

PASTOR'S NOTE

February entails a very notable event we call "Valentine's Day". This is a celebration of "romantic love". We understand that "romantic love" can be exciting but not necessarily lasting. Beyond the feelings a true lasting love involves vulnerability or risk and certainly sacrifice. I came across the following story which illustrates how risk and sacrifice can bring about important discoveries.

Some years ago, there was a shipwreck off the coast of the Pacific Northwest. A crowd of fishermen in the nearby village gathered to watch the ship as it was smashed on the rocks. A lifeboat was sent to the rescue, and after a terrific struggle the rescuers came back with all of the shipwrecked sailors but one. "There was no room in the lifeboat for him so we told him to stay by the ship and someone would come back for him," shouted a young man.

"Who will come with me?" shouted a young man. Just then a little old lady cried out, "Don't go. Jim, my boy. Don't go. You are all I have left. Your father was drowned in the sea; your brother William sailed away and we've never heard from him; and now if you are lost, I'll be left alone. Oh, Jim please don't go." Jim listened patiently to this mother's pleading, then said, "Mother I must go! It is my duty. I must go!"

The onlookers watched as the men in the lifeboat fought their way toward the wreck. Anxiously Jim's mother wept and prayed. They saw the boat start back, a frail little shell tossed about by the angry waves. At last it came close enough to hear, and they shouted, "Did you get him?" And Jim shouted back, "Yes, and tell mother it's William!"

We are grateful for our God who so loved us that He gave His only Son. In this sacrificial love of God our salvation is made possible. Ultimately, God's love both inspires and informs how we are to love each other. It is a love that Paul characterized as bearing and enduring all things (I Corinthians 13). Jesus also instructs us to love one another as He has loved us. It is through this love that all the lost are truly found. Every William can tell you that.

Grace and Peace,
Bill

WORSHIP

Join Us Sundays for Worship and Fellowship

Traditional Worship: 8:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship: 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



Join us as we celebrate the beginning of Lent.

Ash Wednesday

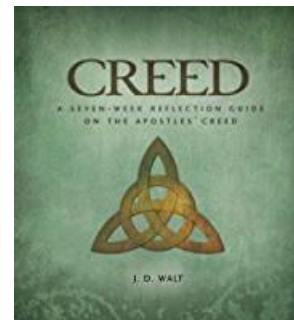
Spanish Fort United Methodist will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a special service on March 1st, at 6:30 PM.

Please join us in the Sanctuary as we observe Ash Wednesday with a special worship service. The mission teams will also hold a Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00-6:00 p.m. No other mid-week activities will take place.

STUDY

Creed – Lenten Church-wide Series & Study

Every Sunday during our worship services we recite the Apostles' Creed. It is filled with our history and what we believe. For some of us, we can recite it without ever thinking about what we're actually professing. We say it, though, as a part of collective memory as Christians. In our distracted culture, we are challenged with remaining focused. Creeds help us re-center ourselves individually and as a body of believers. They provide us with instruction, correction, understanding, healing, revelation, and transformation. What we believe matters. Therefore, Creeds matter.



Would you join us in a journey through the Apostles' Creed during the season of Lent, beginning March 5th? We will be preaching the seven Sundays during Lent on the major themes of the Creed and invite you to participate in this church-wide study. We will be using *Creed*, by J.D. Walt, as the format for our series. We have purchased these books for your individual use or to use with a group (Sunday School, small group, Bible Study, etc.) You can purchase these from the church office for \$10. If you would like to use these for a study group, please let Rev. Rebecca know so she can assist you with the creation of a study guide in addition to the book. We are excited to remember together. We hope you will join us on the journey.

Adult



We are looking to see if there would be a group interested in taking Financial Peace University in early 2017 or in the Fall. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Rebecca Rutherford at 626-1334.

Men, mark your calendars...

Annual Men's Retreat
February 10-11, 2017
Camp Baldwin
Cost is \$55

Registration and monies are due
in the church office by **February 1st.**



Youth

Superbowl Party February 5th @ 5:00 PM

- Large Screen TV
- Bring a snack to share
- Bring a friend
- Stay for the whole game

inspire. equip. unleash.

remedy youth



High
School
Ministry

Children

All K-5th graders are invited to participate in a puppet workshop on Sunday, February 19, from 3-5 p.m. on the West Campus. The cost is \$15. You will make a puppet, learn puppetry, and present a puppet show. A reservation is required.

Please contact Beth Allen at 626-1334
or beth@spanishfortumc.org.



Agape Hands

Puppet Workshop

Feb 19th ~ 3-5 p.m.

K-6th Grades ~ Cost: \$15



April 9, 2017
**Easter
Celebration**



*Inflatables - Slides - Games - Egg Hunt
Scavenger Hunt - Face Painting - Great
Music - Sno-Cones - Free Food - & More!*

4-7 PM

Spanish Fort United Methodist Church
Intersection of Hwys 225 & 31

Free Community Event

We are looking for volunteers and sponsors for the many activities taking place at our annual Community Easter Celebration. Please contact Beth Allen at beth@spanishfortumc.org or 626-1334 for more information.



CHECK IN & CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

SFUMC is proud to be a program that abides by the United Methodist Church's Safe Sanctuary Policies regarding Children's Ministry.

In an effort to continue moving in the direction of these policies, this is a friendly reminder of the following policies regarding the signing in and signing out of your child.

Policy Reminder:

ALL Children ages Nursery - 5th grade must be signed in by a parent / guardian at the start of programming and signed out by a parent or guardian at the conclusion of programming. To comply with safe sanctuary policies an adult is considered someone who is 18 years or older.

Older siblings are NOT allowed to sign in or check out children from Wednesday programming, Sunday School, Children's Church, or the Nursery. Please make arrangements to accompany your child into the building to sign them in and out in order for them to participate.

Shuttle Revisions:

If your children are planning to ride the shuttle on Sundays or Wednesdays from the Main Campus to the West Campus, you will need to accompany your child to the bus and sign them in with the bus driver. For those children who are riding the shuttle from the West Campus to the Main Campus following Sunday School, a parent / guardian must be present to sign them out with the bus driver.

In addition, we ask that you be mindful and courteous regarding the time of sign in and sign out times. We hope that your children are excited to come each week and at the same time want you to have the opportunity to fellowship with others.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this effort. We want to ensure the safety of all children while they are on our church campus so that they can embrace their learning of God's word and grow further in their faith!

Please contact Jennifer Robertson if you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies at jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org.

Costa Rica & Ecuador Mission Teams *Valentine's Fundraiser*



Orders Due 1-31
Pickup 2-8 / 5-6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

www.spanishfortumc.org

Pick up an order form in the church office or click on the above image to download an order form.
Order forms and monies are due in the church office by January 31.

Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 1, for dinner from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be followed by the Ash Wednesday worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. There will be no other regularly scheduled Mid-Week activities.

Mission Team Spaghetti Dinner

Join us on March 1st at 5:00 PM
for an awesome spaghetti dinner!

donations appreciated

All donations go to fund mission trips.



3rd Annual
Mission Team
Chili Cook-Off!

March 5th
12:00 p.m.

www.spanishfortumc.org

If you want to enter your team, please contact Joann Logan at 604-9532 or 626-1720. There are only spots for 12 teams, so register soon! The entry deadline is February 19th.

The rest of us get to taste the varieties of chili in the Fellowship Hall and vote for our favorites. Tickets are \$10 and members of the mission teams will pre-sell tickets beginning, Sunday, February 19th. You can also purchase tickets at the door the day of the Cook-Off.

Connect @ MidWeek!

Adult Classes | **DINNER** | *Kid's Activities*

Join us on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. for dinner in the Fellowship Hall.
After dinner, enjoy one of the many great activities available for all ages.

Come & get connected.

MENUS

02/01: Pork Loin

02/08: Tacos

02/15: Soup, Salad,
Subs (Vegetable &
Broccoli / Cheddar)

02/22: Lasagna



presents

Christian Comedian Travis Crim in Concert

February 2, 2017

6:30-8:30 p.m.

5:30 PM - Dinner
6:30 PM - Music by Andy Cloninger
7:00 PM - Comedy by Travis Crim

Adult Ticket & Dinner - \$20
Child Ticket & Dinner - \$15
Family Max - \$50
Scholarships Available

Tickets can be purchased at
Spanish Fort United Methodist Church
in the office or from one of the
following people:

Todd Matthews: 251-423-8633
Paul Giles: 251-422-2471
Russ Copeland: 251-327-1004
Jeff Chamberlain: 251-604-9865

This event is sponsored by SIGN - a group of men in our congregation (along with others) have created this outreach mission for our community. For more information about SIGN, please contact Todd Matthews at 251-423-8633. This night of family friendly entertainment is to raise awareness and support for this effort. **Childcare will not be available.** Please make checks payable to SIGN.

Make a Difference!

Volunteers are needed for Springhill Hospice in Baldwin County. You will visit hospice patients at home, but will not provide patient care. You can visit at your convenience, but please allow 2 hours. For more information, please call Randi at 251-448-9133.

A Note from Your Associate Pastor:

NEW CONTACT FORMAT

We are excited to share with you our newest platform for sharing information from the church office. We are streamlining our former version of the bi-monthly Contact Newsletter in order to communicate with you more efficiently and effectively. We are using a new email system that allows content to come to your screen that is more user friendly. You are able to click on links to sign up for things or to find more information elsewhere.

As you can see, our format is organized into our three major focus areas: Worship, Study, Serve. We also have other sections for notes from the pastor and community events. This is a work in progress, so be patient with us while we fine tune it. As a part of this process, we are requesting that all information for the next month's newsletter be submitted in writing to Carmen Walker in the front office no later than the 15th of the month. **Therefore, in order to submit something for the March newsletter, please have all information turned in by February 15th.** This gives us enough time to organize the information, make graphics if needed and prepare it for publication. This deadline is for both staff and any ministry areas within the congregation. We will be sending out the newsletter at the end of the month prior. Therefore, March's Contact will be available the end of February.

By streamlining our information, you will receive this publication only once. There will be reminders sent out for particular ministry areas as needed. *Note: if you "unsubscribe" to one publication electronically from Spanish Fort United Methodist Church, you will no longer receive any of the publications.* However, if you are not receiving our electronic publications, please note this when you register your attendance on Sunday morning or by contacting the church office at ministries@spanishfortumc.org.

We are using social media a lot more these days, as well, to share our upcoming events as well as stories of what's happening. Make sure you like us on [Facebook](#) or find us on Twitter [@spanishfortumc](#). Let us know if you have any questions. Those receiving printed publications will continue to receive them. If you would like a hard copy of a publication, you can print it yourself or let us know to send you one. Thank you for allowing us to communicate with you more effectively.

Rev. Rebecca Rutherford

STAFF

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Zack McCraw - Young Adult Ministry Coordinator
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Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday / 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Friday / 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
251-626-1334 phone | 251-626-1325 fax

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