



# March 2024



## **Beacon...guiding our walk**

***“But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. “Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.***

James 4:6-10

Happy Lent, SUMC friends and family!

For years now when people have asked me, “What is your favorite High Holy Day?” Of course, Advent, Christmas and Easter each are cherished in my heart and my mind! I anticipate, celebrate and am touched deeply with gratitude in what GOD did for me (and all of us) in the stable and the tomb. Still, that season that moves me deepest to my core is the **Lenten Season**. You see, the Lenten Season gives me, as a Christian and as a preacher, permission (like I really need permission) to look deep inside at why I do what I do! It’s a marvelous time to make some sacrifice of a “thing” or an “action” that has distracted me from my devotion to GOD, or over time, has made me take for granted what GOD did for me in Christ Jesus.

For forty days, the HOLY SPIRIT sent JESUS into the wilderness with not a morsel of food to eat. In that time JESUS feasted on the Word of GOD which prepared HIM for the likes of me (and some worst) in the world. Throughout the year, I long for that preparation and during Lent, I am blessed to have a structure in the Church that welcomes me to sacrifice, contemplate, and respond to GOD through my LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS in preparation for tending to the world (at least my/our world here in our midst).

I pray that in these latter weeks of Lent, leading to Easter on March 31 that if you have not thought much about what matters most in your life, your time and skills, you take personal inventory and spend the next couple of weeks before Resurrection Day thinking about what bogs you down in life, what steals your time, what do you “wish” you would do more of. What do you “wish” you do less of; and, stand firm in Christ’s love, His sacrifice and how He adores you. Will you join me in complaining less about what could be and praising God more for what God has done, is doing, and is about to do!

To assist you in this endeavor, if you choose to practice the Lenten Discipline with me, each Sunday in Lent, I will offer to you a way to live out your faith and grow in relationship with God using a spiritual discipline as a tool (If you missed the first Sundays in Lent, no worries. Start this week or if you are really ambitious, you can check out the services on the website). Take this time to focus on what really matters in your life with JESUS.

Praise be to GOD for the blessing of contemplation and self-examination.

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





### **LENTEN STUDY, Tuesdays, 10:00 am – Check us out!**

*The Life You've Always Wanted* offers modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines. This study is a road map toward true transformation. Practicing spiritual disciplines are neither taskmasters nor ends in themselves; 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 \$4.00 each.



### **LENTEN SCRIPTURES AND WORSHIP through Easter Sunday**

It's Lent! **Join us online or in person on Sunday mornings** as we focus on being stronger, healthier, and more relevant Christians. In Matthew, Jesus challenges us to live life in the *FAST LANE*. *It's true! Check out Matthew 6:16-18. You can only slow down when you Fast (See in this edition, ways you can Fast during Lent). To aide us in growing in Christ during Lent, we will look at Spiritual Disciplines and hear an account each week of how our founder, John Wesley, practiced what he preached. Join us for Worship as we enter Life in the Fast Lane!*



### **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 3**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:7-14; I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22  
SERMON: Life in the Fast Lane: Simplicity – Giving Up for God

### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 10**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:13-16; Romans 12:9-21  
SERMON: Life in the FAST LANE: Servanthood - Giving for Jesus

### **FIVE SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 17**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:1-7; I Peter 1:3-7; John 12:20-33  
SERMON: Life in the FAST LANE: Giving Praise

### **SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 24 - PALM/PASSION SUNDAY!**

Mark 11:1-11 Triumphant Entry; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14 & 15 The Passion  
SERMON: Life in the FAST LANE: GIVING IT ALL TO GOD

### **RESSURECTION DAY! EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 118:1-2; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8  
SERMON: The LAST Thing is not the WORST Thing

## MEMBERSHIP START DATE HAS CHANGED

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:

CHANGED START DATE: Sunday, March 17, 2:00 pm 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](mailto:pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com) or call/text: 786/301-4684.

## Sunday Adult Bible Class Spring Quarter 2024

This spring our Bible lessons follow the theme “Encounters in Prayer and Love”. The first unit with 5 lessons, starting March 3<sup>rd</sup> ending on Easter Sunday, continues our focus on prayer. Our second unit has 8 lessons focusing on the hope flowing from Jesus’ resurrection and coming of the Holy Spirit for peace, reconciliation, and healing.

Our Sunday classes are held in the Large Classroom from 8:45am – 9:30am, and all are welcome. We use the Cokesbury Adult Bible Study quarterly that can be ordered for you. Please let Ben Ashton, the facilitator, know of your interest by texting 772-388-8488. Please come and help us Praise the Lord! Refreshments served!

## Volunteers Needed Now

**Ushers and Greeters** with Mike and Cindy Smith leaving us for Athens, GA this month, we are blessed to have Alta Benjamin and Tom Flanigan as co-head ushers. If you would like to be on the list or have more information, see Tom or Alta or call the church office.

**Thrift Shop** Do you like to sort and price things? Do you like to talk to people? Consider joining the Thrift Shop ministry. For more information see Carol Decker, Teddy Hulse, Pastor Ginger or call the office.

**Tech People** Do you like working with technology? We are seeking volunteers to run our Sunday PowerPoint and Livestream. If interested call the church office.

**Kid’s Time** Time to practice Bible skills, share a Bible story, eat a snack, and have fun. Right before the last worship hymn, children age 5 - 11yrs old will be released to the first classroom for 30-45 minutes. Kid’s Time leaders are Linda Thompson and Pastor Ginger.

Questions or want to volunteer? Contact Pastor Ginger or call the church office.

Note: Parents , please sign your children out with Pastor Ginger.





Christ by the Sea UMC Proudly Presents The Easter Catata

# FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

*a Journey to the Cross and Beyond*

BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN



**Saturday March 30, 2024 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm**  
**Free will offering appreciated**  
**Pastor Alexis will be one of the readers for this event.**

Please join us to experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ set to a full musical production with a mixed choir, full orchestra, liturgical dancers, dramatic scenes, and uplifting narration! Featuring singers and musicians from many colleges in Florida.

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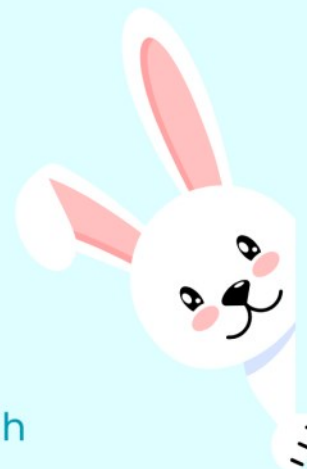
Join us for an

# Easter

EGG HUNT

March 23 10am to Noon

Food - Crafts  
Face Painting - Games



Sebastian United Methodist Church  
1029 Main St

## Revive and Thrive Event, Saturday, April 13, 2024 - 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM at First UMC - Melbourne

When we think about stories, many ideas may pop in our minds. A front porch and rocking chair? A church altar? Maybe even a far-off forsaken place God met you? Regardless of the setting, we probably agree on mutual feelings of trust, sacredness, and vision that stayed with us. Most likely some healing comes in the telling and hearing every time these stories find spoken words.

The power of our stories can be both history and future, they ground and launch. However, in today's busy, text driven, weary days, we often neglect this art of talking story or leave our stories broken without healing and insight. Our district training seeks to reignite the power of healing in our stories.



*Romal Tune, writer, speaker, Gulf war veteran, United Methodist elder and man of great heart will be there to guide us in this powerful experience. This is an invitation to hear and be heard and experience the great power of God's intersection in our lives. We believe this day will be so impacting, we aren't keeping it to ourselves but opening it to all leadership teams and anyone else interested. Register by calling the church office. There is no fee and lunch will be provided. **We can't wait to talk story with you!** Let's ride up together. Leaving church at 8:15 am.*

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Join the Vacation Bible School Team.**  
(scheduling early summer)

**Ways you can help:**

- Pray
- Select materials at the Children's meeting, March 12th.
- Bring supplies (watch for list).
- Volunteer to be a team leader, station leader or team member
- Invite Music Camp and other families.
- Pray some more!







### **Team Up for New Ministries**

**Pray:** About where God is calling you in ministry. Pray, too, for those who are yet to enter our doors and reap the joy of God's blessing!

**Goal:** For the ministries in the spring.

**Why:** Organized areas of ministry remind us that in the Body of Christ, we are many parts of the same body and as we strengthen on part of the Body, the whole Body is strengthened. As Christ is the Head of our Body, He will give us all we need to be fortified in all areas of ministry.

Below, are five areas of ministry that are either new in this season at SUMC or would be stronger with additional folks. Within each area, key people working to ensure that each ministry stays vital, adding to that ministry would only make us a stronger body.

**Discipleship:** Includes small groups, training, events, visioning and spiritual growth

**Hospitality:** The Great ministry we already do: Fellowship Café, Pot Luck, Sunday Greeters. What we could add: a Welcome Center table for guests; follow-up guests ministry team; annual campus curb-appeal inventory.

**Altar/Sanctuary Guild:** Cleaning the brass plates and candles; assist with straightening the pews after worship; sit on the Worship Team (meets approximately every 6 weeks).

**Children's Ministry:** Plan three events annually; 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 the 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.

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 1:30 Manna-Tee Meeting	1 10:00 am—2:00 pm Thrift Shop	2 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
3 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH)	4 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	5 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Woody's 2pm & 6pm Child/Youth Protection	6	7 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	8 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	9 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
10 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH) Birthday	11 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 10 am Soul Café Meeting 7:00 pm Trustee Meeting	12 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Pelican Diner 6:00 pm Child Ministry Meeting	13	14 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  1:30 pm Manna-Tee Covenant	15 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  11:00 Mary's Circle Meeting	16 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  Children's Home Day on Campus  Rug Hookers Event
17 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 am Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café	18 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop 6:00 pm Admin Meeting	19 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Giuseppe's	20 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner	21 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	22 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	23 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  10 am—12 pm Easter Egg Hunt
24 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 Palm Sun- day Worship Kid's Time During Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café	25 10:00am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	26 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Sebastian Roadside	27	28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service  1:30 pm Manna-Tee Covenant	29 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	30
31 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR) 10:00 am Easter Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Café					<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*

Debbi Haines Kier	March 3
Diann Flanigan	March 4
Floyd Standley	March 5
Cathy Duff	March 8
Betty Hays	March 8
Mary Price	March 10
Jeremy Messersmith	March 17
Jimmy Childers	March 18
Edward Johnson	March 19
Linda Orwig	March 20
Kathy Messersmith	March 22
Donna Borchsenius	March 26
Alta Benjamin	March 28

## *Happy Anniversary*

Terry & Melodee Chapin	March 14
Mike & Cindy Smith	March 27
Sally & George Lambert	March 30

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