

## PASTOR'S NOTE

*Happy  
New  
Year*

Happy New Year 2023! I was reading that New Year's resolutions have fallen out of popularity. Perhaps because there is a high failure rate. Studies show that people that set New Year's goals don't actually meet them. In fact, of the 41% of Americans who make New Year's resolutions, only 9% were successful in keeping them. Research can even predict which day you will quit your New Year's goals. Common resolutions range from losing weight to ending vices like smoking. As we think about resolutions, there is no question that human willpower and determination are incredible resources to help us overcome obstacles that prevent us from achieving a desired outcome. It has been humorously stated that by perseverance the snail made it to the Ark. Moses was a "basket case" before he became the adopted son of Pharaoh and later the great leader of the Exodus. David was an unknown shepherd boy who would become king of Israel and in fulfillment of the prophecy, the Davidic line would never end! Simple fishermen, like Peter, would become the greatest leaders and apostles of the Church.

However, it is evident that human willpower and fortitude are limited and without God's initiative and calling these incredible events would never have taken place. As Isaiah puts it, "even youths will grow weary and young men will stumble and fall" (Isaiah 40:30). Thankfully, the next verse of Isaiah gives a greater perspective, "But they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not be faint". That is quite a contrast. Human strength will fail. Divine strength will prevail. This should move us to resolve to rely on God's strength above our own. Perhaps that is why Jesus said, "Come to me all you that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). Or the Apostle Paul saying, "In my weakness, God's strength is made perfect" (2 Cor 12:9).

As we move into this New Year, I am sure there are some things we want to leave back in 2022. But there

are some "new things" that we may want to resolve in our lives. Personally, I resolve to become a better pastoral leader. To pray more. To give more. To sing/worship more. That my desire would intersect with the grace of God so that God's will may be done in my life as it is done in heaven, each day. The Apostle Paul made a great resolution when he stated, "forget the things that are behind...and press on to reach the goal of the heavenward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippian 3:12-14). Now that is quite a resolution to embrace as we begin this New Year 2023!

Blessings, Bill

## WORSHIP

*Open Prayer*  
Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.  
Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

**OPEN PRAYER** | Ongoing | Main Campus | Sanctuary  
You may come to pray in the Sanctuary during this very informal time for the church and its leadership, especially our own church. You can come pray and leave as you desire. For more information, please call the church office at 251-626-1334.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH



**BLUE LAKE METHODIST CAMP** | February 3 | All current 3rd-5th Graders are invited for a weekend of fun, campfires, and learning about our Lord! You can register at: <https://bit.ly/sfumcblwc>. For questions, email [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org) or call 251-753-8650.

**CATAPULT** | Resumes January 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Wednesdays | West Campus | Youth Area | Grades 6-8 are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship. If you have questions, email [youth@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:youth@spanishfortumc.org).

## WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Regular Schedule

Traditional Worship - 8:45 AM (Sanctuary, Main Campus)

Discipleship Hour - 10:00 AM (Both Campuses)

Contemporary Worship - 11:00 AM (Sanctuary, Main Campus)

## 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

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

**KIDZ UNIVERSITY** | Resumes January 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Wednesdays | West Campus | Children's Area | Pre K - 5th grade children are welcome to participate in age level programs that study God's word through Bible stories, play games, make crafts, learn worship songs, and grow in fellowship with one another and in relationship to Christ. If you have any questions, email [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org).



**CONFIRMATION INTEREST MEETING** | January 8 | 10:00 a.m. | West Campus | Youth Area | Has your child been in conversation about growing their faith? Confirmation is a reaffirmation of our faith. If your child is in the 6th - 12th grade, this informational meeting will help answer questions about confirmation in the UMC. We invite families to join us as we discuss the core principles of confirmation. For more details, email [kitsy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:kitsy@spanishfortumc.org) or call the church office.

**CONFIRMATION 2023 REGISTRATION** | Deadline January 12 | If your child is in the 6th grade or beyond, please prayerfully consider registering them for Confirmation 2023. For more details or on how to register, please email [kitsy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:kitsy@spanishfortumc.org) or call the church office.

**WINTER REVIVE** | January 13-15 | Current 6th - 12th graders are invited to join us at Revive this year at Blue Lake Camp! For more details, contact [youth@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:youth@spanishfortumc.org).

**SERVE**



**MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT SERVING THE LORD** | John and Lisa Hamilton; OMS International (Uruguay) Ronnie and Nanny Calvert (Quito, Ecuador) Monica Maxwell; IMB Connecting (Southern India) The Ellis Family (US Currently)

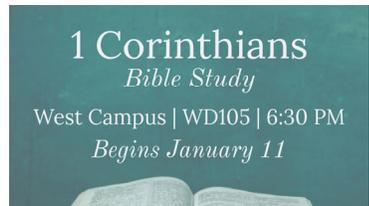
**GRIEF SHARE FACILITATORS NEEDED**

Has God called you to help walk with others through the journey of grief? We are in need of compassionate Christian leaders to serve as Grief Share Facilitators for 2023. Please consider using your gifts for this ministry. For more information, please call Kitsy in the church office.



**STUDY**

**1 CORINTHIANS BIBLE STUDY** | January 11 | 6:30 p.m. | West Campus | WD105, Children's Area | Join Pastor Bill as he leads the Bible Study of I Corinthians. Study



material will be supplied. For additional information, please contact the office at 251-626-1334.

**EXPLORING GRIEF TOGETHER CLASS**

| January 24 | 5:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC100, Fellowship Hall Area | Grief is not something you get over, it's something we all must go through. This six-week introductory course is designed to help usher participants into a more in-depth model of grief as offered by our Grief Share program. This course will help build supportive relationships, navigate challenging questions, and explore cultural stigmas related to grief. At the conclusion of the class, participants will join the Grief Share class for continued support and facilitation. Join us as we navigate the journey of not being okay in the grief process, to seeing God's divine hand of grace and mercy as healing through grief. For more information please contact Kitsy Dixon at [kitsy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:kitsy@spanishfortumc.org) or the office, 251-626-1334.



**WATERMARK SS - NEW STUDIES** | January 8 | 10:00 a.m. | West Campus | WD108, Children's Area | Please join the Watermark Adult Sunday School class for one or all of its spring studies: January 8 - February 12: *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton; February 19 - April 9: *Finding God Faithful* by Kelly Minter; April 16 - June 4: *The Chosen, Season 3: The Way of the Chosen* by Amanda Jenkins et al. For more information, please contact Michelle Pennington at [pennington.sm5@gmail.com](mailto:pennington.sm5@gmail.com).

**COMMUNITY**



**PRIME TIMERS GAME DAY** | January 11 (2nd Wednesdays) | 3:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Join us for our monthly game time and fellowship every 2nd Wednesday of each month. For more details, please email Asher Carmichael at [accarmic985@aol.com](mailto:accarmic985@aol.com).



**UMM BREAKFAST & MEETING |**

January 14 | 8:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall  
All men are invited to attend our monthly (second Saturday)

breakfast and meetings. For more information please contact Ken Coale at [gk.coale@gmail.com](mailto:gk.coale@gmail.com).

**PRIME TIMERS - MALBIS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH | MAGNOLIA BLOSSOM RESTAURANT |**

January 25, | 10:00 a.m. | Malbis & Robertsdale |

Prime Timers will travel to Malbis Greek Orthodox church for a guided tour. We will then travel to Magnolia Blossom restaurant in Robertsdale for a delicious southern buffet lunch. We will plan to take the church bus. Make reservations by calling the church office, 251-626-1334 by Wednesday, January 18, 2023.



**SARAH SHEPPARD CIRCLE MEETING |** January 12 |



10:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall. Join this group of ladies of the United Methodist Women's organization of service, each second Thursday of the month. You will enjoy a time of sharing, hearing from

occasional speakers, Bible study and missional focus. For more information please contact Debbie Wallace at [mwwal@bellsouth.net](mailto:mwwal@bellsouth.net).

**SOLO SENIOR MEN |** 10:00 a.m. | Off Campus | Spanish Fort Municipal Building | Back Patio | You are invited to join this group of men for a time of fellowship each Monday. For more information please contact David Massey at [251dcm@gmail.com](mailto:251dcm@gmail.com).



**SFUMC VETERANS SERVICE MINISTRY |** January 18 |

6:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC100, Fellowship Hall Area | Join us for a gathering of all veterans for support, information, connections, and growth. For more details, call the church office, 626-1334 or email Robert McMillan at [revrobertmcmillan@yahoo.com](mailto:revrobertmcmillan@yahoo.com).



**BLOOD DRIVE |**

January 8 | 8:00 a.m. Main Campus, Front of Sanctuary | For more information

please contact the church office at 251-626-1334.

**CONTRIBUTIONS |** 2022 Statements will be sent between January 15 - 31, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact [Faye Childers](#) in the office.



**MEN'S GATHERING |** Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall  
All men are invited to join us for fellowship, time of reflection, worship and hearing from our special guest speaker, Dr. John Oswalt. For more information,

please contact Ken Coale or Pat Shubird. You may also contact the church office, 251-626-1334.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER |** January 11 | Wednesdays | 5:30 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Make plans to join us for Wednesday night supper and fellowship.



Following the meal everyone will be dismissed to attend their Wednesday night classes. Main courses will be published in the weekly calendar in the bulletin. Please make reservations by calling the church office, 251-626-1334 or emailing [ministries@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:ministries@spanishfortumc.org) by the Sunday prior to the Wednesday Night Supper. Donations are greatly appreciated! We look forward to seeing you there!



**SFUMP REGISTRATION |** Come go to school with us! SFUMP will have Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year in January 2023. The dates for Preschool Registration for the 2023-2024 school year have been set and are as follows:

January 23, 2023 - current SFUMP families; January 24, 2023 - current SFUMP families ; January 25, 2023 - SFUMC families and current waitlist families; January 26, 2023 - Open to the public

Registration on January 25-26 will be held in the Fellowship Hall starting at 9:30 a.m. If you want more information about the preschool, call Mandy Reeves at 251-626-1380 or email [preschool@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:preschool@spanishfortumc.org).

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

William Poole and family on the recent death of his mother and long time Church member, Mrs. Odiezell "Odie" Poole. Mrs. Poole passed away on December 25, 2022.



**UNIFORM CLOSET CLOSING**

**PERMANENTLY |** With heavy hearts, we will be closing our Uniform Closet to the public effective January 31, 2023.

We will no longer be accepting any donations. We wish to express our

heartfelt appreciation to our church family for your generosity over the years, to our volunteers who worked tirelessly, and to our church staff who stepped in to issue uniforms as needed.

Sincerely, Missions/Service Team



**Spanish Fort UMC**  
6530 Spanish Fort Blvd., Suite D  
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## CHURCH STAFF

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**Wanda Cooper**

Accompanist

## 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.*