

# THE BEACON



Sebastian United Methodist Church

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS**

**March 2017**

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus,

The “windy month” arrives this week and with it the Christian liturgical season of Lent. By the time you read this pastoral note it’s likely you’ll have enjoyed a bowl of Louisiana Gumbo on Mardi Gras evening at our home on Main Street, the SUMC Parsonage (costume optional!). And I hope you planned to “take up ashes” at 7 PM at our Ash Wednesday Service on ... well ... Ash Wednesday!

For many who locate themselves historically, theologically, or experientially in the Wesleyan Tradition of Christianity, we share a checkered background related to the ancient tradition of “ashes.” Some United Methodist Churches celebrate with ashes, others don’t. We do! A thoroughly biblical practice!

However you’ve come to this moment of liturgical time-division and the onset of the Lenten Season, I invite you to the chancel on Wednesday evening. We shall together reflect upon past experiences that mark our human frailties and take up ashes. We shall confess our complicity in hurtful exchanges, either intentional or inadvertent. We shall own our brokenness. And I trust we shall open ourselves to prospects of change born of God’s grace as we recognize the power of forgiveness, both received and offered.

In the weeks before us we are each invited to contemplate the journey of Jesus toward Jerusalem, a trek so well described by the Gospel writers. Much more than a cerebral exercise, such contemplation offers the invitation of joining that journey and making it a pilgrimage of our own.

One of the liturgical resources to which I have repaired during the Lenten and post-Easter seasons speaks about the Church’s movement “From Ashes to Fire.” We commence travel as Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continue the journey to its raucous celebration of the Church’s “birth” in the fires of Pentecost. Within the envelope of liturgical time, our journey has just begun.

Our tendency, a quite human tendency, is to move quickly through the difficult challenges of Lenten personal and corporate confession to the “Day of Resurrection” joy and then quickly on to Pentecost with all its colored banners, birthday-like celebrations, and upbeat affirmations of spirit-filled beginnings.

Not so fast! This journey, the one commencing this week, includes Palm Sunday’s confusion, a week of serious and even violent confrontation with organized religion, a kangaroo-court trial and a brutally bloody execution for the “state-crime” of sedition. All after what some considered a mere hint of “more positive comes.”

Here at Sebastian UMC there are many opportunities for spiritual enrichment during our journey to Jerusalem: worship, Bible study and prayer groups, the formation of a new “small group,” choral preparation for our Passion Sunday Cantata, inter-faith inquiry on Thursday evenings, volunteer serving at the Welcome Table and through our Thrift Store, and care-giving settings with members unable to share in our corporate gatherings.

These next six weeks offer untold opportunities for broadening and deepening personal growth and change. I encourage each of us to avail ourselves of these opportunities. Blessings will certainly be yours.

Oh yes, invite a friend, neighbor, colleague, or family member to Sunday worship and to sit with you for that service. I truly believe they will be glad you did. May the Peace of Christ dwell in your heart.

**Will**



**Ash Wednesday Service**

**March 1, 2017**

**7 pm**



## *Just a Note From Megan Mash*

How do we know when Lent starts? How did the season of Lent come into existence? What are we called to do during this season?

It is well known that Lent consists of forty days. However, when you sit down with a calendar and count the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter you will come up with more than forty. Lent is a time of fasting but one would never fast on the Lord's Day, Sunday. Each Sunday is a feast day, a day to break your fast and celebrate the goodness of God. When you count back from Easter, you must omit all the Sundays. When this is done, you will arrive at the number forty. This number was not chosen randomly. As you know the number forty shows up often in the Bible including the Israelites wondering the desert for forty years and Jesus being tempted in the desert for forty days. The gospel lesson for the first Sunday in Lent always starts with the passage of Jesus being tempted. It reminds us of the example we are called to follow.

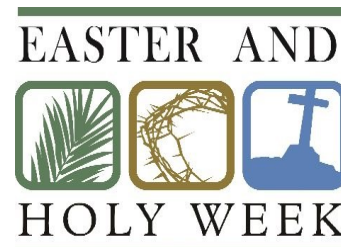
During early centuries, Lent was designed as a period of time for recent converts to do final preparations for baptism. They would undergo the final stages of catechism to prepare them to be members in good standing of the church. Members would be baptized and enter the church as part of the conclusion of the Easter Vigil. This service is one of scripture reading where members would "keep watch" for the resurrection of Christ which would be celebrated at sunrise.

The Lenten season is one of two penitential seasons of the church year, the other being Advent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, part of the purpose of this season is to ponder the human condition, including sin and death. The other is to consider the implications and possibilities of the new life offered to us by Jesus Christ. Laurence Hull Stookey writes "The fuller Lenten discipline is a self-examination that seeks greater conformity to the mind of Christ, and more effective ministry on behalf of the world." The season of Lent is one that calls us to examine how we are living and how we need to change to better serve Jesus Christ. The season ends with Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week where we recount the journey of Christ to the cross and observe our final preparations to meet the resurrected Christ.

This year to help us mark our Lenten journey, the worship committee has themed our worship service. This year during Lent we will celebrate the "Journey of the Redeemed" as a way to show us the hope that can be found in Christ. We are going to hear from different members in our congregation about how God's saving grace has been active in their life. We each experience redemption. Sometimes these moments are huge and turn our life around from big problems. Sometimes these moments are small reminders of God's love that we experience daily. Christ continually offers us redemption. We simply have to be willing to accept God's grace and love that will turn our life around.

April 9—Palm Sunday Worship	10 am Cantata
April 13 Maundy Thursday Service	7 pm
April 14—Good Friday Service	7 pm

April 16—Easter	7 am Worship at SUMC
	8 am Breakfast, Fellowship Fall
	10:15 am Traditional Worship Choir, Bells & Brass!





The UMW met on Friday February 17th.

We had 13 members present and guest Ethel Logan our District President.

Sandi Wofter, our music coordinator played piano and we sang the UMW hymnal. Ethel presented a very informative program and we ended with questions - answer time. The ladies enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon and a great time visiting with Ethel and one another. We also sang Happy Birthday to Nancy and Doris. We

are happy to have Judy Highhouse return from months of traveling.

At our January meeting the ladies cut out HEART PILLOWS. A big thank you to members- Carol Decker and Nancy Brown who took them home to sew. We now have 20 pillows ready to stuff. This is a mission project introduced by Sally Lambert -our Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Sally has found a home for the pillows--the America Heart Association in Vero Beach. They are low on pillows and are delighted that we care enough to do this project.

The UMW is all about missions especially focused on women and children. We are still working with Sebastian River Middle School Cowboy Roundup Program and invite all the congregation to participate. Many thanks to all of you who have supported in any way. A very SPECIAL THANK YOU to Megan Mash for donating all the proceeds from Spring Fling to Cowboy Roundup. It takes a village to raise a child especially when the child is hungry.

UMW have plans to organize some fundraisers --perhaps a Spaghetti Dinner , a High Tea-, Sunday Brunch or Bar-B-Q , putting "fun" back into fundraising. As you can see --United Methodist Women meetings are not just a meeting --we are an active group of ladies who do mission work in many ways. We would love to have you join us. We welcome you -your support and ideas.

So please join us for next meeting Friday March 17th 10am -Fellowship Hall.

Our guest speaker is Ethel Barry from Roseland UMW.

Roseland UMW meets on Thursday March 9th 10am. All ladies are always welcome.

Blessings ,Peace, and Love

Ann McCullough and Mary Schultz

Co-Presidents



**The UMM are still meeting on the second Saturday of every month.**

Please note that on the 11th of March is the final training for Certification of new Lay Speakers. Because of this Colin McNeal and Bill Osborne will not be in attendance at the March United Methodist Men meeting. They will be in Melbourne for the training. Colin as the Trainer and Bill as a Trainee.

In other news our UMM have agreed to host the "Pot Luck" in July. They are planning a B-B-Q and it may not be on July 19th but details will follow in time to make your plans.

***Stewardship Committee***

On behalf of the Stewardship Team, I would like to thank everyone for your participation in our 1st stewardship campaign in 20+ years. Your attentiveness to our speakers, your positive remarks about the speakers and the campaign in general encouraged our committee that we were on the right track! About 1/3 of our membership returned the estimate of giving cards and for our first campaign we felt that was a very good number! We will aim for 2/3 next time!!

Look for information on our 2018 campaign This fall the Administrative Council and Finance Committee we will begin planning and budgeting for 2018. An early stewardship campaign will begin that process.

I recently saw a quote "Generosity is not about the wallet, it's about the heart." This congregation, YOU, have proven over and over to have huge hearts!

Much Joy and Peace,  
Diann Flanigan

## DISCRETIONARY FUND (Grace In Action) March 5, 2017

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.

### Lay Servant Classes—See Mary Lou Rothfuss

Friday, March 10, 2017 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 11, 2017 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Emmanuel UMC, 2800 W. Eau Gallie Blvd. Melbourne, FL. 32935



### *SUMC Adult Bible Class Spring Study*

We will begin our new quarterly study from both the Old and New Testaments on the theme: God Loves Us, this Wednesday, March 1. Our first four lessons from First John, Ephesians, John, and Joel explore God as the source of all love and how God's love overflows, redeems, unites, and renews. Our next five from Psalms, John, and Romans reveal God as protector, preserver, healer, comforter, and savior of the people. Finally, our last four from the Book of Jonah highlight God's unconditional love for all creation, as well as God's continuing care and concern for all peoples whether they be His servants or those who have gone astray.

We continue to hold our Sunday Bible Class on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall until further notice.

All are welcome! Please join us for lively discussions that refresh the spirit.

Please contact Ben Ashton with any questions at 388-8488

### Finance Committee Report

Administrative Council Report February 2017

The Stewardship Committee, a subcommittee of Finance, has concluded the first part of their Stewardship Campaign and the results of the Estimated Giving Statements are in the process of being compiled by the Financial Secretary, Alta Benjamin. We realize that the budget has already been approved for this year, but the information gathered will give us an idea of how close we may come to reaching our budget for this year. We have a "task force" formed of three of our Stewardship members who will be working on recognizing church expenses to see if there is a way to reduce costs, thus reducing our budget expenditures.

In Christian Faith,

Kathy Messersmith  
Finance Chairman

### Administrative (Church) Council

Bill Osborne chaired his first meeting as SUMC Administrative Council meeting on Feb. 21st. There was much discussion as to how to bring more people to Christ and to our church. Ann McCullough presented a mission opportunity at Sebastian River Middle School. She found these children not only are hungry but lack supplies for school such as pencils and paper. Mentoring with these children is another avenue of help. Donna Osborne spoke about a seminar she and others from the church attended less than a week ago. This was hosted by the diocese and presented to many local churches. Both opportunities sound exciting and worth the effort. Attendees from this seminar are forming a workshop/dinner to present information and ideas, to the church. This will be in our own SUMC fellowship hall. Details to follow as they become available.

Bill Osborne  
Administrative Chairman

### **The Welcome Table is in need of food donations & Workers**

Our March 31st dinner, being served at Grace's **landing** and **By The River** on March 31<sup>st</sup>, will be Ziti, Meatballs, 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 March 26th.** 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**

## FYI Cowboy Round Up

As most of you know from past bulletins, newsletters and a Sunday Morning moment from Dionna Farmer (teacher at SR Middle School) there is much need in our own community.

SUMW realized this was a wonderful opportunity to sponsor a local children's mission.

In working with guidance counselors at middle school to develop a program - COWBOY ROUNDUP was born. (the school's mascot is a COWBOY)

- In December the church gave hams for needy family food baskets-- clothing -gift items etc. from thrift shop-- snacks for classrooms etc.
- At January 18th potluck--Principal -Jody Idlette gave detailed a program about the issues and needs of the students at SR Middle School. The school has a small food pantry that supplies food for about 20 children and their families 3 to 4 times a week. We gave Ms. Idlette 60 loaves of bread- she expressed many thanks --as bread is the most requested item--along with peanut butter and jelly.
- Pastor Will shared that SUMC is officially partnering with the school to support Cowboy Roundup.
- We have provided newspapers, books ,magazines and snacks for Dionna's class, during the last 2 months. A church member has made several blankets for her students.
- Several members have been approved to be mentor's.

**So as we approach LENT Season we are asking WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP? (to help these students?)**

- \$1.50 for a loaf of bread
- A couple hours to mentor or just listen to a student
- an hour on Tuesday or Thursday to pack food bags
- \$5 for peanut butter, jelly, breakfast bars, crackers, instant oatmeal, canned ravioli, spaghetti sauce any items for take home bags for hungry students.
- Making muffins or cookies for 60 students
- \$2—\$4 to purchase pens, pencils, notebooks and other school supplies
- \$15 for a backpack
- 50 cents for a card and 15 minutes to write an encouraging note to a student, many students are from families that do not care if they succeed.

What a way to say --OPEN HEARTS --OPEN MINDS --OPEN DOORS & LOVE GROWS HERE

IF interested in doing any of the above -- call SR MIDDLE SCHOOL (772) 564-5118 --SPEAK WITH HOLLY SEQUERA -- let her know you are with SUMC --COWBOY ROUNDUP and she will direct your call.

We will be organizing a **CELEBRATE YOU DAY** (before Easter ) with Dionna for her 60 students--on that day we take the Cards and special treats...contact Ann McCullough 772-589-9596 --cell 336-408-8437 any questions--ideas --desire to participate. Thank you all for loving and caring about our middle schoolers

In Gratitude

Ann .



**Wednesday, March 15, 6 PM**  
**SUMC Fellowship Potluck**

**Hosted by Jerry & Sharon Lane & Will & Connie Finnin**

Speakers: Habitat for Humanity  
Hosts furnish desserts and beverages

Just bring a dish to share!

**Roseland**  
**United Methodist Church**

Loaf & Ladle Dinner

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 1st 6pm Donation

Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Friday March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

5-7pm \$12



# MISSIONS

Donna Osborne, Chairman

I haven't written an article for The Beacon in quite some time. I have thought about it & wanted to, but always seem to be "too busy". With

Lent approaching I have been doing a lot more reading & contemplating so I thought I might share my contemplations with you all. Keep in mind; I am not educated in Theology by any means. I read and pray and search for answers as most of us do, I am sure. So read, enjoy, contemplate & take what you like and leave the rest. It seems to me that Lent is a period to change. Change for the better.

Change to more closely follow Jesus' example. I think about what I have been doing, how I have been doing it and is it getting me the desired results. I often think that phrase "The road to hell is paved with good intentions" was created especially for me. So this year as I meditate I am hoping and praying that I will have good actions, new improved actions, in addition to good intentions.

I feel that Lent is a time for reflection and repentance and then moving toward a new way. Sometimes, with all the negativity surrounding us, I know that I can lose sight of what God has in mind for me. I find myself saddened by the state of the world and can easily let those feelings overcome the joys all around me. Sometimes I make myself too busy to hear what He wants. I may miss a sign He puts in front of me because I am rushing to do something "important". My hope is to focus thoughts, behaviors and actions toward God, all day every day during this period.

"Giving something up for Lent" is a common practice for many Christians. As a child we gave up candy, and then as we got older and smarter we were more careful & gave up only dark chocolate cover cranberries, for example. That was much safer & the obligation was fulfilled! As an adult I never really liked the whole "giving up" thing, I preferred doing an additional good act. But I found that could be done very selectively as well. I think it is really all about what God puts on our heart, but we might miss it unless we sit quietly enough to hear those gentle nudges.

So for me this year; I intend to meditate daily, search for what is getting in the way of my being the best me I can be and making some changes.

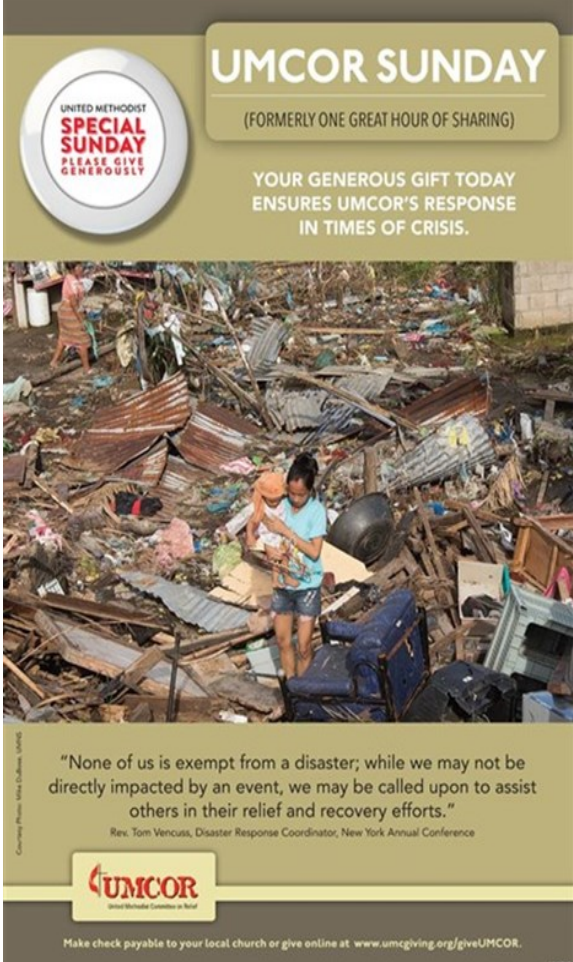
I will work on changing by being less easily distracted & listening more; by being less impatient with others as I remember how patient God has been with me; by abstaining from criticism of another but rather finding something good about that person; by being less defensive & more open-minded; by being less controlling and allowing others the freedom to make their own decisions; by being less hesitant to act but rather reaching out wherever I feel God is leading me. Perhaps it is a time to give up some things, the things that come easily, our old habits & common reactions, as we try to take on new life-giving practices, so that we can live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

This is my goal this lent; I challenge you to join me. Perhaps after Easter we can celebrate our successes??

Peace, Joy & Blessings  
Donna Osborne  
Mission Chair

**UMCOR Sunday March 26**

**Click link for more info**



**UMCOR SUNDAY**  
(FORMERLY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING)

YOUR GENEROUS GIFT TODAY  
ENSURES UMCOR'S RESPONSE  
IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

"None of us is exempt from a disaster; while we may not be directly impacted by an event, we may be called upon to assist others in their relief and recovery efforts."  
Rev. Tom Vencus, Disaster Response Coordinator, New York Annual Conference

**UMCOR**  
United Methodist Committee on Relief

Make check payable to your local church or give online at: [www.umcsgiving.org/giveUMCOR](http://www.umcsgiving.org/giveUMCOR).

**CPR/AED training course on May 6, 2017** in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30AM for those interested in taking this course. The fee is only \$15. This class is not for certification.

Sign up with me either at [nan-cy@teamfoxy.com](mailto:nan-cy@teamfoxy.com) or by phone - Cell 772 713-4853

Thank you and God Bless,  
Nancy Fox

# MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Brownies 6 pm CCR Ash Wed Service 7 pm	2 <b>12 TS Volunteer Luncheon FH</b> 5:45 World Religions LGR	3	4 9 am –FH Megan/Choir
5 SS 8:45 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am Brass 11 am	6 4 Ecumenical Cnc LCR SPR	7 Aphasia 10 am FH Farrington BS 7 pm SGR	8	9 9:30 am Sm. Group SGR	10 Brownies 6 pm CCR	11 <b>UMM 8 am</b>
12 SS 8:45 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am Brass 11 or 1	13 6 pm Worship 7 pm Trustee	14 9:30 am Stroke of Hope FH	15 6 pm Brownies CCR <b>6 Pm Fellowship Potluck FH</b>	16 3 pm TS task force CO	17 <b>UMW 10 AM FH</b>	18
19SS 8:45 am Worship 10 am <b>MC Fundraiser 11 am FH</b>	20 7 pm Finance	21 10 am Aphasia FH Farrington BS 7 pm SGR	22	23 9:30 am Sm. Group SGR	24 Brownies 6 pm CCR	25 GFWC Women's Club FH All Day
26 SS 8:45 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am Brass 11/1	27 6 pm Worship 7 pm Music Camp CO	28	29	30	31	

## Weekly

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 pm Child Chime 6 pm NAMI SGR	10 am Bible Study LCR 4:30 Child Choir 6:30 AA 7 pm Flute 7:30 Alanon LCR	10 am Bible Study FH 6:30 pm ACA SGR 7 pm Handbells	1:30 Tremble Cleft LCR 7 pm Choir 7:30 Alanon LCR	6:30 set up 8 pm meeting Alanon Only until 2 Friday in March

## Happy Birthday

Diann Flanigan	March 4
Floyd Standley	March 5
Eileen Harding	March 10
Lynda Chapman	March 11
Mary Lou Rothfuss	March 12
Jeremy Messersmith	March 17
Ed Johnson	March 19
Carmen Wilson	March 20
Kathy Messersmith	March 22
Yvonne Oleksy	March 24
Donna Borchsenius	March 26
Alta Benjamin	March 28
Linda Pinkowski	March 30

## Happy Anniversary

George & Sally Lambert      March 30, 1979



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Like us on Facebook!



### Music Camp Fundraiser

March 19, 2017 After Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Balloon Bonanza and "Ooh La La Brunch"

Back by popular demand "Balloon Bonanza" purchase a balloon to see what you win!  
Different Color Balloon's each with a special price. The higher price of the balloon, the greater the prize!

"Ooh La La Brunch" **only \$5 Tickets on Sale Now**

Menu includes: Quiche, Fruit, French Toast Casseroles, Breakfast Casseroles, and Much More!

All money raised goes to Music Camp

This year there will be a "Trading Post" Fella's did you get a mani/pedi? Go to the  
and see who wants to make a deal!

Trading Post

Jersey Mike's

Great Clips

Pelican Diner