



February 2024

Beacon...guiding our walk



I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart... Philippians 1:3-7

Greetings Church!

"Oh, how sweet it is to be loved by you!" It's such a great sentiment from James Taylor. Jesus said it to us first. Are we not blessed, blessed, blessed by all God does for us! Not just because of the love that Jesus pours out for us but because of the love you show as a result of Jesus loving us first! The power of our Lord and Savior is stirring me (and I pray you too) with the prospect of what we can be if we open and obedient to the Lord's desire for us. Come Holy Spirit.

As we anticipate the Lenten Season (40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays – every Sunday is a "Little Easter"), we have a wonderful opportunity to focus on the many parts of our lives. In this edition of the Beacon, you will find opportunities that will strengthen you, personally in body and spirit and as a whole in ministry, as a Body and in the Spirit at SUMC.

Personally, you will have the opportunity to join the Lenten Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10 am (or contact the church office if you would like to meet on a Saturday or in the evening); decide to fast some part of your life; make a determination to join in mission to glean a field or harvest vegetables for the food insecure throughout IRC. Read through for all the opportunities for Loving Service, Faithful Fellowship and Spirit filled Worship and Study...giving yourself to the ways of a disciple through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Being a vital part of the Body, you may be called by God to give up something that has crowded your life and relationships. You may be called to add to your life sacrificially time, talent or treasures that meets the needs of others. You may be asked to jump in, in our continued joy of "Start-Up" Children's ministry or to be trained in our tech for Worship or, serve on our Greeters or Ushers Team. Maybe you don't even have to wait to be asked. Call the church office if you want to be vital in any of these areas or any area God is speaking to you about.

The Apostle Paul's words ring true in this season at SUMC: ⁶ **being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** Friends, what an exciting time to be a Christian at SUMC. My prayer for you is that you will sense that power of the Holy Spirit here and act on what you sense! My prayer, too, is that you will ask God to show you during the Lenten Season, SUMC as God sees SUMC and that you will continue to pray for this Pastor as she strives to live in God's will.

Have fun reading through this edition knowing that God is inspiring all of us in **His good work... which we...will carry on to completion...**

Growing to Love you all more and more! See ya' Sunday...
Joy, Joy Pastor Alexis

LENTEN STUDY, TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 20 – APRIL 2, 10:00 am – JOIN ONE OR ALL CLASSES



Ignite a deeper, more vibrant relationship with God that impacts not just your spiritual life but every aspect of your daily life. **The Life You've Always Wanted** offers modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines. But it is more than just a book about things to do to be a good Christian. It's a road map toward true transformation.

The disciplines are neither taskmasters nor ends in themselves. Rather they are exercises that build strength and endurance for the road of growth. Paved with humor and sparkling anecdotes, **The Life You've Always Wanted** is an encouraging and challenging approach to a Christian life that fills an ordinary world with new meaning, hope, change, and joy.

This is a HYBRID BIBLE STUDY – come in person or join us online. Can't make the Tuesday, 10 am study? Order a book anyway and do it on your own. Books and Participant guides are \$5.00 each.

Tuesday's 10 am Study, February 6th and 13th. It's not too late to join us for our study: Ignite Your Generosity.

TRANSFIGURATION, February 11

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:9-13; I John 4:16-21

SERMON: Ready, Set, Go! ...Lent

LENTEN SCRIPTURES AND WORSHIP, February 14 – March 31



During this Lenten Season, we will focus on being stronger, healthier, and more relevant Christians. As we worship together, we are challenged by Jesus to live life in the FAST LANE. It's true! You can only slow down when you Fast (See in this edition, ways you can Fast during Lent). Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14th 9:30 am or 7:00 pm, we will look at Spiritual Disciplines the way our founder, John Wesley, saw them. These Disciplines can shift into being part of our daily lives (yes, it may take some work! It will be extremely fulfilling!). Areas of focus Prayer, Humility, Simplicity, Loving Service, Spirit Filled Worship/Praise (not just for Sunday), Hospitality and, Celebration. Join us for Worship as we move through Life in the Fast Lane!

ASH WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 12:7, 1 Peter 3:18-22; Matthew 6:16-18

SERMON: Lighten Up: Life in the Fast Lane

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 18

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:17-21; Matthew 7:7-11

SERMON: Life in the FAST LANE: Giving Time to God (prayer)

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, FEBRUARY 25

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:8-13; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38

SERMON: Life in the FAST LANE: Giving In (humility)



A Note of Gratitude to the 2023 Leadership from Your Pastor and
the SUMC Community of Faith



In October 2023, SUMC elected a new slate of leaders to serve in the coming year. Some are brand new in the work they are doing; others have agreed to stay on in their position. Those who were elected are strong, capable and godly. Their work in 2024 is blessed because of the work of those in 2023! Let's take this opportunity to THANK ALL THE LEADERSHIP WHO SERVED FAITHFULLY IN 2023.

SUMC Membership Class

Have you been coming to SUMC online or in person for more than six weeks? You are invited to the Pre-membership two-session Seminar:

Sunday, March 3, in SUMC Office Conference Room
Second Session, TBA

To reserve your place in the class, call the church office, or connect with Pastor Alexis, via email: pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com or call/text: 786/301-4684.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31
Pastor Alexis has made a health commitment for the Lenten Season (she has already started). On Monday, Wednesday and Friday she is heading to the old firehouse on 129th Court in Roseland for an hour circuit work out at 7:00 am with Taylor. She would love for you to join her for a six-week no judgement/ at your own pace Lenten discipline. There is a small fee for Taylor's leadership. Please get a verbal "OK" from your physician before you commit.



Kid's Time is coming to Sebastian UMC starting Sunday, Feb.18! Time to practice Bible skills, share a Bible story, eat a snack, and have fun. Right before the last worship hymn, children age 5 - grade 5 will be released to the first classroom for 30-45 minutes.

Kid's Time leaders are Cathy Hinkle, an Indianapolis snowbird, and Pastor Ginger. Questions or want to volunteer? Contact Pastor Ginger or call the church office.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT EVENT: March 25, 10:00 – Noon

Jesus LOVES the Little Children (and their families!). Come and be immersed in a morning of fun, crafts, egg hunt and activities. And get a picture with "You know who!"



A FEW FACTS ABOUT OUR TIME AT THE REGIONAL BISHOP'S EVENT:

- In attendance: Terry Chapin, Betty Hayes, Cathy Hinkle, Mary Jo Bray, Joanne Talbott and Pastor Alexis
- The Bishop moved us through a process of understanding the changes in the United Methodist Church post-disaffiliation by using examples of Orientation, Disorientation and Reorientation. For a detailed explanation, you can Google: Walter Brueggemann to read summaries of his book: Praying the Psalms.
- The importance of inviting people to worship, church and/or Jesus. We were invited to be intentional on a regular (weekly) bases.
- In the Florida Conference of the UM Church, we will reduce from 8 districts to 6 districts
- We have lost 35% of UM Churches in Florida due to disaffiliation. Which means that the Conference budget will be reduced by 35%. At Annual Conference 2023, the reductions began in anticipation of disaffiliation.
- The commitment of the Conference Finance Team is that the 35% reduction will not be passed to the local church in anyway.
- Apportionments will not go up for any local church due to disaffiliation or reduction of the Conference Budget.
- PRIORITIES of the Conference in making disciples: 1) Generating Fresh Expressions; 2) Anti-Racism Initiative; 3) Living out our Wesleyan roots; 4) Growing ministry in multicultural communities.
- Signs of Christian maturity in the church: Generosity, Grace and Forgiveness, and Taking Risks.

Music Minister Search Team Update

How blessed and grateful we are! In the last month we have had a talented Choir, musicians, and Tech Team that have blessed our services abundantly! We look forward to the Choir, and other special instrumental and vocal selections in February.

Although we have had several applicants for the permanent Music Minister position, there is only one who fulfills a number of areas on the job description for Full-Time Music Minister. We have widened our search to the states in the Southeastern parts of the country.

The process for this search is intentional. The resumes that come in must be accompanied by a musical recording from the applicant and three references. If the person fits the qualifications, Pastor Alexis makes an appointment to call that person. Following that conversation, she writes a summary to pass along to the Interview Team along with the recording and references. The Interview Team determines if this person should be interviewed, first by Zoom and then in person. The SPRC makes the final determination. The process from receiving the resume to a final determination after the in person interview would be a minimum of five weeks.

To date we have not secured an Interim Accompanist/Director. Should you know anyone willing to give four - eight Sundays, please contact Pastor Alexis or the church office. This person can play either the piano or the organ, and if they would be open to directing the choir, that would be an added blessing. In the meantime, Pastor Alexis is securing substitute accompanists for Sunday worship. We, too, are blessed to have an organ that will record service music.

Again, we are so appreciative and thankful for all of your support and prayers as we are God's hands and feet finding the Music Minister that He has chosen for us.

Blessings, Sharon Krueger, Search Team Chairperson





What is Lent? February 14 – March 31, 2024

Lent is the six-weeks leading to Easter. From Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting, giving something up or, slowing down to experience what is most valuable. SUMC is offering times of renewal and relationship building. Jesus aches for us to be in faithful fellowship together with Him at the center. We pray that you will seek Him through mission service days, road trips and ministries through SUMC. Check out these Lenten offerings. And invite a friend to join you!

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE Sermon Series beginning with ASH WEDNESDAY. This six-week series brings us up close and personal to the Spiritual Disciplines that deepen our faith with disciplines like: Prayer, Humility, and Simplicity. We will learn how these and others touched John Wesley, the founder of Methodism!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE February 14, 9:30 am and 7:00 pm.

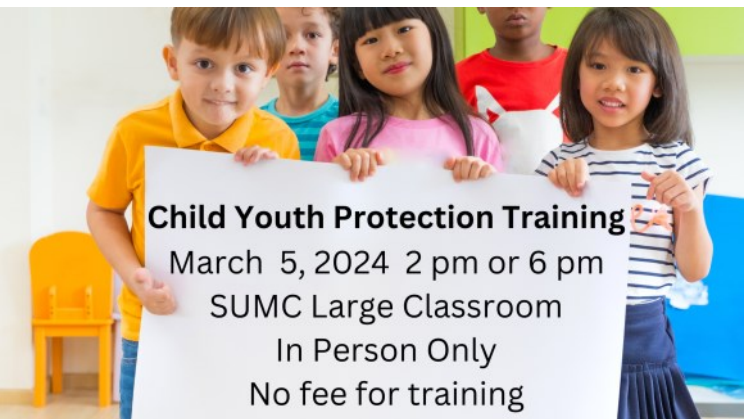
THE DISTRICT GLEANING EVENT February 17, 8:30 – 11:30. We will leave at 7:30 am from the church office. Gleaning is a collection of crops where it is not economically profitable to harvest and is distributed to food pantries and meal kitchens. Space is limited to 50 people. Call the office to sign up or for more information,

SHINING LIGHT GARDEN FOUNDATION March 3, 8:00 am – Noon (lunch out following, optional). We will leave at 7:30 am. Join us in harvesting fresh vegetables for the food insecure in the greater Indian River area, including Chum Buckets.

UM CHILDREN'S HOME DAY ON CAMPUS March 16. We will leave from the Church office at 8:00 am. Tour our UM home for children. You don't want to miss this! The campus and the day is handicapped accessible. We should return by 3:30 pm.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES: March 28 and 29, 7:00 pm.

EASTER MORNING Community Sunrise Service at 6:30 am at the river. 10:00 Service at Sebastian UMC. Wear your Easter bonnet, bring a friend and be ready to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior.



From the Financial Secretary

When we first switched to the plain white envelopes, there was confusion regarding the "need" for the envelopes or did you "want" the envelopes.

Envelopes have been a part of our church giving for many years and is a necessity to accurately keep track of all giving. All checks given must have an envelope made out for that check. If a member gives cash and wants it recorded under their name for end of year statements an envelope must also be made for that amount of cash.

The envelopes provided by the church have your name and your computer number typed on the face of the envelope. This number provides the needed information to post the givings to your account. This is also a tremendous help for the financial team to complete the job of keeping track of all money in a safe, accurate, efficient and helpful way.

Some might say, "I use a pew envelope" which is fine but not as good as your own envelope with your name and number on it. Reading the writing on the pew envelopes have proven in the past to be a challenge.

Alta Benjamin communicated the above in Dec. 2018 and it is just as important now.

If you don't use numbered envelopes, please request them from the office and use them every time. Children's Home envelopes are an exception.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to see or call me.

Thank you. Kent Casey, Financial Secretary

SUMC Men's Group

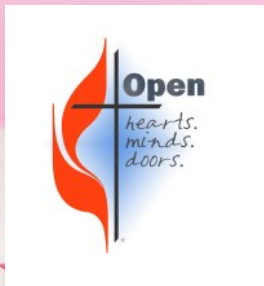
The Sebastian men's group is pleased with the growth of the group! One Tuesday, mid January, we were 18 men and 14 women out to lunch! Great food and companionship!



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 1:30 Manna-Tee Meeting	2 10:00 am—2:00 pm Thrift Shop	3 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
4 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Worship	5 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	6 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Woody's 1:30 Worship Meeting	7	8 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	9 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	10 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
11 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH)	12 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm Trustee Meeting	13 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Pelican Diner	14 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am Service 7:00 pm Service	15 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	16 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 11:00 Mary's Circle Meeting	17 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 8:30 am Day of Gleaning
18 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café	19 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 6:00 pm Admin Meeting	20 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Riverwalk	21 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner	22 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	23 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	24 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
25 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café	26 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	27 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Sebastian Roadside	28	29	S-Sanctuary, FH-Fellowship Hall, YR-Youth Room (north side of education wing), SG-Small Group Room (south side of education wing), CO-Church Office, LCR-Large Classroom (north side of education wing)	





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Rev. C. Alexis Talbott
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Happy Birthday

Phil Molina	February 2
David Brown	February 6
Ed Oleksy	February 10
Nancy Barry	February 14
Mark Hulsbeck	February 20
Judith Bairstow	February 23
Connie Judisch	February 23

*Missing your birthday or anniversary?
Call the Church Office to help us update your records!*