



# May 2024

## Beacon...guiding our walk



**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. James 1:17-18**

Greetings Church Family and Friends,

As I sit and write, my mind easily shifts to some time away I will be taking this month. My journey begins on May 20th. I will pick up my mom in Jacksonville and we will travel to Gulf Shores, Alabama. It was a summer stomping ground for my mom's cousins (paternal). She never had an opportunity to join them and wants to see the place for herself. Now, I imagine that it's changed some since the '50's but she is sensitive and will appreciate imagining those days even as we make memories of our own. Embedded in that trip will be 3 days "unplugged" (23 – 25). I will almost be like a three day Sabbath. Time to reflect on my time at Sebastian; to think about how God desires for me to better myself; to sleep and rest; and to read...love to read! This gift of days will be rich as I spend it with the Lord and my mother.

Time away also gives perspective on ministry mine to God; mine to you at SUMC and mine to the Sebastian community. As I prepare for this reflection time, I am drawn to a writing I did a decade ago. I share it in the light of traveling away. I share it knowing that however much I desire to be directed by God in my life, I fall short even if I doing a great mission work...*In February 2013 I wrote...I try so hard to be a good Christian...a really good follower of Christ. I want to do all the right things and say all the right things and live a life worthy of the title, "Christian." It is deep in me - to want to live as Christ desires me to live. But honestly, whether I am really, really good or not, I will never measure up to bethe kind of Christians that the Bible standards want me to be. Still, I must try even if I can't be for God what I should. And truth is even with Billy Graham or (Saint now – 2018) Mother Teresa qualities, how could I ever meet God's expectations? And then I heard a word from Bob Kemp (retired now), pastor at Gateway inTexas. This is what he said (are you ready for this...it changes everything)...we are not to work or do or be for God...but we are to work and do and be FROM God!*

You see, we cannot ever do enough for God but think of all we can do, Sebastian, if we willingly receive FROM God and live out of His overflow. Verse 16 of James tells us, *Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of Light*. That's how I want to live...and that is how I want our church to live!! Let's not try to please God, "getting on His good side" and hoping for "kudos" from Him on occasion when it seems we are doing it right. Instead, together, let us receive FROM God and give to others from Him...as He freely gives to us!

Even eleven years later, I find myself pondering my role here at SUMC and SUMC's role in the community. This summer after I return from Alabama and from Annual Conference (June 5-8), I want to role up my sleeves and put to work all that is coming to us FROM God! Watch your bulletin for opportunities to serve as a FIRST IMPRESSION to the community. Watch, too, for how you can help with Chum Buckets and at Wabasso UMC. Consider becoming a part of the Congregational Care Team (see Kathi White) as we continue to reach out in loving ways to those who are homebound. Or participating in Vacation Bible School (See Pastor Ginger or Betty Hays). Or how about Summer Small Group at a café or coffee shop near by (I love Riverview Books and Latte-da)...anyone interested? Let me know. My prayer is that as we gear up to be a blessing this summer to one another and to those in our community! And that together, we find that our source FROM God for all that is good! May we give thanks to God for each other!

I love being your Pastor! See ya' Sunday  
Joy, joy -- Pastor Alexis

## Notes from the Music Minister



Greetings, New Friends!

What great joy it is to see how the Holy Spirit is at work at SUMC and to finally be serving alongside you! Thank you for showing your extravagant hospitality in welcoming me and for your enthusiasm in worship! As our welcoming spirit and hearts for worship spill over into the community more and more, God's Kingdom will grow in Sebastian, FL and beyond.

Please pray for new opportunities to share our love for God and joy in worship with our brothers and sisters in the Sebastian community. Worship is infectious and a significant way to reach others for Jesus. They may not come to us, so we will go to them as Jesus did. He is our example and will lead us as we seek and follow Him!

Here at SUMC look for the Chancel Choir to continue leading us in exuberant worship of our Lord, the Joyful Ringers to inspire us to praise and thanksgiving on Ascension Sunday/Mother's Day, and for the Handbell Choir to invigorate our Pentecost worship celebration! If you're interested in serving in worship or just want to have a conversation, I would love to talk with you.

God is so good, and He is worthy of all our praise! Let's worship Him faithfully!

Please continue to pray for VBS preparations, for our leaders, and for God to inspire volunteers to serve (workers in the field). Let's pray for the children who will come and for their families. Lives are changed when the Holy Spirit works through The Church to spread the love of Jesus!

I'm reminded of what Jesus told the seventy-two when He sent them out ahead of Him, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2 NIV)

May God bless His people and continue to inspire us to Spirit-filled worship and study, faithful fellowship, and loving service in the name of Jesus!

Joy in Christ!

Shannon

Email: [eshannonraines@gmail.com](mailto:eshannonraines@gmail.com)



## **It's Not Too Late to Volunteer**

VBS Volunteer Meeting May 22, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Child Youth Protection Training June 4, 11 am and 6 pm

Call Pastor Ginger or Betty Hays

**Sebastian United Methodist Church VBS 2024**  
**June 17, 2024 — June 22, 2024**  
**Ages 5 to 11**

**Mon 6/17 - 6/21 9:00am to 4:00pm**  
**Sat 6/22 9:00am to 12:00pm**  
**Sunday Celebration June 23 @ 10 am**

**1029 Main St**  
**Sebastian, FL 32958**  
**772-589-5230**  
**sebastianumc.com**



## **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).

JOIN US ON, SUNDAY, MAY 26, TO WELCOME REV. BRIAN CARR, Director of Church Relations, from the RESIDING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME. Pastor Brian will bring us the message: "Ripples of Generosity - Waves of Grace."

Scripture Lesson: Acts 4: 32 - 37.





**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.



## 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.

First meeting is May 15, 2pm—4pm at the Fellowship Hall

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

For more information contact Alta at 772-713-3571 or [grievingconnections@gmail.com](mailto:grievingconnections@gmail.com)

## Mary's Circle

We will be going to lunch for our May Meeting on May 16th 11:30 am at Las Palmas. Please let Mary know by if you are planning to attend so she can let the restaurant know. Mary's phone is 518-265-2769, and email [burmaster8@aol.com](mailto:burmaster8@aol.com). Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

The speaker for the April meeting was Terry Meyer, from CareNet, she was very informative, at some point in the fall we will go tour the facility and we are planning on having a baby shower at one of our meetings to help out with the mom's that need assistance!!!

September 20th is our next meeting , we will begin to plan our "TIS THE SEASON" ANNUAL EVENT!!



**May 6th is National  
Nursing Day. Thanks to all  
of our registered nurses  
for the work they do.**

**From Inez Fielding  
nurse since 1960**





AN EXCERPT RESPONSE to the 2024 GENERAL CONFERENCE by Rev. John Gill to his congregation: Tomoka UMC:

Friends, as you may know, the General Conference of our United Methodist Church has just completed their two-week session, and by all accounts, it was an amazing and joyous gathering! The Holy Spirit moved throughout the process, and a new sense of unity and purpose emerged. After fifty years of bickering which has led to an exodus of the more fundamentalist congregations, we have finally turned a corner toward a more harmonious and joyful future.

During all those years of division, pastors have stood behind the table for Holy Communion and declared that ours is an “open table” where all are welcome as part of the Family of God. This is one of the reasons we all love the United Methodist Church – that we extend the love and grace to ALL, no matter what. Unfortunately, while our rhetoric was noble and correct, the reality in the Book of Discipline and in the practice of ministry in many congregations (including to some extent here at Tomoka) said otherwise. While we claimed to be a church where all are created in the image of God, we have by our prejudices and actions, denied equal status to ALL.

This has been a sin on behalf of our denomination, and the source of an un-godly divisive spirit in our churches. It has led us to a schism, dividing God’s people into two camps and now two denominations – a result that certainly grieves Christ, whose most ardent prayer is that all his followers might be one, just as He and the Father are one. Sadly, this brokenness cannot be undone.

Now it is time to turn the page, to repent of our sins of prejudice against a whole class of our sisters and brothers, to ask for forgiveness for how we have failed to live-out Christ’s command to love one another, above all else. I ask you to join me in repenting the harm we have done to our sisters and brothers who may love differently than most of us.

That is why these past two weeks have been such a blessing! By the actions our General Conference has taken to right the wrongs of the past fifty years, the UMC is poised to embark on a fresh new future where all are valued, all are loved, and all are included – – not only at the Table of Christ, but as fully equal members within the Body of Christ.

Therefore, this is a day of celebration. A day of resurrection. God is doing a new thing among us – if we will let Him

**FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 6-8, 2024 LAKE LAND, FL**

**MORE INFO [FLUMC.ORG/ANNUAL-CONFERENCE-2024](https://flumc.org/annual-conferenc-2024)**



**COME,  
HOLY  
SPIRIT,  
COME.**

FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE • JUNE 6-8, 2024 • LAKE LAND, FL

## **NEW MINISTRY START UP TEAMS AT SUMC:**

**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 Date**

To be up and running by February 2025.

### **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 at SUMC or would be stronger with additional folks working alongside those key leaders who have made a commitment to the ministry area –

**Discipleship:** includes small groups, training, visioning and spiritual growth

**Hospitality:** Let's add to the great ministry we already do: *Fellowship Café, Potluck, Sunday Greeters. Potentially, we could add: a Welcome Center table for guests; a follow-up of guests ministry; annual campus curb-appeal inventory.*

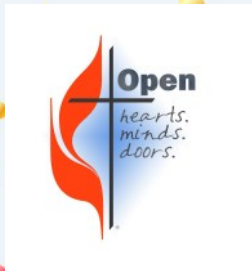
**Altar/Sanctuary Guild:** Cleaning the brass plates and candles; assist Cathy with straightening the pews after worship; sitting on the Worship Team (meets every 6 weeks).

**Children's Ministry:** Join the team to plan three 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

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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>			1 3:00 pm Joyful Ringers  7:00 pm Bell Choir	2 2:30 PM Bible Journaling (CO)  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	4 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
5 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR)  10:00am Worship Kid's Time During Worship  11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH)	6 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	7 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR)  12pm UMM Woody's	8 3:00 pm Joyful Ringers  7:00 pm Bell Choir	9 1:30 Manna-Tee Covenant  2:30 PM Bible Journaling (CO)  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	11 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
12 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR)  10:00 am Worship Kid's Time During Worship  11:15 am Fellowship Café (FH) Birthday	13 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  7:00 pm Trustee Meeting	14 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR)  11:30 Staff Meeting 12pm UMM Pelican Diner	15 2:00 pm Grieving Connections  7:00 pm Bell Choir	16 11:30 Mary's Circle Meeting @  2:30 PM Bible Journaling  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	18 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
19 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR)  10:00 Worship Kid's Time During Worship  11:15 am Fellowship Café	20 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop  6 pm Admin Meeting	21 12pm UMM Giuseppe	22 2:00 pm Grieving Connections  6 pm VBS Meeting	23 1:30 Manna-Tee Covenant  2:30 PM Bible Journaling (CO)  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	25 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop
26 8:45 am Adult Bible Study (LCR)  10:00am Worship Kid's Time During Worship  11:15 am Fellowship Café	27 10:00 am— 2:00 pm Thrift Shop	28 12pm UMM Sebastian Roadside	29 2:00 pm <i>Grieving Connections</i>	30 2:30 PM Bible Journaling (CO)  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	31	



Sebastian United Methodist Church  
1029 Main Street  
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Rev. C. Alexis Talbott  
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## *Happy Birthday*

Muriel Douglas	May 4
Melodee Chapin	May 5
Donna Bevington	May 9
Pastor Alexis	May 10
Sherry Hunter	May 11
Alan Hulse	May 12
Justine Dandrea	May 19
Sharon Krueger	May 23
Harold Banta	May 28
Bruce Judah	May 30

## *Happy Anniversary*

Mark & Sue Hulsbeck	May 1
Brad & Janice Marx	May 2
Ed & Yvonne Oleksy	May 2
Lee & Marlene Kalsch	May 9
Bob & Betty Stull	May 22
Ron & Barbara Farrington	May 30
John & Sharon Krueger	May 31

*Missing your birthday or anniversary?*

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

