



# January 2024

## Beacon...guiding our walk



*...Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him...*

- Lamentations 3:21-25

Greetings Sebastian Church Family and Friends,

Welcome to a New Year of Mission, Ministry and Love possibilities at Sebastian United Methodist Church!

As we begin the 2024 New Year together, I want to thank you for making worship, mission and ministry in this community and beyond a priority in 2023. As we take a look back and a look ahead most of us are filled with so many emotions.

Looking back, we see a world of sin and despair. We reflect on the struggles and loss in our lives. Life is difficult, at times lonely and at times, heartbreaking! Yet, through it all, we must be sure to take account of the victories in loving God and loving our neighbor amidst the temptations. How as a congregation, we have relieved the oppressed, lonely and hurting in our community and beyond. As you reflect on any chaos and storms in your life this past year, look more deeply and see the grace of God and how He has given you the opportunity to draw closer to Him. God uses each of us and our circumstances to touch a hurting world and to make us stronger. You may want to take a moment before the New Year gets busier and reflect on how God has been at work in you and how God has used you and this congregation to make this world more like they should be by sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Looking ahead, what do you see? Truth be told, we do not know what lies ahead for us in 2024. But God's promise is that God's ***compassions never fail. They are new every morning...*** [every week, every month and every year! Do you believe it? I do! The horizon is beautiful for SUMC. What seems impossible is, indeed, possible. The Truth is, if what we believe about God is true, it matters little what the future holds because (as the old saying goes),] *"God holds the future!"* [We know the end of the story: Christ gives everlasting life.] ***The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him.*** [And, another thing, God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that we might walk in faith and not according to the flesh. And that we may bring many to know Him because of that faith!]

So, what do you say, SUMC? Let's live our lives together! Let's dream big. Let's minister to children; go on a mission trip; worship, study, fellowship and serve together! Let's get serious about God's Love and how God wants to use us as His church in 2024! Are you ready? My prayer is that we rejoice for another year of faith and praise God for His promised presence and His forgiveness, expecting that God will transform us to be more and more like Jesus.

With more love than you know! Joy, Joy Pastor Alexis

Our Mission: ***We commit to living out the Truth of the Gospel through Spirit-filled worship and study, faithful fellowship and loving service, and to impact our world as followers of Christ sharing the Gospel.***

Our Vision: ***A community of faith connecting and growing in Christ, transforming the world.***



**FOR SUMC LEADERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY...**

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES**

***NOTE: If you need assistance registering for any of these events, please call the church office***

**GLEANING DAY IN SOUTH FLORIDA**

Gleaning is a collection of crops either from farmers' fields that have already been mechanically harvested or from fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest, due to low market prices. The fresh produce is distributed to food pantries and meal kitchens through distribution partners. We invite you and your church to join us for a day of gleaning with CROS Ministries.

**Saturday, February 17, 2024**

**8:30 - 11:30 AM**

**Palm City, FL (Near Exit 110)**

Space is limited to 50 people. Please register early. If plans change, please let us know as soon as possible to make room for others. Register to participate by [clicking here](#). Each household must register separately. Please share the information and registration form with each household interested in participating.

***Pastor Alexis is planning to attend. If you would like to ride with her, please call her or the church office.***

**BISHOP'S REGIONAL GATHERINGS**



**Bishop's Regional Gatherings**  
All clergy & laity are invited



Sunday, January 21 – 5 PM  
Trinity UMC, Gainesville

Monday, January 22 – 6:30 PM  
Hyde Park UMC, Tampa

Tuesday, January 23 – 6:30 PM  
Hollywood Hills UMC, Hollywood

Wednesday, January 24 – 6:30 PM  
Suntree UMC, Melbourne

**In person attendance only.**

**You can register and submit questions for the bishop at the link attached.**

SEBASTIAN LEADERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

These are excellent trainings! For each training area, there are 3 times available. Sign up for the time that works best for you or your team. **All trainings are on Zoom.** *If you would like to have your whole committee join in, we can arrange to Zoom in the Large Classroom.* To register, click [here](#).

Be sure to share with Justine, Pastor Alexis or our Lay Leader, Ginger Horner if you are participating, even from home. Call the church office if you have questions.



The Florida Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 2024 Conference Wide Local Church Training

Join us for **five weeks** of virtual training  
to equip you for local church ministry.

### FL UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME LOCAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE (LCR)

Rev. Brian Carr, Director of Church Relations

- February 3 | 9 a.m.
- February 8 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### LAY LEADER & LAY MEMBER TO AC

Alice Williams, FLUMC Co-Lay Leader  
Derrick Scott III, FLUMC Co-Lay Leader

- February 3 | 10:15 a.m.
- February 6 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### FINANCIAL POLICIES & BEST PRACTICES - SOUND FINANCIAL PRACTICES 101

Craig Smelser, Conference Treasurer

- February 10 | 9 a.m.
- February 15 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### DISASTER RECOVERY

Trish Warren, Conference Disaster  
Response Coordinator

- February 10 | 10:15 a.m.
- February 13 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Diana Welsh and Claudia Sava, Human  
Resources Staff

- February 17 | 9 a.m.
- February 22 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### MINISTRY PROTECTION FOR TRUSTEES

LaNita Battles, Director, Ministry Protection  
Amber Douglas, Claims Specialist

- February 17 | 10:15 a.m. (LaNita)
- February 20 | 2 p.m. (Amber) & 6:30 p.m. (LaNita)

### FINANCE AUDITING & BEST PRACTICES - SOUND FINANCIAL PRACTICES 102

Craig Smelser, Conference Treasurer

- February 24 | 9 a.m.
- February 29 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### NOMINATIONS/LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Weems, Assistant to the Bishop for  
Congregational Mission

Judith Pierre-Okerson, South East District Lay Leader

- February 24 | 10:15 a.m.
- February 27 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### CHILD YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY - TRAIN THE TRAINER

LaNita Battles, Director, Ministry Protection  
Amber Douglas, Claims Specialist

- March 2 | 9 a.m. (LaNita)
- March 7 | 2 p.m. (Amber) & 6:30 p.m. (LaNita)

### MEMBERSHIP AUDITING & BEST PRACTICES

Paula McDonald, Atlantic Central District  
Administrative Assistant

- March 2 | 10:15 a.m.
- March 5 | 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Each session will begin **on time**. It is recommended  
that you log in to each session a few minutes early  
to ensure that you don't miss any of the content.

**REGISTER AT:**  
[bit.ly/2024ConferenceWideTraining](https://bit.ly/2024ConferenceWideTraining)



## **SUNDAY MORNING, 8:45 AM – Prior to 10:00 AM Worship**

**God Abides** – Winter Adult Bible Studies, by Dr. Rita B. Hayes Facilitator, Ben Ashton – Large Classroom  
This study helps us grow our faith and transform our lives.

## **BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 10:00 am – JOIN ONE OR ALL CLASSES**

We know it's important to be generous. But it is not always easy to know what healthy stewardship looks like. God has deeper and richer lessons to teach us about what it means to live generously? *Ignite Your Generosity* will help you see your resources of time, talents and treasures in a fresh, God-honoring way.

This 21-day devotional, is just right with a four-week small group guide. Every day's reading features an engaging story, Scripture and personal reflection questions. Come journey with us as we pursue generosity God's way. Discover the joy and fulfillment that comes from a life of giving freely to God's plans and purposes. ***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 read it on your own. Books: \$13.00***



## **JANUARY WORSHIP – SCRIPTURES AND SERMON**

In January, join us as we reflect on all the ways we can make a difference in peoples' lives through our time, talents and treasures. Come and hear IMPACT Testimony's from Community Organizations who have been touched by SUMC generosity. *February 4<sup>th</sup> is Commitment Card Sunday and Holy Communion.*

## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, January 14**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; John 1:43-51; I Peter 2:9-12

SERMON: *Why Commit?*

## **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, January 21**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 62:5-12; Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

SERMON: *Impact! More Than a Gift*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, January 28**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111; Matthew 5:14-16; I Peter 4:8-11

SERMON: *Time, Talent, Treasures: Changing Lives!*

## **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, February 4**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 147:1-11, 20; Mark 1:29-39; I Corinthians 9:16-23

SERMON: *Changing Lives, Making a Commitment*





### NEW THRIFT SHOP HOURS

**Thrift Store Hours Monday - Thursday- Friday - Saturday**

**Boutique in the Bay Hours Thursday - Friday - Saturday**

10 am to 2 pm

***Stay tuned for upcoming sales!***

*Carol Decker & Teddy Hulse*

*Thrift Shop Coordinators*

*Ginger Horner, Thrift Shop Scheduler*



Mary's Circle will meet on Friday January 19, 2024 at 11 am in the fellowship hall. We will have a special program: our guest speaker is Andre Welter-Frost. He will be sharing the important work they do for Hope For Families.

All ladies are always welcome (you do not have to be a member of any church or a Methodist)

Bring a bag lunch. Hope to see you there.

Mary's Circle Ladies



*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ~ Philippians 2:3-4*

### 2023 Giving Statements

Earlier this year Administrative Council approved sending out giving statements by email. This allows earlier delivery to you and a cost reduction for the church. If you do not receive a statement by mid January and feel that you should or do not have email and would like to have a paper statement sent to you, please contact me or call the office.

Kent Casey, Financial Secretary

[sumcfinsec20@gmail.com](mailto:sumcfinsec20@gmail.com) 309-868-2931





### SUMC MUSIC MINISTER SEARCH TEAM UPDATE:

The Search Team is made up of eleven individuals from our congregation, including: Choir members, Staff/Pastor Parish members, the Worship Committee and Pastor. We have met three times since November to update the permanent full time job description; an interim job description while we seek a full-time person; and, establish a hiring team for transition time and full-time applicants. Our intent is to continue to send job descriptions to the American Guild of Organists, higher education institutions, music schools and departments in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas, and other pertinent places where potential music ministers may be.

We are grateful for Sharon Krueger, the Chairperson of the Search Committee. And, very grateful for our Chancel Choir who will continue to lead us in hymns and special music in this interim. Please hug or thank a choir member on any Sunday for their continued support.

While we are looking for an interim and/or full-time permanent Music Minister, we are scheduling Sunday substitutes. If you have a lead or idea of someone who can serve as a substitute accompanist, and interim for 2-3 months or a full-time Music Minister, please contact Sharon and Pastor Alexis by calling the church office.

And most importantly, **continue to pray** that God is working in the heart of one God is calling to this position at Sebastian United Methodist Church.

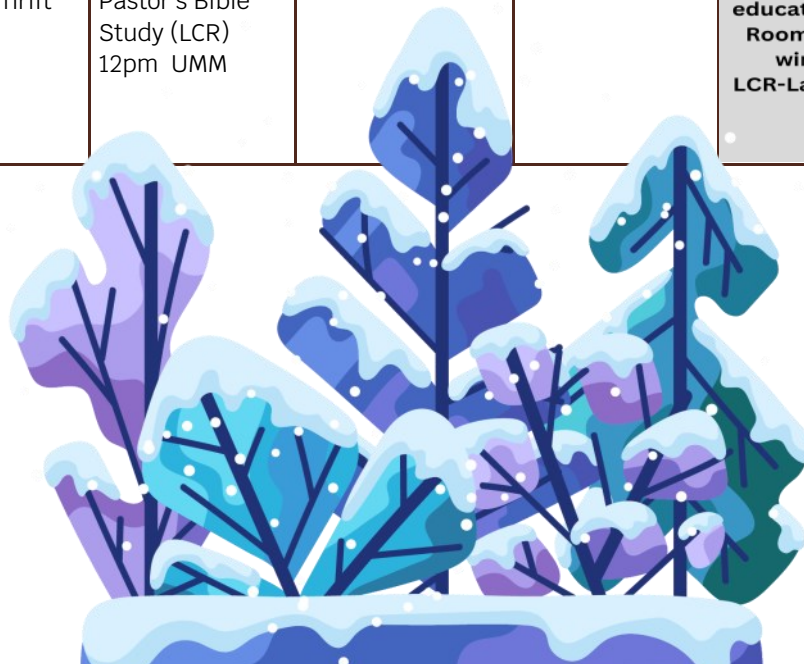
### JOIN THE TECH TEAM AT SUMC

Do you like working in technology? We are seeking volunteers to run our Sunday PowerPoint and Livestream. And others to substitute running our audio and focusing the camera. If you are interested in either or both, please call the church office. If you have questions, catch A.J. or Alan Hulse in the Tech Booth after Worship on Sunday mornings. A.J. will train you on our sanctuary system.



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Happy New Year! 2024	2 Office Closed 12pm UMM Woody's	3	4 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop	5 10:00 am—2:00 pm Thrift Shop	6 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
7 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Worship  Parsonage Open House	8 10:00 am SPPRC 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm Trustee Meeting	9 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Pelican Diner 1:30 Worship Meeting	10	11 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	12 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	13 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
14 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH)	15 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 6:00 pm Admin Meeting	16 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Riverwalk 5:30 Childrens Easter Event Meeting	17 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner- speaker Joanne Holmes Chum Buckets	18 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	19 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  11:00 Mary's Circle Meeting	20 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
21 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH)	22 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	23 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Manny's	24	25 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	26 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	27 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
28 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH)	29 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	30 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM	31		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)	





Sebastian United Methodist Church  
1029 Main Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958

Rev. Alexis Talbott  
pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com

## *Happy Birthday*

Pat Mays	January 1
Joanne Mohan-Ashley	January 5
Suzann Moritz	January 7
Karen Jensen	January 11
Bill Chapman	January 12
Irene Strever	January 12
Ginger Horner	January 13
Bill Messersmith	January 15
Celeste Fusato	January 16
William Dejonge	January 17
Jeannette Schumacher	January 19
Joan Valentine	January 21
Roger Duff	January 22
Bud Horner	January 24
Terry Chapin	January 28
Kathi Pschar	January 30

## *Happy Anniversary*

Richard and Andrea Gilbert      January 3   19yrs

*Missing your birthday or anniversary?*

*Call the Church Office to help us update your records!*