



Matthew 5:13

January 2021

VOL. 20, ISSUE 1



FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF PORT ST. JOE



**God of new beginnings,  
you wipe away our tears  
and call us to care for one another.  
Give us eyes to see your gifts,  
hearts to embrace all creation,  
and hands to serve you every day of our lives.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.**

*New Year's Day Prayer from The Revised Common Lectionary*

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*Open Minds  
Open Hearts  
Open Doors*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1**



**COMMUNION SUNDAY  
JANUARY 3  
10AM GREAT HALL  
11AM DRIVE UP OPTION**



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR  
HOLIDAY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 18**



**KIDS' LIFE ART EXPERIENCE  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30  
10AM MLC BUILDING**



## Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,



Happy New Year! We have never been so happy to see a year go! I think 2021 is going to be a big year for our church. We should have some rebuilding news breaking in the next few weeks. Surely, we will break ground this year on an amazing future. At some point in the new year, we will turn the corner on the pandemic, which has really limited our abilities and brought us lots of sorrow. This year will be a turning point in so many ways. Each year we have theme for our church to guide our thoughts. This year we believe God has called us to *grow*. Most of us have grown complacent in our spiritual journey. Or we think that the journey ends at conversion, but that is just the beginning. The Methodist word for this is sanctification. It is the part of salvation that shapes us into Christ-likeness. It too is based on grace. You can't good works your way to holiness, it is a gift from God in Jesus Christ.

God has called each of us, no matter how long we have been Christians, to grow spiritually. We are to keep growing in Christ until we reach perfection (wow! I have along way to go!). Fortunately, perfection here does not look like not making mistakes. John Wesley said that Christian perfection is being perfected in love. Paul shares this vision with us in 1 Corinthians 13:11-13:

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

We all can grow into being more like Christ. It is time to leave our childish faith behind and become women and men of God. I invite you to make a resolution in this new year to grow personally and spiritually. We each can take stock of where we have been and take a step closer to Christ and share his love in deeper ways. Let's GROW!

Peace,



Geoffrey

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### Finish Strong: An Update on Our Coronavirus Policy

We are getting close to the finish line, so let's finish strong. Many people in our community are currently receiving vaccinations and in the coming months the pandemic will be coming to an end in our community. Our church has done so well with mitigating the effects of the pandemic and complying with our church pandemic policy. With the recent rise in cases and in the positivity rate, we are reviewing our policies and their implementation. We are asking all of our members to redouble efforts to protect each other and the most vulnerable among us. People are required to wear masks inside church buildings, including those who have received Covid-19 vaccinations. For children and youth functions, masks are only required for adult volunteers. We are all taking special precautions for Sunday morning worship in regards to social distancing, air-flow, and no-contact worship elements (communion, bulletins, etc.). We have instructed that each ministry area review and redouble their efforts. We also will have limited adult in-person options for the first part of 2021. This means that the Care Closet will also have limit in-person opportunities until the local conditions improve. It won't be long now until we can safely embrace one another and bare our radiant faces in worship. This difficult period of time will be one of our memories of the way that we have cared for one another and the least of these.

Liz Lentz, Children's Director

## Children's Ministry

Happy New Year! I hope your families enjoyed celebrating the Christmas season. As we start back to Wednesday evening activities I just wanted to remind you that we meet from **5:30-7:00 at the Methodist Learning Center**. If your child is enrolled in MLC our volunteers will sign them out of MLC and into our church program.

For this month our **mission project** will be to make cards for some of our senior members who are not getting out as much.

**Winter Retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade** is scheduled for Saturday, February 6 at Blue Lake United Methodist Camp in Andalusia, Alabama. I'll let you know as I receive more details about this event.

**Art Experience:** On Saturday, January 30 10:00-11:30 children in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Methodist Learning Center after-school room for creating a winter polar bear scene. Space is limited, so please sign up with Ms. Liz ASAP.

[liz@psjumc.org](mailto:liz@psjumc.org)

Peace of Christ,

Ms. Liz



Lynn Marshall, Youth Director



WOW! What a year it has been. I started 2020 out with a lot of goals and plans and those all went up in the air. I believe we all learned how to deal with change and be flexible. I am hoping this year we can stick to a few plans that we make. I am looking forward to this season of growth and looking forward to helping the youth grow in their faith.

### January Wednesday Night Study

#### GOALS: A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM NEHEMIAH ON WISDOM

We all have goals! Whether your goal is to raise your grades, learn a new skill, get TikTok famous, change the world, or all of the above, there are things you want to do, accomplish, and become. But let's be honest — it's not always easy to achieve our goals. Sometimes it's difficult to even know which goals to set in the first place! That's why, in this 4-week series, we'll explore the story of a guy with a seemingly impossible goal and the steps he took to make his goal a reality. His name is Nehemiah, and because of his example we can learn a lot about goal-setting, decision-making, leadership, and trusting God. Through Nehemiah's story, we'll see that big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals, you are designed for God-sized goals, God gives us strength to pursue God-sized goals, and God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude.



Here are a few things coming up in our ministry . . .

**Youth Group: Every Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:30 at the STAC house 610 8th Street Food, Fellowship, Fun**

### February 19-21: Winter Retreat- Laguna Beach Christian Center

This is going to be a great retreat for all of our children. We will have games, worship, great food, and a lot of fellowship! Cost is \$130 for the weekend. Please let Lynn know if you would like to volunteer, sign up your youth or sponsor a child.

**DATE TBD: Confirmation Class:** Pastor Geoffrey and Lynn will be continuing our confirmation class. This will be at the STAC house on Friday evening and Saturday all day with a celebratory bonfire. 6th Graders will also have an opportunity to join. We plan to confirm and Baptize on April 11.



Paul Brown, Director of Music and Worship Arts

# WORSHIPARTS

PAINTING

PHOTOGRAPHY

DANCE

MUSIC

ACTING

Join us for Weekly Sunday Worship! January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> !  
Weekly Sunday Worship is at 10 am in our FUMC Great Hall, and Rotunda.  
Facebook Live and In Person Worship!

Vocal Arts Ensemble- Our Vocal Arts Ensemble meets weekly, Saturdays at 10 am. From traditional to contemporary music offerings, let us worship the Lord our God! For more information on joining us, please contact Mr. Paul Brown. [Paul@psjumc.org](mailto:Paul@psjumc.org)

Choir Chimes – Bell Choir- Our ringing ensemble meets regularly on Fridays, at 10:30 am. Our FUMC Bell Choir will perform on the first Sunday of each month! Please contact [Paul@psjumc.org](mailto:Paul@psjumc.org) for more information on joining the ensemble.

January 31<sup>st</sup> Worship Service- We welcome Jeremiah Beasley and thank him for leading us in worship!  
Enjoy a morning of acoustic, uplifting music. Come and Worship!

Private Voice Lesson, Piano Registration- In person and Zoom music can be made! Now is a great time to enroll your student, or yourself for music instruction. FUMC offers classical instruction to all who want to learn and grow in music. From reading music, to performing, or simply playing at home, music can be for you!  
Contact Mr. Paul Brown [Paul@fumcpsj.org](mailto:Paul@fumcpsj.org) [PBmus2018@gmail.com](mailto:PBmus2018@gmail.com) or Mrs. Jessica Beasley 904-557-0118

Worship Arts News! - It's time to grow! Our Kid's Life and Youth will be PLANTING their way through this year. As we grow and learn with God, we reap a harvest. Together as a church community, we will plant, nurture, grow, expecting our harvest, and learning to offer our first fruits as Children, and Youth of God. Thanks Be to God!

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## Christmas Eve Service 2020



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## John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

*Do no harm*

*Do good*

*Stay in love with God*

## January 2021

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |   |   |   |   | 1<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br><b>Happy New Year!</b>         | 2<br>10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble   |
| 3 Epiphany Sunday<br>Communion Sunday<br>10:00am Worship Service | 4<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting  | 5<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm Worship Planning  | 6<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>5:30pm Youth<br>5:30pm Little Lambs<br>5:30pm Kid's Life                          | 7<br>9:00am Morning Prayer                                    | 8<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal  | 9<br>10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble   |
| 10 Baptism of the Lord<br>10:00am Worship Service                | 11<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting   | 12<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm Worship Planning | 13<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:00am Prayer Shawl<br>5:30pm Youth<br>5:30pm Little Lambs<br>5:30pm Kid's Life | 14<br>9:00am Morning Prayer                                   | 15<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal | 16<br>10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble  |
| 17<br>10:00am Worship Service                                    | 18<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br><b>Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Observance</b>                       | 19<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm Worship Planning | 20<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>5:30pm Youth<br>5:30pm Little Lambs<br>5:30pm Kid's Life                         | 21<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br><b>10:00am Finance Meeting</b> | 22<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal | 23<br>10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble  |
| 24<br>10:00am Worship Service                                    | 25<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting<br><b>5:00pm Trustees<br/>6:00pm Church Council</b> | 26<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm Worship Planning | 27<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>5:30pm Youth<br>5:30pm Little Lambs<br>5:30pm Kid's Life                         | 28<br>9:00am Morning Prayer                                   | 29<br>9:00am Morning Prayer<br>10:00am Choir Chime Rehearsal | 30<br><b>10:00am Kids Life Art Experience (MLC)</b><br>10:30am Vocal Arts Ensemble |
| 31<br>10:00am Worship Service                                    |   |   |   |   |  |  |

### January Meetings

**Finance Meeting Thursday, January 21 10am via Zoom.**

**Trustees Monday, January 25 5pm via Zoom.**

**Church Council Monday, January 25 6pm via Zoom.**

### Happy Birthday!

1st- Sharon Cessna  
Laura Ramsey  
Melissa Farrell  
Linda McGlothlin  
2nd- Brent Walker  
4th- Meredith McNeill  
6th- Carl Logan Wilson  
Joel Bogaert  
Johnny Buckins  
Linda Hamilton  
Brenda Woodard  
9th- Porter Hodges  
Sandra Taunton  
10th- Casey Flanagan  
Jane Forster

11th- Tamara Marsh Flowers  
Fred Witten  
Karen King  
Jane Griffies  
12th- George Duren  
Bill Kubitskey  
14th- Lyn Willis  
16th- Fred Willis  
Bev Elder  
Rick Tyson  
20th - Greg Johnson  
Mary Margaret Farrell  
21st- Mark Gerspacher  
22nd- Katie Hoffman  
Christy Taunton  
Jim White

23rd- Jake Paterson  
William Shoaf  
Madelyn Shoaf  
24th- Karen Stewart  
Zeke Stevens  
27th- Joel Finlay  
Jewell Weldon  
28th- Hayden Newman  
Sonya Smith  
29th- Madolyn Davidson  
30th- Madelyn Flanagan

### Happy Anniversary!

1st - Carolyn & Fred Witten  
4th- Bob & Janna Rinehart  
16th- Fred & Lyn Willis  
19th- Alford & Laura Ramsey

*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](mailto: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.

**Reminder** Masks must be worn in all FUMC buildings.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**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.

## Pastoral Care



Condolences are extended to Bud Mitchell upon the death of his sister, Susan Hatcher January 4, 2021.

Condolences are extended to Chelsey Brown upon the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Jones January 1, 2021.

Condolences are extended to Chris and Dagny Bisceglie as well as Steve and Dana Langford, upon the death of their son and grandson, Chris Bisceglie (12-23-20).

Condolences are extended to Doug Buikema upon the death of his father, Milo "Mike" Buikema (12-21-20).

Condolences are extended to Courtney Knox upon the death of her grandmother, Ima Gene White (12-20-20).

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Bill Kennedy (12-15-20).

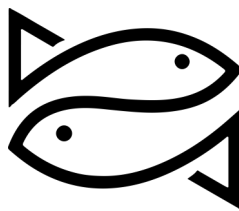
Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Dr. "Doc" Wesley Grace (12-11-20).

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Lisa Guilford (12-3-20).

Bill Kennedy's Lighthouse Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, January 9 at 5pm at the lighthouse in George Core Park.

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## Vicki Abrams, Blessing Bags Ministry and Two Fish Food Market




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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



**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](mailto: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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