

Matthew 5:13

March 2020

VOL. 19, ISSUE 3



# First United Methodist Music Ministry invites you to



FUMC Music Ministry Fundraiser
Friday, March 27-6:30 pm
FUMC Great Hall
\$10 Ticket Price - Sold at Door
Music - Dancing - Games Cooking Station - Dessert Auction!

Come out and support our spring fundraiser for the arts!

METHODIST MEN'S
BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 8:00AM
GREAT HALL
UNITED METHODIST





FIRST DAY OF SPRING THURSDAY, MARCH 19



UMW LUNCHEON & MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 22 11:30AM GREAT HALL



WESLEY COLLEGE OF TANZANIA MISSIONARY VISIT & LUNCHEON-GREAT HALL MONDAY, MARCH 23 12PM



A NIGHT IN HAVANA FRIDAY, MARCH 27 6:30PM GREAT HALL



SOUP & SANDWICH YOUTH FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, MARCH 29 11:30AM GREAT HALL



Open Minds Open Hearts Open Doors

# Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Pastor

Friends,



Spring is here. Everywhere you look you see signs of new life: birds chirping, grass greening, flowers blooming. In church, we are in a season called Lent. It is a dark season, beginning on Ash Wednesday as we confront our mortality and ending with Jesus's death. During this season we fast, pray, and confess our sins. But it would we wrong to think that it is a season of death. Instead, it is season where we search for signs of life in a macabre and morbid world. The world *Lent* actuality means spring. Spring is a season of life, but often that life is hard to see. You have to look closely to see signs of life in early spring.

We have lots of great signs of life in our church. Our youth have out grown our space and will now be meeting at the STAC house on Wednesdays. The choir hardly fits in church it has grown so much. Methodist Caring Ministries is starting up a food pantry called Two Fish. These are just a few of the signs of life that are just beginning to bud.

As far as our church building goes, we are seeing the first signs of spring. FEMA has, so far, been very good to us. We have posted over 12 million dollars in potential damages to our FEMA account. FEMA has already approved 1.2 million of losses — and those losses do not include the building itself — and they are diligently working on the rest. Of that amount awarded, the State of Florida is currently processing \$416,907 of it and has sent us \$100,000 in cash for our first payment. This is a slow and laborious process, but so far it is working out great. We are looking toward summer now to tear down both the sanctuary and education building and then start reconstruction in the fall. Sometimes the signs of life are hard to see, but our full recovery is beginning to bud forth.

I invite you to take these forty days of Lent to search for signs of life in your life and in our community and give thanks to God, who brings life from death.

Peace of Christ,

Geoffrey

# Eric Soard, Guest Speaker



Eric Soard is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned along with his wife, Elizabeth Soard, as the Leadership Development Coordinator in Mwanza, Tanzania. Eric and Liz Soard have been working full time in Tanzania since 2010 and were commissioned as missionaries by Global Ministries in 2012. They worked for several years as church planters and planted 15 churches between 2011 and 2016, training leaders, helping with evangelism, and helping to build up the capacity of the local churches. They serve in Tanzania with three beautiful boys, Derrick, Kaleb, and Micah.

The United Methodist Church in Tanzania has expanded rapidly since it was launched by the North Katanga Annual Conference in 1989 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with assistance from Global Ministries. Volunteers in mission have helped to extend the church into the Mara Region in northern Tanzania, bordering Kenya, but the area has few trained, ordained pastors. Eric and Elizabeth will initially concentrate on the Tarime area. The couple is familiar with this area since they spent two years in Tanzania as volunteers working with Angel House Orphanage and Angel Secondary School.

Previously, Eric served as the Development Coordinator for the Tanzania Conference; which works to help districts and local churches better reach out and transform their communities by building capacity in the local church. Successes in this direction included Our Father's House, a ministry that helps reunify street children with their families, Emmanuel Center for Women and Children which works towards peace and justice for women and children, and Pamoja Groups which create savings and loan groups in local churches all over the conference.

Eric finished his MA in International Development at Eastern University and Basic Graduate Theological Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. He is a provisional deacon with the Memphis Annual Conference.

Eric was born in Arkansas, but now counts Medina, Tennessee, in the Memphis Annual Conference, as home. His church membership is at the First United Methodist Church of Medina. Eric received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee and worked as youth director at Lambuth Memorial United Methodist Church while in college. He has also been youth director at Medina First Church.

He and Elizabeth volunteered in 2010 for mission service in Tanzania, working at the orphanage and school in Tarime. Angel Orphanage is an Advance mission project of Global Ministries. (Above information taken from UMC webpage <a href="https://advance.umcmission.org/p-1580-soard-eric.aspx">https://advance.umcmission.org/p-1580-soard-eric.aspx</a>)

Join us on Monday, March 23, 12-2pm, in the Great Hall to meet Eric Soard, our missionary to Tanzania. We will have lunch at noon and at 1:00pm Eric will tell us about his work. Afterward, we will discuss ways to partner with him for the future.

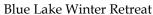
### Liz Lentz, Children's Director

**Nursing Home:** On Sunday, March 8 after the worship service the children and youth will be walking to the nursing home to sing, visit, and make crafts with the residents. Children can be picked up from the church lobby at noon.

**Palm Sunday:** On Sunday, April 5 the children will meet on the rotunda a few minutes before the 10:00 service begins, and we will parade through the church with palm branches. After church join us for the Easter egg hunt and picnic.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Sunday, April 5 after the church service join us at the Centennial Field for an Easter egg hunt and fried chicken picnic. Bring your Easter baskets, lawn chairs, and blankets.









The children served a special Valentine's Dinner

# Lynn Marshall, Youth Director



It is hard to believe that spring is almost here! We had an amazing winter and our youth group has grown. Our winter retreats were awesome and we leaned so much from the Youth leaders at Auburn United Methodist and Panama City United Methodist. I am looking forward to Summer Camp and our Service Projects.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT – DOUBT IT: A 4-WEEK SERIES ON DOUBT SERIES OVERVIEW:

We were all designed to ask questions. As toddlers, we constantly asked, "Why?" But as we get older, asking MOVE too many questions is often discouraged — especially when those questions are about our faith. But in this 4-week series, we'll talk about how having questions (and even doubts) about God might not be as scary or as shameful as we thought, because you're not alone in your questions, God doesn't shame us for our questions, our questions don't always get answered, and Godly people can help us with our questions.

The Wednesday Night Youth Group will be moving over to the STAC house (610 8th Street) beginning March 4th. The STAC house will be open at 5 pm for all youth to come eat and hang out until Youth Group begins at 6 PM and Confirmation at 7 PM. Parents will drop off all children at the STAC House between 5 and 6 pm. Highschool Singers will ride the Church van over to the STAC house after choir. ALL CHILDREN will be picked up at the STAC house unless other arrangements have been made. If you have any questions, please call Lynn or e-mail lynn@psjumc.org.

# MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday School – 11am Great Hall

Wednesday Night Youth Supper and Youth – 5-7pm STAC House Confirmation 7-8pm – STAC House (Highschool Singers at FUMC)

MARCH 8 SUNDAY SCHOOL TO NURSING HOME

MARCH 18 NO YOUTH—SPRING BREAK

MARCH 29 YOUTH FUNDRAISER AND BEACH AFTERNOON

# Paul Brown, Director of Music and Worship Arts

#### March 8 FUMC Combined Choirs



Chancel Choir - Young Singers- High School Singers

Turn the World Around Performance!

10am Sunday worship service, choirs report at 9 am

**March 8** Visitation to Cross Shores Nursing Home FUMC Choirs will be doing a Hymn Sing of the old Gospel Tunes at Cross Shores Nursing Home directly after worship service. Come and join us in singing, prayer, and fellowship.

March 21 Guitar lessons with Rachel Hillman FUMC GREAT HALL - Saturday 11:30-3:30

Contact Paul Brown for registration paul@psjumc.org or 850-319-6782



March 22 Sunday Morning Worship 10am FUMC Great Hall with Guest Artist Rachel Hillman

March 29 Sunday Worship Service FUMC Hand Bells Debut!



Ring in your weekend with our Hand Bell Choir! Friday Rehearsals , 10am FUMC Great Hall.

# **Ensembles at FUMC**

Wednesday Friday

Little Lambs K2-1st Grade 5:30-7:00 Hand Bells 10:00

Young Singers 4:00-5:00 High School Singers 5:30-6:15 Chancel Choir 7:00-8:00

Private Voice / Instrumental Instruction Paul Brown paul@psjumc.org 850-319-6782

Private Piano Instruction Jessica Beasley 904-557-0118

# Mitzi Bulger, Rita Carmack, Sue Meyer, Carla May - Pastoral Care Team

We are happy to welcome to our church family on 2/2/20 Ashton Lovejoy and children Kyle, Kinley, and Reese; and Joyce Penn who joined on 3/1/20. Look for their pictures on our bulletin board and introduce yourselves.

Congratulations to Paul and Joyce Penn, who were united in marriage here at our church on 2/16/20.

Our condolences are extended to Carolyn Witten and family upon the loss of Carolyn's daughter, Michele Waltz 2/13/20 and to David Odom and family upon the loss of his father, Rev. Marlin Odom 2/20/20.

We also would like to welcome Carla May to the Pastoral Care Team. Carla will head up our college ministry. If you have a child heading to college this fall, please let Carla know.



Paul & Joyce Penn



The Lovejoys with Pastor Britney

#### March 2020

March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11:00AMSunday School	12:30PM Prayer Group 4:00PM Voice Lessons & Piano Lessons 5:00PM Rebuild Committee Meeting 6:30PM ACA 7:00PM Voice Lessons & Piano Lessons	10:00AM AWFC UMCOR (10-4) 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 10:30AM Staff Meeting 2:00PM Worship Planning 4:15PM Piano Lessons 7:00PM AA Meeting	5:30-6:15 Hang Time 5:15-6:15 High School Singers 6:00-7:00 Mom's Group 6:15-7:00 Kids' Life 6:00-7:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00-7:00 Pouth – 6th-12th 7:00-8:00 Choir Practice 7:00-8:00 Confirmation Class	12:00PM Recovery Tem Meeting (12-3) 4:30PM Voice Lessons 7:00PM AA Meeting		
Day Sorward au	9 9:30AM Christian Believer Class 10:00AM TLC Team 12:30PM Prayer Group 4:00PM Voice Lessons & Piano Lessons 2:00PM SPR Meeting (2-6) 6:30PM ACA 7:00PM Voice Lessons & Piano Lessons	10:00AM AWFC UMCOR (10-4) 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 10:30AM Staff Meeting 2:00PM Worship Planning 4:15PM Piano Lessons	5:30-6:15 Hang Time 5:15-6:15 High School Singers	12 9:00AM Band Fitness 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 12:00PM Recovery Team Meeting (12-3) 4:30PM Voice Lessons 7:00PM AA Meeting	Lessons	14
15 3rd Sunday in Lent 900AMSundaySchool 1000AM ChurchService 11:00AMSunday School	10:00AM TLC Team 12:30PM Prayer Group 6:30PM ACA	10:00AM AWFC UMCOR (10-4) 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 7:00PM AA Meeting 3/16-3/20 Church	offices closed ———	19 9:00AM Band Fitness 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 12:00PM Recovery Team Meeting (12-3) 7:00PM AA Meeting	20 First Day of Spring	21
10:00AM Church Service 11:00AM Sunday School 11:30AM UMW Lunch- eon & Meeting	23 9:30AM Christian Believer Class	24 Saltlife Deadline 9:00AM Band Fitness 10:00AM AWFC UMCOR (10-4) 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 10:30AM Staff Meeting 2:00PM Worship Planning 4:15PM Piano Lessons	25 1000-1100 PrayerShawlGroup 4:00-5:00 Young Singers 2nd-5th 5:00-6:00 Fellowship Dinner 5:30-7:00 Little Lambs K2-1st 5:30-6:15 Hang Time 5:15-6:15 High School Singers 6:00-7:00 Mom's Group 6:15-7:00 Kids' Life 6:00-7:00 Youth – 6th-12th 7:00-8:00 Confirmation Class (6th grade and up) 7:00-8:00 Choir Practice	12:00PM Recovery		Private Wedding – Rotunda
10:00AMChurch Service-Young Singers 11:00AMSunday School 11:30amSoup & Sandwich Youth Fundraiser	30 9:30AM Christian Believer Class 10:00AM TLC Team 12:30PM Prayer Group 4:00PM Voice Lessons & Piano Lessons 6:30PM ACA 7:00PM Voice Lessons	10:00AM AWFC UMCOR (10-4) 10:15AM Yoga 10:30AM LIFFT Class 10:30AM Staff Meeting 2:00PM Worship Planning 4:15PM Piano Lessons 6:00PM Bay Choral	1 APRIL 4:00-5:00 Young Singers 2nd-5th 5:00-6:00 Fellowship Dinner 5:30-7:00 Little Lambs K2-1st 5:30-6:15 Hang Time 5:15-6:15 High School Singers 6:00-7:00 Mom's Group 6:15-7:00 Kids' Life 6:00-7:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00-7:00 Youth – 6th-12th 7:00-8:00 Confirmation Class (6th grade and up) 7:00-8:00 Choir Practice	12:00PM Recovery Team Meeting (12-3)	Lessons 10:00AM Handbells 4:30PM Voice Lessons 6:00PM Bay Choral Society Spring Concert-	Britney- Great Hall (10-12) 4PM Private

Happy Birthday:

1st- Boyd Bulger 3rd-Lynda White 5th- Boyd Kline Mitzi Bulger Claire Matney 6th- Linda Freeman James Chancellor Caleb Zur Heiden 7th- Nancy Nevles DeAnn Wilder 8th- Alyson Gerlach 10th- Beckie Fulcher Hayden Palmer JoAnne Buzzett 11th- Jennifer Sherrill

12th- Danny Tankersley Debbie Tankersley Krichelle McGhee 13th- Anna Hicks Thomas Medlin 14th- Lynne Whitfield John McInnis Vivian Miller Robert Williams B.J. Denton Elizabeth Furstenberg David Odom 15th Matthew Howell Sarah Sanborn 18th - Alison Kerigan 19th - Bill Kennedy 20th - Andy Shoaf Joe Bush 21st - Barry Adkison Harvey Hennington Chuck Tharpe Nicole Windolf Marjorie May 22nd - Ann Barnes Harold Brown 23rd - Diane Furstenberg 24th - Gary Howze 25th - Jenny Garth David Bowman 26th - Lee Miller Ernst Monica Harris 27th- Jacob Tankersley 29th- Coy Knox 30th- Charlie Cox

Happy Anniversary:

1st- Joe and Mary Bush 5th- Kevin & Deborah Tuttle 14th- Skip & Jane Griffies Celeste Putnam & Peter Tanzy 20th- Larry & Kathy Wilson Wes & Heather Jones 21st- Kris & Diane Furstenberg 30th-Fred & Tamara Flowers **10:00AM Worship Service** — For the foreseeable future we will be having one worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 (Eastern) in the Great Hall. The best way to enter is through the rotunda doors. The service will also be streamed on Facebook LIVE for those who can't join us in person.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring Saturday night.

United Methodist Meeting and Breakfast Sunday, March 18:00am in the Great Hall. All men are invited to attend.

UMW Meeting and Luncheon Sunday, March 22 11:30am in the Great Hall. All women are invited to attend.

**Attention UMCOR Cookie Committee** Our baked goods supply has been depleted and we need more! We have over 100 people coming in during the month of March. You can bring your baked goods in anytime and place them in the kitchen freezer on the shelves marked "UMCOR". If you would like more information or would like to join this committee, contact Missions Chairperson, Sue Kubitskey 850-647-6030.

Spring Break Week (March 16-20) no Wednesday night activities., including dinner.

**Tanzania Missionary** Join us on Monday, March 23 at 12:00PM, in the Great Hall to meet Eric Soard, our missionary to Tanzania. There he founded Wesley College and 15 local churches. We will have lunch at noon and at 1:00PM Eric will tell us about his work. Afterward, we will discuss ways to partner with him for the future.

**Bridal Shower/Celebration** hosted by our church family for Pastor Britney and her fiancé, Chris, on April 4 10:00am in the Great Hall. All are invited to attend. Couple is registered at Bead, Bath, & Beyond.

Fitness Classes Tuesdays & Thursdays Bands & Body Weight Fitness 9:00am Great Hall, Yoga 10:15am Great Hall, LIFFT (Lower Impact Fun Fitness Team) 10:30am Choir Room.

**Help Rebuilding**-The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is setting up a major presence in Port St. Joe/Mexico Beach for recovery. We will have volunteer teams from across the nation staying in a Hospitality House, which UMCOR has purchased near the church. If you or your neighbors need help rebuilding your homes please call 850-740-3966 Also, if you know of mission/work teams that are interested in coming down to work please call the same number for reservations.

**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.

**Methodist Care Closet** hours: Thursday – Friday 9am – 4pm, Saturday 9am – 12pm. The Care Closet is in need for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, just stop by the Closet. Volunteer times are Tuesday and Wednesday 9AM-12PM.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) 6:30pm Mondays in the Great Hall. This group is open to all.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 7pm Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am in the Great Hall.

**Prayer Shawl Group** meets 4th Wednesdays at 10am in the Great Hall. Beginners are welcome to join.

**2020 Pilgrimage** Pastor Geoffrey is leading a pilgrimage to Holy sites in Italy, and the Passion Play in Oberammergau September 24 for 12 days. We will be traveling with friends from FUMC Panama City. During the trip we will see holy sites in Munich, Innsbruck, Venice, Florence, Assisi, and three days in Rome. One of the highlights of the trip is the Passion Play that has been going on every 10 years since the Middle Ages. We will also walk in the footsteps of St Paul and learn about the early church. More information is available in the church lobby (by the elevator).

**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.

# Upcoming Board Meetings

**Building Committee Meeting** Monday, March 2 5pm in the Constitution Room.

**SPR Meeting** Monday, March 9 2-6pm in the Constitution Room.

John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

Do no harm

Do good

Stay in love with God

# Sunday School/Small Groups

9:00- 9:45 O Bay Sunday School Class (Constitution Room)

9:00– 9:45 Alpha Sunday School Class (Monument Room)

10:00-10:45 Nursery (Monument Room)

11:00-12:00 Marie Jones Sunday School Class (Lobby)

11:00-12:00 Pridgeon-Rish Sunday School Class (Monument Room)

11:00-12:00 His Kids Sunday School Class (Great Hall)

11:00-12:00 Youth Sunday School Class (Rotunda)

11:00-12:00 Harbin Sunday School Class (Constitution Room)



Servers: Volunteers



#### Dinner begins at 5:00. Donations are welcome.

Wednesday, March 4 Menu: Meatloaf, Potato Soufflé, Green Beans, Dessert Servers: O Bay Class Wednesday, March 11 Menu: Pork Chops, Spanish Rice, Salad, Dessert Servers: Volunteers Wednesday, March 18 NO DINNER-SPRING BREAK Servers: Alpha Class



4:00-5:00 Young Singers — 2nd-5th grades (Choir Room)

5:00-6:00 Fellowship Dinner (Great Hall)

5:30-7:00 Little Lambs — K3-1st grades (Monument Room/Lobby) 5:30-6:15 Hang Time — 2nd-12th grades (Downstairs Lobby) 5:15-6:15 High School Singers (Constitution Room)

Wednesday, March 25 Menu: Red Beans & Rice, Salad, Dessert

6:00-7:00 Mom's Group (Nursery)
6:15-7:00 Kids' Life – 2nd-5th grades (Monument Room)
6:00-7:00 Pastor's Bible Study (Great Hall)
6:00-7:00 Youth – 6th-12th grades (Choir Room)

7:00-8:00 Confirmation Class —6th grade and up (Choir Room) \*January 15-April 1 7:00-8:00 Choir Practice (Great Hall)



Stay Connected One thing Hurricane Michael has taught us is how important it is to stay connected even when we are away. We are a family, a community of faith, and being there for each other is an important part of being a community. However, sometimes events in life cause us to be a away from our church family. Thankfully technology today provides us tools to remain connected even when we are away The Sunday before the hurricane hit was the first time we streamed our Sunday worship service on Facebook LIVE. We will continue streaming our service each Sunday at 10:00am EST, even while we are meeting in the Great Hall. If you can't attend in person, we encourage you to watch and participate online.

# Mission Statement

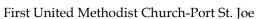
The First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe is called of God to be a Christian fellowship, affirming our beliefs through worship, witness, and service, glorifying God, adhering faithfully to the scriptures, nurturing spiritual growth, and sharing God's forgiveness to all people through the transforming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



Hashtag us via social media: #psjumc



ጊ Like us on Facebook:





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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Email: info@psjumc.org Website: www.psjumc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED