

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Welcome Rev. Dr.  
Michael Owenby

We shared a recent announcement that Rev. Dr. Michael (Mike) Owenby will be our new Minister of Worship Arts. Rev. Dr. Owenby has a wealth of experience within our own Conference as he served for many years as the Music Director at Mary Esther UMC in Mary Esther, Florida. Mike also plays guitar and has led a variety of music events including camps at the former Noah's Ark and at Blue Lake. Mike is a Deacon in the AWF Conference and can help us with ministries related to Discipleship.



Mike most recently served at Mountain Park UMC in Georgia where he was Music Director for the last 4 years. We look forward to Mike being on our church staff and helping develop a fuller range of our music ministry including our children, adult choir, bells, and special seasonal events.

Let's keep Mike and his wife Lisa in our daily prayers as they make the fuller transition to our church family and Spanish Fort community.

Prayers and Blessings, Bill

## WORSHIP



**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 details, please call the church office at 251-626-1334.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MEETING

June 11 | 2:00 p.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Mandatory volunteer meeting for anyone registered to volunteer for VBS. For questions, please contact Kellie Isbell at [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org) or 251-753-8650.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - STELLAR FAMILY BLAST OFF!

June 11 | 5:30 p.m. | Main Campus | Top Parking Lot | Join us for a Stellar time as we BLAST-OFF into VBS 2023! T-shirts and other registration information can be picked up at this time. For more information please email [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org) or call 251-753-8650.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - STELLAR!** | June 12 - June 15 | 5:30 p.m. | Main Campus | Multiple Locations Join us for a Stellar time as we SHINE Jesus' Light! Pickup and drop off will be according to the carline instructions. Online registration will close on June 10. For more information call 251-626-1334, email [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org), or go to [www.spanishfortumc.org/vbs](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/vbs).

### SFUM PRESCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE | Spanish Fort

United Methodist Preschool is the largest consistent outreach ministry of SFUMC. Help the preschool stock up for next year by donating supplies. Visit the link [bit.ly/SFUMPWishList](https://bit.ly/SFUMPWishList) to view their Amazon List or scan the QR code.



## 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

f [Spanish Fort UMC](https://www.facebook.com/SpanishFortUMC) t [@spanishfortumc](https://twitter.com/spanishfortumc)  
[www.spanishfortumc.org](http://www.spanishfortumc.org)



### SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

July 30 | 4:30 PM | West Campus  
WD104, Children's Area |  
Attention ALL Volunteers! If you  
volunteer with vulnerable adults,  
youth, or children's ministries,  
please join us for our annual Safe

Sanctuaries Training for the 2023-2024 Academic  
School Year. Snacks and nursery will be available.  
There will also be a make-up training day on August 23  
at 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact Kellie  
Isbell at [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org).

### STUDY



Begins June 8 | 1 PM | Main Campus | MC100

### THIRSTY THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY | June 8

Weekly on Thursdays | 1:00 p.m. | Main Campus |  
MC100, Parlor | Join this group of ladies as they study  
and explore God's Word a little deeper using  
*Strengthened to Serve: a Study on 2 Corinthians*. For  
more information please contact the office, 251-626-  
1334 or Cari LeMaitre at [carissal@bellsouth.net](mailto:carissal@bellsouth.net).

### COMMUNITY

**PRIME**Timers  
senior adult ministries

**PRIME TIMERS (55+)  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

| Ongoing | First  
Thursdays | 10:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101,  
Fellowship Hall | This is an informal opportunity to meet  
and chat. For more information, call the church office.

**PRIME**Timers  
senior adult ministries

**Lunch Bunch**

*Briquettes*  
**STEAKHOUSE**

**June 21 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

[www.spanishfortumc.org/info](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/info) ~ register by June 15

**PRIME TIMERS LUNCH BUNCH | June 21 | 11:00 a.m.**  
Briquettes Steakhouse | Eastern Shore Center, Spanish  
Fort | Prime Timers will meet at Briquette's for lunch at  
11:00 a.m. Briquette's is located behind Cracker Barrel  
in the Eastern Shore Center. (There will be no  
transportation provided.) Please make reservations by  
calling the church office by Thursday, June 15, 2023 at  
251-626-1334. If you have questions please contact  
Asher or Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3928.

**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).



**UMM BREAKFAST & MEETING | June 10 | 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 [gl.coale@gmail.com](mailto:gl.coale@gmail.com).

**PRIME TIMERS FRIDAY NIGHT OUT | June 30 |**  
6:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall |  
Join the Prime Timers to enjoy some pizza, drinks, light  
desserts and a movie! We plan on showing "A Man  
Called Otto." Please make reservations by calling the  
church office, 251-626-1334 by Tuesday, Jun 27, 2023.  
For more information please contact Asher or Sandra  
Carmichael at 251-741-3928.



**PRIME**Timers  
senior adult ministries

**Friday  
Night Out**

**June 30  
6:00 p.m.**

register by June 27  
[www.spanishfortumc.org/info](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/info)

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

Joel & Matthew Hunt on the passing of their father,  
Charles Hunt. Mr. Hunt passed away on May 7, 2023.

The family of Mrs. Cora Thomas. Mrs. Thomas passed  
away on May 14, 2023.

The family of Mrs. Barbara Lund. Mrs. Lund passed away  
on May 24, 2023.

**NEW MEMBERS |** Monty George

**2023 SUMMER FAMILY CHALLENGE | Ongoing |**

Want to have a little  
friendly competition  
with your church  
family this summer?  
Grab a 2023 Summer  
Family Challenge  
packet from the  
West Campus! Work  
together as a family  
to score as many  
points as possible - show us your fun by posting on the  
SFUMC Children's Facebook page! Bring your packet to  
the Church-wide Community Pool Party August 6th to  
see which family wins. For more information please  
contact Kellie Isbell or Jason Lober at  
[children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org).





**5TH FAMILY SUNDAYS** | July 30 | 12:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Join our church family as we come together to fellowship with each other by sharing in a family style meal! All are welcome at God's table for we are all family! The main dish and drinks will be provided by the church. *To sign up to bring a side dish or to volunteer to assist, please visit <https://bit.ly/5thFamily>. You will be able to see what others have signed up for. Please note in the comment section what you will be bringing.* For questions, contact the church at 251-626-1334 or email [ministries@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:ministries@spanishfortumc.org).

## WHERE IS SFUMC IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS CURRENTLY?

### DISCERNMENT MEETINGS

Town Hall Mtg - 8/13 @ 4 PM

Town Hall Mtg - 8/31 @ 6 PM

Info Mtg - 8/27 @ 4 PM

Info Mtg - 9/7 @ 6 PM

Church Conference - 9/10 @ 6 PM

Main Campus - Sanctuary

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

As you may be aware, our church (SFUMC) is in a time of discernment regarding its future relationship with the larger United Methodist Church (UMC). We are providing you with this brief update on the status of this process, but we also encourage you to discern individually through prayer and seeking additional sources of information about this complex issue.

In November 2022, our SFUMC Church Council voted to bring forth a full congregational vote as to whether to stay with or disaffiliate from the UMC. This issue is a result of different viewpoints on progressive vs. traditional theology, how human sexuality is interpreted by the UMC, and the possibility of changes in the Book of Discipline (which will not be decided on until at least the next General Conference scheduled in 2024).

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Please plan to attend at least one Town Hall Meeting and one Informational Meeting. Meetings and Conference are open to anyone who wants to attend.

Non-members will be seated in a different section at the Church Conference.

### TOWN HALL MEETINGS

August 13 - 4 PM | led by Dr. Debora Bishop, our District Superintendent; childcare provided with no age limit

August 31 - 6 PM | led by Dr. Debora Bishop, our District Superintendent; childcare not provided

### INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

August 27 - 4 PM

September 7 - 6 PM

### CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING

September 10 - 4 PM | actual voting to take place by members of the congregation; must be a member of the church to vote; must be physically present at time of voting

All meetings will be held on the Main Campus in the Sanctuary.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

- The current estimated cost of Disaffiliation is \$536,000. This amount will be recalculated again in July and is expected to be significantly less, as long as we remain current on our apportionments. This does not include costs of replacing all signage or materials that use the UMC logo or name.
- Prior to voting, you can confirm that you are an SFUMC member by:

Logging on to <https://onrealm.org/spanishfortumc/Account/Start> and reviewing your individual record status

Calling the church office at 251-626-1334

- Please be considerate of other people's viewpoints and *share only accurate information* that does not intentionally mislead.
- Take time to visit the church's website, <https://www.spanishfortumc.org/stayorgo>, that has more information regarding the topics surrounding this issue.
- Our church pledge offerings have declined by 14% from this time last year. If you are concerned about how your offerings will be used in the future, know that you can designate specific funding areas. Giving can be done online at <https://www.spanishfortumc.org/giving-2> or in person during worship services.

Sincerely, the SFUMC Discernment Task Group





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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## CHURCH STAFF

### Bill Price

Senior Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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### Mike Owenby

Minister of Worship Arts

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### Andy Cloninger

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Youth Director

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SFUM Preschool Director

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### Kellie Isbell

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### Cindy Cunningham

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Ministry Assistant / Receptionist

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### Jennifer Stewart

Communications Specialist

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

### Al Jacobi

Technical Director

### 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.*