



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



#### PASTOR'S NOTE

Recently I was in Orlando visiting with family and we went to Disney Springs. It is a shopping area close to Disney World. Like most places in a resort area, it had lots of specialty shops (M&M's, Star Wars, Lego's, etc.) and plenty of unique restaurants. We were in line waiting to order food at a less formal eatery. While going through the long line, I was somewhat amazed at the production of the people working to take the order, then people working to fill the order then people working to "ring up" the order then people working to complete the order and get it out to us. It was all very orderly, efficient, and the food was excellent. Lots of well-trained people were carrying out their function to achieve maximum service. This experience was in the context of beautiful, themed Christmas trees and elaborate decorations throughout the complex. Many would see this as a complete commercialization of Christmas. As one modern Christmas song puts it... Heaven only knows that packages and bows can never heal a hurting human soul. Amidst all the garland and glitter there is a deeper need of the human heart.

I could not help but think of the plan of God to bring Christ into our world. Galatians (4:4) indicates the coming of Christ was in the "fullness of time". The angels were sent out singing to the shepherds. Mary had an angel visitation which produced what we know as the "Magnificat" or Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-55). Even the old man Simeon was able to see the Christ child as God had promised before he died (Luke 2:25-35). It is amazing to consider the plan and ordering of God in the event we know as Christmas with the coming of Jesus and how each person fits into the plan and timing of God. Back to Galatians 4 and the further reading, God sent his Son in the fullness of time, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law that we might become the adopted children of God. The ordering of heaven was an extraordinary plan orchestrated in perfect timing to bring the gift of Christ who alone brings salvation and redeems us. As I look around and see all the beautiful sights and sounds of this season, I know we have been given incredible gifts. But none more important than Christ. Many in our world (Israel/Palestine and Ukraine among others) are in great

#### WORSHIP

conflict and uncertainty through war. Surely this should make us "count our blessings" for the external peace and prosperity we know. But whatever our circumstances we have reason to celebrate Christmas because God sent his Son to redeem us. And we are looking to the full redemption of our world when Christ comes again to make all things new! (Rev 21). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Bill



**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 December 27th or 28th due to the Christmas Holiday. For more details, please call the church office at 251-626-1334.



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** | December 24 | Main Campus Sanctuary | Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and King with Holy Communion and Candlelight. The Contemporary Service is at 4:00 PM and the Traditional Service is at 6:00 PM. A nursery will be provided for these services.

We will also hold a blended worship service that morning at 10 AM. Please visit our website at [www.spanishfortumc.org/info](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/info) for more details.

#### CHURCH STAFF

**Bill Price**  
Senior Pastor  
[bill@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:bill@spanishfortumc.org)

**Kitsy Dixon**  
Associate Pastor  
[kitsy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:kitsy@spanishfortumc.org)

**Mike Owenby**  
Minister of Worship Arts  
[worship@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:worship@spanishfortumc.org)

**Andy Cloninger**  
Contemporary Worship Director  
[andycloninger@mac.com](mailto:andycloninger@mac.com)

**Zack McCraw**  
Youth Director  
[youth@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:youth@spanishfortumc.org)

**Maddie Walker**  
Assistant Youth Director  
[maddietippenswalker@gmail.com](mailto:maddietippenswalker@gmail.com)

**Mandy Reeves**  
SFUM Preschool Director  
[preschool@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:preschool@spanishfortumc.org)

**Jennifer Robertson**  
Interim Children's & Nursery Ministries Director  
[children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org)

**Elizabeth DeRocher**  
Children's Curriculum Specialist  
[elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org)

**Faye Childers**  
Executive Assistant  
[faye@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:faye@spanishfortumc.org)

**Cindy Cunningham**  
Business Director  
[cindy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:cindy@spanishfortumc.org)

**Christi Wood**  
Ministry Assistant / Receptionist  
[ministries@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:ministries@spanishfortumc.org)

**Jennifer Stewart**  
Communications Specialist  
[jennifer@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:jennifer@spanishfortumc.org)

**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.*

#### 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)

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



# ONE

## service sunday

### ONE COMBINED SERVICE

December 24 and 31 | 10:00 a.m. Main Campus | Sanctuary | On both of these dates there will be only one blended service.

There will be no other activities, such as Children's Church, Sunday School classes, etc.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### CATAPULT TACKPULT CHRISTMAS PARTY |

December 13 | 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](mailto:youth@spanishfortumc.org).



### REMEDY TACKY SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY |

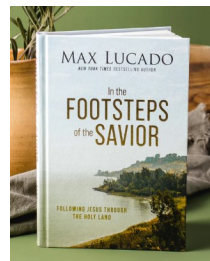
December 17 | 6:00 p.m. | West Campus Youth Area  
Join our Remedy group for a fun time of fellowship. Make sure to wear your tackiest Christmas sweater! For more information, call the church office or email [youth@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:youth@spanishfortumc.org).



### BLUE LAKE CHILDREN'S WINTER RETREAT | EARLY BIRD registration ends

December 1 | Camp - February 2 | Blue Lake | Parents of 3rd - 6th graders, it's time to register your child. Register at: <https://bluelakecamp.com/retreats-events/>. When registering, be sure to indicate that your child is part of the SFUMC. For questions, please contact Kitsy Dixon or Elizabeth DeRocher in the church office by calling 251-626-1334 or emailing [kitsy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:kitsy@spanishfortumc.org).

## STUDY



### WATERMARK SUNDAY SCHOOL - NEW STUDY |

December 3 | 10:00 AM | West Campus | WD108, Children's Area | Join us for our new study, In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land by Max Lucado, beginning 12/3/2023 and concluding 1/21/2024. For more

information please contact Michelle Pennington at [pennington.sm5@gmail.com](mailto:pennington.sm5@gmail.com).

## COMMUNITY



### ADVENT KICK-OFF

### 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! There will be cookies served in the Fellowship Hall immediately after. For more information please call the church office at 251-626-1334 or email [children@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.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.



### 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](mailto:children@spanishfortumc.org) or call the office at 251-626-1334.



### 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](http://www.escs.org). Students are free.

### 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. Afterwards, we will return to church for hot cocoa in the Reed Building. For

more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Mike Owenby at 251-626-1334 in the church office or email [worship@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:worship@spanishfortumc.org).

**OFFICE CLOSED** | The church office will be closed from December 25 until January 2, 2024.

Our staff prays you have a safe and blessed Christmas and New Years.



### UNITED METHODIST MEN'S FAMILY CHRISTMAS

**BREAKFAST** | December 9 | 8:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Everyone is invited to come eat a hearty breakfast prepared and served by our UMM. We will hear and sing Christmas Carols, listen to Robin Wall read a Christmas story book and the children will have a "special guest" visit them. It will be fun for all ages! For more information please contact Ken Coale at [gk.coale@gmail.com](mailto:gk.coale@gmail.com).



### "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 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 14 | Briquettes Steakhouse | Spanish Fort  
Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with a luncheon. Please arrive by 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions please contact Debbie Wallace at [mwwal@bellsouth.net](mailto:mwwal@bellsouth.net).



### PRIME TIMERS CHRISTMAS BANQUET

December 9 | 6:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Bring your favorite side dish or dessert as we enjoy a covered dish dinner with ham and Rev. Dr. Mike Owenby leading us in holiday music! Please make reservations by calling the church office by December 4th at 251-626-1334.



**PRIME TIMERS LUNCH BUNCH** | December 15 | 11:00 a.m. | Offsite @ Briquette's | Lunch Bunch will meet at Briquette's Steak House in the Eastern Shore Center.

Please call the church office to make reservations by Monday the 11th of December. For additional information, please contact Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3928 or [sansandra7925@aol.com](mailto:sansandra7925@aol.com).

**CONFIRMATION 2024 - INFO MEETING** | January 7 | 12:30 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | 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 for Confirmands and parents begins on January 21, 2024. The cost is \$50.

For more details or to register, please go to [www.spanishfortumc.org/confirmation](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/confirmation), call the church office, use the QR code to the left or email Kitsy Dixon at [kitsy@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:kitsy@spanishfortumc.org).

**SFUMP CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** | December 8 | 9:30 a.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary and MC101, Fellowship Hall | SFUMP will have a Christmas Program. For more information please contact Mandy Reeves at 251-626-1380 or [preschool@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:preschool@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 we will resume on January 10.** If you have questions please contact the church office at 251-626-1334 or email [ministries@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:ministries@spanishfortumc.org).



### NEW MEMBERS |

J.P., Sarah, Gabe, Sebastian, Gemme and Savannah Haigh

Arnil, Robyn, A.J. Stallworth, Rylee and Roland Snider

### BAPTISM |

Delayne Jeanette Stallworth

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

Ashley Harris and family on the death of his father, Mr. Steve Harris. Mr. Harris passed away on November 12, 2023



**CONTRIBUTIONS** | All contributions for the current year, 2023, must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2023 to receive credit for the current year. Statements will be sent between January 15 - 31, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Faye Childers in the church office at 251-626-1334 or by email at [faye@spanishfortumc.org](mailto:faye@spanishfortumc.org).