

PASTOR'S NOTE

I write this article with a fresh diagnosis of Covid. Yes the beast is still with us with less mortality. Thanks be to God for the lesser mortality rate! This forces me into a Covid isolation phase which I detest. But sicknesses, though never desired, can be watershed moments. As others have stated, it is when you are laying on your back that you look up and pay closer attention to your Creator.

This beginning month of the New Year has been focused on TIME. In particular, the great theme related to time, WAITING. When waiting is a choice, it is viewed positively as in going fishing or hunting or shopping for long hours. But when waiting is not our choice, as in a traffic jam or hospital waiting room or recovering from an illness, it is viewed negatively. But I wonder sometimes if we misdiagnose time. We have plans and those plans are foiled by weather or illness or other unforeseen events. We grumble about this being "wasted time" or "lost time". Further reflection gives many perspectives about time. Airplane pilots are trying to "make up time". Prisoners are said to be "doing time". Those who are literally dying are "out of time". Some are wishing for "more time" and others are wishing "time would stand still" or wanting "time to fly". Some want to "turn back the hands of time" to relive great memories. Others want time to "march forward" quickly to get over painful memories. And in the complexity of our human condition, each of us can experience these dimensions or aspects of time in different seasons or life events or even in a day.

We are waiting for our grandson to make it out of NICU. We are praying that will be soon. But in greater reality, this waiting is necessary for his greater development as he came 2 months early. Yet as I reflect over his early birth and greater need for waiting, I was reminded how the Apostle Paul used the imagery of childbirth related to waiting for the full redemption of our bodies.

In Romans 8 he indicates that the whole creation is in travail, as in birth pains, until now. There is a great anticipation and joy of our being transformed and fully redeemed. But we are in the midst of time and even prisoners in time held in bondage to the curse over creation and the attendant limitations and sorrows.

But we are not overcome by these struggles, not even our last enemy, death. Paul indicates that we are WAITING IN HOPE for things we do not yet see or have not yet experienced (Romans 8:22-25). We are waiting to see what this New Year unfolds. Some are sick and tired (as in Covid recovery) of waiting. But waiting is often a healing instrument to help our bodies recover and I think a greater reminder of the greater waiting in hope for our full and complete redemption. Just you WAIT and SEE.

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 (Wednesday @ 7 a.m. or Thursday at 6 p.m.). For more details, please call the church office at 251-626-1334.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE | February 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service where we begin the 40 day season of Lent, concluding with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Before the service there will be a missions fundraising spaghetti dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please call the church office.

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

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www.spanishfortumc.org



CHILDREN'S CHOIR | February 7 | West Campus | WD111, Children's Area | Preschool through Elementary aged children are invited to learn and sing the songs of our faith, then share those songs with our community. For more information please contact Mike Owenby in the church office at 251-626-1334 or by emailing worship@spanishfortumc.org.

KIDZ UNIVERSITY | Ongoing | Wednesdays | 6:30 p.m. West Campus | Children's Area
Pre K - 5th grade children are welcome to participate in age level programs that study God's word through the stories in the Bible, games, crafts, worship songs, and fellowship with one another and in relationship to Christ. If you have any questions, please email children@spanishfortumc.org.



Acolyte Ministry
on Now | If you have a child in 3rd grade through youth age who would be interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact Mike Owenby in the church office or email worship@spanishfortumc.org. If you are currently an acolyte please sign up at the following link for a time to serve: <https://bit.ly/sfumcacolyte>.

SFUMP ENROLLING

NOW If you have any questions or would like more information, please email preschool@spanishfortumc.org.



CATAPULT YOUTH FELLOWSHIP | Ongoing | Wednesdays | 6:30 p.m. | West Campus | WC112, Youth Area | Join us each Wednesday night in the Youth Area for a time of worship, praise, study, fun and fellowship. (Grades 6th - 8th). For more information please contact Zack McCraw at youth@spanishfortumc.org.

REMEDY YOUTH | Ongoing | 6:00 p.m. | Sundays | West Campus | WC112 | Remedy (9-12th grades) | This is a time to gather for fellowship that is about being inspired by who God is and striving to grow in our desire to follow Him fully. If you have questions, email youth@spanishfortumc.org.

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION RETREAT DAY | March 16 | 8:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall
Confirmants fellowship, study, and have loads of fun during our confirmation retreat, where they will grow spiritually, learn spiritual discipline, and understand God's Word. For more information please contact Kitsy Dixon in the church office at kitsy@spanishfortumc.org.

COMMUNITY



PRIME TIMERS VALENTINE BANQUET | February 9 | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Join Prime Timers in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. for an Italian Valentine's dinner and entertainment by "Monterey South Quartet." Donations accepted. Must make reservations by end of day Monday, February 5th by calling the church office, 251-626-1334.



MISSIONS SPAGHETTI SUPPER | February 14 | 5:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall
Everyone is invited to come for this special "Missions Team Dinner." You will enjoy fellowship and homemade spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and desserts. All donations will benefit our Missions/Service Team. For more information please contact the church office.





PRIME TIMERS LUNCH BUNCH | February 22 | 10:15 a.m. | Magnolia Blossom Cafe, Robertsdale, AL
 Prime Timer's will dine at 11:00 a.m. at Magnolia Blossom in Robertsdale. The church bus, if there is enough interest, will leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 10:15 a.m. Please make reservations by calling the church office at 251-626-1334 no later than the end of day February 14th and indicate if you want to ride the bus. For more information please contact Asher or Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3928 or sansandra7425@aol.com.



EASTER CELEBRATION | March 24 | 11:00 a.m. | Main Campus | Top Parking Lot | Join us as we celebrate the joy of Easter with our annual Palm Sunday Easter Celebration! Enjoy fellowship, food, games and egg hunts! Bring your friends and family and celebrate with us! For more information please email the Children's Department at children@spanishfortumc.org or call the church office, 251-626-1334.



DEATHS | Our pastors and staff would like to express our condolences to:

The family of Mr. Robert Wayne Glenn, Sr. Mr. Glenn passed away on December 23, 2023.

Neal Arnold and family on the death of his mother, Mrs. Martha Faye Arnold. Mrs. Arnold passed away on December 30, 2024.

Joe Somers and family on the death of his wife, Mrs. Anneliese "Lisa" P. Somers. Mrs. Somers passed away on January 3, 2024.

The family and friends of Mrs. Imogene Martin. Mrs. Martin passed away on January 5, 2024.

Shannon and Toby Brown and family on the death of Shannon's father, Mr. William Ora "Bill" Godwin, Jr. Mr. Godwin passed away on January 28, 2024.

Ted and Lynn Langley and family on the death of Ted's father, Mr. John Thomas "Tommy" Langley. Mr. Langley passed away on January 28, 2024 .

COMING SOON:

Confirmation Sunday & Brunch | April 21
 Agape Hands Puppet Team Spring Program | April 28
 Eastern Shore Choral Society Concert | April 30
 VBS Volunteer Meeting & Training | June 9
 VBS Family Night | June 9
 VBS | June 10-13



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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

TBD

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.*