



... guiding our walk

“A Word from Pastor John”

If you were in worship on February 2nd, you know that the entire month of February, we will be focusing on stewardship. In one of the dictionaries I use, the first definition of the word is “One who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs.” Of course, in the context of our faith, the “Another” whose property we are “managing” is God himself. As “stewards” of God’s resources, you and I have an obligation to be “good stewards.” This, of course, refers to finances - but more than that, it involves every aspect of our lives. God wants “our whole self in” - as we sang this past Sunday as we did “The Hokey Pokey.” Are you “all in” for God?

On Sunday, the Chair of our Finance Committee, Diann Flanigan, shared a “Stewardship Moment” in worship, praising the fact that, over the past few years, our church’s financial stewardship has gotten stronger each year. We are moving in a positive direction. However, she also shared that we have a way to go to ensure that we are fiscally sound.

Many people were shocked to learn that our congregation has not had enough income to cover our expenses for a good number of years. Even with the outstanding efforts of our Thrift Shop that funds nearly a third of our \$326,000 budget, PLUS the money the congregation gives on Sunday mornings—in 2019 we were forced to transfer \$30,000 from our reserves to pay our bills. This is less than in previous years, but still not acceptable. Thank goodness we have reserves, but obviously we can’t continue to dip into savings indefinitely.

This is why we are making such a major focus on Stewardship this year. We need to increase the level of giving of our congregation by at least \$10,000

each year, for the next three years to cover this deficit (going from our 2019 giving level of \$170,000 to an annual level of at least \$200,000 by end of \$2023). To do that will require that WE ALL increase the level of our own giving to the General Ministry Fund of our church!

We are asking each of our members and friends to “step up” our level of giving so we can reach our goal of financial solvency as quickly as possible.

If you are on our mailing list, you will soon receive a couple of mailings with more information. You will also receive your own “Estimate of Giving” card on which you are asked to indicate what you intend to give over the next 12 months. On February 23, you are asked to bring your card to worship, so that it can be consecrated on the altar. You may also mail it back to, or deliver it to the Church Office.

When everyone does their part, we will easily accomplish our goal, so that our congregation can flourish in ministry for years to come! Thank you for being a faithful steward of all God has blessed you with!

I love being your pastor!

Pastor John

gen • er • ous
adj 1. free giving 2. providing more than is needed



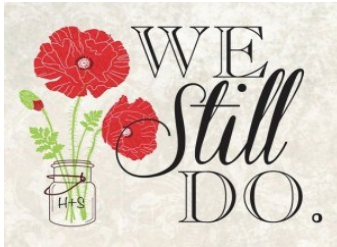
LOL Youth Fundraiser Dinner

February 14, 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Youth have tickets for sale or at the church office.

Tickets are \$10

Our youth are working to help pay for summer camp at Warren Willis .

(this is NOT a couple's only dinner)



Renew Your Wedding Vows

February 14, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
After dinner renew your vows on Valentine's day



Fellowship Potluck

February 19, 6 p.m.

Bring a dish to share

Speaker: Elaine McNeal, Salvation Army



Spring Fling

Annual Variety Program

Friday, February 21, 7 pm

See Megan Mash if you would like to perform in the "Spring Fling"



Ash Wednesday Services

February 26, 2020

9:30 a.m.

7:00 p.m.

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)



*Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.*

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is a beloved hymn for many congregations. It was written by Robert Robinson who was born in England in 1735. He was born poor and his mother wanted him to become a clergyman of the Church of England. Because of their poverty, this was not an option and instead Robinson apprenticed as a hairdresser. One Sunday in 1752, he heard George Whitefield preach. This became a pivotal event in Robinson's life, leading him down a path of service to the church. Throughout his life he published many theological writings.

The history of the text "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," is a little more complicated than Robinson's. The history begins with a list kept by Robinson of his published works in a church book. The hymn is listed in an entry from 1758 titled "Mr. Wheatley of Norwich published a hymn beginning 'Come, Thou Fount of every blessing.'" The problem with this entry is that the hymn has not been in anything published by "Mr. Wheatley of Norwich." The earliest published version of this hymn can be found in *A Collection of Hymns used by the Church of Christ in Angel-Alley, Bishopsgate*, 1759. This version contains four stanzas. The hymn can be found in its most common form consisting of only the first three stanzas in M. Madan's *Psalms & Hymns*, 1760.

Many hymns are autobiographical. The autobiographical threads of this hymn are strong. The end of the third stanza probably provides the strongest reference to this. "Prone to wonder, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above." It was said that before he gave his life to God, Robinson's friends were a group of hoodlums and he lived a debauched life. His life is an example of a person de-

cided to turn their life over to God and experienced great things. Stanza two provides one of the most obvious biblical allusions. The text states "Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come." The term Ebenezer means "Stone of Help" and comes from 1 Samuel 7:12. "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'" The United Methodist Hymnal Committee received requests to change the word but felt they could not find a suitable alternative and therefore left the text unchanged. The final stanza that has unfortunately been omitted provides the apocalyptic climax. It states:

*O that Day when freed from sinning,
I shall see thy lovely Face;
Clothed then in blood-washed Linnen
How I'll sing thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my ransom'd Soul away;
Send thine Angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless Day.*

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is a text that reminds us of the importance of praising God and relying on God for strength. It reminds us that God is always with us even when we wonder and one day, our ransomed soul will be carried away to the realm of endless day.



MISSIONS
DONNA OBOURNE, CHAIR

“Soul Café” Begins March 2

***Would you like to be involved with a “Soul Café”?
A way to bring the love of Jesus to our community.
The Soul café will be serving food & so much more every Monday at noon, beginning March 2, 2020***

Five years ago a few people got together and hoped to partner with The Salvation Army and Saint Sebastian Church. At that time our hope was to feed people in need in our Fellowship Hall and possibly help them in various ways such as writing resumes, reading with children—really finding ways to be the hands & feet of Jesus. There were changes in both organizations and it soon became apparent we were not going to be able to do that. From that effort, the Welcome Table was born.

Well, another table is now opening at SUMC. In partnership with the Salvation Army, we will be doing just what we dreamed of 5 years ago. I guess there is much truth to the saying, “In God’s Time, Not Mine!”

Homeless and impoverished are folks near and dear to my heart. The statistics regarding the number of people in need in our area are staggering—more so than one would think in our little piece of Paradise. I can’t imagine all they have to handle each day and I always have hope that their lives could be turned around, if only.....

I don’t really know exactly how to finish that thought; but I have come to believe that maybe God is showing a way that we could fill a need. There are very few services available in Sebastian to meet the needs of those folks and show them God’s love.

The Salvation Army reached out to Pastor John

with a way that we could possibly make a difference. The Salvation Army is very well established in Vero Beach with help from some churches in that area. They bring not only their expertise, but will get us started with supplying the food & people to cook the food in our kitchen, along with servers & helpers of all sorts.

You will be hearing more about this awesome opportunity to love our neighbors & share God’s hope and promise to them while physically filling their bellies.

So if you don’t like to see people who are hungry and lonely have their need met, there is much more that can be done. I am hoping & praying that the wonderful folks that make up SUMC will be blessed by blessing others.

Shortly you will be seeing sign-up sheets for many different ways to be involved. Start praying and thinking about your gifts and how you can share them with our neighbors.

Blessings, Peace & Joy

Donna Osborne, Mission Chair



Lois Planeta Small Group (closed session) February 3 & 17, 9 a.m. in the large classroom

Barb Farrington Women's Bible Study New starting February 10, 10 am "How Happiness Happens" (Max Lucado) will meet every Monday in the small group room.

Pastor's Bible Study Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. in the large class room, continuing a study of Acts.

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

Mary Lou Rothfuss Small Group (closed session) February 6 & 19, 9:30 a.m. in the small group room

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.

The Monday Bible Study

Will be starting a new 6-week study on Monday, February 10 at 10 am in the Small Group Classroom. Max Lucado's DVD study, "How Happiness Happens"

will be looking at a number of scriptures dealing with how we interact with others - the "one another" passages.

New women are welcome.

Just call ahead to ensure there is a study book for you.

Either call the church office or Barbara Farrington at 772-202-4115.



ATTENTION UNITED METHODIST LADIES!!

Please join us on February 21st for the United Methodist Women's meeting at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a bag lunch as we share in conversation at noon.

Our mission initiatives are:

- Provide opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equip women and girls to be leaders
- Provide transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth and flexibility
- Working for justice through service and advocacy

Our program this month focuses on several of these initiatives – the new Soul Café soon to be located on our Fellowship Hall once a month on Mondays. Elaine McNeal. Volunteer coordinator and Event planner for the Salvation Army will explain the program and how the men and women of the Sebastian UMC can volunteer to assist.

Please join us to celebrate our working for Christ and Community. Our donation to the Ecumenical Food Pantry this month is

Soup.

Again, mark your calendars for **February 21, 10 to noon.**

Happy February Anniversary

Dick and Sherry Hunter	February 14
Jim & Judy Gallagher	February 17

Happy February Birthday

Jan Molina	February 2
Doris Herrick	February 5
Ann Willis	February 5
David Brown	February 6
Ed Oleksy	February 10
Nancy Barry	February 14
Destiny McCreary	February 15
Dot Eagles	February 16
Nancy Fox	February 22
Judith Bairstow	February 23

February 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

2
10 am Worship
11 am Fellowship
Hour FH
11:30 am U of L
LCR & CCR
1pm Brass

3 pm LOL YR

3
Lois P Small Group
9 am LCR closed
group
Barb F Bible study
10 am SGR
3-6 pm Ecumenical
Council FH
7 pm SPR—CO

4
10 am Aphasia FH
10 am Pastor Bible
Study LCR
12 pm Rug Hookers
FH
7pm Flute

5
10 am Bible Study
FH
10 am Bible Study
FH
6 pm Girl Scouts
CCR
NO BELLS

6
9:30 am ML Small
Group (closed) SGR
Tone & Stretch
1:30 pm FH
5pm Resource
Team CO
Parsonage Com-
mittee 4pm P
Choir 7pm

9
10 am Worship
11 am Fellowship
Hour FH
11:30 am U of L
LCR & CCR
1 pm Brass

3 pm LOL YR

10
Barb F Bible study
10 am SGR
7 pm Trustee

9:30 am Stroke of
 Hope FH
 10 am Pastor Bible
 Study LCR
 12 pm Rug Hookers
 FH
 Welcome Table
 7 pm CO
 7 pm Flute

12
10 am Bible Study
FH
NO BELLS

13
Tone & Stretch
1:30 pm FH
Choir 7pm

14
LOL Fundraiser
Dinner 6 pm FH
Marriage Vow
Renewal 7 pm (S)

16
10 am Worship
11 am Fellowship
Hour FH
11:30 am U of L
LCR & CCR
1 pm Brass

3 pm LOL YR

17
Church office Closed
Lois P Small Group
9 am LCR closed group
Barb F Bible study
10 am SGR
Finance 6 pm LCR
Admin 7 pm LCR

18
10 am Aphasia FH
10 am Pastor Bible
Study LCR
12 pm Rug Hookers
FH
7 pm Flute

19
10 am Bible Study
FH
6 pm Potluck
6:30 pm Girl Scouts
CCR
7 pm RR Ringers

20
9:30 am ML Small
Group (closed) SGR

Hunger Coalition
Meeting 1:30 LCR
Tone & Stretch
1:30 pm FH
Choir 7pm

21
UM Women 10
am FH
Spring Fling
7 pm

23
10 am Worship
11 am Fellowship
Hour FH
11:30 am U of L
LCR & CCR
1 pm Brass
3 pm LOL YR

24
Barb F Bible study
10 am SGR

People & Process
Group
7 pm Fellowship
Hall

25
10 am Pastor Bible
Study LCR
12 pm Rug Hookers
FH
7 pm Flute

26
Ash Wednesday
Services
9:30 am
7:00 pm
10 am Bible Study
FH
NO BELLS

27
Tone & Stretch
1:30 pm FH
Choir 7pm

28

Welcome Table
FH

Thrift Shop Updates

THANKS



Dust was flying over the Christmas Holidays as Thrift shop workers rehabbed and cleaned the Thrift Shop.

Thanks to Church members and friends for all your hard work

Tom & Diann Flanigan, Bud & Ginger Horner, Bob Stull, Bill Messersmith, David Devore, Jerry & Sharon Lane, Hans & Sandy Hansen, Floyd & Leigh Standley, Gary Stimmel, Jimmy Childers, Donna Borchsenius, Lois Planeta, Eileen Harding, Alta Benjamin, & MJ Kohler.

Lenten Devotional Call for Writers



During the season of Lent, (yes Lent! it is just 2 months away!) Pastor John is going to be doing a sermon series that explores who Jesus is according to the different Gospel writers which will culminate with a sermon on "Who Is Jesus According to You?" on Easter Sunday.

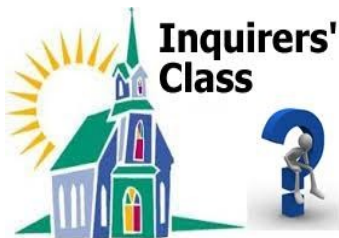
So, who is Jesus according to you? We want to know! We are going to create a devotional for Lent written by members of the congregation. If you are interested please write no more than 2 paragraphs on who Jesus is to you.

This should include personal experiences. Please also include a short Bible passage and a prayer. These should be modeled after The Upper Room devotionals. If you are interested and have any questions please see Pastor John or Megan.

You can email your writings to:

Megan at meganmash@gmail.com or Sharon at johnsonumc@bellsouth.net.

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 johnngillumc@bellsouth.net.



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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



In 1 Thessalonians 5:15 it states...'Always strive to do good, what is good for each other and for everyone else'...

As we face each new day, let us focus on this verse and be the best we can be so that we Honor our God...

Nancy L. Fox
January 21, 2020