



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, England*

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
9AM GREAT HALL



BAY AREA CHORAL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 6PM
GREAT HALL



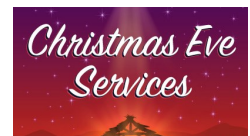
PSJ CHRISTMAS PARADE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 6PM
REID AVENUE



GRINCH SUNDAY
DECEMBER 12 10AM
GREAT HALL



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
5PM CONTEMPORARY
7PM TRADITIONAL
GREAT HALL



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25



HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1



Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,



During Thanksgiving I got to spend time with my nephew and niece in North Carolina. It was my niece's first Thanksgiving and that made it special for all of us. However, I noticed that I often was checking my phone for an update or reading one of the books that brought instead of taking advantage of being fully present to my family. I rarely get to see that part of my family and realized I was missing a great opportunity. Time like that is a rare commodity worth more than gold.

Our faith teaches us that in Christ Jesus God became fully present to the world. God walked in our midst and was incarnate in our flesh. In short, God was with us – that is what Emmanuel means. And it is God's presence with us that saves us.

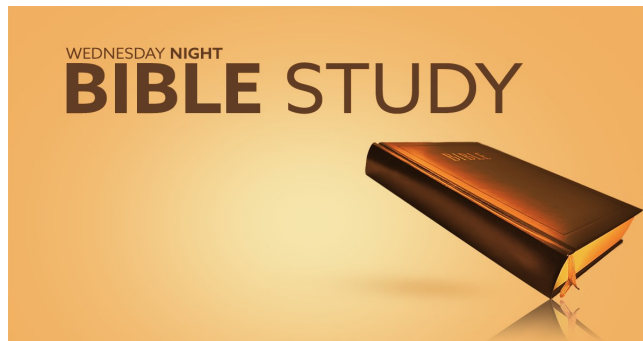
At the end of John's Gospel, Jesus says, "As the Father sent me so I send you." Jesus is telling us that we are to meet other people as God has met us in him. Let us celebrate God's presence this Christmas, by being present to others – meeting others where they are. The special moments of the season with family and friends and candlelight gatherings are great gifts but unless we slow down and focus, we might miss the core of this sacred season.

Peace of Christ,



Geoffrey

St. Paul: Apostle to the World Pastor's Bible Study



Join us on Wednesday nights for Pastor's Bible Study on January 12, 2022 as we take a deep dive over a seven week class into the life of the most influential apostle. No one other than Jesus has made such an impact on the church. Yet, Paul remains surrounded by controversy. We will study his life from start to finish focusing on his conversion and his mission. Along the way, we will answer some difficult questions including: what did Paul think about women? What did he believe about the end-times? And how does grace and good works go together? We will be studying the Acts of the Apostles and reading selections of his Epistles to get a better understand the life and times of this world changing man.

Liz Lentz, Children's Director
Children's Ministry

Advent Kits for Families: I have 20 Advent kits for families. These kits contain activities to help your family intentionally prepare for Christmas: A book titled *Bedtime Christmas Stories for Kids*, supplies for an Advent calendar chain, hot chocolate gratitude party, and a birthday party for Jesus. Contact Ms. Liz to get your kit. First come first served.
liz@psjumc.org

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 4 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 11 the children will be in the Christmas parade on Reid Avenue. We will line up at 5:45 p.m. Children will be assigned to dress up as nativity characters or casual Christmas attire.

Christmas Caroling and Refreshments will be on Wednesday, December 15 during Little Lambs and Kids Life (5:30-7:00). We will meet at the MLC and hayride or golf cart to homes for caroling.

Winter Retreat for 3rd-5th grade is February 4-6 at Blue Lake United Methodist Camp in Andalusia, Alabama. Register online at <https://www.bluelakecamp.com/winterretreat>



Lillian and Kaelyn donated pecans and lemons for the Two Fish Market

Lynn Marshall, Youth Director



A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT & GOSPELS ON CHRISTMAS
SERIES OVERVIEW:



Christmas is almost here! Which means there's a lot for us to look forward to — sometimes impatiently. But you know the saying, "good things come to those who wait"? It's true for Christmases now, but it was true on the very first Christmas as well. You see, the day Jesus came to earth wasn't a sudden surprise. It was the first step in a long-awaited plan. In this 4-week series, we'll hear the Christmas story from the perspective of the prophets in the Old Testament, who foretold and then waited for the good things God had in store. Christmas is a reminder of what the prophets proclaimed: that **God has always had a plan**, that **Jesus completes God's plan**, that **God's plans bring joy**, and that **God's plans require sacrifice**.

Missions: We are going to help provide clothes and toiletries for students at PSJHS who are in need. We will work with Sissie Presley and help stock her closets. We will be collecting money, new throw blankets, new socks, jackets, hygiene items and sweatshirts. We would love to have a lot of items to donate to this room. At anytime, you can bring a donation to youth and we will be purchasing things soon.



Youth Christmas Party: We will have our youth Christmas party on December 15. We will play games and eat great food. Parents, we would like for you to bring a dessert or appetizer if possible.

Winter Retreat: February 11-13 Tentative Dates We are planning to go to Busch Gardens. More Info to Come!

We would love your family to join us at Church each Sunday starting at 10 am. We have a great Sunday School class from 11 - 11:45 am at the Monument House across from FUMC. This is an awesome Small Group.

Paul Brown, Director of Music and Worship Arts

WORSHIPARTS

PAINTING

PHOTOGRAPHY

DANCE

MUSIC

ACTING

It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year!

Join us for Sunday morning worship services!

December 5, 12, 19, and 26!

December 5- BO SPRING BAND!

December 12- Bay Area Choral with Chancel Choir, Guest Artist & Pianist- Bob Malone, Guests Artist & Vocalist- Rachel Hillman

December 19- The Forgotten Coast Young Singers- Cantate Domino, Special Offertory

December 26- A Christmas Sunday!

Special Events!

December 10- Friday-6 p.m.- FUMC PSJ in partnership with the Isle Newell Foundation for the Arts and the Bay Area Choral Society will present an unforgettable concert of Christmas music. From Classical to Jazz, you won't want to miss these incredible artists! Bob Malone, Rachel Hillman, and the Bay Area Choral Society.

December 11- Saturday- 3 p.m.- The Joe Center for the Arts, Festival of Trees Closing Ceremony- Handley Pitts will perform selections from, The Sound of Music! Come and enjoy this exciting day of music and song!

December 12- Sunday Worship- 10 a.m.- Guest Artists Bob Malone on Piano, and Rachel Hillman on Voice and Guitar will lead us in a special Sunday of Concert music. Enjoy these Christmas Favorites!

December 19- Sunday Worship- 10 a.m. - The Forgotten Coast Young Singers will lead us in a special offertory, Cantate Domino. You won't want to miss this day of worship and praise as you Young Singers perform in Latin, and showcase their percussion skills!

December 24- Christmas Eve Contemporary Service- 5 p.m.- Bo Spring Band

December 24- Christmas Eve Traditional Service- 7 p.m.- Chancel & Bell Choir

Chancel Choir December Rehearsals

December 1, 8, 15- 5 p.m.- Ministry Center- WEDNESDAYS

December 20- 6 p.m.- Christmas Eve Rehearsal- Great Hall- MONDAY

Young Singer December Rehearsals

December 1, 8, 15,- 4 p.m.- Ministry Center- WEDNESDAYS

December 19-9 a.m. SOUND CHECK- GREAT HALL- SUNDAY

Bell Choir December Rehearsals

December 1, 8, 15,- 1 p.m.- Great Hall- Wednesdays

December 20, - 6p.m.- Great Hall- Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Private Lessons-Private instruction in voice, piano, and wind band instruments are offered through monthly registration with Director of Music, Paul Brown.

Pbmus2018@gmail.com

850-319-6782

Skip Griffies, United Methodist Men

We will be having our first Men's Club Meeting Sunday January 9th at 8:00am.

Hope to see everyone there. Bring a friend!



FUMC PSJ Contact Information

Church Physical Address: 1001 Constitution Drive Port St Joe, FL 32456

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 266 Port St Joe, FL 32457

Telephone: 850.227.1724

Email: info@psjumc.org

Website: www.psjumc.org

Ministry Center (church offices): 510 Fourth Street

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz (geoffrey@psjumc.org)

Associate Pastor: Rev. Chelsey Brown (chelsey@psjumc.org)

Children's Director: Liz Lentz (liz@psjumc.org)

Youth Director: Lynn Marshall (lynn@psjumc.org)

Music Director: Paul Brown (paul@psjumc.org)

Methodist Learning Center Director: Vanesa Ryan (vanesa@psjumc.org)

Financial Secretary: Diann Farnsley (diann@psjumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: Heather Jones (heather@psjumc.org)

Church Administrator: Bill Brown (bill@psjumc.org)

Methodist Learning Center: 218 Long Avenue

Monument House (church annex): 1007 Monument Avenue

Methodist Care Closet: 214 Williams Avenue

Two Fish Food Market: 212 Williams Avenue

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School	29 9:30am Disciple I Study Group 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 6:00pm Charge Conference (Zoom)	30 10:00am Yoga 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	1 10:00am Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Bell Choir 4:00pm Young Singers 5:00pm Moms Group 5:30pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth 5:30pm Little Lambs 5:30pm Kid's Life 6:00pm Pastor's Bible Study	2 10:00am Yoga 6:00pm Church Staff Christmas Party	3	4 9:00am Breakfast with Santa
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School	6 9:30am Disciple I Study Group (last meeting) 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 6:00pm SPRC Meeting	7 10:00am Yoga 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning 5:00pm Trustees	8 1:00pm Bell Choir 4:00pm Young Singers 5:30pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth 5:30pm Little Lambs 5:30pm Kid's Life 6:00pm Pastor's Bible Study	9 10:00am Finance Meeting 6:00pm BACS dress rehearsal	10 6:00pm BACS Christmas Concert	11 6:00pm PSJ Christmas Parade
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School	13 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 6:00pm Church Council	14 10:00am Yoga 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	15 10:00am Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Bell Choir 4:00pm Young Singers 5:30pm Youth Christmas Party 5:30pm Little Lambs/Kid's Life Caroling 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Pastor's Bible Study	16 10:00am Yoga 6:00pm Choir Practice	17 1/2 Day PSJ Schools	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School	20 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting	21 Winter Solstice 10:00am Yoga 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Contemporary Service 7:00pm Traditional Service	25 Christmas Day
26 10:00am Worship Service	27 Christmas Break offices closed 12/27-1/3	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve!	1 Happy New Year!

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 Tandler
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
Russell and Ethel Bardsley
31st- Jack & Dana Kerigan

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

Announcements

Sunday, December 12 is Grinch Sunday! Wear your tacky Christmas sweaters and red and green attire. We will have special music from Bob Malone and the BACS. Hopefully our hearts will grow three sizes that day as we light the candle of joy.

Christmas Eve Services Friday, December 24 in the Great Hall 5:00pm Contemporary and 7:00pm Traditional.

Salvation Army Bellingers Needed December 13-18 11am-6pm at the Piggly Wiggly. Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer one hour or more of your time.

Frozen Turkeys Needed Two Fish Food Market is accepting donations of frozen turkeys for their Christmas baskets. Donations can be dropped off at Two Fish (Tues/Wed 9-4, Sat 9-1). Two Fish is located at 212 Williams Avenue.

Pastor's Bible Study Join us for Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Great Hall.

Oberammergau/Best of Italy Interested in going to Europe with Pastor Geoffrey and other church members? Trip dates are September 22-October 2022.

Yoga Classes with certified instructor Lynn Burgher Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-11:15 in the Great Hall through December 21.

Sunday School for All Ages!

Adult 9am Monument House Leader: Mike Whitfield

Youth 11am Monument House Leader: Lynn Marshall

Children 11am Great Hall Kitchen Hallway Leader: Liz Lentz

Senior Adult 11am Great Hall Leader: Rotating Leaders

Adult 11am Great Hall Leader: Chelsey Brown

Preschool 11am Nursery Leader: Madelyn Davidson

Adult 5:30pm Monument House Leader: Mazie Stone

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30-6:00pm in the Great Hall.

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

Upper Rooms are located in the Great Hall and the Ministry Center.

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

We have nursery for infants through K4. Our nursery is located behind the Great Hall, next to the kitchen.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00am at the Monument House. 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.

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.

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.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Highland View Baptist Church Tuesdays and Thursdays 7pm.

December Meetings

SPRC Meeting Monday, December 6 6pm at the Ministry Center.

Trustees Meeting Tuesday, December 7 5pm in the Ministry Center.

Finance Meeting Thursday, December 9 10am at the Ministry Center.

Church Council Monday, December 13 6pm at the Ministry Center.

John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

Do no harm

Do good

Stay in love with God



General Statement: Food Pantries can be an important part of a community's plan for response to disasters beginning with **Disaster Preparedness**. During times of disaster, communities can expect an increase in the number of families who are identified as food insecure. Established food pantries are in a unique position to **respond** to this increased demand. Food Banks such as Second Harvest of the Big Bend can help to replenish reduced food supplies at times of disaster and can assist to rebuild the capacity of local food pantries during times of **Disaster Recovery**.

FUMC Response: During the COVID-19 Pandemic, First United Methodist Church of Port Saint Joe (FUMC) established and began operation of the Two Fish Food Market, a Second Harvest of the Big Bend certified food pantry that serves over 240 households who live throughout Gulf County. In response to school closures in 2020, staff and volunteers from FUMC delivered weekend food bags (Blessing Bags) and fresh produce to the families of over 80 children enrolled in Port Saint Joe Elementary School who were identified by Gulf District Schools as food insecure. Also, in partnership with Second Harvest of the Big Bend, FUMC supported a large-scale mobile food distribution.

Established Expertise: FUMC has also established protocols for effective tracking of information related to disasters that include:

- FEMA required records on cost associated with food distribution during times of disaster
- FEMA required records of volunteer hours associated with serving families during times of disaster
- FEMA required records of numbers and demographics of persons served during times of disaster

Future Disaster Response: Two Fish Food Market has an established group of volunteers who operate Two Fish Food Market 3 days per week. This Client Choice Food Pantry has the ability to increase days of operation and to serve additional households who may find themselves as food insecure following a new disaster. In addition, as a partner agency of 2nd Harvest, Two Fish is positioned to receive additional food that may come available through the Feeding American Network of Food Banks.

Two Fish Food Market is accepting donations of frozen turkeys for their Christmas baskets.

Donations can be dropped off at Two Fish (Tues/Wed 9-4, Sat 9-1). Two Fish is located at 212 Williams Avenue.

Methodist Care Closet

The Care Closet is bursting at the seams. We appreciate the generosity of our church and community, however we lack space and volunteers during the holidays. We are requesting that all donations be held until after the first of the year.

November has been a record breaking month for the Care Closet. We have brought in more revenue than any month since we moved to the new building. Even though we had asked for donations to be held off till we could catch up we have continued to have more donations than we can keep up with. Fortunately we have had a few new volunteers this month who we greatly appreciate. We still are requesting jewelry and nice handbags as these are some of our best sellers. We are having a Black Friday Sale the day after Thanksgiving and all clothing, including Designer will be BO-GO. We will also begin selling all of the Christmas PJs, Sweaters, Ornaments, Decorations, etc. that we have been saving all year. This is definitely your Christmas Headquarters. We are extremely thankful for all you that Volunteer, Donate and Shop with us.

Thank you so much for sharing your time, talents and donations with this ministry.

If you are interested in volunteering please call Cathy Cox@850-227-6028.

The Care Closet is located at 214 Williams Avenue and is open Thursday-Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-1pm.

Pastoral Care



Congratulations to

Jeremy and Kelly Baxley. Their son, Bennett Lane Baxley, was born 11-5-21.

Pedro and Sara Bess Ferreira. Their son, Leonardo Crockett Ferreira (7-8-21), was baptized 11-29-21.

Casey and Samantha Flanagan. Their son, Cormac Gerard Flanagan (3-15-21), was baptized 11-29-21.

We extend our condolences to the family of James Bentley "Mr. Benny" Roberts 11-15-21. His church service will be held Sunday, December 5 at 2pm in the Great Hall.

We welcome new members


Libby and Don Sehlke who joined November 21.


FUMC Pastoral Care Team members are Sue Meyer osuemeyer@gmail.com and Mitzi Bulger mitzi.bulger@gmail.com. Please reach out to these members for any pastoral care needs you or someone you know may have.


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

 Follow us on Instagram:
fumc_psj



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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