

THE BEACON



Sebastian United Methodist Church
OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

January 2017

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

Well now! Can you believe it! As I write this pastoral note, gratitude fills my heart for the beautiful experiences of worship and celebration here at SUMC as the Old Year quickly fades. Yes, THE END is truly near! Just hours away. The New Calendar Year has yet to dawn, but it's "first light" can well be anticipated not only with joy but also with a touch of reasonable anxiety, concern about what the future has in store.

First the larger than life anxieties: What about those Medicare reductions high on the congressional chopping block? A new nuclear arms race in the offing? Memories of the Cold War combined with threats of nuclear terrorism? How about those 42% increases at our own Sebastian Hospital's pricing schedule – simply because "they can?" Sea-levels requiring a boat in every Sebastian dock, I mean driveway, by 2080? You can add your own personal and social/political entries to this list, I'm sure.

In seminary we used to quote Jesus' admonition: "sufficient to the day is the evil thereof." Or, in the vernacular: "don't mortgage your hopes with fear of the future!" Good biblical advice!

So what about the JOYS? By my count, they far outnumber the points of advance-concern, those "anxieties" on which we so often persistently dwell. Well, here are a few of my joys, just to balance the equation: a host of new members willing and eager to shoulder new responsibilities brought to us by new occasions for ministry and mission! Long-term members of our faith family joining small groups for reflection, study, and prayer together. Our FIRST STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN at SUMC in more than TWO DECADES! The revival of "Tithing," sharing "first fruits" (and financial support) for Christ's work here in Sebastian through SUMC. The ministry of The Wel-

come Table. Everyone increasing their weekly gifts, and offerings toward their tithe for ministry. An incredibly talented constellation of musicians praising God with voice, brass, bells, chimes, strings, flutes, tambourine, djembe, and organ – JOYFUL NOISES TO OUR LORD! An abundance of volunteers to serve our community and church through our Thrift Store. A beautiful and amazingly efficient NEW KITCHEN, almost funded, in a renovated Fellowship Hall ready to reach out to our community in service to others.

To these JOYS add your own signs of JOY in the 2017's dawning. Joy in the midst of gratitude AND anxiety nurtures hope and confidence in God's own active presence in the middle of all our missions and messiness!

Are you ready to celebrate God's blessings? Look around! They are so visibly evident in our Faith Family here at Sebastian? I am ready, even excited about what I see here. And I know our leadership teams and staff join me in this message of confidence and hope.

Together, with God's enduring presence and Christ's servant-example, the ministry set before us will continue to thrive and grow. But it takes everyone in our congregation, bar none, each every one of us, to open our hearts, open our calendars and schedules, contribute our energies and increase our financial generosity as we meet God's HOPE-FILLED FUTURE dawning among us.

Happy New Year! Invite a friend, a neighbor, a family member to celebrate with us January 6 as we honor The Magi with a "Three King's Feast" in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall at 6 PM that evening. See you there!

Will



Just a Note From Megan Mash

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

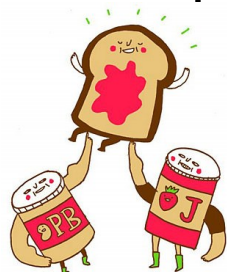
The history of African American spirituals can be hard to trace exactly because they were initially developed and transmitted through an oral tradition. Because of this there exists many variants in melody and text. In our modern culture and with the ease of access to printed information, these spirituals have become available to us and are a part of the way we experience God. "Go, Tell It On the Mountain" has become an integral part of the way we celebrate Christmas. John W. Work, Jr adapted the text and music from traditional sources to make it available to us. He published the verse present in our hymnal because the original ones could not be found. These verses tell the natal narrative as found in the Gospel of Luke. This hymn entered United Methodist hymnals in 1966.

The refrain is probably the most memorable aspect of this hymn. The verses tell us what has happened and the refrain provides us with what our response is to be. We are called to tell the world of the birth of Christ. We are called to do this because we know the ending of the story. We are not simply telling people that a child was born over two thousand years ago. We are telling them this child came and changed the world. Prominent black theologian James H. Cone writes about this hymn in his book *The Spirituals and the Blue: An Interpretation*. He writes that the birth of Jesus announces the ministry of "the conquering King, and the crucified Lord who has come to bring peace and justice to the dispossessed of the land. That is why the slave wanted to "go tell it on de mountain." The birth is the beginning of the coming reign of Christ. Because of the oral tradition of the spirituals a variant in the text exists which relates to Easter.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus lives again.*

So go and tell the story, over the mountain, over the hills, at the beach, EVERYWHERE! Not just that Jesus Christ has been born but that Jesus lives and because he lives we can have new, everlasting life.

**Most Need Food Pantry Items
NOW—Peanut Butter and Jelly**



GO TEAM!

Sebastian United Methodist Church Concert Schedule -2017

- **Friday, February 3, 2017 6:00 pm**
Megan Mash Recital, Offering to benefit the Boy's and Girl's Club
- **Friday, February 24, 2017 7:00 pm**
Spring Fling
If you would like to be involved with skit, song or dance call Megan.

Our New Year Prayer

Heavenly Father, as the New Year begins, we pray for Your Guidance.

Help us make Your world a better place to live. Lead us daily to do Your Holy Will.

Let Your Light Shine in our lives so we may show others Your Divine Light and the Light of Your Holy Love.

Show us what we need to do to make this world peaceful and loving, bringing us closer together and stamp out the darkness of hate.

So many times we get snarled in the human things that bring us down help us to focus instead on what pleases You and of Your Unconditional Love.

Show us how we can be more like Jesus in our actions and deeds.

Thank you God for being our Loving Father and for the gifts you give daily. Help us to keep our focus on You and Your Holy son, Jesus and Your wisdom.

Amen

Nancy L Fox December 23, 2016



IT IS A NEW YEAR FULL OF UPTURNED PAGES and YET TO BE THOUGHT OF IDEAS and MISSIONS --SO WE ARE CALLING ALL LADIES-- COME JOIN US AT NEXT UMW MEETING--

FRIDAY JANUARY 27TH 10 am in church Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome.

After Business and spiritual fellowship, we will have a soup luncheon -followed by a workshop--Making Heart Pillows for Cancer patients

On December 8th, 2016 several UMW Officers attended Roseland UMW December Christmas meeting. We were warmly welcomed by President Jan Paxton Pastor Beth did a very inspirational installation of officers --.followed by a delicious Salad Luncheon. What an active and fun group of ladies. We came away inspired with new ideas and a desire to have some joint activities this year.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at Rib City. We had a table full-17 ladies and Pastor Will. What a Happy and Fun time. We played games (prizes for winners)--sang a SPECIAL Florida Christmas song-socialized and had a very tasty lunch.

Upcoming Events --ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO ALL

- **January 6, 2017 -Friday**

Church Women United of Indian River County
Community Church-Room 113, General meeting/Time 9:30 am
1901 23rd St., Vero Beach Fl.
we will at church to carpool at 8:45 am
Church Women United Annual Meeting
January? Time and Date to be announced

- **January 12--Thursday**

Roseland UMW General Meeting
Time 10 am
Roseland UMC --Fellowship Hall
Roseland UMW meets 2nd Thursday of each month
All ladies are always welcome

- **January 21st -Saturday**

UMW Officers Training (all ladies invited)

First United Methodist Church, 200NW 2nd St, Okeechobee, FL
Brown Bag lunch Time 9:30 am
We will meet at church at 7:30 am for carpooling with Roseland UMW

- **January 27th**

UMW General meeting
10am Fellowship Hall

Come Come all YE WOMEN

If anyone needs a ride or more information please call me
772-589-9596

HAPPY NEW YEAR

IT IS PRECIOUS --ENJOY ONE DAY AT A TIME

Ann McCullough

Fellowship Potluck January 18, 6 pm Fellowship Hall

HOSTED BY THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

***The Program for the January 18th Fellowship Dinner will be
SEBASTIAN RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL -STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN NEED.
Speakers are Dionna Farmer -teacher and Jody Idlette -Principal***

The United Methodist Women became aware of the many needs at the Sebastian River Middle School through a member of our congregation -Dionna Farmer (who teaches 6th and 7th grades there.) From Dionna we learned many of the students in her class come to school hungry-- and when the weather turned chilly some came with blankets wrapped around them --no warm clothing. Some of the students still struggling with reading, are eager to learn but have no access to books or other reading materials.

As most of us know, schools today have no funds for providing teachers or students with educational material or teaching aids.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The UMW are all about missions and from its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with, children, and youth. We just discovered a local

mission, with a chance for hands on involvement! So in November the UMW purchased educational literature (Science World and Junior Scholastics) for Dionna's class. At Christmas the Guidance Counselors were making Food Baskets for 5 of the needy families. When Pastor Will heard this he said "SUMC will be honored to purchase a ham for each of these 5 families,"and so we did.

I believe
God has
provided

***Hosts provide dessert and beverages
Please bring a dish to share***

us with an opportunity--individually and collectively as a church to respond to the needs of the CHILDREN at Sebastian River Middle School-located at 9400 Sebastian Blvd.--only 5.2 MILES from the church.

The story has more -way too much for the Beacon--so please come to dinner and hear the **REST OF THE STORY.**



Pat Mays	January 1
Renford Douglas	January 2
Suzann Moritz	January 7
Jackie Gowin	January 10
Bill Chapman	January 12
Robbie Messersmith	January 12
Irene Strever	January 12
Bill Messersmith	January 15
Nelson Thornton	January 15
Jeannette Schumacher	January 19
Doris McNutt	January 25
Theresa Kraft	January 26
Paul Barker	January 31



Charlie & Jane Hino	January 1, 2016
Joe & Nellie Brookens	January 12, 1946
Nelson & Shirley Thornton	January 20, 1951

The Welcome Table is in need of food donations

We start the new year with dinners being served at **Grace's Landing** and **By The River** on January 27th. Dinner will be Turkey Soup and Pea Soup with Salad, Bread & Dessert.

Once again the sign-up sheet is in the Narthex prior to service & on the Hospitality Table during Fellowship. Please donate however you may be called.



All donations must be brought to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday January 22nd.

Please also indicate on the bottom of the donation sheet if you would like to cook or work the dinners.

We need 5 cooks & 8 to 10 dinner workers

God Bless & many thanks for your continued support of this mission



DISCRETIONARY FUND (Grace In Action)

We traditionally take a special collection for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Grace in Action) on the first Sunday of the month. We are trying to help as many individuals as possible, so if you are able to make a donation, please put it in a pew envelope and mark for Discretionary Fund.

"Three Kings Epiphany Day Feast"

- Friday evening, January 6, The Day of Epiphany 6:00 pm

The men of Sebastian United Methodist Church invite you to this covered dish banquet. They will be hosting, serving and cleaning up this grand feast!

Bring your favorite international (style) covered dish to share!



Good Food, Good Friends, Good Fellowship

This dinner will be in SUMC fellowship Hall

New Envelope Time!

With the New Year dawning, our new Offering Envelopes have arrived! They are available in the back of the Sanctuary and also in the Church Office. Last years colors are "old hat." Get your new 2017 Envelopes and begin using them immediately!

Have some envelopes from last year? Those Pink Envelopes? Or older? Recycle them! Bring them to the office or leave in the basket next to the 2017 envelopes. New envelopes are located on the shelf at the back of the church.

Why New Envelopes?

Using Offering Envelopes helps the missions of our church in --several ways: 1) Just like current envelopes, each member's envelopes are embossed with a unique membership number. 2) Accurate crediting of your tithes, gifts and offerings; 3) Regular "reminder" of your weekly tithe, offering, and gift. 4) Greatly assists our Financial Secretary when recording and updating database and the Treasurer when preparing members' bi-annual financial stewardship statements.

- 2017 Offering envelopes are at the back of the church. This year they are ivory in color. We use different colors each year and recycle past year envelopes. Please pick up your envelopes. If you do not need all of the envelopes or would like to recycle your old ones give them to Sharon Johnson, bring to office or simply leave in box next to the 2017 envelopes
- If you haven't been assigned an envelope number and would like a box let Sharon Johnson know.
- Please check and see if there is a box with your name on it. If you do not pick up your 2017 envelopes your number will be reassigned in 2018.

**Bible Studies
Forming**

- **January 15, 22, 29** following a cup of coffee after service, approximately 11:20 each Sunday, a discussion with Dr. Finnin focusing on "Who Are The 'Methodists'?" History, Organization, and Theology of the United Methodist Church.
- **Thursdays from 5:45 PM to 7 PM** in February and into March -- a multi-week exploration of major World Religions with Dr. Finnin and representatives of other faith traditions. Book available in the Church Office in mid January. Adam Hamilton's "Christianity and World Religions" (available on Amazon and at Cokesbury.com with a few copies in the church office and (if available) "The Essence of World Religions" in the Church office if available.



Hello Friends & Family,

We hope that Christmas was good to you and that the Light of Christ is shining in the darkness in your part of the world. When you have time, take a look at our [Christmas post](https://proverbs169.wordpress.com/2016/12/26/merry-christmas-3/)! Or (<https://proverbs169.wordpress.com/2016/12/26/merry-christmas-3/>) Looking forward to 2017 and all the things God has planned for us!

Jonathan & Satomi

Jonathan McCurley <js59627@gmail.com>

Florida Conference Women's Retreats 2017

The Women's Retreats are designed to provide women a time to intentionally come away from the responsibilities of their home, children, families, and jobs; to set their feet on holy ground; and to meet Jesus Christ face to face. Come and join us at one of our three weekends held annually at the Life Enrichment Center on the shores of beautiful Lake Griffin in Fruitland Park, Florida.

Every weekend offers a time for Bible study, enrichment and craft sessions, music, fun, fellowship and food! Spend the weekend in a way that is meaningful to you – bring a friend, bring a group of friends or come and make new friends.

[Click this link for more information](http://www.flumc.org/floridaconferencewomensretreats) or go to: <http://www.flumc.org/floridaconferencewomensretreats>

The Retreats for United Methodist Women groups are in the fall



United Methodist Men

[Click link for website](http://ummflconf.org/) or <http://ummflconf.org/>

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Coffee HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Church Office Closed NO Ecum. Council Next Monday 6 pm NOMI SG 7 pm SPR	3 10 am Aphasia FH 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 1 pm TS Build CO 7:30 pm Alanon LCR	4 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6 pm Brownies CCR 6:30 pm ACA SGR	5 9:30 am Sm. Group 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 7 :30 pm Alanon	6 Church Women United 9:30 am Vero Beach 3 Kings Potluck 6 pm FH	7 9 am Girl Scout Cookie Rally FH
8 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Communion 11 am Coffee fellow- ship FH	9 Monday Sm. Group Meet at Schultz home. 4 pm Ecum. Cnc. LCR 6 pm NOMI SG 7:00 pm Trustee CO	10 9:30 am Stroke of Hope FH 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 7:30 pm Alanon LCR	11 Church Office Closed Training Day 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR	12 Roseland UMW 10 am Roseland 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 7 :30 pm Alanon	13 6 pm Brownies CCR	14 United Methodist Men 8 am Marvin Zuber Celebration of Life 11 am
15 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Coffee	16 Office Closed Martin Luther King Day 6 pm NOMI SG 7 pm Finance CO	17 10 am Aphasia FH 10 am Bible Study LCR 12 pm H & S FH 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon LCR	18 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6 pm Brownies CCR 6 pm Potluck FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells	19 Rug Hookers Workshop 3 Days Fellowship Hall 9:30 Small Group 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 7 pm Choir 7 :30 pm Alanon	20 	21 UMW Officers Training all ladies invited Okeechobee car- pool 7:30 at the church
22 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Coffee 1 pm Brass	23 Monday Sm Group Wandering Wheels annual sleep over FH & classrooms 1 pm until 9 am Tuesday. 5 pm Children Chime 6 pm NOMI SG	24 10 am BS LCR 12 pm H & S FH 4:30 Children Choir 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon LCR	25 10 am Adult Bible Study FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells S	26 1:30 pm Tremble Clef LCR 7 pm Choir 7 :30 pm Alanon	27 United Methodist Women General Meeting 10 am FH 4 th Friday this month only 6 pm Brownies CCR	28
29 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Coffee 1 pm Brass	30 	31 10 am BS LCR 12 pm H & S FH 4:30 Children Choir 7 pm Flute 7:30 pm Alanon LCR				LCR—large class room FH—fellowship hall CCR—children's class room CO—church office S—sanctuary SGR—small group room BS—bible study SG—small group



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Like us on Facebook!

WEBSITES METHODISTS SHOULD KNOW AND USE

www.Sebastianumc.com

<http://floridaconferenceconnection.info>

<http://www.flumc2.org/>

<http://www.umc.org>

<http://www.gcumm.org/> (UM Men)

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

SUMC STAFF

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