



Matthew 5:13

October 2021

VOL. 20, ISSUE 10



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PORT ST. JOE



Dear Parishioners:

As most of you know, I made a bold promise last year that we would enjoy a great time of celebrating our "Pastor Appreciation Day" in 2021! I think I said something along the lines of "if the Lord's willing and the Creek don't rise." I was way off on the last part, but we are going to have a tremendous celebration this year for Pastors Geoffrey and Chelsey and we all know that our loving and gracious Lord always provides. The fun event will be a big fish fry with all the trimmings and will be held on Wednesday, October 27th at the Gulf County Veterans Memorial Park located at 8750 W Hwy 98. The Park, as many of you know, is situated atop Beacon Hill with beautiful views and all kinds of amenities that will make our event engaging and comfortable. And it's only a short distance of 9.4 miles from the church. We look forward to having a big turnout so we can all enjoy being together in a much deserved time of celebration for our pastors.

We will not have our regular Wednesday night meal and all other church activities. The celebration will kick off at the park at 5:30 p.m. EDT - we hope to eat around 6:00 - and will wrap up around 7:30 p.m. EDT. The church will provide the food and drinks so bring a chair and bug spray, just in case, and let's all enjoy the fellowship as we celebrate another tremendous year of love, leadership, and growth with Geoffrey and Chelsey.

After our meal, we will present Pastor Geoffrey and Pastor Chelsey with a monetary honorarium showing how much we appreciate their ministry here. If you would like to contribute to this gift, please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church and mark it "Pastor Appreciation." You can give your contribution to Diann, Heather, any usher, put it in the collection plate, or mail it to the P. O. Box in the upcoming weeks.

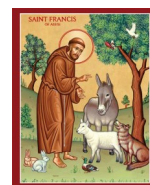
We want to make this a very special day of celebration for our church and our pastors, and we encourage your participation. We are truly blessed that God has sent Geoffrey and Chelsey to us to minister to our individual and collective needs. This is one way we can show our appreciation and love and we need you to be a part.

Yours in Christ,

Judy Williams

Judy Williams
Lay Leader

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 4PM
GREAT HALL ROTUNDA



PUMPKIN PATCH OPENS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9
CHURCH PARSONAGE LOT



SANCTUARY DEMOLITION
BEGINS: SERVICE OF DEATH &
RESURRECTION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 10AM
GREAT HALL



SONGWRITERS SUNDAY
OCTOBER 17
10AM WORSHIP SERVICE
CENTENNIAL PARK



PSJ FALL BREAK
OCTOBER 18-19
OFFICES CLOSED



PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27
5:30PM VETERANS PARK AT
BEACON HILL



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31
10AM GREAT HALL



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,



"It is just a building," they say; "the church is the people." But I disagree at least with the first part—it is not "just" a building. One of the things that makes Christianity so different from more "spiritual" religions is that we believe that God has not stayed put in the heavenly realms, but instead has come down into space and time to be with us. For Christians, this means that space becomes set apart or holy. God came to be with Israel in slavery and journeyed with them to the Promised Land, and God has come down in the person of Jesus to be with the world. So for Christians, bodies are important and so are buildings. God works through and in people and places, through bread and wine and water. In other words, God takes up space.

Since 1950, people have brought their most sacred moments to this building. We presented our newborns for the blessing of baptism, we committed to our true loves with the vows of marriage, we gave our lives to Christ at the altar of faith, and we have said farewell to our loved ones in Christian funeral. Thousands of people for generations have had sacred interactions in this special place. It is not "just" a building. It is holy ground.

On October 10, 2018 Hurricane Michael destroyed the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe, Florida—our house of worship for many generations. The beautiful stained glass shattered from wind and wave. The dark wood of the pews and wainscoting became covered in salt. Our high steeple was twisted by the elements. The sturdy block and brick walls came tumbling down. Even the historic altar, pulpit, and font floated away. We have looked at this wreckage for three years—an ever present reminder of the injury that our community had sustained.

This October, what is left of the building comes down, and we will mourn. We will commit to God this sacred place like a family standing in the hot sun of a cemetery. We will stare at the dirt and dust that remains and grieve. And yet, Christian funerals are not devoid of hope. Our faith teaches that death can lead to resurrection and that endings can be beginnings. It is not "just" a building, and one day soon on the same holy ground a new red-brick building with stained glass will rise from the ashes and dust, its tower pointing heavenward. And, one day, we will all exclaim the words of the book of *Revelation*, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them."

Peace,



Geoffrey

All Saints Sunday



October 31: All Saints Sunday All Saints Day is observed November 1 of each year. On Sunday, October 31, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday as we remember our church's saints. The purpose of All Saints Sunday is to honor and remember those who have died since the last All Saints Day. At our 10am service, we will be calling the names of members and friends of our church who have died in the last year. If you would like a name added to the list, please contact the church office.

Liz Lentz, Children's Director

Children's Ministry

Join us on Wednesdays for **Little Lambs** (PreK3-1st grade) and **Kids Life** (2nd-5th grade) at 5:30. We are meeting at the Methodist Learning Center, 218 Long Avenue (across from St. Joe Gas). Dinner is \$3 per child.

For the month of October our **Mission Project** will focus on making and sending cards to encourage others.

Christmas ornament fundraiser: On Thursday, October 28 after school 3-5th grade will make ornaments to be sold as a camp fundraiser.

Ghosts on the Coast is Sunday, October 31st at 5:00 pm, and our church will have a booth, so we need candy donations and volunteers to help pass out candy on the day of the event. Candy donations can be dropped off at the Ministry Center, 510 Fourth Street on Monday-Thursday or in the Great Hall on Sunday mornings. See Ms. Liz if you would like to help pass out candy.



Lynn Marshall, Youth Director



When Jesus was on earth, he had a lot to say about love, but not everyone loved him. Instead, Jesus' opponents hated him, attacked him, and saw him as extreme — dangerous — revolutionary — a radical. And they had a point! The things Jesus taught about loving God and loving others challenged the status quo and changed the world forever. That's pretty radical. In this 4-week series from the book of James, we'll look at four ways Jesus invites us to love according to his revolutionary example. These ideas might seem simple, but when we choose to **listen more than we speak, refuse to play favorites, watch our words, and fight for peace**, we'll see just how radical Jesus' teachings really are.



THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

The Pumpkin Patch will be open at First United Methodist Church beginning October 9th. This is our Youth fundraiser and we would appreciate your support. We will have a variety of Pumpkins for sale. The patch will be open weekdays from 3-7 PM and weekends from 11 - 7 PM. If you need pumpkins during off hours, please call Lynn Marshall at 850-340-0278.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Friday October 8th - TIME TBD - Please bring a wheel barrow and help us unload the trailer

Every day in October

Monday - Friday 3-5 and 5-7

Saturday and Sunday 11 - 2, 2 - 5 and 5-7

Saturday and Sunday 11 - 2, 2 - 5 and 5-7

Contact Lynn to sign up.

Paul Brown, Director of Music and Worship Arts



PAINTING

PHOTOGRAPHY

DANCE

MUSIC

ACTING

Join us for Sunday morning worship services!

October 3rd, World Communion Sunday. Young Singers, Bell Choir, and the Vocal Arts Ensemble will lead us in an uplifting service of song and praise! Let us celebrate through songs of Zulu and other traditional African languages! Thank you to Conductor, Dana Langford and to our percussionist, Tim Dutrow.

October 11th, Service of Death and Resurrection. Join us as we remember the amazing memories of our Sanctuary. Let us sing, pray, and worship for the blessings God has bestowed, and for the blessing of our future. John Sutton will join our Vocal Arts Ensemble as we sing favorite songs of our faith and celebrate our foundation.

October 17th, Songwriter Sunday. Let us welcome Guest Artist Jerry Salley!

October 24th, Sunday Morning Worship

October 31st, All Saints Sunday

FUMC PSJ Music Ensembles

Bay Area Chorus- Adult Ministry- Bus leave FUMC at 5:15 for 6 p.m. rehearsals.

Young Singers- Grades 2-8th. Wednesday Rehearsals. 4-5:15 p.m. Ministry Center

Bell Choir- Adult Ministry - Wednesday Rehearsals. 1-2:30 p.m. Great Hall

Vocal Arts Ensemble/ Chancel Choir - Thursday Rehearsals 6 p.m. Great Hall

Thank you to Rick Ott, Luke Lentz, and Dru Flowers for our audio and video production!

Director of Music, Paul Brown 850-319-6782 Pbmus2018@gmail.com



John Sutton



Jerry Salley

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: Courtney Knox (Courtney@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

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School 4:00pm Blessing of the Beasts	4 9:30am Disciple I Study Group 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 5:00pm Lay Leadership-Ministry Center (MC) 6:00pm SPRC Meeting-MC	5 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	6 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	7 6:00pm Choir Practice	1 	2
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School Church Demo Begins	11 9:30am Disciple I Study Group 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 5:00pm Lay Leadership-MC	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	13 10:00am Prayer Shawl 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	14 6:00pm Choir Practice	15 	16
17 Songwriters Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School	18 9:30am Disciple I Study Group Fall Break	19 10/18-10/19	20 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	21 10:00am Finance Meeting 6:00pm Choir Practice	22 	23
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School	25 9:30am Disciple I Study Group 2:00pm Exec. Staff Meeting 5:00pm Trustees-MC 6:00pm Church Council -MC	26 10:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Worship Planning	27 Pastor Appreciation Day 10:00am Prayer Shawl 10:00am DAR 1:00pm Bell Choir 4:00pm Young Singers 5:30pm Pastor Appreciation Dinner and Celebration - Veterans Park at Beacon Hill	28 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Building Committee Meeting-MC	29 	30
31 All Saint's Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Sunday School 5:30pm Ghosts on the Coast downtown PSJ						

Happy Birthday:

2nd- David Hopkins
 3rd- Ellison Newman
 Natalie Sabiston
 4th- Caroline Allen
 Michael Barnes
 6th- Richard Ramsey
 Jonathan Rentfro
 7th- Lisa Baggett
 8th- Britney Toner
 9th- David May
 11th- Alma Wynn
 12th- Cindy Belin
 Elinor Pickard
 Katrina Richards
 Carly Windolf
 13th- Nancy Buzzett
 Allen Cox
 Sonya Finlay
 14th- Charlotte Willis
 15th- Mike Williamson
 16th- Cully Kerigan

17th- Greta Freeman
 Gail Alsobrook
 18th- Kim McFarland
 Susan Norred
 20th- Sylvia Barbay
 22nd- Delores Windolf
 23rd- Sarah Franklin
 Luke Lentz
 25th- Renee Shoaf
 Kimberly Shoaf
 Ricky Sherrill
 26th- Bernadette Nagy
 28th- Sandra McInnis
 Teri Palmer
 29th- Walter Wilder
 David Bogaert
 Taft Taunton
 30th- Patty Crooke
 Samuel Littleton
 Dave Russell
 31st- Margarette Schremp

Happy Anniversary:

6th- Andy & Kimberly Shoaf
 7th- Ed & Sarah Franklin
 9th- Randon & Anna Hicks
 Kevin & Sylvia Guidry
 10th- Mike & Nikki Barrett
 21st- Ronald & Brenda Miller
 22nd- Greg & Jerrie Todd
 24th- Ed & Dot Creamer
 29th- Wes & Katie Burke

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

Announcements

Blessing of the Beasts Sunday, October 3 4pm on the Rotunda. All pets are welcome.

Service of Death and Resurrection Demolition of most of our church campus will begin Sunday, October 10. We will have a Service of Death and Resurrection for our beloved sanctuary during the 10am service. After the service, we will gather outside to watch the demolition begin. This is a tentative date and may change.

All Saints Sunday All Saints Day is observed November 1 of each year. On Sunday, October 31, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday as we remember our church's saints. The purpose of All Saints Sunday is to honor and remember those who have died since the last All Saints Day. At our 10am service, we will be calling the names of members and friends of our church who have died in the last year. If you would like a name added to the list, please contact the church office.

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.

UMW Our United Methodist Women's Unit has been inactive since March of 2020 due to Covid. Normally we do not meet during the summer. In the fall, if we are to become active once again we will need some women to step forward to lead this effort. Several of our Executives Board Members have resigned. I will no longer be able to serve as President due to my responsibilities at the Care Closet. Most of the Board members are still willing to be active members we just need some other women to step forward to take leadership roles. If this is a mission you have a heart for please give this matter prayerful consideration. If you would like further information please call me at 850-227-6028 (Cathy Cox).

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.

October Meetings

Lay Leadership Meetings Monday, October 4 5pm and Monday, October 11 at 5pm.

SPR Meeting Monday, October 4 at 6pm at the Ministry Center.

Finance Committee Meeting Thursday, October 21 10am at the Ministry Center.

Trustees Meeting Monday, October 25 5pm at the Ministry Center.

Church Council Meeting Monday, October 25 6pm at the Ministry Center.

Building Committee Meeting Thursday, October 28 6pm at the Ministry Center.

John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

Do no harm

Do good

Stay in love with God

Vicki Abrams, Methodist Caring Ministries



Volunteers Needed: Would you like to help your neighbors in preparing their 2021 tax returns? JOIN THE VITA TEAM - Starting in January 2022, The Gulf County Library has partnered with United Way of Northwest Florida, IRS and PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU to offer free tax preparation and e-filing to qualified individuals; people who generally make \$57,000 or less; Persons with disabilities; and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. The VITA tax program is a free, reliable, and trusted source for tax return preparation. To join the team of tax volunteers (greeters and tax preparers), please go to www.UnitedWayNWFL.org. From the homepage, navigate to the VITA tab and Click "online form" to open the VITA Volunteer Form. Please indicate in the form, hours per week you are interested in volunteering and if you would like to assist in Port St. Joe or Wewahitchka. If you have questions about the program, please contact the VITA Tax Site Coordinator, Joan Hill at 904.361.8052. You can also contact Vicki Abrams with the Methodist Caring Ministries - 904.472.8949.

Two Fish Food and Hygiene Donations - Two Fish is now serving over 425 individuals who live in Gulf County and Mexico Beach. Your donations are so important to the mission of Two Fish Market. Thank you for your continued support!
Needed Items: Rice, Dry mashed potato mix, Pasta, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap

The Blessing Bags Ministry is off to a great start this year, providing PSJES students with food insecurities, meals and snacks for the weekend. If you'd like to help by volunteering just a couple of hours month, please contact Susan Magidson at (850) 227-5717, or the Church office. Donations of non-perishable, individual-sized breakfast food, entrees, fruit, and snacks are greatly appreciated.



We have had a very steady month at the Care Closet despite all the rain on store days.

Our donations are way up, in fact we are struggling to find room to store what we have. If you have anytime to come in during the week just for a couple hours to help us sort clothes we could certainly use some extra hands.

We are also still in need of purses and jewelry, so clean out those closets and jewelry boxes!

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



We extend our condolences to

Jill Davis upon the death of her mother, Shirley Gustafson, September 7.
Krystal Terry upon the death of her grandfather, Charles Tharpe, September 27.

We welcome new members Charles (Chuck) and Carolyn Allen who joined at the August 28 service. Please help them to feel welcome in their new church family.

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 needs you or someone you know may have.

FUMC Pastoral Care College Ministry Chairperson is Carla May 850-227-5512 or carla091962@hotmail.com. FUMC College Ministry is an outreach program of our church Pastoral Care Committee. In this program, each college student is assigned a sponsor/volunteer member of our congregation, who will keep in touch with their assigned college student throughout the school year. These volunteer/sponsors will send greeting cards, church-supplied gift cards, and will be an additional source of encouragement for the college students. If you would like to volunteer, are currently attending college, or will attend college in the fall and would like to participate in FUMC College Ministry, please contact Carla May.

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

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.

First United Methodist Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED