



# June 2024

## Beacon...guiding our walk



*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a Holy Temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

*Ephesians 2:20-21*

Greetings Church Family and Friends,

***In Him “we” also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*** SUMC, the Apostle Paul is speaking of us! The Lord is joining us together and growing us into His Temple. As I consider all of the areas of ministry that are available for us to create or fine-tune and to grow, in the Name of Christ Jesus, I am full of hope. Sometimes creating a new gets messy, even chaotic. That’s ok for a while as we re-focus our vision and mission to the work God has for us. The key is to listen to each other and expect that God is moving us to a greater spiritual maturity, knowing that God will give us more leaders to share the good work of the ministry.

In this edition of the Beacon, you will read about Vacation Bible School and how God is moving us to share the Gospel with children and their families...with grandparents and people who long for a spiritual and loving home like Sebastian Church. We are so excited to have Shannon, our Music Minister on board. She and I will spend the month of July praying, thinking and planning with leadership what it looks like to start a children’s music ministry. Several of you will take advantage of the course to become Lay Servants. A Lay Servant, by description of the UMC is: *An active, supportive member, eager to serve through the church, becoming well informed on Scripture, the doctrine, heritage, and organization of the United Methodist Church, committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication and willing to improve their skills through training.*

Other areas of ministry we have the potential to do God’s work in: The “Back to School Bash” held by Wabasso Haitian United Methodist Church. A round table discussion with other churches and faiths to begin a food service ministry (like Soul Café). Beginning to plan Trunk or Treat. And, gathering to set a date for a SUMC Planning Event to calendar the years’ events for 2025 (See opportunities for ministries and mission leadership for 2025 in this edition of the Beacon)

But the doing, the adding and the planning are not the REAL JOY! The real joy is in the obedience and the desire to reach a community for Christ. If we are making a move that God does not see for us, I pray that we are strong and mature enough to make the changes that God desires. At SUMC, I pray that all we are planning and doing pleases God first. Isn’t that what we are all about? Not ministries, programs, things to do; no, not even people or finances - But God, our Savior first! To live pleasing Jesus so that we may...***in Him [be] built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit!*** *Will you pray with me as we move upward toward our goal and inward to the power of the Holy Spirit as we are blessed and we are a blessing?*

***But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please humans, but to please God who tests our hearts. Galatians 1:10***

See ya’ Sunday...Joy, joy - Pastor Alexis Talbott



# Notes from the Music Minister



Greetings, Church Family!

My first couple of months in Sebastian have been a wonderful whirlwind! Meeting you all, then saying goodbye to snowbirds, and working with the choir and bell choirs for only a short time before summer break, is a little bittersweet. At the same time, it has been a preview of greater things to come! Please be in prayer about how God may want us to step out in faith together to grow our music ministry and let me know if you feel called to serve.

Summer Singers and some of our talented instrumentalists and soloists will lead worship this summer. All are invited to join Summer Singers on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will rehearse music each Sunday for worship at 10 a.m. It's a great opportunity to join the choir, serve in worship, and drop in and out to accommodate busy summer schedules. If you love to sing, drop in any Sunday at 9 a.m. and check it out! There is so much joy in serving!

I want to thank our choir and bell choir members for your faithful service! Your dedication and willingness to share your gifts in worship are an amazing blessing to the SUMC family! Thank you to our tech team for all you do to support worship and to share worship with our online community! Finally, I want to thank choir mom Janelle Stimmel, worship designer Teddy Hulse, our ushers and greeters, and the worship and communion teams. I know you serve for the Glory of God and for His people, but your joyful service is noticed and appreciated!

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:16-17*

With joy and thanksgiving for our church family,

Shannon Raines

404-312-5345

**SUMMER SINGERS**

All are welcome! Rehearsal is at 9 am and we only rehearse the anthem for that Sunday. This is a great opportunity to explore what it means to sing in the choir without a long term commitment or wearing robes!

Come Sunday. Sing Sunday.

## Announcement—Due to VBS

All groups that meet on the church campus, including the office should plan to meet off campus meet during the week of VBS June 17 –22 in accordance with the UMC Child Protection Policy.

## Vacation Bible School 2024

Monday 6/17 - 6/21 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday 6/22 9:00am to 12:00pm

Join in the celebration on Sunday June 23rd @10 am. Plan to stay for Fellowship Café and meet the families of the children.

Prayer for : The volunteers to share Jesus. The children (24 registered so far) who will learn more of the love of Jesus. The parents/Guardians and families that we can impact. Expect the Holy Spirit will touch us all in Jesus name.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** We are blessed with workers in their 80's! However, we need up to 10 more volunteers, especially on Mondays. Funds from the Thrift Shop support the SUMC ministries and missions. Please pray about volunteering. (Hurray we have added one more volunteer to Mondays. Will you be the next?)

Bays will be closed during VBS June 17— 22



## PASTOR'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY IS ON BREAK UNTIL AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>



**WHAT YOU CAN DO THIS SUMMER** (*Pastor Alexis is happy to assist you in finding what you need*):

### Read on...

- Read a “How To” study the Bible. Read something that will help you better understand what you are reading in the Bible.
- Spend time “side by side.” Take your Bible and another Bible translation and read the same passage side by side.
- Research the culture and/or historical setting of a group of people or a place in the Bible. *Example: The exiled Jews; Nineveh; the Philistines; Capernaum; Philippi; Corinth; Bethlehem.*
- Select which commentaries you want to use to supplement your Bible study.
- Read a book or letter of the Bible and use tools/texts to study more deeply.

### Do something different...

- Read something completely different. For example, if your last study was inductive, read something devotional or topical.
- Invite a friend for coffee and ask each other questions about a scripture passage you have learned/ studied. This can be especially fun if your friend is studying something different.
- Listen to a new Bible Study or sermon podcast.
- Relax and revisit one of your favorite devotionals.
- *Watch in your JULY Beacon for a time to meet with Pastor Alexis and others for a SOAP Journaling meditation at Riverview Bookstore.*

## **Sermons and Worship in July**

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, JUNE 2 – Holy Communion

Psalm 143:5-10; John 14:25-31a; II Corinthians 4:13-5:1

SERMON: – *More Holy Spirit*

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 9, Birthday Sunday in the Fellowship Café

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:1-14; Ezekiel 36:24-28; II Corinthians 3:12-18

SERMON: *Come, Holy Spirit, Come*

### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, Father's Day and Launch of VBS - SCUBA

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24 (RSVUE); John 3:16-17; Acts 16:11-15

SERMON: *SUBA – Serving Christ Under Biblical Authority/Diving into Friendship with God!*

### FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, VBS – SCUBA CELEBRATION!

Join us on Sunday morning as the CHILDREN lead us in Worship under the direction of Shannon Raines, our Music Minister. Don't stay away! Plan to come to Fellowship Café to meet, mingle and praise!

### SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Sing, Children's Home Offering, Sandwich Sunday

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:18-12

SERMON: *Living a Lasting Impression: Abraham, Unquestionably Obedient*



**COME,  
HOLY  
SPIRIT,  
COME.**

**FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JUNE 6-8, 2024 - LAKELAND, FL**

Ready to attend the Florida Annual Conference 2024 – June 6-8? Use the online platform called Whova:

- **View the event agenda**
- **Find who is attending** this event
- **Access live streams** directly within sessions and utilize the **session Q&A** to ask questions
- Create and connect through various **Discussion Topics** in the **Community Board**
- Receive updates such as **last minute session changes** from the organizers
- **Visit virtual vendor booths** as part of the **2024 Expo**

Download WHOVA from your app store.

After downloading, use your email address when signing up on Whova mobile apps or web portal. Make sure you choose a strong password. You can also sign up using a social media account. Once you have created and verified your account, you can search for the event by entering **Florida Annual Conference 2024**.

**Download app:** [https://whova.com/portal/flori\\_202404/](https://whova.com/portal/flori_202404/)

**Event invitation code: flumc24app.**

Already used the Whova app in the past? Double-check that it is installed on your phone, and log in using

## **Grieving Connections**

No one can grieve for you, but we can “hold your hand” and help you through the bad times. We all grieve in our own way and our own time frame yet with many similarities such as isolation, loneliness, lost feeling, anger, denial and sadness.

Wednesday, 2pm—4pm at the Fellowship Hall

**Note: Wed, June 19 only—we will meet in the Thrift Store**

Grieving Connections is a support group for people who are grieving the loss of someone special in their lives.



## NEW MINISTRY START UP TEAMS AT SUMC. Goal Date - February 2025:

*"Always on my mind..."*

Chairpersons needed for areas of Ministry (new or ongoing):

- **Discipleship:** includes small groups, training, visioning and spiritual growth
- **Hospitality:** In place - *Fellowship Café, Potluck, Sunday Greeters. Add: Welcome Center table for guests; Guest follow-up annual campus curb-appeal inventory.*
- **Altar/Sanctuary Guild:** Cleaning the brass plates and candles; assist Cathy with straightening the pews after worship; sitting on the Worship Team (meets every 6 weeks).
- **Children's Ministry:** Join the team to plan three annual events; teach the Child/Youth Protection Policy; Plan Sunday School; Create a strategy to reach children and their families, and more!
- **Anti-Racism:** Two - Four representatives to work with the district and conference in dealing with inequities, hate crimes, and misinformation. Also, to strengthen ties, promote peace and justice and communicate knowledge and wisdom.

*If you sense God is calling you to join one of these ministry areas in the coming year, please connect with Pastor Alexis. Again, whether you are part of any of these ministries or not, please pray for those God is calling to rise up.*

## FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME IS NOW RESIDING HOPE

### Why the New Name?

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was first established in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage. Since that time it has grown into a holistic organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children from across the state of Florida. In addition to providing a higher level of therapeutic residential care in two locations, we also provide foster care and outpatient counseling in multiple counties.

We realized that we had outgrown the Children's Home name, and needed something that better represented the purpose we serve and the care we provide. That new name is **Residing Hope**.

The word hope is commonly used to mean a wish or desire. But in the Bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength of His faithfulness. Residing Hope expresses optimism and the opportunity of a better life of the children and youth we serve. It's that compassionate care that drives everything we do across all of our services and locations.

**Look for a new website coming soon at [ResidingHope.org](https://ResidingHope.org).**

We are so grateful to have had Rev. Brain Carr, Director of Church Relations, preach on May 26th. He awarded us with a certificate of giving because we ranked in the Top 20 percentile of congregations supporting , Residing Hope. SUMC gave over \$10,000 in 2023. This is our fifth year receiving this certificate.



# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
2 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 9:00 am Summer Choir 10:00 am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café	3 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	4 12pm UMM Woody's	5 2:00 pm Grieving Connections	6 1:30 Manna-Tee Covenant  Annual Conference Lakeland, FL	7 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  Annual Conference Lakeland, FL	8 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  Annual Conference Lakeland, FL
9 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH) Birthday Celebration	10 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  6:00 pm VBS Meeting	11 12pm UMM Pelican Diner	12 2:00 pm Grieving Connections at the Thrift Shop)	13	14 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	15 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
16 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH)	17 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  9 am—4 pm VBS  6 pm Admin Meeting	18 12pm UMM Giuseppe  9 am—4 pm VBS	19 2:00 pm Grieving Connections  9 am—4 pm VBS	20 9 am—4 pm VBS	21 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  9 am—4 pm VBS	22 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  9 am—12 pm VBS
23 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Scuba Celebration VBS 11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH)	24 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	25 12pm UMM Sebastian Roadside	26 2:00 pm Grieving Connections	27	28 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	29 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
30 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Sandwich Sunday (FH)					<b>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)</b>	



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## Happy Birthday

Carol Mortimer	June 2
Elana Messersmith	June 5
Jack Schwey	June 5
Ann Marie Van House	June 14
Vicky Hay	June 16
Tammy Crotts	June 16
Ron McCullough	June 19
Linda Young	June 21
Donna Osborne	June 26
Diane Dotti	June 27
Rachel Ekeroth	June 27
Kent Casey	June 28
Andrea Judisch	June 28
Wayne Van House	June 29
Sue Shepper	June 30

## Happy Anniversary

Alan & Katie Hulse II	June 10
Bill & Kathy Messersmith	June 21

*Missing your birthday or anniversary?*

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

