



Beacon

... guiding our walk

April 2022



Greetings Church,

It's just over a month now since I've been with you, and I find that I pinch myself on occasion to see if it's true that God has called me to such a special place! A friend of many years told me, when she came to visit on a Sunday morning last month, that it was like walking into a High School class reunion, "Everyone was so happy to see each other!" SUMC friends, I must admit, I have never heard that said of a congregation that I have served. As I get to know each of you more and more, I am blessed. Please be sure to email or text me so I can come for a visit, or we can go and break bread together! (pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com - 786/301-4684).

As I shared my weekly schedule rhythm in last month's Beacon, I said that I would tell you more about what my Sabbath means to me. Just as most of you, I have always recognized the Sabbath as Sunday, the day we honor the Lord by keeping it holy and resting (Exodus 20:8/Deuteronomy 5:15). After Seminary resting on Sunday changed dramatically for me as a local church pastor. And it wasn't long that I realized that my Sabbath needed to be another day. Though I took a day off most weeks; it took me 20 years (slow learner) and the wisdom of an emergency department doctor (No, I wasn't rushed to the emergency department; he just told his story) to recognize what Sabbath was meant to be.

Dr. Matthew Sleeth, an emergency department physician and author of *24/6: A Prescription for a Healthier, Happier Life*, had a slow night at work. He looked for something to read and all he could find was a Bible, which he had never read, in the waiting room. As he began to read, his mind opened to God. And he had more questions than answers (which is always good). Over time and with good counsel, Matthew began to realize the values that he had not paid much attention to. One of those values was Sabbath rest. When I heard him lecture about Sabbath rest, my mother and father were living with me. Dad had dementia and was declining. The idea of Sabbath had all but left my heart. Matthew gently but firmly reminded me and 150 other clergy that rest was essential to the "good work" of building God's Kingdom. I went home and made some adjustments to my schedule and made Friday my Sabbath day. I had no idea that I could take so much quiet time at once! This was just one more time to learned that God's time was not my time. God will stretch minutes when we want time with Him.

Friday has become the day that I unplug from my computer and my phone. The day that I sit and walk and read and imagine and breathe differently. Oh, on occasion, I may be interrupted, and I am thrilled to share my Sabbath on occasion with SUMC when there is an event or crisis. As I am settling in at Sebastian, I am finding ways to expand my Sabbath, finding trails to walk and solace on the parsonage patio and dirt in my hands as I flower the planter in the front of the house. Time with God is necessary!

Sabbath is good. It gives us time to for deep breaths, to sit back and take inventory, to muse about days to come. Sabbath does not have to be a whole day. It can be a morning or an hour. For some

of you, your Sabbath is preparing for your small group and Bible study and your group time together at SUMC. Small group is a great way to live out Sabbath. Meeting with the six small group/covenant leaders in March, we did a count. Over 40 of our members and friends of Sebastian Church attend a small group of some kind. That is 38% of our regular Sunday attendees and members. I was pleasantly surprised and delighted. Life together honoring our Holy God will only make a congregation richer in spirit and more relevant to a world who needs Jesus and His Church. Take personal time with God each week or join a small group. What SACRED TIME! What a Sabbath!

As we are in our last weeks of Lent, with Holy week just around the corner, consider how you create a space for the Holy One to speak with you. Consider being part of a Small Group or Bible study. Consider how God is calling you to live more deeply in Him.

With growing love for you all...See ya' Sunday!

Joy, Joy Pastor Alexis

Adult Bible Class Spring Quarter

Our Adult Bible Class lessons this Spring quarter center around the theme "to Follow". In Unit 1, titled "The Mark You Make", covering the period of Lent from March 6 to April 17, emphasis is placed on the spiritual practice of self-examination. In these seven weeks commemorating Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem, the nature of human discipleship is examined through the eyes of the Gospel of Mark. We begin with a lesson that points to Jesus' true identity, followed by ones that recognize fellow disciples, understand Kingdom values, deepen our relationship between faith and prayer, watch for signs of new creation breaking through, and receive His forgiveness when we as disciples falter. We conclude with a celebration of Jesus' resurrection based on Mark's account of the empty tomb.

In Unit 2, titled "The Steps You Take", covering the period April 24 to May 29, emphasis is placed on the spiritual practice of creation care. In these six weeks we examine God's desire for creation stewardship as given in the books of Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Job, Joel, Romans and 2 Corinthians. Scripture makes clear that God takes pleasure in His creation and that humankind has an important role to play as responsible stewards. The lessons emphasize the beauty of God's creation, why all of God's creation needs sabbath, tithing as enabling stewardship of God's creation, the limits of our understanding of the complexities of creation, the anticipation of God's restoration of creation, and modeling God's generosity by paying it forward.

All are welcome. Please come and join us online. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic protocols, this open group is currently offered only over Zoom. We meet every Wednesday between 10AM-11AM. The Zoom meeting ID: **873 8351 6949**, Password: **Christ1st**. If you need help setting up Zoom, please do not hesitate to call me, Ben Ashton, or text me at 772-388-8488.

Our class uses the Adult Bible Studies Guide published quarterly by Cokesbury. Because this guide is edited and written by Methodist clergy, it provides a unique Methodist perspective to the study and understanding of the Bible and the Wesleyan evangelical principles. A small number of copies are still available. At this time in order to help defray study materials costs, a \$15 donation to the church is suggested.



Just a note from Megan Mash

*Go to dark Gethsemane,
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.*

James Montgomery (1771—1854) was inspired to write “Go to dark Gethsemane” because of worship experiences he had while attending Moravian Holy Week services. The meditative nature of these services combined scripture and music in a way that deeply impressed him. His intention was for this hymn to be used during Holy Week. It was first published in *Selection of Psalms and Hymns* in 1820 under the original title “The last sufferings of Christ.” Unlike many other Holy Week hymns, Montgomery leaves us with hope by closing the hymn on Easter morning instead of Friday evening.

Montgomery places the singer in the middle of the action. “Go to dark Gethsemane” calls the singer to action, not to be just a passive observer. Go to this place because something important is about to happen here. See the conflict and watch as he prays, and “Turn not from his griefs away.” Each year as we recount the passion events, we feel our soul tugging us towards the ease and joy of Easter. Grief and pain are not things we enjoy experiencing but experience them we must. We must continue with Jesus to the judgment hall (stanza 2). We must witness again the suffering of the beatings Jesus experienced. Montgomery again calls us to be vigilant and “Shun not suffering, shame, or loss.” We cannot go from the “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday to the resurrection joy of Easter without first journeying to the cross and witnessing all its horror and shame. In the third stanza, Montgomery takes the singer to the foot of the cross. This stanza is not as detailed as the other two. Upon arrival at the cross we are called to hear Christ exclaim, “It is finished!” Montgomery then ushers us to the tomb. He writes “Early hasten to the tomb / where they laid his breathless clay.” We are urged to go with haste to the tomb because we know what we will see. “Christ is risen! He meets our eyes; / Savior, teach us so to rise.”

Along this journey Christ has taught us how to pray, live, and die. Now we have arrived at the final stage, to rise. Let this guide our life through the end of this Lenten season and into Eastertide. Christ died so we too may rise. We are called to rise through the struggles in our lives, to help those in our community, and to speak out against injustices we witness. We are called to rise above ourselves with the power Christ has given us to bring the Kingdom here and now, not just something lightyears away. We are called to rise above hate and violence to encourage and create a world of love and peace. This is my prayer for all of us. That we may rise with Christ to be the creatures God intended for us to be.

MAIN STREET THRIFT SHOP & BOUTIQUE IN THE BAYS

It is working!

Thanks to all the hard work our volunteers have done to make our customers exclaim “so clean” “easy to find things” “love the displays” “best thrift shop in town”! And we are not finished yet!

The “Book Nook” will be getting a fresh paint job, a more comfortable chair and a hanging light to add to the ambiance. The note cards and other stationary items will also be displayed enhancing the “book shop” effect.

The front desk has been rearranged. This allows our desk workers a complete view of the front area with no one shopping behind their backs.

We have some beautiful Lenox Prince and Princesses figurines if you have granddaughters in need of a unique gift. The Lenox Enchanted Carriage music box is also on display and for sale.

As we move into warmer weather, the summery clothing will appear on our racks. Check us out, men’s and women’s clothing is half price on Friday’s. Add a belt, pocketbook or scarf for a summery look at a reasonable price.

The Main Street Thrift Shop continues to help persons in need of clothing or household goods. We have outfitted persons for job interviews and found suitable clothing for them to return to work.

The emergency food items that were donated have almost been completely sold with just a few cans left.

Free winter clothing box and children’s clothing box is located outside and available for any who needs them and we continue to support Wabasso Haitian Church with clothing items.

Farewell to Dave Devore who moved back north. We miss his cheerful smile and strong arms!

As our snowbirds and volunteers start to go north on vacation or to be with family, please consider spending a few hours helping out at the Thrift Shop. See Ginger Horner or Sharon Johnson to be put on the schedule. There will be desk positions, receiving room and garage help needed. There is a place for you!

Peace to all

And Happy Easter

Sharon Johnson
Thrift Shop Coordinator

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, that means we don't have that information in our records.
Just call the church office to add yours.*

Happy Birthday

Jeane Blevins	April 6
Carol Decker	April 8
Alan Shepper	April 9
Mike MCGilberry	April 14
Jane Hino	April 15
Ron Farrington	April 16
Mary Schulze	April 17
Faith McCreary	April 18
Mark Hulsbeck	April 19
Teddy Hulse	April 21
Marlene Kalsch	April 21



Sebastian United Methodist Men

aka

The Lunch Bunch

Tuesdays at NOON

Sebastian's Roadside Restaurant
10795 US Highway 1, Sebastian

John Krueger, President

Ben Ashton, Treasurer

All Men Welcome, bring a friend

Happy Anniversary

Bud & Ginger Horner	April 1
Alan & Teddy Hulse	April 6
Dave & Nancy Barry	April 10

New Small Group

Thursdays at 1:30 pm in the large class room.

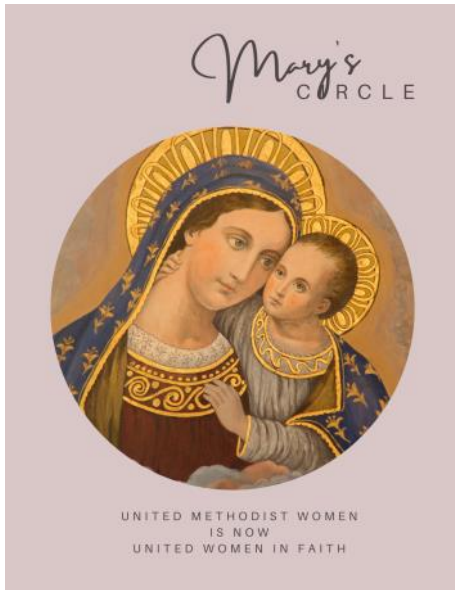
Jane Hino and Donna Osborne are the facilitators of this new group .

The group will be studying Adam Hamilton's "Why?: Making Sense of God's Will".

Book Overview

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike? When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation? In Why?, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including: God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him. God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering. While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.

See you Thursdays



MARY'S CIRCLE IS IN FULL BLOOM!

We have several new members and lots of activities on our calendars.

First-A BIG THANK YOU to all of you-our church family for your GENEROUS support of our LASAGNE DINNER on March 11th. It was a huge success--which enables us to support our missions.

One of our Missions is "CHUM BUCKETS" - a year-round food program at Sebastian River High School. This is not a school program --it is a program run by volunteers (the school provides a room ,but is not directly involved).

At the moment there are 67 families signed up to receive food. ALL the food is donated. Volunteers pack 67 boxes every week and deliver the boxes directly to the homes.

Mary's Circle is taking a check to CHUM BUCKETS on Wednesday March 30th. We will help pack boxes and get a tour.

Another of our missions is HIBISCUS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE in Vero Beach. We gave them a check and will be taking a tour on Wednesday April 13th.

We also sent checks to: Asian Rural Institute --the MCCurleys are missionaries there and two years ago Donna Borschenius and Connie Finnin went to Japan and worked on the farm.

Mary's Circle has sent a check in support of UMCOR/Ukraine Response.

Our next meeting is Friday April 8th -11:a.m. Pastor Alexis is hosting us at the parsonage. She is having a luncheon as well as a program!! THANK YOU SO MUCH Pastor Alexis.

This is our last meeting until September and May is our annual Spring Luncheon --details will be in May Beacon.

All women are invited to be a part of Mary's Circle--you do not have to be a Methodist or a member of a church.

Enjoy this MARVELOUS weather -GOD is giving us so much beauty to see --birds to hear-and fragrances to smell.

HAPPINESS

Ann
Sharon



April 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Thrive
3 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	4 10 am Bible Study LCR 10-1pm Soul Café FH 2 pm SPRC LCR 3 pm Worship Committee CO	5 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Roadside Restau- rant 12 pm Rug Hook- ers FH	6 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO 7 pm Handbells	7 1:30 Small Group LCR 7 pm Choir	8 11 am Mary's Circle Special Day at the Parsonage	9
10 Palm Sunday Cantata 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	11 10 am Bible Study LCR 10-1 Soul Café FH 2 pm Small Group FH	12 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Roadside Restau- rant 12 pm Rug Hook- ers FH	13 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO 7 pm Handbells	14 1:30 Small Group LCR 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service S	15 Thrift Shop Closed 7 pm Good Friday Service S	16
17 Easter Sunday 10 am Worship	18 10 am Bible Study LCR 10-1 Soul Café FH 6 pm Finance 6:30 pm Admin	19 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Roadside Restau- rant 12 pm Rug Hook- ers FH	20 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO	21 1:30 Small Group LCR	22	23
24 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Café FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	25 10 am Bible Study LCR 10-1 Soul Café FH 2 pm Small Group FH	26 10 am Pastor's Bible Study FH 12 pm UMM Roadside Restau- rant 12 pm Rug Hook- ers FH	27 10 am Adult Bible Study ZOOM 1 pm Computer Circle CO	28 1:30 Small Group LCR	29	30



Open

*hearts.
minds.
doors.*

Sebastian United Methodist Church
1029 Main Street
Sebastian, FL 32958

Rev. Alexis Talbott
pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com

Holy Week

April 10 – Palm Sunday Cantata 10 am
April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
April 15 – Good Friday Service 7 pm
April 17 – Easter Worship 10 am

