of us. It's literally the Holy Spirit moving through them.”

Strong relationships

Eastside Church in Atlanta's gentrifying Eastside neighborhood is also a Reconciling United Methodist congregation and has its own strong sense of how it fits into God's work.

Today, the multiethnic church averages about 90 people in weekly attendance— many of them young families. A quarter of those coming each week are children or youth under the age of 18. Some 60% of the congregation is involved in one of the church's small groups.

Many of the adults who come to Eastside have seen the church at its worst, said Peek Rivers, the church's pastor for the past two years.

Inspired by a [poem](#) by the recently deceased Wendell Berry, the church has declared its mission is “Practicing Resurrection.” By that, [the church means](#), “practicing a transformed way of life to embody God's love and liberation for all people.”

Peek Rivers said congregants know they can't fulfill that mission alone. They help each other out and build community relationships.

The church is deeply involved in [Eastside Community Hub and Outreach](#), called ECHO for short, that with community partners provides an outdoor 24/7 food pantry, free fridge and clothes closet. The church also works with a local homeless service to have a case worker onsite.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

TUNA
RICE
PASTA SAUCE
PASTA
CEREAL/OATMEAL

PORK & BEANS
GREEN BEANS
CORN
VIENNA SAUSAGES
DRY MILK

URGENT NEED:
JELLY - JAM

Grace Bag Supplies Needed



See our Amazon List:
<https://a.co/0lIZhoqr>

Ind. Peanut Butter Packs
Mixed Nut Snack Packs
Travel Size Sunscreen
Travel Size Shampoo
Light-Weight Socks
16.9 fl. oz. Waters



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“We’re offering the resources we have and continuing to try to grow in our capacity for sharing more resources and more of our time and energy,” Peek Rivers said. “But it is the community volunteers who make that pantry happen.”

Many of the adults at Eastside have seen church at its worst. Peek Rivers said she is in awe of the willingness of parishioners not just to deconstruct the harm they’ve experienced but reconstruct something better from the building blocks of faith. Being in a small church helps them do that reconstruction.

“These folks are really committed,” the pastor said. “They’re saying, ‘I’m not giving up on God. I’m not giving up on church. It’s something I still want or need, and I think it could be different.’”

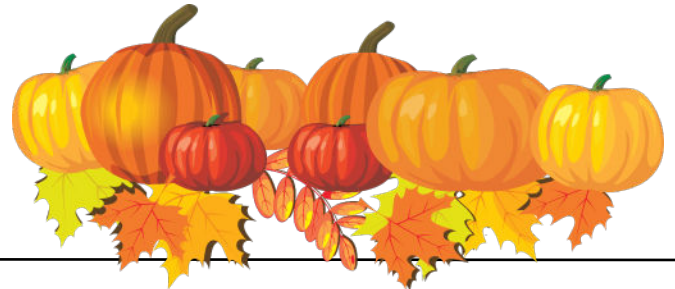
All involved in the Wesleyan Impact Partners study acknowledged that financial sustainability remains a real challenge for small churches.

However, McShane sees value in releasing churches from the compulsion to grow larger. Such a move, she said, would empower congregations to live out The United Methodist Church’s new vision [to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously](#).

After all, early Christianity first grew across the Roman empire through small, intimate gatherings of worshippers.

“There are things that are possible in these small churches,” McShane said, “that are not possible in larger settings.”

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



Summit probes the danger and benefits of AI

By Jim Patterson

Sept. 9, 2026 | NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UM News)

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/summit-probes-the-danger-and-benefits-of-ai>

Key points:

- **The third annual AI and Church Summit was hosted by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship Ministries.**
- **Negative effects may be coming as the technology swiftly develops, speakers warned.**
- **One speaker said that an AI takeover is not inevitable.**

Thanks to artificial intelligence, things are about to get “really strange.”

That was the closest to a sure thing spoken during the AI and Church Summit on Aug. 24-27 at the Harry Denman Building.

On the upside, AI possibilities include significant medical advances, reduction of workplace dangers, increased productivity, and economic growth.

The downside is, well, how about an apocalypse?

“The world’s going to get really strange really fast,” said Brian Patrick Green, director of technology ethics at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. Green wasn’t present in person, but in an appropriately science fiction-like touch, a large

projection of his head hovered above the audience of 165 while he spoke. Another 402 people followed the summit online.

“We need to be mentally prepared for this, and so you need to be the leaders that your people need and that the world needs,” Green told the church leaders at the summit.

“Human Agency” was the hopeful theme for the third year of the summit, which for 2026 gathered four mainstream Christian denominations: The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and The United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Discipleship Ministries hosted this year at Denman, which houses its offices.



Peter Levenstrong, associate rector at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, speaks during the AI and Church Summit Aug. 24-27 at the Harry Denman Building in Nashville, Tenn. The ecumenical gathering, themed “Human Agency,” featured participants from The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA) and The United Methodist Church. *Photo by Chris Law, Discipleship Ministries.*

“If all hell does break loose in four weeks or four years, if the apocalypse really does come ... that’s actually what our faith is for — apocalyptic moments — and we never feel ready for them,” said speaker Bishop Mariann

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Edgar Budde, the spiritual leader for The Episcopal Church's congregations and schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties.

The bad news is so bad that the organization that described the downside at the AI and Church Summit barred reporters from the session, or even identifying the organization itself. But here's the gist from an approved summary provided by summit leaders.

"The risks ... are not speculative or science fictional," reads the summary. "They include the use of AI systems in cyberattacks, the dual-use problem in the life sciences where the same capabilities that could accelerate cures could also lower the barrier to biological weapons and documented cases in which conversational systems have contributed to real-world harm.

"The discussion also touched on the difficulty of evaluating systems that can misjudge their own situation, and on failures that appear to stem less from gaps in a model's knowledge than from something resembling motivated reasoning."

This is not a burden the church can kick down the road to the next generation, Budde said.

"If we're the ones to bear it, then we're the ones," she said. "And I think of my grandchildren and maybe some of yours, and say, 'Well, better me than them.'

"And if there's something we can do to make it a little bit better for them, Lord, it's for this hour that we have come."

Science fiction predicted AI decades ago. Think of the Library Computer Access and Retrieval System that calmly and neutrally answered any question Captain Kirk shouted on "Star Trek." Now think of the HAL 9000 (Heuristically Programmed Algorithmic Computer) in "2001: A Space Odyssey," which had a psychological breakdown and started killing the crew of its spaceship.

"We ... are standing at a threshold," preached the Rev. Winterbourne Harrison-Jones, pastor of Witherspoon Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, on the last day of the summit.

"It is changing how we teach," he said. "It is changing how we learn. It is changing how we preach. It is changing how some pray. It is changing how we create and how we communicate, how we hire and how we govern, how we diagnose and how we decide. It is also influencing what we see, what we believe, whom we trust, and even how we imagine ourselves."

AI can recognize faces, identify patterns, interpret images, generate language and predict behavior, Harrison-Jones pointed out.

"Yet, we remain in danger of failing to see one another," he said.

The environmental impact of thousands of data centers and cooling stations needed for AI to function will negatively impact the environment, which is already threatened by global warming. The data centers and cooling stations will occupy thousands of acres of land and consume water needed elsewhere.

Native American land is being targeted for data centers and cooling stations because there is less regulatory red tape, abundant land, existing water rights, and tax advantages, according to The New York Times.

Chebon Kernell, executive director for the United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan, is helping to lead the resistance to AI within The United Methodist Church.

The AI revolution isn't inevitable, Kernell said.

"There is a massive growing tidal wave against the use of artificial intelligence and ... these data centers right now, and it's larger than it was in March, and it's larger now than it was a year ago," he said.

The first book in the Bible tells an applicable story about the difference between knowledge and wisdom, said Bishop Lanette L. Plambeck, who leads the Dakotas-Minnesota Area in The United Methodist Church's North Central Jurisdiction.

"Genesis begins with human beings being created in the image of God, and then almost immediately there is a tree, the tree that holds knowledge of good and evil," Plambeck said.

"Here we are, thousands of years later, carrying devices that give us access to more information than any generation before us could have imagined. ... AI does not discern; it processes, it predicts, synthesizes, generates, it even mimics human thinking. It can reveal a pattern I missed and challenged an assumption at an extraordinary speed.

"But it does not bear moral responsibility for what I choose. It does not love my neighbor. It does not grieve. It does not forgive, and it does not encounter God.

"I do, and we do."

Patterson is reporter for UM News. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free UM News Digest.



Suicide is a public health crisis. How can faith communities respond?

By Roland Fernandes and Dr. Anne Mathews-Younes

Sept. 22, 2026 | ATLANTA (UM News)

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/suicide-is-a-public-health-crisis-how-can-faith-communities-respond>

Content note: This commentary discusses suicide. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 in the United States to reach the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Key points:

- In 2024, nearly 49,000 people in the United States died by suicide – about one person every 11 minutes.
- There has been little formal training to help faith leaders to recognize the signs that a member of their congregation may be contemplating suicide.
- A free online training course on preventing suicides is available on the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry's website.

Anne Mathews-Younes recalls that her grandfather, E. Stanley Jones, a prominent Methodist missionary, once told her of a woman who had decided to end her own life.

As the woman crossed the living room toward her kitchen, where she intended to take an overdose of pills, a copy of Jones' devotional book "Abundant Living" suddenly fell from a shelf and landed at her feet. She picked it up and began reading, staying up through the night. She ultimately chose another path.

As we mark September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, the most important question in this story is not whether a miracle occurred. It is why a woman was suffering so deeply that no one intervened before she reached that moment.

How many people in our own congregations are carrying similar feelings of despair?

In 2024, nearly 49,000 people in the United States died by suicide — about one person every 11 minutes. Worldwide, the World Health Organization estimates that suicide ranks third among all causes of death for people ages 15 to 29 years old. Behind every number is a family, a congregation and a community asking what could

have been done to prevent a needless death.

Faith leaders encounter suicidal distress directly. In a study of 801 U.S. Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergy, two-thirds of those who offered counseling reported contact with at least one suicidal person each year. Most said they needed more training.

Suicide prevention is not only a mental health concern. It is also a ministry concern. Certainly, faith communities cannot replace mental health professionals.

But if we believe every life is sacred, then how do faith leaders help people find hope and care before a crisis becomes a tragedy?

Confront stigma and silence

Too often, churches talk about suicide only after a funeral. In fact, churches have not always been safe places to discuss suicide. We are often more comfortable celebrating resilience than discussing depression, despair, or thoughts of self-harm. Yet silence does not protect people. It can leave them feeling even more alone.

A 2024 United Methodist resolution acknowledges the church's history of condemnation and punitive theology. In interviews about suicide stigma in Christian communities, participants described silence, shame, and pressure to appear well.

United Methodist Social Principles affirm that suicide does not bar anyone from God's grace. Congregations can make that teaching visible by speaking plainly about mental health, avoiding judgmental language, and offering families grieving a suicide the same care offered after other deaths.

Build connection and paths to care

Faith communities bring people together through relationships, worship and shared meaning. At their best, they give people somewhere to belong and someone likely to notice when they withdraw.

But belonging is not automatic. A congregation can be full of people and still fail to notice someone who is struggling. Belonging needs practical support.

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention describes congregations as communities of connection that can offer narratives of hope, education, and advocacy.

Congregations can maintain referral lists, build



Roland Fernandes.
Photo courtesy of the author.



Dr. Anne Mathews-Younes.
Photo courtesy of the author.

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relationships with local clinicians, publicize the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and establish clear response procedures. They can accompany people receiving treatment and continue caring for families after a suicide loss.

Faith leaders are not expected to diagnose or treat suicidal people. Their role is to notice, listen without judgment, ask direct questions when concerned, and connect people with professional care.

Train clergy and lay leaders

There has been little formal training to help faith leaders to recognize the signs that a member of their congregation may be contemplating suicide. A [2017 national survey of 1,000 Protestant senior pastors](#) found that 59% had never received formal suicide-prevention training and that most wanted more training. A resolution titled “[Suicide: A Pastoral Response](#)” in the 2024 United Methodist Book of Resolutions calls for clergy and seminarians to be equipped to recognize risk and make appropriate referrals.

To help address this need, the [E. Stanley Jones Foundation](#) and the [United Methodist Board of Global Ministries](#) have developed a free online training course for clergy and lay leaders focused on recognizing warning signs, responding appropriately and connecting people with professional care.

[Suicide Prevention for Faith Leaders and Faith Communities](#) is a free online video course available on [Higher Education and Ministry's](#) website and narrated by

retired United Methodist Bishop Gregory V. Palmer.

The course was developed with United Methodist clergy in mind and is also intended for seminarians, lay leaders and leaders from other faith traditions to prepare people to serve as compassionate gatekeepers who recognize risk, respond appropriately and connect people to care. Individuals and groups can complete it in full or use it one chapter at a time.

We invite United Methodist clergy, lay leaders and congregations to take the training, review their response plans and strengthen relationships with local mental health professionals.

Faith communities cannot solve the suicide crisis on their own. But they can help ensure that fewer people suffer in silence. The question before us is this: Will our churches be places where struggling people feel safe enough to ask for help before despair becomes tragedy? Lives depend on the answer.

Fernandes is the top executive of the United Methodist boards of Global Ministries and Higher Education and Ministry. Mathews-Younes is president of the E. Stanley Jones Foundation.

Commentaries

UM News publishes various commentaries about issues in the denomination. The opinion pieces reflect a variety of viewpoints and are the opinions of the writers, not the UM News staff.

Sharing Recipes, Sharing Blessings

God calls us to care for one another and to share the blessings we have been given. One simple way we can do that is by sharing our recipes, cooking ideas, and kitchen wisdom with our neighbors.

Good food has a way of bringing people together—and our community has a lot of good ideas to share!

Our food pantry provides many of the same helpful staples each week, including rice, dried beans, pasta, canned vegetables, and other basic ingredients. We're collecting recipes, cooking ideas, and helpful tips from our church and community that can help turn these everyday ingredients into tasty, filling meals that stretch a little further.

Do you have a favorite recipe for rice or beans? A creative way to use leftovers? A tip for making a simple meal go further? We'd love to hear it!

By sharing our recipes, ideas, and kitchen wisdom, we can help one another make the most of what we have. Your favorite family recipe might become someone else's new favorite meal! Together, we can share not only food, but also the knowledge, creativity, and care that make our community strong.

Please send us your recipes and tips so we can share them with our pantry community. You can write down your recipe and bring it to the church office, mail it, or email it to office@fumctitusville.com. When submitting your recipe or tip, please include your name and phone number in case we have questions or would like to learn more about your recipe.

When we share what we have, we share God's blessings with one another.

How to Make Chicken Stock

By Elise Bauer Updated on July 7, 2026

Source: https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/how_to_make_chicken_stock/

Making homemade chicken stock is easy!

Not only do you save money because you don't have to buy boxed stock, the stock itself is so much healthier for you because of all the iron, collagen, and vitamin-rich marrow from the bones.

Stock with Leftover Bones from a Roasted Chicken

Leftover bones and skin from 1 large cooked or raw chicken carcass, or from 2 rotisserie chickens

Celery tops and 1 large celery rib, cut into 2-inch segments

1 large unpeeled onion, quartered

1 carrot, cut into 2-inch segments

1 bunch parsley (stems and leaves)

Salt, to taste

Black pepper, to taste

Step 1. Combine ingredients in a large pot:

Put the leftover bones and skin from a chicken carcass into a large stock pot. Add vegetables, like celery, onion, carrots, parsley. Cover with water. Add salt and pepper to taste, about a teaspoon of salt, 1/4 tsp of pepper.

Step 2. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer:

Bring to a boil and immediately reduce heat to bring the stock to barely a simmer. Simmer partially covered at least 4 hours, occasionally skimming off any foam that comes to the surface.

Step 3. Strain the stock:

Remove the bones and vegetables and strain the stock through a fine mesh sieve.

Step 5. Divide and store:

Either pour into jars at this point, or if you want, what we like to do is to boil the stock on high heat for 1 hour or two, to reduce it by about half. This way you are storing concentrated stock, which takes less room in the freezer or refrigerator. When you are ready, pour into jars.

If you are freezing, you may want to ladle off some of the excess fat on the surface. (The fat helps preserve the stock in the fridge, but doesn't help it in the freezer.) If freezing, leave at least 1-inch head space, allowing enough room for the liquid stock to expand as it freezes solid. (Otherwise, the expanding ice stock will break the jar.)

Let the stock cool completely before refrigerating or freezing. Stock should last a week or so in the fridge, and several months in the freezer.

How to Store and Freeze Chicken Broth

Let the stock cool completely before refrigerating or freezing. When you are ready, pour into glass jars and refrigerate.

If you are freezing, you may want to ladle off some of the excess fat on the surface. Pour into plastic tubs with well sealing lids. Leave at least an inch of head space to allow room for the stock to expand as it freezes.

Stock should last a week or so in the fridge, and at least several months in the freezer.

About the Fat Cap

I've seen a lot of cookbooks advocate the skimming of the fat from the stock. We prefer letting the fat settle in a layer on top of the stock as it cools. This way, the fat acts as a protective layer over the stock.

Bacteria need oxygen to grow, so by allowing the fat to rise to the top of the stock and settle we create a protective barrier between the stock and the oxygen in the air above. The stock will last a bit longer in the refrigerator if you keep the fat layer on it.

Just lift up the layer of fat and remove the stock when you want to use it. Every few days, bring the stock to a simmer for 10 minutes and let it cool, again with the fat forming a protective layer. Your stock can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a couple of weeks this way.

OCTOBER 2026

First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
1 11:30am Ladies Day Out 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 6:00pm PEO Meeting	2 11:00am Food Pantry 2:00pm Boys & Girls Club 5:00pm Children's Fallween Event	3 7:30am Memorial Garden Club 8:00am Community Breakfast	4 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	5 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	6 7:00am Rotary Club Mtg 11:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Bible Study 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 3:30pm Main St. Titusville Mtg. 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	7 9:30am Patchwork Quilters 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:00pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm We Gather Dinner 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:00pm Broadstreet Rehearsal 6:30pm Crosspointe Rehearsal
8 9:30am N. Brev. Ret. Teachers 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg.	9 11:00am Food Pantry 2:00pm Boys & Girls Club	10 8:00am Community Breakfast	11 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	12 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	13 11:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Bible Study 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	14 9:30am Kids' Playtime 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:00pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm Student Ministry 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:00pm Broadstreet Rehearsal 6:30pm Crosspointe Rehearsal
15 8:00am Ada Michelle House 11:30am Ladies Day Out 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	16 11:00am Food Pantry 2:00pm Boys & Girls Club	17 8:00am Community Breakfast 9:00am Moonlight Quilters	18 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Church Conference Suntree UMC	19 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	20 7:00am Rotary Club Mtg 11:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Bible Study 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 5:00pm Solos Meeting 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	21 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:00pm Chancel Choir Reh. 6:00pm Broadstreet Rehearsal
22 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	23 11:00am Food Pantry 2:00pm Boys & Girls Club	24 8:00am Community Breakfast	25 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	26 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	27 11:00am Food Pantry 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 5:30pm Moonlight Quilters 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal	28 10:00am UWF Meeting 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:00pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm Student Ministry 6:00pm Broadstreet Rehearsal
29 3:00pm Boys & Girls Club	30 11:00am Food Pantry 2:00pm Boys & Girls Club	31 Halloween 8:00am Community Breakfast				

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The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

1st UMC Ministries

OUTREACH

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

MUSIC MINISTRIES

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

FAMILY MINISTRIES

1st Wednesday Dinners	Theater Programs
Children's Ministry	(Children & Adult)
Street Festivals	Vacation Bible School
Open Play	Youth—Longest Day of Your Life
(1st Monday, safe playtime for parents & kids)	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: 9am – 4pm, Monday - Friday
Closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 269-7631

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com

Website: www.FUMCTitusville.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FUMCTitusville

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@FUMCTitusville

FUMC Staff

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

