



... guiding our walk

“A Word from Pastor John”

Lent is here. Lent is the season of 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays), a time of self-examination. In these weeks, we take stock of how faithful or unfaithful we have been in living what we say we believe. We confess our sins and shortcomings and resolve to live more faithfully. During Lent, we also are reminded of our mortality and our total dependence upon God for this life, and our eternal life in Christ. I hope you will allow these weeks to help you renew your commitment to Christ, and prepare you for a joyous Easter celebration! Here are upcoming events for you to take note of:

LENT SERMON SERIES - During Lent, I will be preaching a sermon series entitled, “Who is Jesus?” Each week we will look at the portrait of Jesus each of the Gospel-writers paints in their writings. Each one fashions how they tell the story of Jesus in unique ways that reveals who they believe Jesus is. I recommend that you skim each Gospel before the Sunday’s sermon (3/1 Mark; 3/8 Matthew; 3/22 Luke; 3/29 John). On March 15, we will have a Messianic Jew here to offer a presentation on “Christ in the Passover.” He will share how Holy Communion relates to the Jewish Passover Seder. You won’t want to miss it!

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY DURING LENT - We will be focusing on all the scriptures in the four Gospels related to Holy Week and Easter, beginning Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. in the Large Class Room. Bring your Bible and a friend.

PARSONAGE OPEN-HOUSE - In addition to these events, on Saturday, March 21 (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.), Terri and I would like to invite everyone for a Come-and-Go Open-House at the Parsonage (367 Main St.). We are doing this in the Spring so that our winter residents can participate. Please mark your calendar and join us!

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF SEBASTION UMC? – On the fourth Sunday of every month, we are receiving new members. If you are not a member of Sebastian UMC, we’d love for you to join! Contact me (321-794-0010 or johngillumc@bellsouth.net) for information about full or

seasonal memberships. To learn more about the Christian faith, United Methodism, or this congregation, you are invited to our three-week Inquirer’s Class (first, second, third Sundays each month) at 11:30 a.m. in the Small Group Room. Call me if you plan to attend or need more info.

CHANGE IN OUR PRAYER CARD PROCEDURE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS – For some time, there has been concern about the way we collect prayer cards for inclusion in the prayer-time in worship. Currently the cards are placed in the offering and the ushers must quickly rummage through the plates to find all the cards so they can be delivered to the pastor and included in the prayer. Many Sundays, some of the cards are missed, and therefore not read. Our Worship Committee has approved a change in how the cards will be collected. People are asked to NOT put the cards in the offering, but hold them for a moment. Following the offering, you will be asked to pass prayer cards to the center aisle and the ushers will collect them and bring them to the pastor. We feel this will ensure that all cards are collected and concerns shared.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPCOMING GENERAL CONFERENCE – As you probably are aware, our denomination is going through a difficult period. Within United Methodism, there are various views about the most godly way the church should relate to LGBTQ persons. As you can imagine, there are strong feelings about this issue. Persons of integrity and faithfulness disagree. There are churches that would like our denomination to be much more restrictive when it comes to the inclusion of gay and lesbian person in the life of the church. These churches are anxious to break away from the UMC to form a new Methodist denomination that will reflect their views. The quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of the UMC will meet in May and consider a proposal, called “A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.” This “protocol” is a plan whereby those dissenting congregations would be permitted to leave with their property to form a new

A Word From Pastor John Continued

expression of Methodism. If the Protocol passes, only those congregations wishing to separate from the UMC will have to vote to do so. Congregations who are happy as they are and wish to remain do not need to do anything. We don't know if the protocol, or some other plan will pass the General Conference, but it is likely to pass – which will mean changes for the United Methodist Church as we adjust to fewer congregations.

The Bishop's Cabinet will be holding an informational gathering in each district to share updates about the upcoming General Conference and the Protocol. Ours will be held Monday, March 30 at Suntree UMC in Melbourne (10:30 a.m.). We will carpool from the church office at 9:30 a.m. for those wishing to attend.

I love being your pastor!

Pastor John



Don't Let The Flu Get You!

For your convenience there will be hand sanitizer in narthex and in the fellowship hall. Handwashing kills germs. If you are feeling sick or under the weather, stay home and rest.



Lenten Bible Study Begins March 3

The Pastor's Bible Study, currently studying the Book of Acts, will interrupt that study to spend the season of Lent focusing on the way the four Gospels tell the story of Holy Week and Easter. Join us Tuesdays at 10 a.m., beginning March 3. Bring your Bible and a friend.

Suggestion Box

We now have a Suggestion Box in the back of the sanctuary to the right of the door leading to the restrooms. If you have a great idea, share it with us!

Come and Go Open House at the Parsonage

On Saturday, March 21, Pastor John and Terri Gill invite you for a "Come & Go" Open House between 3 and 5 p.m. A time of fellowship and a chance to get to know each other better in an informal setting. 367 Main Street

Daily Lenten Devotions have begun.

If you are not receiving them in your email, please let Pastor John or Sharon Johnson know so we can double check, change or add your email. These devotionals are written by our congregation in a style similar to the Upper Room.



Don't forget - The United Methodist Women meet the 3rd Friday of each month at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome!

Food pantry item for March—cereal

Non- Communion Sundays

Every non-"Communion Sunday," communion will be offered for all those wishing to receive. Elements for Holy Communion will be on the altar, and the pastor will include a prayer of consecration as a part of the prayer time near the end of the service. Then, immediately following the conclusion of the service, you may move forward to the altar, and the liturgist or a Lay Servant will be happy to serve you communion. (Gluten free bread)



*O love, how deep, how broad, how high, it fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!*

What does love, Latin, Jesus's life and a fifteenth-century victory song have in common? Obviously the hymn "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High." Ok so maybe not so obvious however this great Latin hymn has a rich text and history. It begins sometime in the fifteenth century with both the text and tune. Whether the text or tune came first, no one knows. The author of the Latin text is unknown. Because of similarities to other writings, it has been attributed to Thomas à Kempis. The Latin text is an extraordinary ninety two line poem rhymed in an *aabb* pattern. The translation in our hymnal only uses twenty four of these lines while still maintaining the overall concept. The tune DEO GRACIAS was written as the victory song celebrating Henry V's triumph over the French at Agincourt on October 25, 1415. *The English Hymnal* published in 1906 is the first hymnal the tune can be found in.

The portion of this rich Latin text found in our hymnals was translated into English in 1854 by Benjamin Webb. Webb was an Anglican priest who edited a couple hymnals as well as translated other hymns. During this time period many Latin and Greek poems were being translated into English to be used as hymns. The depth of these texts were being discovered and scholars wanted to make them available for everyone.

The overall theme of "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High" is that everything Jesus did from his birth to resurrection was for all of humanity. The author only asks us to be in awe of these acts and praise God for them. This can be seen from the beginning of the text, "O Love, how deep, how broad, how high,/it fills the heart with ecstasy." We cannot begin to comprehend how great and vast God's love is for us. Our understanding is partially dependent on our faith journey. The author also suggests this through the first line. The more we experience the love of Christ the more intensity it has in our lives. We begin to find it easier to place our whole life in God's hands. The author then spends the rest of the text to offer "proof" as to why we should trust that

God's love will never fail. God sent Jesus, his only son to our world. "He sent no angel to our race/of higher or of lower place,/but wore the robe of human frame/himself, and to this lost world came." God could have created another plan for our salvation but chose to send Jesus for us. This stanza is omitted from our hymnal. The third stanza discusses that for us Jesus was tempted in the desert. Jesus experienced the temptations we give into. Jesus understood how difficult it can be to resist temptation and still calls us to be resistant. We must use Jesus as a model for this resistance. Jesus used the Word of God as reason and strength. We must also use the Word of God as our weapon against temptation. The fourth stanza discusses Jesus's ministry. Every aspect of Jesus's ministry was for someone else. We continue to learn how to live and treat others from the examples Jesus set. We are reminded by the author that "**For us** he prayed, **for us** he taught,/for us his daily works he wrought,/ by words and signs and actions thus/still seeking not himself, **but us**" (emphasis mine). The fifth stanza states that for us Jesus was "scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,/he bore the shameful cross and death,/for us at length gave up his breath." Jesus not only sacrificed his life for us but endured great pain and suffering. Fortunately Jesus did all of this to give us eternal life. "**For us** he rose from death again; **for us** he went on high to reign; **for us** he sent his Spirit here."

Like Jesus, we are on a journey. This journey is not easy but we know we have Jesus to rely on because he lived his life for us. While the author of this text does not demand anything from us but awe, Jesus called us to serve and love our neighbors. Each day we are all given different opportunities to serve others. As we journey through this season of Lent, I want to encourage you to invest some time into serving others. Jesus laid his life down **for us** so we could have eternal life. So what will **you** do for Jesus?

MISSIONS
DONNA OBORNE, CHAIR

The Soul Café is Finally here! Please join us Monday, March 2nd at 11:30 for the “Ribbon-cutting” ceremony hosted by the Sebastian Chamber of Commerce. We are still inviting volunteers to join us in this food mission. So, stop on by!

FINANCE
DIANN FLANIGAN, CHAIR

As I write this, we are in the middle of our Stewardship Campaign and I want to thank our Stewardship Committee for the time and work they put into organizing and follow-thru. I want to thank Pastor John for the messages during the campaign and for showing me I can still do the hokey-pokey, even though when I hopped to put my “whole self in” I found out I can’t hop as well as I did when I was younger!

	January 2020	
<u>INCOME</u>	Actual	Budget
Church Offering	\$ 15,127.32	\$ 18,158.75
Church Use	\$ 25.00	\$ 116.66
Div & Interest (Qtrly)	-0-	\$ 625.00
Thrift Shop	<u>\$ 11,096.30</u>	<u>\$ 8,333.34</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 26,248.62</u>	<u>\$ 27,233.75</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 22,893.80</u>	<u>\$ 27,229.76</u>

At the January Finance Committee meeting, there were several budget adjustments that were passed. This will be reflected in the February finance statement.

Diann Flanigan
Finance Committee Chairperson

Dear Sebastian UMC Leaders,

We are excited that our own Teddy Hulse, who is a certified parliamentarian, has agreed to offer us (and our friends at Roseland UMC, if they would like to join us), a two hour workshop on Roberts Rules of Order, Thursday, April 16 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of our church. While everyone is encouraged to attend, we would especially like those chairing committees to make it a priority. Please mark your calendars.

Pastor John

Lois Planeta Small Group (closed session) will resume March 16th at 9:00am in the LCR.

Barb Farrington Women's Bible Study meet every Monday in the small group room at 10:00am in the SGR.

Pastor's Bible Study Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. in the large class room, with a Lenten Bible Study

Adult Bible Study (Ben Ashton) Wednesday 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Mary Lou Rothfuss Small Group (closed session) Thursday, 9:30 in the SGR.

Weekly Opportunities

Computer Circle 1:00 p.m. Tuesday in the church office (conference room)

Informal instruction on computers and smart phones, all welcome.

Men's "Out to Lunch Bunch" Tuesdays at noon. Meet at Roadside Café in Sebastian, all welcome.

No noon lunch on March 24. that is a Guys & Gal Dinner day. Call Terry Chapin 330-219-3593 for reservations, dinner will be at Captain Hiram's 5:30 p.m..

Tone & Stretch with Jane Hino—Thursdays 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (except March 5th-no class)

Happy March Anniversary

Terry & Melodee Chapin	March 14
George & Sally Lambert	March 30

Happy March Birthday

Linda Erbacher	March 1
Diann Flanigan	March 4
Jacque Crick	March 5
Floyd Standley	March 5
Eileen Harding	March 10
Mary Lou Rothfuss	March 12
Jeremy Messersmith	March 17
Jimmy Childers	March 18
Ed 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
Linda Pinkoski	March 30



God's Hope

Ah, the sweet sound of the Spring, birds singing, bringing new hope for the year ahead and filling the air with their praises! The little flowers that boldly poke their head out of the snow, not fearing the harsh breezes that blow giving us new hope in all their Glory.... God's Earth brings new Hope and a chance for a new start, new opportunities, as well as a new season filled with His Unfailing Love... we need only put all trust in Him...He is with us always!

Nancy L. Fox
February 18, 2020

Altar Flowers

Fresh flowers placed on our altar on Sunday beautify the sacred spaces in our church to honor God and are a gift to those who attend our services. Arrangements can be picked up after worship or can be donated to be given to members & friends who are hospitalized. The altar flowers can be dedicated to commemorate a special event, such as birthday or anniversary, or to remember a loved one or simply to honor God. Thank you so much for your dedication to the church and your church family. Flowers are done by Amazing Creations and the cost is \$30 for two flower arrangements.

The 2020 Altar Flower sign up sheet is in the Narthex on the bulletin board.

March 2020

Men's Lunch Bunch 12:pm Tuesdays at the Roadside Restaurant
Computer Circle Tuesdays 1 pm CO
Tone & Stretch with Jane Thursdays 1:30 pm FH

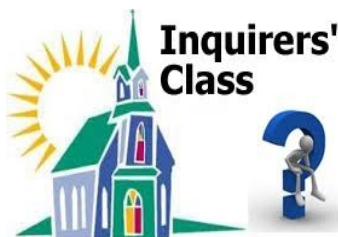
Weekly Room Use Groups
Alanon meets Tue & Thurs 7:30 pm LCR
AA Closed Session Tue 6:30 FH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Hour FH 11:30 am U of L LCR & CCR 1pm Brass 3 pm LOL YR	2 9 am Lois Small Group (closed) LCR Barb F Bible study 10 am SGR 11am –Soul Café Fellowship Hall 7 pm SPR—CO	10 am Aphasia FH 10 am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hook FH 4:30 pm Child Choir FH 7pm Flute	4 10am Bible Study - FH 3pm Joyful Ringers 6 pm Girl Scouts CCR 7pm RR Handbells	5 9am Rug Hookers Workshop- FH 9:30 ML small group (closed session) SGR 7pm– Choir 7	6 9am Rug Hookers Workshop- FH	7 9am Rug Hookers Workshop - FH “ Spring ahead” before bed!
8 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Hour FH 11:30 am U of L LCR & CCR 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL YR	9 Barb F Bible study 10 am SGR 11am –Soul Café Fellowship Hall 3pm SEC Team - LCR 6 pm Worship CO 7pm Trustee's - CO	10 9:30 am Stroke of Hope FH 10 am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hookers 4:30 pm Child Choir FH 7 pm Flute	11 10 am Bible Study FH 3pm Joyful Ringers 7pm RR Handbells	12 9:30 ML small group (closed session) SGR Tone & Stretch 1:30 pm FH Choir 7pm	13	14
15 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Hour FH 11:30 am U of L LCR & CCR 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL YR	16 9 am Lois P Small Group-LCR closed 10 am Barb F Bible study- SGR 11 am –Soul Café Fellowship Hall 6 pm Finance LCR 7 pm Admin LCR	17 10 am Aphasia FH 10 am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 7 pm Flute	18 10 am Bible Study FH 3pm Joyful Ringers 6pm Potluck - FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7pm RR Handbells	19 9:30 ML small group (closed session) SGR Tone & Stretch 1:30 pm FH Choir 7pm	20 10am UMW– FH	21
22 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Hour FH 11:30 am U of L LCR & CCR 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL YR	23 Barb F Bible study 10 am SGR 11 am –Soul Café Fellowship Hall 6 pm worship CO	24 10 am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 4:30 pm Child Choir 5:30 Lunch Bunch Dinner 7 pm Flute	25 10 am Bible Study FH 1pm TS Task Force - CO 3pm Joyful Ringers 7pm RR Handbells	26 9:30 ML small group (closed session) SGR 12pm TS Volunteer Lunch Tone & Stretch 1:30 pm FH 7 pm Choir	27 9am Welcome Table Cooking- FH	28 Day on Campus Florida United Methodist Children's Home
29 10 am Worship After worship Brunch & Balloon Bonanza FH 11:30 am U of L LCR & CCR 3 pm LOL YR	30 9 am Lois P Small Group-LCR closed group 10 am Barb F Bible study - SGR 11 am –Soul Café Fellowship Hall 7 pm P&P CO	31 10 am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hookers FH 4:30 pm Child Choir 7 pm Flute				

Day Trip to Visit Our Florida United Methodist Children's Home, March 28

You've heard about and supported the wonderful ministry that cares for children in crisis, our Children's Home. Saturday, March 28, they will hold a "Day on Campus," where members of congregations can visit the campus and the cottages, and meet some of the young people who are cared for there. We will leave promptly at 7 a.m. and return in the early evening (we probably will stop for dinner on the way back to Sebastian). The Home is near Deltona, about a 2 hour drive. We need you to sign up so we can let the Home know how many to expect (they will serve us a complimentary lunch). We will carpool (if you can drive, contact our Children's Home Rep, Phil Molina at 386-848-9305). If we get a large enough crowd, we could look into renting a small bus. Sign up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall.

- 9:00am, gates will open for tram tours of the Enterprise campus.
- 9:30am, three educational breakout sessions at specified locations across campus. These sessions will share some helpful information based on experiences and trainings at the Children's Home. The subject matter for the three sessions will be: foster care, planned giving, and trauma-informed ministry. **Ask Phil Molina about the class reservation for this.**
- 11:00am, we will gather in the gym or other designated viewing areas for the morning program. This will include presentations and awards, testimonials, as well as music and dance. The program provides an opportunity to celebrate the amazing things that God continues to do through the ministries of the Children's Home.
- At 12:00pm, lunch on grounds.
- At 12:30pm, campus tours resume once again, with many of the cottages also being open for tours.



Three-Week "Inquirers' Class" Each Month

Our Church has developed a three-week "Inquirer's Class" for all those curious and wanting to learn more about the Christian faith, the United Methodist Church, and this congregation. This three-session class will be made available every month on the first, second, and third Sundays of every month, and repeated each month. They will take place during our University of Life hour (11:30 p.m. for 45 minutes) and will take place in the Small Group Classroom (south side of the education building). This class is designed especially for those who are not yet members of our church to help answer questions folks might have as they make a decision about joining SUMC, however, members may also find it helpful. The sessions are as follows:

Session #1: (First Sundays): What It Means to Be a Christian

Session #2 (Second Sundays): What It Means to Be a United Methodist

Session #3 (Third Sundays): What It Means to be a Member of Sebastian UMC

Those not yet members may choose to join on "New Member Sunday," the fourth Sunday of each month (Jan. 26). If you are interested in learning more about your faith, exploring baptism and/or professing your faith and becoming a member of SUMC, either as a full or affiliate (seasonal) member, join us for these session and/or contact Pastor John at 321-794-0010 or johngillumc@bellsouth.net.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour ahead.
Daylight Savings Time begins March 8



Sebastian United Methodist Church
1029 Main Street
Sebastian, Florida 32958

Pastor John Gill
Pastor's cell 321-794-0010
johngillumc@bellsouth.net
Church Office: 772-589-5230
Thrift Shop Direct Line: 772-388-0405
sebastianumc@bellsouth.net

Easter Flowers—Orchids, Lilies, or Tulips

If you would like to purchase lilies, tulips or orchids in memory or in honor of a special person or to the Glory of God, please complete the order form below. When finished, put the form and your payment in a pew envelope and drop it in the collection plate today or bring it to the church office.

The cost per plant is \$10 and Orchids are \$20

Make your check payable to: Sebastian United Methodist Church (SUMC)

Deadline for ordering Orchids—March 16 **Deadline for ordering Tulips and Lilies Sunday March 23**

Given by _____

Phone # _____

Number of Orchids _____ Total _____ x \$20 = _____

Quantity of Lilies _____ Total _____ x \$10 = _____

Quantity of Tulips _____ Total _____ x \$10 = _____

Name: _____ In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Name: _____ In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Name: _____ In honor of _____ In memory of _____

You may take your flowers home after Easter Worship.