



November 2023

Beacon...guiding our walk



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.

Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving –Colossians 4:2

Greetings Sebastian Family and Friends,

Thanksgiving is coming! Here's a joke:

If April Showers Bring May Flowers, What Do May Flowers Bring

... Pilgrims! (I know, keep my day job!)

Seriously though, when I think of Thanksgiving, I think of coming together as family and friends for a time of true gratitude. What a celebration. Reflect on all that has come to us as a congregation: Spirit-Filled Worship and Study; tireless Volunteers making a difference; Leadership that continues to grow spiritually mature; an Outreach to our food insecure, those without shelter, care for our elderly and homebound; the desire to grow a Children's ministry, an amazing Music Ministry and a true love for each other and others. This is who we are Sebastian UMC. God is speaking and, I say with humble confidence, we are listening!

Still, the deepest meaning of Thanksgiving is not so much thanking God for the bounty our lives. It is learning to share our lives, grateful for the gift of each other, and blessing God because God is faithful.

In this season of celebrating the saints and our Veterans, we will have the opportunity to invite others to our Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas events. Sunday's will be dedicated to how we as a congregation, can **"EACH ONE, REACH ONE."**

Will you begin to pray right now for the LORD to lead you to someone who is at their "wits end," or afraid or lonely; so that **Each One** of us can **Reach** out to just **One** who needs a loving community of faith. Will you

pray that God will use you to bring them hope and show them purpose through the missions and ministries of Sebastian Church? In the meantime, let us remember to cultivate a grateful heart and be open to where God is leading us in order to help the world see the love of Jesus!

May we observe this Thanksgiving celebration with open, loving, and grateful hearts, and may we offer a prayer for our community at Sebastian and for **Each One to Reach One**.

Happy Thanksgiving my friends. With more love than you know...

Joy, Joy, Pastor Alexis

Just a note from Megan Mash



*Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.*

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away...[and] let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Matthew 13:24b-25, 30

Music Ministers do a disservice to their congregations by planning traditional holiday hymns only on their "specified" holiday. The hymn becomes so closely connected with one theme that we all forget to dive deeper into the text. "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is one of these texts. On the surface it is hymn for Thanksgiving and harvest. Upon deeper digging we find that the text is based upon Jesus's Parable of the Weeds. The hymn was written by Henry Alford and published in his collection *Psalms and Hymns Adapted to the Sundays and Holydays* in 1844. He published it under the heading "After Harvest." This simple heading provides insight about the text. Alford clearly wanted this text to be about more than just Thanksgiving. He is using harvest as a metaphor for the final future harvest.

This is where we see the use of the Parable of the Weeds. In this parable Jesus tells about a farmer who planted seeds but during the night the enemy came and planted weeds among the good seed. The farmer knew that both must grow together and to only separate them at the harvest or else both would be destroyed. Jesus later explains that the Son of Man sows the good seeds that are the children of the kingdom, and the devil sowed the weeds, or children of the evil one. The angels are the reapers who separate the "crop" from the weeds.

Upon reading the hymn text one can easily begin to see how this parable is used. The first stanza could easily be the final stanza of a hymn. Using it as the first sets the tone for what is to come. "Come, ye thankful people, come, / raise the song of harvest home; / all is safely gathered in, / ere the winter storms begin." This tells us that we are to be thankful that God will gather the faithful and protect them. The second stanza introduces the idea that joy and sorrow are grown together. They are both equally an important part of our life journey. It ends by asking for God to help us live how we are called to live; "Lord of harvest, grant that we / wholesome grain and pure may be." The third stanza most obviously uses the Parable of the Weeds. It tells of the angels separating the crop and "the fruitful ears to store / in the garner evermore." The final stanza begins with a plea that is common for Jesus's second advent. "Even so, Lord, quickly come, / bring thy final harvest home." Since Jesus's first disciples, people have been pleading for Jesus to return quickly! The final stanza then goes on to tell us why this is. The place we are going to is one that is free of sin and sorrow, a place where we will all be purified and able to abide in God's presence for all eternity. Who wouldn't want to be in this place sooner rather than later? We must remain faithful until this day comes, committed to doing the work God has called us to. God will be faithful; we must be patient.

"The Son of Man **will** send his angels, and they **will** collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they **will** throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!" Matthew 13: 41-43

As we enter a season of Thanksgiving, let us be reminded of all God continues to provide for us. Let us also be thankful God's promises to never leave us and the hope of eternal life. I pray this hymn will also help us transition into the Advent season, a season of hope and anticipation of God's graciousness and love through the best gift, Jesus Christ.

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

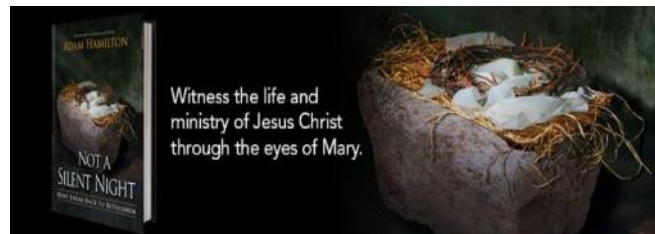
God Provides – Fall Adult Bible Studies, by Gregory Weeks. Facilitator, Ben Ashton – Large Classroom

This study reminds us of the ways God meets our needs and of God's call to us to help those who lack life's essentials of food, water, and shelter.

TUESDAY PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY, 10:00 am. Hybrid Class - Prior to Thanksgiving...

Join us on Tuesdays as we continue in the study: The Prodigal God, Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith
Following this study, we will spend two weeks studying: The doctrine of Predestination and the Nature of Wrath (should be fun! – you don't want to miss it...think of the conversations you will be able to have).

COMING UP IN ADVENT:



Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem

Beginning, Tuesday, November 28, 10 am in the large classroom

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point-of-view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

Book: \$12. Plus tax - ORDER ON AMAZON OR THROUGH COKESBURY or Call the Church office and we will order for you.

Zoom the Class: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82516721262?pwd=Q21HbzIxZElObU5QMVBHMHMnBtU2gzQT09>
Meeting ID: 825 1672 1262 Passcode: 1029

WORSHIP AND SERMONS FOR NOVEMBER:

ALL SAINTS DAY (23 AFTER PENTECOST), NOVEMBER 5 – HOLY COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON: *Each One, Reach One: How to be a Saint*

VETERAN'S DAY (24 AFTER PENTECOST), NOVEMBER 12

Commemorating and honoring our Veterans

TWENTY-FIFTH AFTER PENTECOST, THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103:1-12; Colossians 3:12-17; John 1:43-51

SERMON: *Each One, Reach One: Deeds of a Grateful Disciple*



ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 21 st, St. Sebastian's Catholic Church, 7 pm. Join Pastor Alexis and Megan and members of SUMC with Clergy and other congregations throughout the greater Sebastian Area to bring thanks to God!

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 95:1-7; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON: *Each One, Reach One: Shepard of the Saints*

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



October Meeting

Mary's Circle met October 20, 2023. We sponsored a FASHION SHOW (items from our church thrift shop- MAIN STREET BOUTIQUE). It was a fun time--we had over 25 models (ladies and gents) Cindy wrote elaborate descriptions of our clothing and vintage items --Joyce was a GREAT MC.

We had two tables of delicious hors d'oeuvres and one full table of desserts.

Also, lots of folks realized they can buy a beautiful outfit for \$10 or less. (shoes -purses -scarfs and unique jewelry) I bought several outfits Betty Stull made sure we all had hats -jewelry and other accessories. Barb Smith read the history of the thrift shop (written by the church historian -Teddy Hulse) It was very informative.

THANKS to everyone who helped in so many ways.

So, if you haven't shopped at the thrift shop--CHECK IT OUT. And just in case you are wondering, ALL the money goes toward the church budget. Many items are given to those in need and the thrift shop has free medical equipment.

Shopping at the thrift shop is a WIN WIN you get super buys -the budget says thank you.

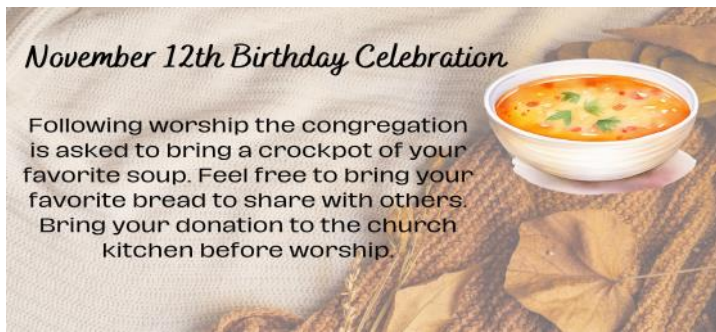
Mary's Circle hosted the fellowship cafe on Sunday October 22nd. A BIG THANK YOU for the folks who brought all the delicious food .

'Tis The Season Bakery and Bazaar

Mark your calendar, December 9th, 'Tis the Season Bakery and Bazaar. Wonderful homemade cakes, pies, cookies, and candies will be available. Lunch items will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go back into our community to support those in need. If you know of anyone that would like a space contact Ann McCullough 336-408-8437.

*With LOVE and Laughter,
Ann McCullough*





It's time to grow again.

As we continue to grow in Spiritual Maturity and Leadership here at Sebastian, your Administrative Board is calling us to focus on prayer in two areas of ministry listed in our Mission Statement. The call is to intentionally pray to expand and enhance these areas over the next 18 months: ***Spirit-Filled Study and Faithful Fellowship.*** Please let Teddy Hulse, Admin. Chairperson, or Pastor Alexis know if you are sensing a call to work in or lead one of these areas (we are grateful for those who teach and those who provide for Fellowship Café and Potluck, already). If you would like to serve in any of these areas, please call the church office and we will connect you with those chairpersons.

Spirit-Filled Study (Discipleship)

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Spirit-Filled Study is Discipleship...becoming more spiritually mature. Every person who has a relationship within the body of Christ has the opportunity to be a growing disciple of Jesus Christ. From a biblical scholar to the uninformed searcher, we are all somewhere on the journey of faith whose destination is eternity. This journey doesn't just happen; it takes a level of intentionality, organization, and commitment. This ongoing process enables people to grow in forgiving and serving others, in living a God-honoring lifestyle, in walking with God through difficult times, in having Godly balance in their lives. *Spirit-Filled Study includes Small or Covenant Groups; Bible Studies; off or on campus seminars; Lay Servant classes; District trainings and more; Church-wide planning, goal setting, Sunday School.*

Faithful Fellowship (Hospitality and Outreach)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

Jesus, gladly welcomed children, tax collectors, lepers, prostitutes, and all sorts of sinners into His fellowship. As followers of Jesus, we are able to offer Faithful Fellowship by our desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are among us and those who are strangers, so that they find a spiritual home with us and the blessing of relationship with and through Jesus Christ. This is Koinonia, real love for and desire to share with others. *Faithful Fellowship includes Fellowship Café, Potluck Suppers, and other ways of connecting with each other and the community, the Nurture Team and the New Membership Classes, Trunk or Treat, Spring event.*



The Sebastian Area Historical Society

The Sebastian Area Historical Society cordially invites you to join us at the unveiling of the Park Family Cemetery Historic Marker in the Sebastian Municipal Cemetery. This celebration will take place at the Sebastian Cemetery at 1921 North Central Avenue, Sebastian on Friday, November 17th at 2 PM. After the unveiling, a reception will immediately follow at the Sebastian Area Historical Museum at 1235 Main Street, Sebastian. Please come and join with the Park Family and the Historical Society as we celebrate this historic moment. If you have any questions, please call 772-581-1380



Thanksgiving Dinner

Bud and Ginger are offering others with no family to share Thanksgiving with them. They also are here with no family to share this great day.

Looking Ahead:

TREE DECORATING AT PASTOR ALEXIS' HOME, Sunday, December 3.

Stop by the parsonage on Sunday afternoon anytime from 2 pm – 4 pm (come early, stay late). She will have a few goodies to munch on.

***Don't want to decorate.** Come anyway and just sit and visit. It's always a blessing for her and Joanne to have you come to your parsonage.*



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE TEAM!!!

The Stewardship Team has met twice. We are excited about creating a campaign to remind us, as a congregation, how we IMPACT others and that generosity is good for us. Jump on board. We would love to get you up to speed and to have you contribute your ideas!

NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 5:30 PM



STEWARDSHIP NOW...HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Time/Talent: Pick up our ministry descriptions on the table in the Sanctuary or in the office. Join in on one or two of the 20 ministry opportunities at SUMC. There is a place for you.


Treasures: It's **NEVER** too late to turn in your Commitment Card. Let's give together to reach our others in the name of Jesus.

Stir the goodness of God by contributing your time, talent, treasures to God's ministry at Sebastian...

Growing in Generosity. Rooted in Faith



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:00 pm— Joyful Ringers (S) 7:00 pm Handbells (S) All Saints Day	2 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Adult Choir (S)	3 10:00 am— 2 :00 pm Thrift Shop	4 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop Turn Back Clocks
5 Adult Bible Study 8:45am (LCR) 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH) 1:00pm Brass (S) Time Change	6 10:00am—2:00 pm Thrift Shop 10:00 am Small Group (LCR) 10:00 am SPRC Meeting (CO)	7 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Woody's	8 3:00pm— Joyful Ringers (S) 5:30 pm Stewardship Meeting (CO) 7:00pm— Handbells (S)	9 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 1:30 pm Worship Meeting (CO) 7:00pm Adult Choir (S)	10 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop	11 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop
12 Adult Bible Study 8:45am (LCR) 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH) 1:00pm Brass	13 10 :00am—2:00 pm Thrift Shop 10:00am Small Group (LCR) 7:00pm Trustee Meeting (CO)	14 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Pelican Diner	15 3:00pm— Joyful Ringers (S) 5:30pm— Potluck Dinner (FH) 7:00pm— Handbells (S)	16 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Adult Choir (S)	17 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 11:30am Mary's Circle Meeting (FH)	18 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop
19 Adult Bible Study 8:45am (LCR) 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH) 1:00pm Brass	20 10:00am—2:00 pm Thrift Shop 10:00am Small Group (LCR) Admin Meeting	21 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Riverwalk	22	23 Thanksgiving 	24 10:00 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop	25 10:00 am—2pm Thrift Shop
26 Adult Bible Study 8:45am (LCR) 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Café (FH) 1:00pm Brass	27 10:00am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 10:00am Small Group (LCR)	28 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12pm UMM Manny's	29 3:00pm— Joyful Ringers (S) 7:00pm— Handbells (S)	30 1000 am— 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Adult Choir (S)	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

Sally Lambert	November 2
Lee Kalsch	November 5
Dennis Marr	November 14
Linda Ballard	November 15
John Hollifield	November 21
Virgil Cypher	November 23
Roby Blevins	November 24
Barb Kipp	November 24
Andrea Gilbert	November 26

"Let them give thanks to the Lord
for his unfailing love and his
wonderful deeds for mankind, for
he satisfies the thirsty and fills the
hungry with good things."

Psalm 107:8-9



Happy Anniversary

Paul & Kathy Thomas	November 10	43 years
Joe & Lois Planeta	November 27	52 years

Missing your birthday or anniversary?

Call the Church Office to help us update your records!