



Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Avon Park! What a blessing it is to look out and see visitors and all the smiling faces. I pray that you felt the power of the Holy Spirit, saw the love of Jesus that resides in the hearts of our congregation, that you heard the Word of God in the reading of Scripture and the Message, and in our prayers, praise, and worship. We are a loving, kind, and generous congregation and welcome all of God's children to join us in fellowship and in celebration of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

God called me to First UMC in July of 2020, and what a gift it is to serve as Senior Pastor to such a loving and committed church family. I previously served at Northeast UMC in Tampa for two years. I am also a lifetime member at Hillsborough UMC where I served in numerous leadership roles, including Youth ministry, Discipleship, and Missions, Outreach, and Trustees. I aspired to be a Preacher at a very young age. A special memory of my childhood is holding church in my garage on Saturday mornings. However, I must have been a slow learner as it was many decades later when I finally listened to God's calling on my life. While preparing for Ministry I served as a missionary in St Marc, Haiti where I taught school at the El Shaddai Learning Center and served with the Clean Water for Haiti organization for one year.

I believe in the grace and mercy of God Almighty the never-ending love and peace of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, and the power of Holy Spirit, our Protector and Helper. I love preaching; however, preaching is more than delivering God's Word on a Sunday morning. Preaching may start at the pulpit; but preaching is also loving our neighbors, feeding the hungry, being kind to a stranger, consoling those who are grieving, bringing comfort to those who are sick, and sharing the love of God with those who are lonely. This is the mission of all of us at First UMC and I pray that God's love shines so bright through us that people will point and say, "I want what they have."

I am beyond blessed and thrilled to be your Pastor as we journey together on this new path that God has placed before us.

