

PASTOR'S NOTE

Thanksgiving In Difficult Times | November directs us to Thanksgiving which does give us greater perspective in the continuing divisions in our church, our nation, ongoing war in the Ukraine and now war in the Middle East. The comments below are taken from a Christianity Today article written a few years ago by Chris Pappalardo celebrating Thanksgiving in difficult times.

In the fall of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued two landmark statements. The first was the famous Gettysburg Address in which Lincoln commemorated the battlefield of Gettysburg. The other statement, made just weeks before, may be a bit more surprising. On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln instituted the first official Thanksgiving holiday.

Lincoln wrote, "It has seemed to me fit and proper that [the gracious gifts of the Most High God] should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People." Thus, Lincoln set apart the last Thursday of November as "a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father." Apparently, in the midst of the worst war our nation had ever seen, Lincoln thought the time was ripe for gratitude.

We may be tempted to think Lincoln's statement of gratitude was inappropriate, naïve, or even offensive. Reading the entire text of Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation, however, disabuses the modern reader from the conclusion that he had (somehow) forgotten about the Civil War. Lincoln candidly addressed the horrors of the Civil War, a war "of unequalled magnitude and severity" that had transformed tens of thousands of Americans into "widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife." But he coupled this hardship with hope, recognizing the hand of God guiding him through the valley of the shadow of death. Conflict and gratitude. Hardship and hope. Lincoln wasn't confused. He was seeing thanksgiving through a biblical lens. I hope we will do this also. And we will give thanks with a grateful heart for the gifts God has given to us, most especially His Son, Jesus Christ.

Thankfully, 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 (Wednesday @ 7 a.m. or Thursday at 6 p.m.). **PLEASE NOTE**, there will be no open prayer on November 23 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. For more details, please call the church office at 251-626-1334.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY | November 5 | 8:45 & 11 a.m. Worship Service | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Join us for worship as we celebrate and honor members of our church family who have passed away this year.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

REMEDY YOUTH FREINDSGIVING | November 19 | 6:00 p.m. | West Campus | WC112, Youth Area | Come join us for food and fellowship before Thanksgiving! For more information contact Zack McCraw at youth@spanishfortumc.org or call 850-982-1718.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS MUSIC / PRACTICES |

Ongoing | West Campus | Children's Area | Children can come and help us lead the Stellar Christmas event on 12/3 and participate with the Sanctuary Choir in a song for the Christmas Cantata on 12/17. Children will practice on Wednesday nights in November as part of our regular Wednesday Night Programming. For more information, contact Jennifer Robertson or Elizabeth DeRocher by email at children@spanishfortumc.org or by calling the office at 251-626-1334.



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

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

CATAPULT TACKYPULT CHRISTMAS PARTY |

December 17 | 6:30 p.m. | West Campus Youth Area
Join our Catapult group for a fun time of fellowship.
Make sure to wear your tackiest Christmas sweater! For more information, call the church office or email youth@spanishfortumc.org.



REMEDY TACKY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY |

December 13 | 6:00 p.m. | West Campus Youth Area | Join our Remedy group for a fun time of fellowship. Make sure to wear your tackiest Christmas sweater! For more information, call the church office or email youth@spanishfortumc.org.

COMMUNITY

DIVORCECARE | Ongoing | 6:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MB100, Upper Reed | DivorceCare is a support group designed to help you manage the emotions of a painful divorce, through implementation of biblical and foundational healing. A study book is required for this group and the cost is \$20.00. Once you register for the class, the church office will order your study book. If you would like more details, please call the church office at 251-626-1334 or email Kitsy Dixon at kitsy@spanishfortumc.org.

STELLAR CHRISTMAS & ADVENT KICKOFF |

December 3 | Main Campus | Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall | 4:30 p.m. | Come join us as we kick-off the Advent Season with Stellar Christmas! Celebrate Christmas with all your favorite songs and



ADVENT KICK-OFF
December 3 ~ 4:30 PM
Practice during Kidz University.

buddies from Stellar VBS! Let's remind everyone of the Reason for the Season and Shine Jesus' Light together! There will be cookies served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the program. For more information please call the church office at 251-626-1334 or email Jennifer Robertson or Elizabeth DeRocher at children@spanishfortumc.org.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY! | December 6 | 6:30 p.m. | West Campus | Children's Area | Let's celebrate the reason for the season! Enjoy the last Kidz University of 2023 as a family! Parents, nursery siblings, and friends are invited to join in the Christmas fun to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Kidz University will resume on Wednesday, 1/10/24 at 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact children@spanishfortumc.org or call the office at 251-626-1334.

PRIME TIMERS GAME DAY | NOVEMBER 14 | 2nd Tuesdays | 3:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Games and fellowship for 55+. For more information please email sansandra7425@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

DECEMBER 7TH, 2023 | 6-9PM | DAPHNE CIVIC CENTER

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN FAMILY PROMISE FOR THE TASTIEST EVENT OF THE SEASON!

WWW.FAMILYPROMISEBALDWINAL.ORG



16TH ANNUAL CHOCOLATE AFFAIR | December 7 | 6:00 p.m. | Daphne Civic Center | All proceeds benefit the Family Promise Mission to provide temporary shelter, transitional housing, and related services. They serve families with children experiencing homelessness and assist them with obtaining suitable permanent housing. To purchase tickets or get more details, please visit: <https://www.familypromisebaldwin.org/events>. Tickets may also be purchased by contacting the church office at 251-626-1334.

UMM BREAKFAST & MEETING | November 11 | 8:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | All men are invited to attend our monthly (second Saturday) breakfast and meeting. For more information please contact Ken Coale at gk.coale@gmail.com.

PRIME TIMERS MOBILE TROLLEY TOUR & LUNCH |

November 17 | 10:15 a.m. | We will tour the downtown historic districts on a trolley with a personal guide. This event is LIMITED to 1st 30 reservations. Call the church office by November 9th to make your reservation. We will also have lunch at R & R Seafood on the return home. \$15 per person for tour and \$15 - \$25 per person for lunch. For additional information, please contact Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3928 or sansandra7925@aol.com.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS |

November 5 | Remember to set your clocks back before you go to bed the night before by one hour!

CHURCH WIDE CAROLING & COCOA |

December 10 | 5:00 p.m. | Main Campus | Parking Lot | Carolers meet in the Sanctuary parking lot at 5:00 p.m. We will divide into groups for caroling to cover more ground. Return to church for hot cocoa in the Reed Building. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Mike at 251-626-1334 in the church office or email worship@spanishfortumc.org.



MIDWEEK! | Ongoing | Wednesdays | Beginning at 5:00 p.m. | Both Campuses | All other activities for adults and children will begin at 6:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. **The last midweek for 2023 will be December 13 and will resume on January 10.** If you have questions please contact the church office at 251-626-1334 or email ministries@spanishfortumc.org.



"THE THRILL OF HOPE" - CHRISTMAS CANTATA | December 17 | 8:45 & 11 a.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Join us as our Sanctuary Choir and members of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra present "The Thrill of Hope" in celebrating the birth of our Savior this Christmas Season.



SARAH SHEPPARD CIRCLE | November 9 | 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 details, please contact Debbie Wallace at mwwal@bellsouth.net.

SOLO SENIOR MEN MEETING | Weekly on Mondays | 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.



EASTERN SHORE CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

Deck the Halls

December 12 - 7:30 PM

Tickets \$20 ~ www.escs.org ~ Students Free

EASTERN SHORE CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT | December 12 | 7:30 p.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Eastern Shore Choral Society will present their Christmas Concert. Tickets are \$20/person and are available at the door or at www.escs.org. Students are free.



NEW MEMBERS |

Jillian, Josh, Eleanor, & Elaina Martin
Mitch and Becky Kennedy

BAPTISM |

Mitchell William Martin

THANK YOU |

We are truly grateful for your faithfulness and generosity. You gave \$6,110 to UMCOR's Special Offering for Maui. ~ Missions Team

POINSETTIAS | Poinsettias will decorate our Sanctuary in December. Plants may be purchased "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one. Order forms will be available soon in the church office and the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call the office.



CONFIRMATION 2024 | If your child is in the 6th - 12th grade, we invite you to prayerfully consider the next step of your child's faith journey - Confirmation. The first class begins on January 21, 2024. For more details or how to register, please contact Kitsy Dixon by email at kitsy@spanishfortumc.org or by calling the office.



OFFICE CLOSED | The church office will be closed at Noon on 11/22 and closed all day on 11/23 and 11/24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH STAFF

Bill Price

Senior Pastor
bill@spanishfortumc.org

Kitsy Dixon

Associate Pastor
kitsy@spanishfortumc.org

Mike Owenby

Minister of Worship Arts
worship@spanishfortumc.org

Andy Cloninger

Contemporary Worship Director
andycloninger@mac.com

Zack McCraw

Youth Director
youth@spanishfortumc.org

Maddie Walker

Assistant Youth Director
maddietippenswalker@gmail.com

Mandy Reeves

SFUM Preschool Director
preschool@spanishfortumc.org

Al Jacobi

Technical Director

Jennifer Robertson

Interim Children's &
Nursery Ministries Director
children@spanishfortumc.org

Elizabeth DeRocher

Children's Curriculum Specialist
elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org

Faye Childers

Executive Assistant
faye@spanishfortumc.org

Cindy Cunningham

Business Director
cindy@spanishfortumc.org

Christi Wood

Ministry Assistant / Receptionist
ministries@spanishfortumc.org

Jennifer Stewart

Communications Specialist
jennifer@spanishfortumc.org

Wanda Cooper

Accompanist

ONLINE *Giving*

GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE |

- Give ONLINE on our website at 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.
- 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.*