

February 2022

Beacon

... guiding our walk



February is a month of transition. It is a transition for SUMC. It seems like you had one of these not too long ago! I know. I feel the same. I want to encourage you that transitions can be a time for good. Some things change, but there is always some good in change. When I came you received Cindy and I graciously although I am sure you had your doubts. "They gave us a former Baptist from Alabama?!" I thank you for giving us a chance. I believe there is a bright future ahead for SUMC. God always sees to completion what God starts. And God is still at work. I am praying for you during this time of transition. The work of the church lies in the love and service and fellowship of the congregation. You excel in all of those. The good things that we shared together were more you than me. I am praying that the best days of SUMC are yet to come.

It is a time of transition for Pastor Alexis. I know that she is coming here with excitement. She wants to be a good pastor to this church. She will bring a different set of gifts and passion to the church. She will do things differently than I did and that's okay. God works through each of us through our unique gifts and personality. I know you will receive her with welcome and prayer for her and her mom as they learn a new community and the gift you are as a congregation. Welcome her and encourage her in her gifts and passion as you did me.

It is a transition for Cindy and I. Thank you for your prayers and good wishes. SUMC will always hold a special place in our hearts. And if you are ever in the Tampa area, let us know.

It has been a privilege to be your pastor. I regret our time together was so short. As I have told a few; In spite of having to move twice in six months, I would rather have come here for a short time than to have never come here at all. I cherish your friendships and appreciate the time we have had together.

As we often say around here; "God be with you till we meet again."

Don



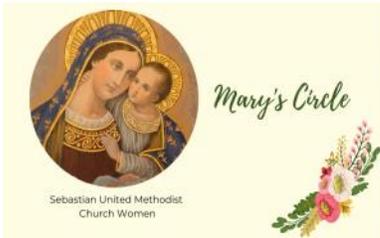
Just a note
from Megan Mash

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.*

Throughout our hymnal we find many hymns that are translated into English from their original language. Some of these hymns we have known our entire life and do not think twice about its origin. "Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch" is one of those hymns. We know it better as "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah." The five stanza hymn was written by William Williams (1717-1791) in Welsh. It was first published in Williams's *Alleluia* in 1745. Williams was called the "Watts of Wales" and "sweet singer of Wales." He wrote 800 Welsh hymns and 100 English hymns. The hymn was translated by Williams contemporary, Peter Williams (1722-1796). Peter published the translation in 1771 in his *Hymns on Various Subjects*. That same year, William translated the text into English for a leaflet titled *A Favourite Hymn, sung by Lady Huntington's Young Collegians*. The text found in our hymnal comes from the first three stanzas of the leaflet. The hymn has since been translated into 75 languages and is universally popular in churches throughout the world.

The overall theme of this text is asking God for guidance and strength through the wilderness. This can be seen through some vivid Biblical images from Exodus. The first stanza asks for guidance for a pilgrim through a barren land. The pilgrim is weak and asks God for "bread from heaven." This is an image of the Israelites traveling through the wilderness. The Israelites are complaining about food and God sends manna from heaven. Some people also use this as a link to Jesus being the "bread of life." Either way it is evidence that when one fully relies on God, God will provide strength through the wilderness. The beginning of the second stanza takes us back to Exodus 17. "Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow." The next stop on their journey led the Israelites to Rephidim, where there was no water. The people again went to Moses asking why God is treating them this way. God told Moses to strike a rock and water would come out of it. God was again faithful in providing for the Israelites. The second stanza also uses the image of being led by the pillar of cloud and fire. "The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night" (Exodus 13:21). It is important to note that God did not just travel with the Israelites but went in front of them. If we allow God to be our guide, God will go before us to light our way.

As we enter another transitional period in the life of our church, I encourage you to renew your trust in God as your guide and strength. God will travel with us on this journey. With God by our side, we can find strength and a path through the unknown. God does not promise that the journey will be easy, the Israelites are proof of that! God promises to never leave us, especially when the path is difficult. God does promise that we will not be abandoned and can always rely on God's love and presence to guide us.



Our next regular meeting will be February 18 ,
at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The program for February will be given by Sharon Lane about the Lingap Center.

During his career as an American businessman, John Drake found himself on an international assignment in the Philippines. His story is one of heart wrenching encounters with poverty and fate-filled introductions to those fighting it, culminating in the construction of "The Lingap Center" John established The Lingap Children's Foundation—a U.S.-based tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that provides funding for projects to help children in the Philippines. The first goal was to raise money to build The Lingap Center (translated as "crisis or care center") where street children and orphans could rebuild their lives.

All welcome to attend.

Peace, Happiness and Joy

Ann McCullough
Mary's Circle

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, that means we don't have that information in our records.
Just call the church office to add yours.*

Happy Birthday

Jan Molina	February 2
David Brown	February 6
Nancy Barry	February 14
Destiny McCreary	February 15
Dot Eagles	February 16
Sue Hulsbeck	February 20
Judith Bairstow	February 23

Happy Anniversary

Dick and Sherry Hunter	February 14
James and Judy Gallagher	February 17



Sebastian United Methodist Men

aka

The Lunch Bunch

Tuesdays at NOON

Sebastian's Roadside Restaurant
10795 US Highway 1, Sebastian

John Krueger, President
Ben Ashton, Treasurer

All Men Welcome, bring a friend



To our truly amazing Volunteers

Thank you for your help and for making a difference. Your caring hearts, compassion, support, and positivity have been bright lights to our thrift shop.

It is people like you that make life beautiful.

Thank you for being such amazing volunteers.

For all you do, Thank You!

Just a quick update on the Sebastian United Methodist Main Street Thrift Shop and Boutique in the Bays...

Between the time of Christmas and New Year's, the thrift shop workers have been busy. Annual clean up and fix up projects were started, and many were finished.

The Thrift Shop Task Force has been implanting and updating our presence in the thrift shop community. Store layout, cleanliness, and quality of merchandise is being overhauled to make thrift shopping with us a pleasure.

The back area behind the thrift shop now has patio pavers to make working outside easier, especially for drop off donations. Workers have been diligent about cleaning out the shed storage area and have made excellent progress.

The Boutique in the Bays continues to be popular with regular customers stopping by each week to see what we have on our shelves.

The Thrift Shop continues to collect items and clothing for Wabasso UMC. They support the Haiti mission with sales and items sent to Haiti.

Volunteers are worth a lot to us, our organizations, and our cause.

They are worth their weight in gold. If you have been looking for a place to volunteer a few hours a week, think about your Sebastian United Methodist Church Thrift Shop. We have inside and outside positions available. Not ready to commit to a weekly schedule, you can train to be a sub when regular workers get sick or are out of town.

Peace

Sharon Johnson

Thrift Shop Coordinator

FEBRUARY 2022

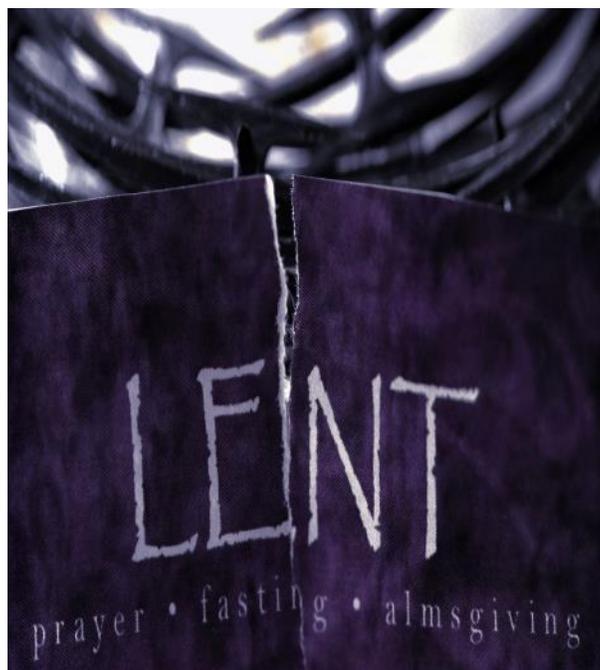
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 12 pm UMM Roadside Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH	2 10 am Ben's Adult Bible Study ZOOM Contact Ben 1 pm Ed's Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ringers 7 pm Handbells	3 9:30 Mary Lou Small Group SGR 7 pm Choir	4	5
6 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	7 10 am Barb F Women's Bible Study LCR 12-1 pm Soul Café Serving meals to go 2 pm SPRC LCR 2 pm Lois Small Group FH	8 12 pm TS Taskforce CO 12 pm UMM Roadside Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 7 pm SnowBirds LCR	9 10 am Ben's Adult Bible Study ZOOM Contact Ben 1 pm Ed's Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ringers 7 pm Handbells	10 7 pm Choir	11	12
13 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	14 10 am Barb F Women's Bible Study LCR 12-1 pm Soul Café Serving meals to go 7 pm Trustees FH	15 12 pm UMM Roadside Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH	16 10 am Ben's Adult Bible Study ZOOM Contact Ben 1 pm Ed's Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ringers 7 pm Handbells	17 9:30 Mary Lou Small Group SGR 7 pm Choir	18 11 am Mary's Circle FH	19
20 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	21 Church office Closed Holiday 10 am Barb F Bible Study LCR 12-1 pm Soul Café 2 pm Lois Small Group LCR	22 12 pm UMM Roadside Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 7 pm SnowBirds LCR	23 10 am Ben's Adult Bible Study ZOOM Contact Ben 1 pm Ed's Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ringers 7 pm Handbells	24 7 pm Choir	25	26 7 pm Spring Fling (S)
27 10 am Worship 11 am Pastor Alexis Welcome Brunch 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	28 10 am Barb F Bible Study LCR 12-1 pm Soul Café 6 pm Finance Meeting FH 7 pm Admin Council FH					



Ash Wednesday March 2

Services: 9:30 am and 7 pm

There will be Prayer Stations and Imposition of Ashes



Just A Tree

There was an event on the farm today
-Not a rare event-
But a Change-of-the-Guard event nonetheless
Displacing many,
Birds, bugs, slugs, unseen quantities of bark dwellers
Letting sunshine
Where there had been shade

It was a Big tree, Beautiful tree,
Strong tree, yet that day the wind was
greater than the tree could hold back.
Shade and shelter, freely given, gone for now!

The hundred years of swing tree, of shade tree
Of hammock tree, of watching tree,
Of storms and blizzard tree, the tree that saw families
Come and grow and age and go!

It didn't fall easily – not without bending
And twisting and agonizing groans.
Trunk made its thunderous “Timber”
But beneath – groaning and pulling and agony's disruption
Tearing and torture

Chip away, chip away, chip away
The rock, the stones, the years
With hatchet and crowbar we try to free
Its enormous base.

Hard to tell if bark invaded dirt or dirt assumed bark.
They're the same color, almost the same hardness
Rocks that she had engulfed over the years,
Helping to stabilize her 80' trunk –
She had abandoned

Skinny roots that trapped the stones to hold the soil
--As bone holds flesh,
As hearts hold the soul –
She left behind

Down, but not done. Noble.
Still of service. Still in service.
Wood, long-grain and hard.
Stubborn to the end.
New soil from its core. Wealth from its logs
Warmth from its leftovers
Tree down, but not done.
Noble to the end.

A tree, so ordinary, so common.
God's handiwork So extraordinary.



Open

*hearts.
minds.
doors.*

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