

## PASTOR'S NOTE

John 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

Mary was not just a follower of Jesus. Mary loved Jesus. Her life had been radically changed, even transformed by Jesus. Now it appeared that the person she loved and knew as her true Savior was gone. So Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. I see in these words a real story that pictures a reality that all humans face. At some point we will stand outside the tomb of someone we deeply love and weep. For some of us this comes all too early in life. What Paul termed our "last and greatest enemy" is a painful reality we all will face. Our funeral ritual contains the lines, "we shrink before the mystery of death". As my brother-in-law said at the graveside of a beloved grandmother, "It is so hard to believe that someone you love so much is gone!" He and I and our family, as Mary, was standing outside the tomb weeping. But the greater reality and greater truth is this is not the end of the story. If this was the end of the gospel it would read more like a Shakespeare tragedy. But the gospel story continues and Mary is soon greeted by the Risen Christ. Some think Mary had trouble recognizing Jesus because of her grief. Jesus even asked her why she was weeping (v15). Finally, she recognized Jesus. Mary then became one of the first messengers of the Easter message, "I have seen the Lord". A hymn says so truly, "An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives". But even more importantly is the Risen Christ who meets us in the midst of our grief. Easter is God's final answer to all those who weep outside the tomb. I pray we all may share the story as Mary did in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive!

We pray your family has a blessed and joyful Easter.

Blessings, Bill

## Sanctuary Renovation Project

- ▶ To provide worshippers a clearly audible experience with correct lighting and improved projection equipment.
- ▶ To correct original design that lacked attention to acoustics.
- ▶ To repair or replace equipment that is broken, failing or lacks repair/tech support (no replacement parts).
- ▶ To replace the 20-year-old carpet.
- ▶ To paint a neutral color in coordination with carpet choice, making sure color does not interfere with lighting or projection.

For more details click on the  
**Sanctuary Renovation Tab**  
at [www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org).

Sanctuary Renovation Project Commitment Cards  
are available with Sunday's bulletin,  
in the pew pockets, the church office,  
or in the narthex.

You may also fill out a card online.

### GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE...

- \* Go to [www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org) & select online giving.
- \* Scan the QR code with your cell phone app for easy access to our online giving.
- \* To set up a regularly scheduled automatic withdrawal from your bank account, contact Jan Webb in the church office, or via email: [jan@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jan@spanishfortumc.org).



### Worship & Fellowship

Regular Schedule

Traditional Worship - 8:45 AM (Sanctuary)

Coffee Fellowship - 9:45 AM (Fellowship Hall)

Contemporary Worship - 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)

### Church Information

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Friday 8 a.m.-Noon

251-626-1334 | [ministries@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:ministries@spanishfortumc.org)

 Spanish Fort UMC  @spanishfortumc

[www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org)

Children

**NURSERY** | There will be nursery available on Easter Sunday for the 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** | There will be no children's church on Easter Sunday. Children will remain in the sanctuary to worship with their families on Easter Sunday. Activity bags and children's bulletins are located in the Narthex of the sanctuary.

**PRESCHOOL SUNDAY** | Please join us at the 11:00 a.m. service on April 15<sup>th</sup> to welcome the children, teachers, and their families from the Spanish Fort United Methodist Preschool. We will celebrate and give thanks to the Lord for this incredible ministry of our church as the children lead us in worship through special music and through the art pieces they have created which will be on display in the Narthex. At the conclusion of the service all are invited to a Preschool Open House and reception honoring Mrs. Aletta Campbell in the Fellowship Hall. Mrs. Aletta will be retiring after teaching our little ones for twenty-plus years. We hope you will take a moment to walk over and visit the preschool to see how the children are growing in their knowledge and relationship with Christ and offer words of thanks to Mrs. Aletta and all of our teachers and preschool staff.

STUDY

Children

2018 Vacation Bible School Registration is Open!



Youth

IMPORTANT YOUTH DATES COMING UP!

- ◇ No Remedy Bible Study 04/02/18
- ◇ Homework Help 04/09/18
- ◇ Youth Life Group Leader Meeting 04/08/18; 4:30 p.m.
- ◇ Life Group Orientation for Everyone 04/22/18; 5:00 p.m.
- ◇ Spring Retreat (9th-12th Graders) April 20-22
- ◇ No Remedy Youth 04/29/18 (Puppet Team Fundraiser)



The Life Group Orientation meeting will be Sunday, April 22, at 5:00 p.m. Parents, students, and LG leaders are asked to be in attendance. We will be discussing expectations, timeline, and an overall review of the group.

SERVE

**SFUMC KIDS on a MISSION** | UMCOR Health Kit Supply Drive continues! The children are continuing their year long mission effort of helping to supply UMCOR with Relief HealthKits. Each month we are collecting a different supply item that is necessary for the HealthKits. For more information or questions regarding this effort contact Jennifer Robertson at [jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org)

\*\*\* APRIL MONTHLY ITEM - Gallon Size Zip Lock Bags\*\*\*

**OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEEDS YOU** | Little Sprouts Nursery Ministry – Show the youngest members of our church family the love of Christ as a volunteer leader in the nursery during Sunday Worship services, mid-week programming, and week-day bible studies. Our little sprouts who need you the most at this time are those attending the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings.

**2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** | We are Shipwrecked! 2018 Volunteer registration is officially open! 150+ volunteers are needed to serve during the week of Vacation Bible School (June 11-15). There are many different roles people can volunteer to help serve with throughout the week. Hurry and sign up online!! Be one of the first 50 adults to register online and your name will be placed in the drawing to receive the Volunteer Lifesaver prize! The Volunteer Lifesaver prize is a personal VIP parking spot by the sanctuary on the main campus for the entire week of VBS! What are you waiting for?! Register your participation online at [www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org). For more information or questions contact Jennifer Robertson at [jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WORK DAYS SCHEDULED

|              |               |                        |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday      | April 24th    | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Thursday     | April 26th    | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday      | May 1st       | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Thursday     | May 3rd       | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday      | May 8th       | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Thursday     | May 10th      | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Tues.-Thurs. | May 15th-17th | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |

**OUR YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU** | Volunteer opportunities:

**Remedy**-Connect with high school students & serve as small group leaders.

**Sunday School**-Volunteers/Substitutes to help lead or facilitate small group discussions.

**Catapult**-Connect to middle school students & serve as small group leaders.

**High School Bible Study**-Help lead or facilitate small group discussions for high school boys & girls bible studies.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities with the youth, please email Zack McCraw or Beth Allen.

**SECURITY MINISTRY** | The Security Task Force has been meeting and working on security policies and procedures for Spanish Fort UMC. Part of this includes the formation of a *new* Security Ministry. This ministry is for women and men and will not take a lot of your time. You will primarily be needed on Sunday mornings during the worship service. If you think you might be interested please contact Stuart Woods at woods82@att.net.

**MISSIONS TEAM YARD SALE - APRIL 7, 2018 - 7:00 AM**  
Individuals should bring their donations to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 6th, between 3 - 7 p.m. You may also bring items early Saturday morning, April 7th. All items that are not sold will be donated to a local charity. It will be held in the Sanctuary Parking Lot and Fellowship Hall. All proceeds go to support the missions to Ecuador and Costa Rica. For more information, please contact Rob Howell at [jrhowell09010@gmail.com](mailto:jrhowell09010@gmail.com).



**OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY** | Join SFUMC at the Parkinson's Foundation Moving Day event at Spring Hill College on

Saturday, April 21st! This event highlights movement & exercise as symbols of hope & progress in treating Parkinson's Disease. To join the SFUMC team go to [www.MovingDaySouthAlabama.org](http://www.MovingDaySouthAlabama.org). Contact Kristi McClellan, [kkmcclellan@hotmail.com](mailto:kkmcclellan@hotmail.com), 251-716-4752, with any questions.



**BLOOD DRIVE** | The Blood Mobile will be in front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 22nd, beginning at 7:30 a.m. to accept all blood type donations.

**SFUMC PRESCHOOL TEACHER POSITION** | The Preschool is seeking to hire a part-time teacher. The application deadline is April 13th. To apply, please email your resume to [preschool@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:preschool@spanishfortumc.org), Jenni Dismukes, Preschool Director.

**WEDDING DIRECTOR** | We are in need of a Wedding Director here at SFUMC. This volunteer position allows you to be a part of the special day in a couple's life. You will meet with the bride and groom twice before the wedding, and then help facilitate the wedding day using SFUMC's policies and procedures as your guide. Please visit our website: [www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org) to learn more



**REDBIRD MISSION TRIP - HAZARD, KENTUCKY** | Please be in prayer for our mission teams as they travel to Hazard, Kentucky to assist in light home repairs in the mountain communities surrounding the 1000 Sticks United Methodist Church.

They will work along side Fairhope United Methodist Church April 15-21 to share the love of Jesus.

**FILL THE PLATE** | Come join the Prodissee Pantry for lunch and a humorous slant on a serious subject, April 26th at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Leslie Ann Tarabella to speak on filling the plate of our neighbors in need. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to [office@prodiseepantry.org](mailto:office@prodiseepantry.org) or calling (251) 626-1720.



## COMMUNITY



**5:15 PM ~ DINNER**  
**6:00 PM ~ CLASSES & ACTIVITIES**

### MENUS

April 4: Fried Chicken  
April 11: Tacos  
April 18: Spaghetti  
April 25: Salisbury Steak

### **OUR PAIGE IS GETTING MARRIED!**

Our Youth Assistant, Paige Norwood is tying the knot this summer and our Youth are planning a wedding shower for Sunday, April 29th during the Sunday School hour, in the Youth area on the West Campus. If you would like to contribute to giving her a gift, you may make your check payable to SFUMC and note it is for Paige's wedding gift.

### **THANK YOU NOTES**

*The family of Kathryn Giles would like to express their gratitude for the prayers and words of condolence at the time of her father's recent passing.*

*We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts & prayers on our recent loss of our dearest Dotsie. She was an incredible lady. ~ Charlie Green & Cindy Cunningham*

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Carla Morgan joined March 7, 2018  
Linda Baker joined March 25, 2018

### **DEATHS**

Our condolences to Rick Walter, Cindy Cunningham, Charlie Green, and family on the death of Rick's wife and member of SFUMC, Dotsie Walter, who passed away on March 1, 2018. Dotsie was Charlie's daughter and Cindy's sister.

Our condolences to Liz Bedinger and family on the death of Liz's father, Earl Maddalena, who passed away on March 15, 2018.

**Spanish Fort UMC**

6530 Spanish Fort Blvd., Suite D

Spanish Fort, AL 36527

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**STAFF**

Bill Price

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Paige Normand

Youth Assistant

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Jennifer Robertson

Children's Director

[jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org)



We will be decorating our flower cross in the Narthex before our Easter services.

Please bring your fresh flower(s) to place in the cross Easter morning.



**Puppet Team  
Fundraiser**



**April 29, 2018**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Hamburgers & Hot Dogs**

**6:15 p.m.**

**Agape Hands Puppet Team  
Summer Tour Preview Show**



**Youth Area / West Campus**

**See you there!**