Fort Walton Beach First United Methodist Church is extremely proud of the stained glass windows that surround our sanctuary and the large window over the balcony. We are indeed fortunate to have the Willet Stained Glass Studios, the premiere American studio in design and fabrication of traditional leaded stained glass windows, as our partner in creating windows of timeless beauty. Some of the more famous institutions that feature Willet Stained glass windows are the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., the Cadet Chapel United States Military Academy at West Point, NY and St. Mary’s Cathedral, San Francisco, CA. These are but a few of the more than 10,000 churches located throughout the world which feature Willet windows.

On the First street side of the sanctuary, there is an entrance near the Southwest corner of the building that leads to the front of the Sanctuary and the Conference room. The two windows in the entry hall highlight the Education Ministry of the church.

The Education Windows
The left window depicts the open Bible, indicating that all who will, can read the Word of God. Super imposed on this are the Alpha and Omega symbols. Jesus said of Himself, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

The right hand portion also shows an open Bible, but interposed on this Bible is the lamp of Learning.

The Conference Room Windows
As you enter the Conference room the wall facing First Street are the Methodist windows.

The John Wesley Window - This window is to remember John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church.

The Charles Wesley Window - This window remember Charles Wesley, John’s brother and hymn writer.

The Susanna Wesley Window - This window remembers Susanna Wesley, wife of Samuel Wesley, and mother of John and Charles.

The Francis Asbury Window - This window remembers Frances Asbury, the first Bishop of the Methodist church.

“You are the light of the world — like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:14-16
Fort Walton Beach First United Methodist Church is a Christ-centered church. That priority is reflected by the stained-glass windows in the Nave all of which depict scenes from the life of Jesus.

**The Annunciation Window**
This window depicts the Annunciations of the birth of the Messiah to Mary, by the angel Gabriel. The symbol in the peak of the window is the Lilly, the symbol of the Annunciation. The scripture medallion above the balcony break is, “Blessed are thou among women.” Luke 1:28

**The Nativity Window**
This window depicts the birth of Jesus. The symbol at the peak is the rose of Sharon. The scripture in the vent window is, “On earth peace, good will to men.” Luke 2:14

**The Baptism of Jesus Window**
This window depicts the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by His cousin, John. The symbol is the descending dove over the wavy lines symbolizing the waters of the river. The scripture in the vent window is, “This is My Beloved Son.” Matthew 3:17

**The Sermon on the Mount Window**
This window starting on the left of the Nave, nearest the pulpit, depicts Jesus teaching on the mountain top - The Sermon on the Mount. The symbol is the “Chi Rho” over the mountain, with wavy lines at its base symbolizing the Sea of Galilee. The scripture in the vent window is, “Great is Your reward in Heaven.” Matthew 5:12

**The Jesus and the Children Window**
This window depicts Jesus with the children. The symbol above is the Sun of Righteousness. The scripture in the vent window is, “Suffer the little children to come unto me.” Mark 10:14

**The Good Shepherd Window**
This window depicts Jesus teaching, “I am the good shepherd.” The symbol above is the crown, King of the Kings. The scripture in the vent window is, “I am the Good Shepherd.” John 10:11

**The Healing Window**
This window depicts the raising of the daughter of Jarius, one of the healing scenes. The symbol is “The Pelican in Her Piety,” which depicts the legend, that when there is little food, the pelican gives her own body to keep her young fed. The scripture on the vent window is, “She is not dead but sleeppeth.” Luke 8:52

**The Crucifixion Window**
This panel depicts the crucifixion of Jesus. The symbol is the fish with the Greek word ICTHUS. The scripture is, “It is finished.” John 19:30

**The Resurrection Window**
This panel depicts the resurrection of Jesus, as He comes forth from the tomb. The symbol is the Phoenix bird rising from the ashes of the funeral pyre - a symbol of resurrection. The scripture is, “He is risen.” Matthew 28:6

**The Ascension Window**
This is the final panel in the life of Christ series. It depicts His ascension up to Heaven. The symbol is the cross triumphant over the world. The reading in the window is, “He ascended into Heaven” as read from the the Apostles Creed.

**The Triumphal Window**
The last window to the left rear of the Nave depicts the Triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. The symbol is the crossed palm branches. The scripture in the medallion above the balcony is, “Hosanna in the highest.” Matthew 21:9

**THE THEME WINDOW OVER THE BALCONY**
The four major panels at the base of the large window over the balcony complete the life of Jesus. They read from left to right.

**The Garden of Gethsemane Window**
This window depicts Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. The symbol above the chalice, signifying Jesus’ cup of suffering. The scripture is, “Not my will, but thine be done.” Luke 22:42

**The Holy Baptism Window**
This rosette depicts the Lamb as a symbol from the book of Revelation. The Lamb is lying on the book with the seven seals, symbolizing Christ triumphant over the world.

**The Holy Communion Window**
This rosette uses the descending dove, a traditional symbol of the Holy Spirit’s descent upon mankind.

As you leave the Nave and proceed to the Narthex, take a moment to view the upper and lower stained glass windows in the bell tower. The four small windows at ground level depict the life of the church.

**The Christ Triumphant Window** - West wall
The symbol in this window is the Cross and Crown, symbolizing Christ triumphant in the world. This window contains half of the rainbow.

**The Church Window** - West wall
The symbol here is the ship, a traditional symbol of the church. Because of the this symbol, the body of the church where the congregation sits is called “the nave.” This window contains the other half of the rainbow.

**The Holy Communion Window** - East wall
The symbol in this window is the Chalice of Communion with the wafer just inside the chalice. These symbolize the bread and the wine of Holy Communion.

**The Holy Baptism Window** - East wall
The symbol in this window is the dove over the cross in the waters of baptism. A reminder of our Lord’s baptism.

The two larger windows high in the spire are designed to be seen from outside rather than inside. Because of the initial plans to make First St. a one-way going West, the windows were designed to greet arrivals from the East and wish well to those departing to the West.

**The “Come Unto Me” Window** - Facing East
This window reminds us of the words of Jesus, “Come unto me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

**The “Peace I Leave” Window** - Facing East
This window recalls the words of Jesus from the upper room on the last night of His life, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27