



**PASTORAL LETTER** 

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you, in the name God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing this letter to inform of the status of our church. Last night, Tuesday May 25, 2021 we had the first in-person meeting of our Church Council since last year. We heard three reports and I shall share briefly what we learned.

Our first report was from the Finance Committee. We are grateful to Holly Houghton (chairperson) and the committee on Finance for their excellent work in a very difficult time. As you should expect, we ended last year with a deficit in our 2020 budget. Likewise, we currently have a deficit in 2021 revenues. Our pledge income remained high and constant throughout last year and this year. Because we did not have in-person worship, we predictably suffered the loss of 'loose-plate offerings', which for our congregation is a substantial part of our financial support. We were fortunate to obtain two PPP loans (an extension of the U.S. Small Business Administrations 'SBA Loans', which enable small businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to obtain financing needed to continue their business operation). When these loans are officially forgiven, we will reduce our deficit for last year and for this year. We are grateful to God for this financial help, and we are thankful for the excellent work of the Reverend Ken Autrey (Executive Pastor) and Mrs. Liz Noves (Director of Finance) for their diligent work in obtaining and administering these funds to keep our employees in their jobs and our church ministries operational.

I am happy to report that FUMC Pensacola has paid its share in the conference apportionments through May 2021. The mission of the Church is alive and well! Thanks be to God!

If you are actively involved in supporting of our church financially and you wish to discuss the details of our church's financial status, please contact <u>Mr. Autrey</u> and <u>Mrs. Noyes</u>.

The second report was from Mr. Philip Bates and our Trustees. We are grateful to Mr. Bates and our Trustees for their care of our buildings. Not only did we suffer from the COVID pandemic, all eleven of our buildings sustained significant damage from hurricane Sally. At present, we are in litigation with our insurance provider (Frontline Insurance). We have hired a Public Adjustor and a major law firm; we fully expect the insurance company to cover some \$8-million dollars of our damages. As you may already know, we expect this extended process to be a long one. Therefore, I call on all our members and friends to be patient, full of hope, and strong resolve, and to pray. The church

belongs to God, and with God's sure help we will endure and achieve satisfaction in this litigious process. As the Apostle Paul would say, let us boldly pray and be full of courage.

Currently, the Noah's Ark building, some rooms in our educational complex and office building, the youth center, the gymnasium in the Henry Roberts center, and the Wesley Abbey are being used to the fullest extent possible. Please remember that in all of this, your safety is our primary concern. Unfortunately, our beautiful sanctuary is not, at present, operationally safe. Our trustees are effectively working with all of these issues. We shall keep you apprised of progress in these matters.

Our third report was the Pastor's Report. Throughout last year and currently, the ministries of our congregation have continued: the doors, for a time, were closed, but the ministries of our church remained open and operational. From April 2020, we have every week offered on-line Sunday worship, and provided some 260 week-day devotions ('A Word from Wesley'), on-line Sunday School classes, Bible studies, and meetings. I am happy to report that the response to these efforts has been immense. People from other countries (for example, Germany) and across the USA have contacted us in appreciation and support for our unflagging zeal in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And, again, our church staff is to be commended for their diligent work.

We have thus far received 20 new members; welcomed 12 members as 50-year-Members; recognized and celebrated 16 persons as 2021 High-School-Seniors. Twenty-four of our members have died (16 in 2020; 8 in 2021).

We have continued to preside at weddings, officiate funerals, perform baptisms, provide counselling, visits in homes and hospitals, and to conduct the affairs of the church. Our Bishop and District Superintendent have repeatedly voiced their appreciation for FUMC, as have ministers and Christians in our conference, across the South-eastern Jurisdiction and our country.

On Monday May 24, the ministers of our conference met in Montgomery, Alabama, with our Bishop David Graves. He delivered a strong address and charge to our Church. He will be our Bishop and will also preside over the South Georgia Annual Conference of the UMC. Our AWF Conference staff has been reduced and there are now only four districts in the Alabama West Florida Conference. The superintendents will now oversee two districts, instead of one. This is, of course, a transitional adjustment, which will probably remain in effect until 2024.

I thank all of you for your love and support of our United Methodist Church.

Rejoice! The Church of Jesus Christ is alive and well and making disciples of Jesus Christ! Thanks be to God!

I look forward to seeing you in church on Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021!

Your Pastor,

**Dr. Wesley H. Wacchob** Senior Pastor

# PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

"Thank you so much for the beautiful pink prayer shawl. I will treasure it. Knowing that the person who created it was talking to our Creator as she worked gives it a special meaning. May God Bless her". - Ann

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at First United Methodist Church of Pensacola is a group of faithful women who love to knit, crochet ,and more importantly, desire to encourage others during hard times. Prayer shawls are presented to anyone who needs assurance of God's love and comfort in their lives.



Janice Anderson & Susan Barnes at Prayer Shawl meeting

Pre-pandemic, this group met Tuesday mornings on the First Church campus for a morning of fellowship while creating their beautiful gifts to share with our community. During the pandemic they adapted to meet via Zoom to continue their ministry. Over the past year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry created over 1200 prayer shawls, prayer squares, and newborn baby blankets that have been shared with the following: those that are sick, healing or lost a loved one, residents and staff in healthcare communities, the homeless community, and our newest babies in the First Church family. These women served so many people, near and far, all while staying safe at home.

"It is a blessing for me to work with the Prayer Shawl Ministry. They have so much fun together as they use their gifts to create something so meaningful and comforting to others in need. I often have the special privilege of sharing their gifts with others. I love to report back to the Prayer Shawl Ministry the heartwarming stories I receive from the recipients of their beautiful creations. I also have friends in the community ask if the First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry can make special projects for their organization, and these amazing women are always up for the challenge.", stated Jennifer Piver, Director of 50 Forward and Pastoral Care Ministries.

Prayer shawls, prayer squares, and newborn baby blankets are the Prayer Shawl Ministry's normal projects, but they have been known to take on special projects to meet the needs of our community. They have been creating Fiddle Sleeves for Alzheimer's patients, caps and blankets for NICU babies, Purple Hearts for Veterans on Hospice, and bookmarks for multiple ministries.

All of the beautiful creations that the Prayer Shawl Ministry provides are special, but the prayer shawls and scarves they create for our Graduating Seniors is a very special tradition that began at First Church in 2013. Each year, our Youth Director, Denise Van Atta, shares a list of Graduating Seniors with our Prayer Shawl Ministry. At the Senior Breakfast in May, each student receives a prayer shawl that was selected especially for them and prayed over by the Prayer Shawl team and our staff.

Karen Bower, member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry sates, "Being able to wrap a prayer shawl or scarf around a graduating senior makes us realize that they are going out into the world knowing that First Church is standing behind them."



2021 Graduating Seniors wearing their prayer shawls at Senior Breakfast

If you or someone you know is in need of a special prayer shawl, prayer square, or baby blanket, the Prayer Shawl Ministry would be honored to get you one. Please contact <u>Jennifer Piver</u> for more information.

All are invited to join this wonderful ministry! All experience levels and ages are welcome. This loving group of women would be glad to teach their craft to anyone who wants to fellowship. They meet on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Wesley Abbey.

# Sunday Morning Adult Classes

FUMC of Pensacola offers a variety of Sunday School classes for all ages and interests.

Sunday School is from **9:30am - 10:30am** every Sunday morning in various locations all around our campus.

Contact Lisa Bond, <a href="mailto:LBond@FUMCPensacola.com">LBond@FUMCPensacola.com</a> for more information on what class is right for you!

# **MULTI-GENERATIONAL COED**

#### **SOUL FEAST**

Starting June 6th Wright Place, Room 202

Soul Feast is a Bible based covenant group facilitated by class members. Open discussion using a variety of materials. Leader: Woodywoodroof@cox.net

# **BONDING WITH THE BIBLE**

Wesley Abbey, Room 102

Bonding with the Bible is a class that studies various books of the Bible.

Leader: billbond007@hotmail.com

# **YOUNG ADULT COED**

# **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

Wesley Abbey, Parlor/Coffee Shop

Young Professionals is a group is for all young adults (22-35) who are looking for study, great conversation and fellowship. *Leader:* mrpatrickhoughton@gmail.com

# YOUNG & MEDIAN ADULT COED

# **PARENT TRAP**

Wesley Abbey, Room 101

Parent Trap is a class for parents of young children. Studies vary from parenting to Bible studies relating to current events and topics.

Leader: jsecola@gmail.com



# **MEDIAN ADULT COED**

#### SIDE BY SIDE

Youth Building Cafe

Side by Side is a class of parents of all ages who desire to connect and to grow in their faith. Various topics include Bible studies, parenting, and marriage

Leader: rgilmer@levinlaw.com

# **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Wesley Abbey, Room 201

The Home Improvement class is a thriving group of parents who meet to study the Bible and put what they learn into action. *Leader:* <u>lengas@att.net</u>

# **MEDIAN & SENIOR ADULT COED**

# **CHRISTIAN FAMILIES**

Franklin Building

Christian Families is a multi-age group of couples and singles whose study the Bible, and feature guest speakers from First Church and the community as well as member-led discussions. Many members participate in local outreach ministries through First Church.

Leader: feliciano5@bellsouth.net

# **MULTI- GENERATIONAL WOMEN**

# wow

Via Zoom

WOW (Women in the Word) is a class for women seeking spiritual growth through study and discussion.

Leader: <u>lwade@wpslawyers.com</u>

# SENIOR ADULT COED

# **OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS**

Starting June 6th Wright Place, Room 206

Open Minds, Open Hearts is a senior adult coed group that has bible based study plus outside fellowship.

Leader: <u>JerryMaygarden@gmail.com</u>

# **DUELL/LIPSCOMB**

Starting June 13th Wright Place, Dining Room

Duell/Lipscomb is a proactive class for adults 50 and over using Bible based literature to study social concerns.

Leader: sddavies519@gmail.com

# Kid, Tweens, & Youth

We offer Sunday morning nursery, as well as Sunday School opportunities for Pre-K through 12th Grade.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO** 



APRIL 21, 2021 - MAY 16, 2021

# THE LIVING TRUST

The Living Trust is a special fund set up to receive gifts for memorials that you may wish to give in memory of or in honor of an individual. This is given to meet extra needs of the church above those of the annual budget.

If you would like to give towards The Living Trust at FUMC Pensacola, contact <u>Liz Noyes</u>.

# **IN MEMORY OF:**

Margaret P. Helms

By: Claire and Arnold Berkman Pat and Jim Brinson Joyce and Bob Cassell Loretta and Tom Cronier Jaime and Casey DeMott Sandy and Larry Enfinger Donna and Glen Gleaves Paula and Rusty Harris Ann Helms Jeff Helms Mary Etta Helms Gabriele Kende Carolyn Meehan Sue and Bill Morris Crescent and Chuck Norman Carrie and Doug Reynolds Suzanne Riley Anibel Tyrrell Thomas and Martha Repaskey Mike Kamrin and Katie See

# **Gerald Woolard**

By: Teressa and Wayne Bradley

# **Diane Worley**

By: Joseph Cox

# IN HONOR OF

# Marriage of Kathy Phillips and David Cook

By: Janis and Larry Davison

#### John Griffin

By: Sarah Mosley

# **Pastoral Care Team**

By: Sarah Mosley

# Jennifer Piver

By: Sarah Mosley

#### Kitchen Crew

By: Sarah Mosley

My Wonderful Church Family By: Sarah Mosley

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CHURCH-WIDE

# SUMMERTIME SESSIONS BLUE WAHOOS GAME NIGHT

June 2 | 6:30pm | Blue wahoos Park Email LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com to register

Join us on June 2nd at 6:30pm at the Blue Wahoos Park! This night is a part of our Summertime Sessions where we meet as a church family and join in fellowship with one another. The Wahoos will be hosting their Schools Out - Summer Bash with post-game fireworks. Dinner can be purchased at the game through concessions. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased now until June 1 in the front office or by emailing Lacey Adair.

# SUMMERTIME SESSIONS DINNER, MUSIC, & GAMES ON THE LAWN June 23 | 5:00 - 6:30pm

Click HERE to register

All ages are welcome for dinner. music, and games on the lawn for our second Summertime Session! Music will be provided by The Bayview Pickers, with our very own church members Dan Rowe and Tura Schmitz. **Registration is required for food.** Make sure to bring your chair or blankets!

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Contact: Lisa Bond

LBond@FUMCPensacola.com

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

June 14 - 18 | 9 :00am - 12:00 pm <u>Click HERE to register</u>

Age 3 (by September 1, 2020) - 4th Grade are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School! Click <u>HERE</u> for more info on needed item donations.

# **PRAISE AND PLAYTIME**

June 22 - July 27 | Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:30pm Click HERE to register

Summer weekly get together for preschoolers. Preschool 3's and 4's (as of Sept. 1, 2020) can be dropped off. Younger children welcome to come with accompanying parent. They will participate in playtime and learning activities, storytime, devotion and a snack all based on a letter of the week centered around the word PRAISE.

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES CONT.

#### **CAMP SMALLEDWIN**

June 25 | 4:30 - 8:30pm | \$20 Click HERE to register

A fun on-campus "camp" for kids who have completed Kindergarten, 1st Grade, or 2nd Grade. It's a great introductory camp for our younger kids, preparing them for the camp experience that they'll experience when they get older. The evening includes a variety of fun games and activities.

# **BLUE LAKE CAMP**

July 26 - 31 | Blue Lake, Alabama | \$275 Click HERE to register

This camp is a great way for 3rd & 4th grade kids to disconnect from their electronics and their busy lives and connect with God and each other. Join us for Compassion Camp where we will explore how to change the world with lovingkindness all while enjoying those traditional camp activities like swimming in the lake, sitting by the campfire, hiking in the woods and playing gaga ball!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contact: Lisa Bond

LBond@FUMCPensacola.com

#### THE FIVE MARKS OF A METHODIST

Mondays, starting June 14 | 6:00 - 7:00pm Via Zoom | <u>Click HERE to Register</u>

Come join Rev. Brandon Bures, Rev. Dr. Rick Branch, Rev. Henry Roberts, Rev. Jenny Medley, and Donell Seager for our Summer Study as we look at retired UM Elder, Steve Harper's book, *Five Marks of a Methodist*. This study, led by our clergy and Directors of Spiritual Formation, confirms our identity as genuine and fruitful followers of Christ: A Methodist Loves God, A Methodist Rejoices in God, A Methodist Gives Thanks, A Methodist Prays Constantly, and A Methodist Loves Others. Come gain a greater knowledge and appreciation for why and how you follow Jesus.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONT.

#### **CREATION CARE**

June 1, 2021 | 6:30pm | via Zoom Email Mhrab4@aol.com to register

Are you interested in learning more about Creation Care? Have you been feeling called to learn how to be better stewards of the Earth God created? Join us for a meeting to discuss resources and ideas on how we, as Christians and a church community, can come together and learn how to be better stewards of the Earth.

# **NEW! BOOK CLUB**

Starting June 8 (*Time determined by group*) Email encox1949@gmail.com to register

Join us as we study *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. New York Times bestselling author, invites you to take a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present. Evans creatively retells our favorite Bible stories, explaining their contexts and possible interpretations, and then connects these ancient stories to our present-day ones. We hope you can fall in love with scripture all over again. Come join us for a great discussion.

# SUGGESTED SUMMER PODCASTS

- Everything Happens for a Reason
- suggested by Rev. Jenny Zeigler Medley & Katherine Varnson
- Pray As You Go
- suggested by Rev Jenny Zeigler Medley
- The Retirement Answer Man
- suggested by Rev. Dr. Rick Branch
- Nice White Parents
- sugggested by Kelsey Seager
- Armchair Theology
- suggested by Denise Van Atta
- The Confessional
- suggested by Katherine Varnson
- Bible Project
- suggested by Cole Abrahamson
- Be the Bridge
- suggested by Denise Van Atta & Lisa Bond

# FIFTY FORWARD

Contact: Jennifer Piver

[Piver@FUMCPensacola.com]

# **LUNCH OUT**

June 10 | 11:30am | McGuire's Irish Pub

All are welcome to join us for our monthly lunch outing with friends. We will be gathering at McGuire's Irish Pub downtown for a time of fellowship and fun!. RSVP to Jennifer via text or phone at 850-291-5331 by June 8.

# **XYZ TRIP**

# June 24 | 10:00am | Jesse's Restaurant

Join us as we venture out to Jesse's Restaurant in Magnolia Springs, Alabama on the church buses for a day of fellowship and fun! Bus Space is limited, however you are welcome to meet us there. The buses will leave the parking lot at 10:00am and return by 2:00pm. RSVP to Jennifer via text or phone at 850-291-5331 by June 22.

# **COFFEE WITH FRIENDS**

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30am | Library

Join a small, friendly group for fellowship. We have no agenda other than to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends... new and old! Coffee and pastries are provided.

# **MISSIONS**

Contact: Rev. Brandon Bures

BBures@FUMCPensacola.com

# **SERVING THE HUNGRY**

Mondays & Thursdays | 8:00am - 1:00pm

The Serving the Hungry program at First Church continues to provide 100+ hot meals for those in need in our community on Mondays and Thursdays.

# **AA SUPPORT GROUP**

# Saturdays | Noon | Garages

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. If you would like more information contact info@fumcpensacola.com.

# MUSIC

**Contact: Rick Branch** 

RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

# **SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Wednesdays, June 9 & 23 | 6:15pm | Gym Sanctuary Choir will rehearse in the HRAC (gym) on Wednesdays, June 9 and 23, at 6:15PM. Now is the PERFECT time to join our Sanctuary Choir! The choir will resume singing in worship on June 20. Email Rick for more info.

# **TWEENS**

**Contact: Cole Abrahamson** 

CAbrahamson@FUMCPensacola.com

# **SUMMER SPLASH**

June 14 - 18 | Youth Building Click HERE to register

Join us for a week of fellowship, fun, and faith formation. Summer Splash is a fun, messy, over the top, Vacation Bible School designed for students who have just completed the fifth or sixth grades. **Registration ends on June 7.** 

#### **TWEEN TUESDAY**

June 22 | 1:00am - 2:00pm | \$6 + lunch Email Denise Van Atta to register

Join us for lunch and bowling at Cordova Lanes! We'll hop in the minibus and enjoy a wide selection of food from the Cordova Mall food court before bowling, so come hungry! Drop-off and pick-up at the Youth Building. Limited spots available!

# **BLUE LAKE CAMP**

July 26 - 31 | Blue Lake, Alabama | \$275 Click HERE to register

Fifth through eighth grade students will have the opportunity to unplug as they enjoy the beauty of Blue Lake. Jesus said ," In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." We will talk about how we can be the light in the world. Activities will include glow in the dark games, food, fellowship, Bible lessons, night hike, swimming and other fun activities.

# TWEENS CONT.

# **SUNDAY FUNDAY**

June 13 | 4:30 - 6:00pm | Youth Building Email Denise Van Atta to register

Join us for food, fellowship and games. Meet in the youth building.

# YOUTH

Contact: Denise Van Atta

DVanAtta@FUMCPensacola.com

#### **YOUTH THURSDAY**

June 10 | 2:00 - 4:00pm Email Denise Van Atta to register

Mid-High and Sr. Highs come join us for our first Youth Thursday of the summer! We will travel together to Dreamland for an hour of skating. Drop-off and pick-up at the Youth Building. Limted spots!

# **SUNDAY FUNDAY**

June 13 | 4:30 - 6:00pm | Youth Building Email Denise Van Atta to register

Join us for food, fellowship and games. Meet in the youth building.

# **BLUE LAKE CAMP**

July 26 - 31 | Blue Lake, Alabama | \$275 See Tween column for more info.

# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

# KITCHEN VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are in need of a kitchen volunteer. Please contact <u>Mici Kuba</u> for specific times and duties.

# VBS, SUMMERSPLASH, & MID-HIGH WEEK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to help with our children, tweens, & youth June 14 - 18. Contact <u>Lisa Bond</u> & <u>Denise</u> Van Atta for more information.

# **VBS DONATIONS NEEDED**

Click HERE to sign up

Make VBS great by donating a much needed items. Sign up for what you would like to donate and bring to the receptacles in the front of the church office.



**IN-PERSON** 

8:00am, 11:00am, & ICON AT 11:00am

ONLINE

8:00am & 11:00am



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# **PASTORAL CARE**

At First Church, we strive to provide the best pastoral care to you and our church family. If you need assistance from our clergy, staff or Pastoral Care Team, or have a prayer request please note the following:

- All Pastoral Care information is confidential, unless you indicate otherwise.
- If you have an upcoming surgery/procedure, please inform the church office.
- If a hospitalization occurs, please inform the church office.
- In case of an emergency or if a death occurs, please call the church office 850-432-1434 or email <a href="mailto:prayer@fumcpensacola.com">prayer@fumcpensacola.com</a>.
- The clergy/pastoral care staff will make hospital visits as needed.
- The Pastoral Care Team includes the Prayer Team, Flower Ministry, Casserole & Cookie Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Medical Closet Ministry and GriefShare. Ask the church office about how these ministries can serve you during your time of need.
- A prayer request form is available online at fumcpensacola.com. Click <u>HERE</u> to submit a request.

#### IN LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE

**Will Pergande** on the death of his sister **Susan Meyer** (Nashville, TN) She passed away on May 24, 2021

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Preston Jones** on graduating from Levin College of Law at University of Florida on Friday, May 14.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Paula and Henry Perkins

**Sara and Crain Rogers,** Sara and Crain have a 5 month old son Crain Rogers Jr.

#### **BIRTHS**

Laughlin William Farrington son of Lea and Casey Farrington born on April 29, 2021

Campbell Walker Camariotes son of Ryan and Sam Camariotes born on May 19, 2021

# **BAPTISMS**

**Barrett Paul Neal**, son of **Caroline and Gregory Neal** on May 10, 2021

**Crain Thomas Rogers Jr.** son of **Sara and Crain Rogers o**n May 23, 2021

# **MARRIAGES**

Stephanie Lucci and Jeremy Clark wed on May 27, 2021.

#### **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

#### May 2

In Celebration of Frank and Mary Willis' 60th wedding anniversary.

# May 9

In Celebration of Lilly Kate Adair's 13th Birthday on May 22nd

# May 16

In Celebration of Libby and Tom Mayhugh's 67th wedding anniversary on May 22nd

# May 23

In Loving memory of Tom Mayhugh's mother and father Katherine Nash and Willard Robert Mayhugh Sr.

#### May 30

In Celebration of Herb and Lil Ferreira's 43rd wedding anniversary on June 3rd.

#### **FLOWERS AVAILABLE**

You may place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor, celebration or memory of someone. The arrangements are \$65.00 each. To reserve a date, email Ginger (<u>GRaines@FUMCPensacola.com</u>). The following dates are open:

July 4, 11, 18, & 25 August 8, 15, 22, & 29

If you would like to add an announcement to next month's notices, please contact:

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Ginger Raines at GRaines@FUMCPensacola.com