



Beloved in Christ,
this Christmas Season it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

*Bidding Prayer from King's College Festival of Lessons and Carols;
written in 1918 by Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge*

**Open Minds
Open Hearts
Open Doors**

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
9AM GREAT HALL**



**COMMUNION SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6
10AM GREAT HALL
11AM DRIVE UP OPTION**



**FAMILY CAROLING &
REFRESHMENTS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
6:00PM GREAT HALL**



**MUSIC MINISTRY
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
6PM GREAT HALL**



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
6PM LIGHTHOUSE PARK**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25**



Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,



The Advent season is finally here and we are all getting ready for Christmas. This year I am looking at some of the ancient traditions of the church to help me get ready. One of my guides this year is St. Lucy. She was one of the early Christian Martyrs. The Emperor Diocletian ordered her eyes to be gouged out before she was executed. This was particularly cruel for such a loving and devoted person. The story goes that in some way she could still see, even without eyes. Then, remarkably after her burial when her body was exhumed, they discovered her eyes intact. Her feast day always falls during some of the shortest and darkest days of year. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, we can still see with eyes of faith. The cookies or pastries made on St. Lucy day are in the shape of eyes. And, of course, the name Lucy means *light*. Following St. Lucy means learning to see with eyes of faith in a dark world.

This is a dark time. The pandemic has affected every family in major ways. We have many concerns both locally and nationally. But St. Lucy helps us to see with eyes of faith. God is with us and God's love never fails. Jesus is the light of the world and in him there is no lasting darkness.

Peace,



Geoffrey

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the Lighthouse



Join us at 6:00pm at the lighthouse in downtown Port Saint Joe for a beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will have moving music led by the Bo Spring Band, and an inspiring message from Dr. Geoffrey Lentz. Bring your lawn chair and a blanket.

There will be plenty of room for social distancing.

It will be a joyful Christmas experience you will not forget!

Advent Prayer and Reflection in the Great Hall

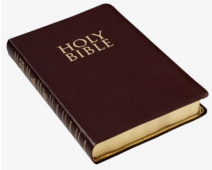


Our tradition has been known to embrace this season with an awaiting celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but its long-standing tradition is first and foremost about the anticipation of Christ's second coming. In the hustle and bustle that this season brings, it is important to take moments of intentional rest and reflection. One of the best ways to have a change in pace is by setting aside time and space to pray and commune with God.

The Great Hall will be opened Mondays 10:00am to 1:00pm and Wednesdays 9:00am to 11:00am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm, November 30 through December 21, for all who would like to utilize the space to pray and take a moment to rest during this busy season of Advent. Advent Prayer Guides will be provided in the Great Hall.

Rev. Chelsey Brown will also be available at these times to talk and pray over any concerns and praises.

Liz Lentz, Children's Director
Children's Ministry



Advent Devotions for Parents: I'd love for you to join me in doing Advent daily devotionals titled *Making Space* by Susan Narjala using the **You Version Bible** app. The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play for free. Then ask me (Liz Lentz) to be your "friend" like on Facebook. Then I'll send you an invitation to join me in this Bible plan. This devotional series will **begin the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 29**. The great thing about this app is that you can do it at the time that is best for you. In this busy season of the year let's make space for Jesus in our lives.

For this month our **mission project** will be to create gift bags for the residents at Cross Shores Nursing Home. I have the supplies, so children make these gifts and cards at Kids Life and Little Lambs.

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 5 9-11 am in the Great Hall. Dress up in Christmas pajamas or Christmas outfits to get your picture taken with Santa. A pancake breakfast is provided for families by the United Methodist Men.



Christmas Parade: On Saturday December 12 the children will be in the Christmas parade on Reid Avenue. We will line up at 5:00 p.m. Children will be assigned to dress up as nativity characters or casual Christmas attire.

Family Caroling and Christmas Refreshments Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00. We will meet at the church and hayride or golf cart to homes for caroling. Then we will return to the church for Christmas refreshments. Mark your calendars... **Winter Retreat for 3rd-5th grade** is the weekend of February 6 at Blue Lake United Methodist Camp in Andalusia, Alabama. I'll let you know as we have more details about this event.

Lynn Marshall, Youth Director



The Youth will be doing a series called Merry Christmas to Me!

SERIES OVERVIEW:



Another Christmas is almost here, along with the annual onslaught of Christmas music, movies, lights, shopping lists, ads, and inflatable lawn ornaments. We all know the Christmas season is supposed to be about generosity, family, and celebrating the gift of Jesus . . . but be honest — how much of your Christmas holiday is actually spent thinking about yourself and what you want? Since we're all familiar with this selfishness struggle, this 4-week series will take us back to the very first Christmas — a day that was only possible because of the selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice of God and God's people. On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything. So this Christmas, what will you give in response?

Missions: We are sponsoring the residents at OUR HOME AT BEACON HILL and we will be buying gifts for them. We should have a list soon of some of their wants. At anytime, you can bring a donation to youth and we will be purchasing things soon. We will also be decorating birdhouses for the residents at the nursing home in PSJ. We will donate birdfeeders and seed each month.

Christmas Parade: On Saturday, December 12 the children will be in the Christmas Parade on Reid Avenue. The Youth will be asked to walk behind the float and give out candy. If anyone would like, we can then go to Peppers and eat supper. I will need to know by December 10 if your youth will be going to dinner.



Youth Christmas Party: We will have our youth Christmas party on December 16th. We will play games and eat great food. Parents, we would like for you to bring a dessert or appetizer if possible.

The youth will be selling luminaries for \$5 to be set out on Christmas Eve. This will be a fundraiser for the youth group. Please ask your youth to sell 5 if possible. This will be a great and easy fundraiser.

Winter Retreat: January 29 - 31 Tentative Dates - We are planning to go to Laguna Beach Resort for the weekend!

Paul Brown, Director of Music and Worship Arts

WORSHIPARTS

PAINTING

PHOTOGRAPHY

DANCE

MUSIC

ACTING

Join us in this season of Advent on Sunday mornings at 10 am! Our Vocal Arts Ensemble will be singing in the season with beautiful music, and joyous harmony! Let us SING to the LORD our God!

Second Sunday of Advent 12/06 -Third Sunday of Advent 12/13 -Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/20

CHOIR CHIMES ENSEMBLE invites you to join us for a special service for the Third Sunday of Advent, 12/13 at 10 am in the Great Hall. Listen to the sweet ringing as we prepare our hearts and mind for the Lord.

FUMC PSJ Music Ministry invites you to our Christmas Concert, On A Silent Night. Join us on Saturday, December 19 at 6 pm in the Great Hall for an evening of uplifting Christmas Music and Song! FUMC Vocal Arts Ensemble, Choir Chimes Ensemble, Mr. Tim Dutrow- percussionist, Ms. Jessica Beasley -pianist, Dana Langford- guest conductor, and Paul Brown - Music Director. Thank YOU the congregation for your support!

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE at 6 pm December 24. PSJ Florida. We welcome you to an evening of song, prayer, and a special word delivered by Dr. Geoffrey Lentz. Thank you to the Bo Spring Band for leading us in worship on this holy night of Christmas Eve, and thank you to Rick Ott for our staging and sound production!

December 27 Worship Service! MERRY CHRISTMAS! Join us in the Great Hall at 10 am for a cheerful service of song and celebration. REJOICE! THE KING HAS COME!

FESTIVAL OF TREES! - You can now visit the Festival of Trees presented by The Joe Center for the Arts. Our KIDS- LIFE Star Tree, YOUTH -850 Coastal Tree, Music Ministry Tree, and Methodist Caring Ministry Tree are all on display! FESTIVAL OF TREES CLOSING DAY CELEBRATION- Join the FUMC VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE as they sing in the Christmas Season on Saturday, December 12 at 3 pm. Stop by the Joe Center of the Arts before the parade!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to RICK OTT- Sound Engineer/Production, Luke Lentz- Videographer, Jessica Beasley- Pianist, Carol Hall- Décor and Design, Jeremiah Beasley- Concept & Construction, Christina Caar-Worship Arts Instructor, Ryan Rish- Worship Arts Instructor. Thank you for your time, talents, and service to FUMC PSJ!!!

December Meetings

Lay Leadership Monday, November 30 6pm at the Ministry Center, 510 4th Street.

Finance Meeting Thursday, December 3 10am via Zoom.

Church Council Monday, December 7 6pm via Zoom.

John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

Do no harm

Do good

Stay in love with God

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 1st Sunday of Advent -Hope 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Advent Space for Prayer (10am-1pm) 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 6:00pm Lay Leadership Meeting	30 November 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Advent Space for Prayer (10am-1pm) 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 6:00pm Lay Leadership Meeting	1 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	2 9:00am Morning Prayer 9:00am Advent Space for Prayer (9-11am/4-6pm) 10:00am Prayer Shawl 5:30pm Youth 5:30pm Little Lambs 5:30pm Kid's Life	3 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Finance Meeting 6:00pm Vocal Arts Rehearsal	4 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal	5 9:00am Breakfast with Santa 10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble
6 2nd Sunday of Advent -Peace Communion Sunday 10:00am Worship Service	7 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Advent Space for Prayer (10am-1pm) 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 6:00pm Church Council	8 9:00am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Staff Christmas Party 2:00pm Worship Planning	9 9:00am Morning Prayer 9:00am Advent Space for Prayer (9-11am/4-6pm) 5:30pm Youth 5:30pm Little Lambs 5:30pm Kid's Life	10 9:00am Morning Prayer 6:00pm Vocal Arts Rehearsal	11 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal	12 10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble 3:00pm Festival of Trees Closing Celebration 6:00pm PSJ Christmas Parade
13 3rd Sunday of Advent -Joy 10:00am Worship Service	14 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Advent Space for Prayer (10am-1pm) 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting	15 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	16 9:00am Morning Prayer 9:00am Advent Space for Prayer (9-11am/4-6pm) 10:00am Prayer Shawl 5:30pm Youth 5:30pm Little Lambs 5:30pm Kid's Life 6:00pm Family Caroling & Refreshments	17 9:00am Morning Prayer 6:00pm Vocal Arts Rehearsal	18 PSJ 1 / 2 Day 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal 6:00pm Vocal Arts Rehearsal	19 10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble 6:00pm Vocal Arts Christmas Concert
20 4th Sunday of Advent -Love 10:00am Worship Service	21 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Advent Space for Prayer (10am-1pm) 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting	22 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	23 9:00am Morning Prayer	24 Christmas Eve 9:00am Morning Prayer 6:00pm Church Service at Light-house Park	25 Christmas Day 9:00am Morning Prayer Merry Christmas!	26
27 10:00am Worship Service	28 9:00am Morning Prayer PSJ CHRISTMAS BREAK (offices closed) 12/25-1/4	29 9:00am Morning Prayer	30 9:00am Morning Prayer	31 9:00am Morning Prayer	1 January 9:00am Morning Prayer Happy New Year!	2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1st- Andrew Furr
Greg Todd
2nd- Michael Bentley
Kyle Pickett
3rd- Amanda Kent
4th- Mary Elizabeth Vaughn
6th- Relic Bailey
7th- Mary Sadler
8th- Jim Belin
Emory Cumbie
Jared Arnold
Barbara Easterbrooks

9th- Dot Creamer
Meredith L. Higgins
10th- Leonard Costin
Wesley Jones
Kelli Newman
Janis Tankersley
Adam Taylor
Carol Tendler
11th- Ed Creamer
12th- Betty Bowman
13th- Douglas May
Daniel May
15th- Dan VanVleet
16th- Joan Bentley
17th- Linson Pickard
19th- Mary Pat Stubbs
Andy Durance

20th- Mary Pierce
Matthew Roberson
Boston McGhee
21st- Joe Madsen
Tina Williamson
22nd- Judy Williams
23rd- Laura Taylor
Ralph Roberson
24th- Bobby Woodham
25th- Carol Weber
26th- Mallory Terry
28th- Mary Hess
Bentley Roberts
29th- John Miller
30th- Brandon Davis
Gannon Buzzett
31st- Sawyer Smith

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

2nd- Stuart & Renee Shoaf
10th- Boyd & Paula Pickett
12th- Perry & Janie Adkison
21st- Wayne & Judy Rowlett
22nd- Hubert & Trina Richards
23rd- Bill & Sandie Kennedy
27th- Rick & Judy Williams
31st- Jack & Dana Kerigan

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Announcements

Prayer Requests Email info@psjumc.org or contact the church office.

Upper Rooms are located in the Great Hall as well as the outdoor alcove of the church (bulletin board area).

Daily Morning Prayers 9:00am on Facebook or our website.

Sunday Church Services 10:00am on campus and on Facebook and our website.

Food Pantry Donations The Two Fish Food Market is excited to announce we anticipate holding a soft opening as early as late January 2021. We will partner with 2nd Harvest of the Big Bend to purchase and receive free food items. To jump start our food inventory, Two Fish is now accepting both monetary and non-perishable food donations. Non-perishable food items such as soup, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables/fruits, dry beans, peanut butter, jelly, and canned meats/tuna can be dropped off at the designated locations in the Great Hall and at the Ministry Center.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00am in the Great Hall. Beginners are welcome to join. For more information, contact Kay Kline beachbabecsb@gmail.com or 502-314-4444.

Altar Flowers-If you would like to place flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower calendar by contacting the church office. Two weeks prior to your flower presentation, please inform the church office of your specific bulletin announcement.

The Methodist Care Closet is open Fridays 12-4 and Saturdays 9-12. We will be moving many of our racks of clothes outside to help social distancing inside the store. Temperature and masks for ages 6 and older will be required. Shoppers inside the store will be limited to 15 at a time. Bathrooms and dressing rooms will not be available. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Cathy Cox at cathystewartcox@gmail.com or call 227-6028.

Mental Health Life Management Center will now have a licensed adult mental health therapist on-site in Gulf County every Friday at 309 Williams Street. Life Management accepts most insurances including Medicaid health maintenance organizations. There is also a sliding fee scale for persons without insurance. Interested individuals should call 850-522-4485 or 888-785-8750 (toll free) to access. Plans are underway to have a child therapist periodically on-site, as well.

The Disaster Distress Helpline is a 24/7 hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any disaster. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all. Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster. Call **1-800-985-5990** or text **TalkWithUs** to **66746** to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

National Suicide Lifeline **1-800-273-8255** Available 24 hours every day.

Giving Options You may drop your check in our new drop box, mail your check to the church P. O. box, or give online. For online giving, the church website address <https://psjumc.org/ways-to-give/> will link you to our online giving page, with instructions. You can also call the office 850-227-1720 and Diann can set you up to pay over the phone and/or walk you through how to set up an online account for recurring giving.

Communion Sundays For in-person worshipers, we will have your communion kit on your seat when you come in so we don't have to break social distancing guidelines. We ask that you hold them in your hand during the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, then we will all partake of them together. If you have any concerns about practicing communion in this manner, you are out of town, or cannot attend participate for health reasons, it is okay not to participate in it and receive "spiritual communion" instead. *Spiritual communion is a little known practice of the church that was developed during the Black Plague. Spiritual communion is when we are unable to take communion for various reasons, especially during a pandemic. All we have to do is long to take communion and pray for union with God in Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit will give us all spiritual benefits of Holy Communion. Here is a prayer to help you with this practice:

*My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*

For on-line worshipers in the area, we will be serving the communion kits to the passengers of vehicles lined up at the church drop off area from 11:00am-11:30am. Pastors Geoffrey and Chelsey will be wearing N-95 masks and using gloves to distribute the holy meal.

Skip Griffies, United Methodist Men



Liz Lentz would love to have the UM Men help with Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 5th, 9-11 AM. This event is always a special time for families in our community, but this year we will do things a little bit differently. First of all, weather permitting we are looking at having Santa as well as a few tables for eating set up outside on the rotunda. As far as food is concerned, the church will get packets with plasticware and napkins, individual butter and syrup, and individual cartons of drinks. We ask our volunteers must wear a mask. Liz will need help with cooking pancakes, serving, and clean-up.

Cooks will need to arrive by 7:30 am, servers 8:15 am, and those who cleanup and set up for church 10:45 am. Please let me know if you have men and/or spouses who can help with this event, and feel free to call Liz with any questions.

Pastoral Care

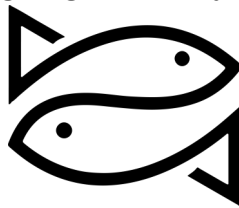


Condolences are extended to Sandie Kennedy upon the death of her mother, Linda Higgs on 11-30-20.

We are happy to welcome our newest church member, Deb Berry. Deb joined 11-15-20.

Congratulations to Pedro Paulo & Sara Bess Ferreira. Their daughter, Olivia Bess Ferreira (5-18-20), was baptized 11-29-20.

Vicki Abrams, Blessing Bags Ministry and Two Fish Food Market



The Methodist Caring Ministries gives special thanks to Duren's Piggly Wiggly, Career Source Gulf Coast, Beach Baptist Chapel and the many members of our Church and Community for their contributions for Thanksgiving Baskets. With these contributions and gifts of love, MCM was able to serve 85 individuals in 15 households. I also want to thank the many volunteers who assisted with packing and delivery: Beth Bauer, Andy Durance, Heather Jones, Kathleen Rish, Amy Pitts, Guerry Magidson, Susan Magidson, Loretta Costin, Bill Brown, Paula Pickett, Eleanor Shoaf, and Michael Guthrie. As Pastor G said in his monthly letter, we are a people who "walk by faith and not by sight". Thank you all for your continued support of the Methodist Caring Ministries.




The Two Fish Food Market is excited to announce we anticipate holding a soft opening as early as late January 2021. We will partner with 2nd Harvest of the Big Bend to purchase and receive free food items. To jump start our food inventory, Two Fish is now accepting both monetary and non-perishable food donations. Non-perishable food items such as soup, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables/fruits, dry beans, peanut butter, jelly, and canned meats/tuna can be dropped off at the designated locations in the Great Hall and at the Ministry Center. **STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.**


I want to also thank you for your continued support of our Blessing Bags ministry as we continue to support children enrolled in the Port St. Joe area schools.


Mission Statement


The First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe is called of God to be a Christian fellowship, affirming our beliefs through worship, witness, and service, glorifying God, adhering faithfully to the scriptures, nurturing spiritual growth, and sharing God's forgiveness to all people through the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Hashtag us via social media:
#psjumc

 Like us on Facebook:
First United Methodist Church-Port St. Joe

 Like Methodist Learning Center on Facebook:
Methodist Learning Center

 Like our youth group on Facebook:
PSJ FUMC YOUTH

 Like our children's choir on Facebook:
Young Singers of FUMC of PSJ

The printing of our monthly newsletter, *Salt Life*, is provided by Frank D. May, DMD.



Salt Life is a monthly newsletter published by First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe. If you have information to be included in an upcoming edition, or you have any questions or comments regarding the Salt Life Newsletter, please email info@psjumc.org or call the church office. Please Note: all information to be included is subject to approval and must be submitted by the appropriate deadlines.

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