

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Church Family and Friends,



I hope you are enjoying the new series focusing on "our story". Comparatively speaking, Spanish Fort UMC is a relatively young church, with this year making our 60th Anniversary. Over the next few Sundays leading up to Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd we will be looking at our church through the different decades. I was reminded about Jesus telling the Parable of the Mustard

Seed and how small beginnings bring about great growth and productivity. Of course, this all started with Jesus choosing 12 men that would eventually grow into a movement that would eventually infiltrate the Roman Empire! As we look around our church and continue to live out "our story" it is quite amazing to see how the Lord has operated to bring about growth and fruitfulness. As we move toward Pentecost here are some highlights that we will be focusing on during our worship services.

On May 2nd we will be looking at our church through the decade of the 1990's. We will also be focusing on our Pre-School. As many of you know Beth Bedsole will be leaving her position as our Pre-School Director. Her husband, Brendt, has taken a coaching position at Auburn University so they will be transitioning to Auburn this summer. We will greatly miss Brendt and Beth and their children, Wilson and Sarah Catherine. But we pray God's best for them as they make this move to Auburn. We are grateful for the work and care that Beth has given to help our Pre-School be a vital and significant ministry of our church family. This is truly another incredible part of "our story".

On May 9th which is also Mother's Day, we will highlight our church through the decade of the 2000's. And, as we see "our story" continue into the next generation, we will have a Senior Recognition for all our high school seniors.

On May 16th we will highlight our church through the decade of the 2010's. This will also focus on the Ascension of Jesus and His promise of the Holy Spirit coming!

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Regular Schedule

Traditional Worship - 8:45 AM (Sanctuary, Main Campus)  
Discipleship Hour - 10:00 AM (In Person & Zoom)  
Contemporary Worship - 11:00 AM (Sanctuary, Main Campus)

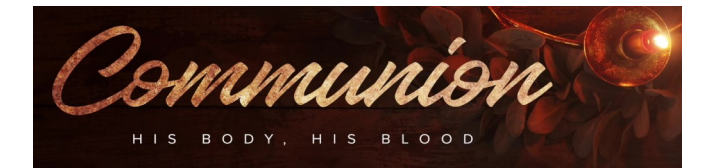
WORSHIP

On May 23rd we will highlight our church from 2020 to the present. This is Pentecost Sunday and the culmination of this series. This will be a great Sunday to worship and celebrate the coming of the Spirit!

On May 30th we will highlight how the Holy Spirit has gifted us for works of ministry in and out of the church as we continue with "our story" into the next generation and beyond until our Lord returns.

Thanks be to God for how your faith story is joined with others in the greater plan of God to fit into "our story". And how "our story" fits into the greater story of God's redemptive plan for our world!

Blessings, Bill



**COMMUNION ELEMENTS** | In an effort to keep our congregation members safely connected, we are offering a socially distanced option for communion. If you or someone you know is unable to be physically present for worship, you may come by the church office to pick up individually packaged communion elements. These will be available during the week prior to each communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of each month). Tune in to our Live Stream or Radio Broadcast as you actively participate in the blessing and receiving of Holy Communion from your home. For more details, contact Bonnie Hariel at [bonnie@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:bonnie@spanishfortumc.org).

**ONGOING SERMON SERIES | THIS IS OUR STORY: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE SPIRIT AT WORK** | April 11 | 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. | Our congregation is celebrating 60 years of ministry in Spanish Fort and beyond! Join us for worship as we celebrate our church history. During the weeks leading up to Pentecost Sunday we will discover the many ways the Holy Spirit is at work. God is on the move at SFUMC and we want YOU to be here!

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)  
6530 Spanish Fort Blvd., Suite D, Spanish Fort, AL 36527  
f Spanish Fort UMC @spanishfortumc  
[www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org)

CHURCH STAFF

**Bill Price**

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**Jennifer Stewart**

Communications Administrator  
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ONLINE *Giving*

GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE |

- Give ONLINE on our website at [www.spanishfortumc.org/giving](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/giving)
- Scan the QR code with your cell phone/app
- Text SFUMCGIVE to 73256 and follow the link
- Log into the Realm Connect app on your phone
- Set up a regularly scheduled automatic withdrawal from your bank account, contact Faye in the church office or at [faye@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:faye@spanishfortumc.org).
- Mail check designated as offering to 6530 Spanish Fort Blvd., Suite D, Spanish Fort, AL 36527
- Drop in mail slot by the church office front door.



*\*all gifts are tax-deductible and a year-end giving statement will be prepared for you for tracking and tax purposes.*

**\* IMPORTANT COVID UPDATE \***

**IN PERSON WORSHIP & SMALL GROUP MEETINGS**

As more people are being vaccinated and state mandates for masks are being relaxed, our COVID Task Force has been evaluating and making decisions regarding our own policies for protecting our congregation and the spread of COVID-19.

As we would love to relax our policies, it is imperative that we do not let our guard down prematurely. **Our Bishop has issued a statement urging churches to continue mask requirements for a while longer until a more significant portion of the population can be vaccinated. Therefore, we will continue mask requirements and distancing during worship services, small groups and classes, and in our public and office areas.**

We will continue mask usage in children and youth gatherings. We are looking to ease some restrictions regarding food being served in small groups, however, we are not restarting our Sunday morning coffee fellowship or Wednesday evening meals at this time.

We will continue to attempt to distance appropriately in worship services and we will continue our diligent cleaning practices between services. We appreciate your prayers and patience as we continue to keep everyone safe!

**Attendance:** We still encourage all persons (especially those who are in the high-risk categories) to make an informed decision regarding worship attendance. For those who choose to worship from home, we will livestream our 8:45 a.m. (1st Sundays/communion service only) and 11:00 a.m. worship services (every week) on Facebook and we will broadcast our pre-recorded 8:45 a.m. service on 103.3 FM at Noon each Sunday afternoon. | **Symptoms:** We ask those experiencing illness or fever, or those recently exposed to Covid-19 to worship from their home. | **Masks:** Upon entrance, all worshippers age 6 and up will need to wear a facial covering. We will have masks available to those who need them. Those that cannot wear a mask are asked to worship at home. | **Personal Behaviors:** We ask that all worshippers maintain social distancing at all times and please refrain from handshakes or hugs. Please no eating or drinking in the Sanctuary.

With everyone's continued support and adherence to Covid policies, we hope that we can continue to meet in small groups and worship in person.

**Our full enhanced health and safety measures and small group on campus meeting policies can be found online at [www.spanishfortumc.org/covid](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/covid).**

**\*\* ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO LAST MINUTE CHANGES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC SITUATION \*\***

**ONE COMBINED SERVICE** | May 30 | 10:00 a.m. | There will be one combined service this day. There will be no Sunday School or Youth Fellowships this day.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**UMCOR HYGIENE KITS - PACKING DAY** | May 2 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | West Campus | WD104 | Bring your family to help with our Children's Ministry disaster preparedness Pack Day! We will pack and assemble hygiene kits using the donated supply items that the children have collected throughout the year!

Help Us Reach our Pack Day Goal of 500! We still need large quantities of several items. These items can be found on our Amazon list here: <http://bit.ly/umcorlist3>. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Robertson in the church office or via email at [jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org).



**PRESCHOOL RECOGNITION SUNDAY** | May 2 | 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Services | Main Campus | Sanctuary | We will be recognizing our Preschool during both worship services. We are thankful for the outreach ministry our Preschool provides for the community. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Robertson in the church office.

**SWEET TEA SUNDAYS** | May 23 | 10:00 a.m. | Main Campus | Children's Playground | Join us for sweet tea and sweet conversation! Come and hangout on the playground in between worship services to help get to know each other better! We will meet on May 23rd, June 27th, and July 25th. We will provide sweet tea and juice pouches - just check your kids out of the nursery and children's church and join us on the playground. For more details contact Jennifer Robertson.



**END OF SCHOOL SWIM PARTY** | May 23 | 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Walters Residence | Completed 3rd - 5th Graders Only | Kick off the start to summer vacation for night of food, fun and fellowship at the home of Margie and Lee Walters! Please RSVP to let us know your child(ren) will be joining us by emailing Jennifer Robertson at [jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org).



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** | June 14-17 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Main Campus | 3 Year Olds (by 9-01-21) - completed 2nd Grade | Save the dates to join us for VBS! Registration details and information are coming soon! Please be aware that the number of overall participants will be significantly limited this year due to COVID 19 restrictions and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Robertson in the church office or by email at [jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org).

**END OF SCHOOL BLAST** | May 23 | The Fort | 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | This event will be for families with children who are infants through completed 2nd Grade. Join us for some fun as we end school and start the Summer. Please RSVP to Jennifer Robertson at [jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@spanishfortumc.org).

**LOL WEEK** | July 11-14 | Save the dates for a fun experience for 3rd -5th graders. Capacity will be limited. More details will follow soon.

**BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP** | July 15-17 | Blue Lake Camp | Save the dates for Summer camp. It will be for 3rd -5th graders. Capacity will be limited. More details will follow soon.

**SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY** | May 9 | 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Services | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Come and join us as we celebrate our High School seniors this year! If you have any questions, please contact Beth Allen in the church office.



**REVIVE** | June 21-26 | Blue Lake Camp | Stay tuned for more details soon! If you have any questions, please contact Beth Allen in the church office or email her at [beth@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:beth@spanishfortumc.org).

**SERVE**

**60TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS** | Order your missions fundraiser t-shirt today, celebrating our 60th Anniversary. All shirts will be red with white print like the design to the right. Children's sizes to adult 3XL available. Price each is \$15. Order forms can be found in the bulletins, in the church office or in the Narthex. Please complete the order form and place it with a check labeled "60th Tee" in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Deadline for order is May 16th and they will be distributed on May 23rd. We would love everyone to wear them during the summer months as we continue to celebrate the rest of the year!



**MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT SERVING THE LORD** | John and Lisa Hamilton; OMS International (Uruguay) Rob and Amy Ellis; Ethnos360 Missions (Tanzania, Africa) Ronnie and Nanny Calvert (Quito, Ecuador) Monica Maxwell; IMB Connecting (Southern India)

**HURRICANE SALLY DISASTER RELIEF** | For more information on how you can assist with Hurricane Sally Relief efforts or if you have or know of any needs in the community, please visit [www.spanishfortumc.org/sally](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/sally).

**COMMUNITY**

**BIRTHS**

Sutton Scott Lober was born on April 6, 2021. Her parents are Jason and Blair Lober.

**DEATHS** | Our condolences and prayers are extended to:

Stella Dunn and family on the death of her father, Major Thomas E. Branning, Major Branning passed away on April 21, 2021.

**SOLO SENIOR MEN** | Mondays | 10:00 a.m. | (<50° West Campus | WD105 or >50°, Pavilion at The Fort) | You are invited to join this group of men for a time of fellowship each Monday. For questions, please call the church office at 626-1334.

**ANNUAL 2020 GENEROSITY AND FAITHFULNESS** | We recently received recognition and thanks from Bishop David Graves on our accomplishment of paying 100% of our 2020 Apportionments. Celebrate that we are able to reach so many people in need in so many different ways!

**FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING** | The 11:00 a.m.



Contemporary Service is live streamed on Facebook every Sunday. In addition, please be aware that the 8:45 a.m. Traditional Service on Communion Sundays

(usually the first Sunday of the month) will be live streamed on Facebook as well. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** | May 6 | 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | We would like to invite you to sign up to pray for 30 minutes for our nation, our community and our church. You can do this at: <http://bit.ly/sfumcdayofprayer>. We will have the Sanctuary open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to come pray in the Sanctuary or wherever it is convenient for you. You are also welcome to pray before or after those times on your own. We will be providing prayer prompts in the Sanctuary and for anyone who asks for them. You can find them here also: <http://bit.ly/sfumcndp>. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Rebecca Rutherford at [rebecca@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:rebecca@spanishfortumc.org).



**BLOOD DRIVE** | May 16 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Main Campus | Parking Lot | We will be holding a blood drive on the Main Campus this day. Please give blood if you can. If you have any questions, please call the church office.