

March 2022



Beacon

... guiding our walk



Greetings Sebastian Family and Friends,

Wow! The day is here. For you, it's just been a few months since you received a "first newsletter message" from the pastor. For me it's been nearly eight years. I've always thought that moves, changes and transitions were more difficult for congregations than for pastors (though pastors have all those boxes to unpack). I want to do my part in making this transition as smooth and God honoring as I can. I can already tell, I love it here!

I am excited about all the ministry that SUMC is involved with: Soul Café, the Thrift Shop and Boutique, the exceptional Music Ministry (Megan is a wonder!), the small groups and Bible Studies, UMW (don't forget to buy your dinner tickets for March 11th) and UMM; plus all the seasonal events in ministry and the warm welcome as any one of us comes to the SUMC office (thanks Sharon!). I am thrilled to have connected with so many of you in person and on phone. And for those of you who were able to come by the parsonage to get my mom, Joanne, and me started unpacking...bless you.

I think about beginning a new appointment on the cusp of Lent and how it offers opportunity for all of us to connect with each other at a deeper spiritual level through the lens of the One who would rather die for us than live away from us. My prayer is that over the next six weeks of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, we all pray about how SUMC will continue to join God in His work. And how we can join together, pastor and congregation, to see that work done. Pastor Mark Batterson, a preacher and writer of Washington, D.C., says it well, "*Pray like it depends on God – Work like it depends on you.*" That's a good Lenten focus.

Friends, my door and my heart are open for you. ***You will most often find me in the Pastor's Study at SUMC on Monday and Thursday mornings and Tuesday after Pastor's Bible study.*** Wednesday is sermon "prep day" at the parsonage Study and Friday is my Sabbath (more about that next month). I'd encourage you to call or text first, **786/301-4684**. When I'm not in the office or working on Sunday's Sermon, I will likely be with you at a ministry or administrative meeting; hanging out at the Thrift Shop or visiting with you over a cup of tea. Hint, hint...***I'd love to take you to lunch on a Tuesday or Thursday.***

Thank you for opening your hearts to me. God's got great things for us, ahead!

Joy, Joy,

Pastor Alexis



Just a note
from Megan Mash

*What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul.
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

One thing I have always wanted to do is attend a “Sacred Harp Singing.” I think this hymn, “What Wondrous Love Is This,” is a major reason I have wanted that experience. You may be asking, “What is a Sacred Harp Singing?” There are two important collections of shape-note tunes and lyrics, *The Sacred Harp* and *The Southern Harmony*. Shape-note singing is a method of singing that first appeared in the nineteenth century. The most common method uses four shapes that stand for mi, fa, sol, and la. At a singing event, each tune is sung on these syllables first then with the text. This was a standard way of teaching music reading for many years. Shape-note singing has distinctive sound is responsible for maintaining and creating American folk songs.

The original text of “What Wondrous Love Is This” is six stanzas long. The repetition we are accustomed to is a result of the length of the tune. There is significantly less repetition in the original. I always find it interesting to compare original and altered texts when many changes appear to have been made. “What Wondrous Love Is This” is one of those texts. The year the text was first published, it is found in two collections and both attribute it to an anonymous author. Changes in the text could be the result of oral tradition. The first stanza as it appears in our hymnals is quoted above. It clearly links Jesus’s love for each of us with his willingness to suffer for our sins, a love that is beyond our comprehension. The original text says something different. It begins the same by claiming this wondrous love. Then it says, “that caused the Lord of bliss / to send this precious peace / to my soul!” Through the love of Christ, we experience a peace that passes all understanding. We do not have to live with the weight of the curse. We have been set free from carrying that burden.

The second stanza is one that is often changed. The text in our hymnal repeats “What wondrous love is this” and changes the last couple lines. They state, “that caused the Lord of life / to lay aside his crown / for my soul.” I think the original text is a stronger statement as to the reason why God sent Jesus to provide us salvation.

When I was sinking down,
 sinking down;
when I was sinking down
beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
 for my soul!

When we are at our lowest moments in life, Christ is always walking with us. Christ continually reminds us that his love for us surpasses his right to wear a crown. Christ has shown us that he is always willing to lay aside his crown to show us his love, especially when we are at the lowest moments of our lives. The final two stanzas in our hymnal provide us with hope and joy. Because we have experienced the love of Christ, we are called to praise and worship. We lift our voices to sing and know one day we will join millions to sing for eternity because we have been freed from the curse of death.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I am overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and welcome by the Sebastian Congregation in my first week. I walked into the Pastor's Study and Sharon had my business cards and name tag ready to go. Unpacking several of you come and helped open boxes. And worship! WOW! The music of the bells and the choir under Megan Mash's leadership was phenomenal. My mom, Joanne, said that it was the most energetic and spirit-filled service that she had attended in a long time. And the luncheon following worship was sweet, encouraging and yummy. A very special thanks to Donna Osborne and the Staff/Pastor Parish Committee members for spearheading such a thoughtful transition.



Joy, Joy ... Pastor Alexis

MAIN STREET THRIFT SHOP & BOUTIQUE IN THE BAYS

Thank you to all our volunteers,

we couldn't run the Sebastian United Methodist Church Thrift Shop without you.

Just some things to note:

There was a large donation of "survival" food stuffs that were donated to the Thrift Shop. After investigating the company, it is legit and we should be able to sell without poisoning anyone, they will go on sale for \$6 a can. With hurricane season approaching it is a good time to stock up. I may make one of the desserts and serve it for Fellowship Café!

Consider volunteering a few hours a week helping out the thrift shop, it is a fun place to work, with different areas of service. See Ginger Horner and she will schedule you a spot to work. If you do not want to commit to a weekly time slot, we always need subs when volunteers are out of town or sick.

Stop by and check us out. Both Main Thrift Shop and Boutique in the Bays are open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am until 2 pm. The jewelry selection at the Main Street TS is excellent and clothes are on sale right now.

The Boutique is starting to put out Easter decorations so stop by and shop the Bays!

Peace



Tickets on sale now

Next meeting will be Friday, March 18 at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall

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

Linda Erbacher	March 1
Diann Flanigan	March 4
Floyd Standley	March 5
Mary Lou Rothfuss	March 12
Ray Storey	March 14
Jeremy Messersmith	Mach 17
Jimmy Childers	March 18
Edward Johnson	March 19
Linda Orwig	March 20
Carmen Wilson	March 20
Kathy Messersmith	March 22
Sheri Peterson	March 23
Yvonne Oleksy	March 24
Donna Borchsenius	March 26
Margaret Rich	March 27
Alta Benjamin	March 28

Happy Anniversary

Terry & Melodee Chapin	March 14
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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

**We would be delighted to welcome you into the Sebastian Methodist community of faith!
We receive members into our congregation in the following ways:**

Profession of Faith – If you are interested in learning more about what it means to become a follower of Jesus Christ we would love to partner with you on that journey. It is our goal as a community of faith to help each other become more like Jesus.

Baptism – Holy Baptism is a Sacrament. We believe no one is too young or too old to receive God's grace. If you or your children have never received the Sacrament of Baptism we would be pleased to talk with you about that important decision.

Transfer of letter from another United Methodist Church - If you are presently a member of another United Methodist Church, you may transfer your membership to Sebastian United Methodist Church.

Affiliate Membership - If you are presently a member of another United Methodist Church and desire to retain membership in that congregation, we invite you to become an affiliate member of our congregation.

Associate Membership - If you are presently a member of another Christian church or denomination and desire to retain that membership, we invite you to become an associate member of our congregation.

Transfer of membership from another Christian church or denomination – We welcome you to our church upon your statement.

**For more information on joining our Church,
contact Rev. C. Alexis Talbott at pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com or call the Church Office at
772-589-5230 and ask to speak with Pastor Alexis.**

*Ash Wednesday
Services*

**9:30 am
7 pm**



Holy Week

April 10 – Palm Sunday Cantata 10 am
April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
April 15 – Good Friday Service 7 pm
April 17 – Easter Worship 10 am



March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 <i>Ash Wed Service</i> 9:30 am 7:00 pm Computer Circle 1 pm CO	3 9:30 Mary Lou Small Group SGR 7 pm Choir	4	5	
			Gator Rug Hookers Annual Workshop FH				
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	8 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Road- side Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 7 pm SnowBirds LCR	9 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ring- ers 7 pm Handbells	10 <i>Mary's Circle cook- ing in Fellowship Hall</i> All Day 7 pm Choir S	11 <i>Mary's Circle</i> <i>Fundraising Dinner</i> <i>ALL DAY</i>	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 2 pm Lois SG FH 7 pm Trustee	15 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 11:30 Worship Com. FH 12 pm UMM Road- side Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH	16 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM <i>11:30 TS Lunch FH</i> 1 pm Computer Circle CO 3 pm J Ringers 7 pm Handbells	17 9:30 Mary Lou Small Group SGR 7 pm Choir	18 <i>Mary's Circle Meeting</i> <i>(UMW)</i> <i>11 am FH</i>	19	
20 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	21 10 am Barb F Women's Bible Study LCR 12-1 pm Soul Café Serving meals to go 6 pm Finance 6:30 Admin	22 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Road- side Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 7 pm SnowBirds LCR	23 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ring- ers 7 pm Handbells	24 <i>Ecumenical Food</i> <i>Pantry Worker</i> <i>Luncheon</i> 7 pm Choir S	25 <i>Handbell Concert</i> <i>7 pm</i>	26	
27 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	28 10 am Barb F Women's Bible Study LCR 12-1 pm Soul Café Serving meals to go	29 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Road- side Restaurant 12 pm Rug Hookers FH	30 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO 3 pm Joyful Ring- ers 7 pm Handbells	31 7 pm Choir			



Open

hearts.
minds.
doors.

Sebastian United Methodist Church
1029 Main Street
Sebastian, FL 32958

Rev. Alexis Talbott
pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com

Handbell Concert

"Music of The Night"



Friday, March 25, 7 pm