

PASTOR'S NOTE

We are now in the midst of our Lenten journey which began on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Lent represents our call to repent and believe the gospel even as we focus on our mortality and remembering those sobering words, "dust you are and to dust you will return". This season is traditionally marked by those signs of repentance and embracing the call to discipleship through self-denial, taking up our cross and following Jesus. Acts of self-denial are often portrayed through our "giving up" things for Lent. Many Christians are giving up sweets, chocolates, sodas, or alcoholic beverages. Others may be giving up their favorite pastimes or recreational experiences and fasting from food or fasting from TV or social media.

The other part of discipleship is "taking up our cross" involving sacrificial acts that might even be added to self-denial. Wesley, in his sermon on this subject, mentions that taking up a cross is more difficult than self-denial. For example, while we may be giving up our TV programs, we are actively making contact with people in need. While we are giving up certain foods, we may be taking food to others. While we are giving up time for ourselves, we may be engaging in actively helping others through acts of kindness like yard work, minor repairs or grocery shopping, etc. Interestingly, the name, "Methodist" actually came from Wesley practicing these spiritual disciplines while he was in college. Essentially, each of us will prayerfully engage those spiritual disciplines as God may direct us in this holy season.

My own journey is leading me more in the direction of "taking up" things. I want to engage more directly in taking up more time for prayer. I am taking up more time for reading scriptures or devotional/spiritual meditation. I am taking up more time performing acts of kindness that are prayerfully and Spirit directed. I realize in sharing this I can be accused of hypocrisy or making public what needs to be more anonymous as Jesus instructed us. However, my aim is simply that of instruction or information that I pray will be helpful. I want to continue to challenge you about fasting one meal per week and saving the money from that meal to contribute to our partnering with Wesley College in

Tanzania. We have done this the past few years and I hope we can continue this practice as it relates to our Lenten journey.

Above all, Lent is not a closed-ended journey. It is meant to lead us to Calvary and Jesus bearing His cross (Good Friday) for our forgiveness and salvation! Even more it leads us to the Empty Tomb and our Risen Savior (Easter) bringing hope now and forevermore! Alleluia!

Blessings, Bill

WORSHIP



Join Us for Holy Week!

Palm Sunday Service | March 24 | 10:00 AM
Easter Celebration | March 24 | 11:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Service | March 28 | 6:00 PM
Good Friday Service | March 29 | 6:30 PM

Easter Services - March 31
Outdoor Sunrise Service | 7:00 AM
Traditional Service | 9:00 AM & Contemporary | 11:00 AM

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PALM SUNDAY - CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGING & WAVING PALMS | March 24 | 10:00 a.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | The Children's Choir will be singing and waving palms during the Palm Sunday service. For more information please contact Mike Owenby at worship@spanishfortumc.org or Elizabeth DeRocher at elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org, or by calling the church office at 251-626-1334.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE | March 28 | 6:00 p.m. Main Campus | Sanctuary | Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, commemorates Jesus Christ's last supper and initiates the observance of Holy Communion. Please join us for this time of worship during Holy Week.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE | March 29 | 6:30 p.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Join us for this powerful service of gradual darkness and remembrance

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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of Jesus' death on a cross. We will ponder the impact of His death and await the celebration of the Coming Resurrection. We will also have "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by a combined choir of SFUMC and the SF Presbyterian Church choirs.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE | March 31 | 7:00 a.m. | Main Campus | Back Parking Lot | Andy Cloninger and the Praise Team will lead us in an outdoor Sunrise Service. He is Risen! He is risen, indeed!

EASTER SERVICES | March 31 | 9:00 AM Traditional & 11:00 AM Contemporary | Main Campus | Sanctuary Join us as we worship our risen Savior Jesus Christ!

OPEN PRAYER

Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m.
Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.
Main Campus ~ Sanctuary

www.spanishfortumc.org/info

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.



EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN: LENTEN SERMON SERIES

| Thru Easter | During this Lenten Season, we will begin to engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties, not ignore them and to embrace God's amazing love for us in new ways. For more details, please contact the church office at 251-626-1334.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR | Ongoing | 6:00 p.m. | 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 SIGN UP | Going 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>.

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 email 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 Confirmands 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.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY & BRUNCH | April 21 | 8:45 a.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary and MC101, Fellowship Hall | We invite our church family to help us welcome our 2024 Confirmands into the Body of Christ at our 8:45 a.m. worship service. A confirmation brunch will follow for our Confirmands and their family members only. For more information please email Kitsy Dixon at kitsy@spanishfortumc.org.

Register now!

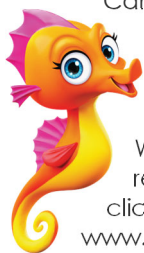
Family Night
June 9
Vacation Bible School
June 10-13
Both 5:30-7:30 PM

www.spanishfortumc.org/vbs

SCUBA VBS FAMILY KICKOFF | June 9 | 5:30 P.M. Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall Parents will have the opportunity to pick up their children's t-shirts and confirm registration details. Please bring your family for some VBS fun! For more information, please contact Elizabeth DeRocher in the church office, 251-626-1334 or email elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org.



VBS - SCUBA | June 10-13 | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Main Campus | Children's Area | We will take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! For details and registration click the QR code to the right or go to www.spanishfortumc.org/vbs. If you have questions, contact Elizabeth DeRocher in the church office at 251-626-1334 or elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org.



Missed Worship?
Check out 103.3 FM or 840 AM
Sundays at Noon
www.spanishfortumc.org/info

PRIME TIMERS FELLOWSHIP - SPECIAL EDITION

March 7 | 10:00 a.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | We will have Blair Lober and Stephanie DeAnda with Omnia Telehealth to speak regarding senior adult health. Blood pressure screenings will be available. For more details email sansandra7425@aol.com or call the church office.

PRIME TIMERS EXPLOREUM TRIP | March 22 | 8:30 a.m. | Exploreum Science Center | We will travel to Mobile to see the Cuba Exhibit and IMAX movie. Lunch will follow at Moe's BBQ in Downtown Mobile. Reservations and payment of \$15/per person for the Exhibit & movie only must be made at church office by Monday, March 18th. For more information please contact Asher or Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3928.



BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP | Summer is coming quickly, and we know you are making plans. We wanted to make you aware of the wide variety of camps and opportunities available for your child at Blue Lake Camp this summer. Please visit <https://bluelakecamp.com/summer-camps/> to see a complete list. In addition to weeklong camps, there are mini camps and family camps. We will not be planning a church trip to camp this year, instead you will be able to choose the camp that is best for your child and your family schedule. Hopefully, we can return to traveling to and experiencing camp together in 2025. If you have any questions, please email Kitsy Dixon at kitsy@spanishfortumc.org or Elizabeth DeRocher at children@spanishfortumc.org.

COMMUNITY

FLOWERING CROSS | March 31 | 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. | Main Campus | Sanctuary | Help us bring our cross to life by bringing a fresh or artificial flower from home on Easter Sunday. The cross will be located in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. This tradition symbolizes the new life of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Easter Celebration
March 24 ~ 11 a.m.
Food, Games & Egg Hunt
FUN for ALL Ages!
www.spanishfortumc.org/info

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. If you would like to volunteer, go here: <https://bit.ly/SFUMCECV>

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS | March 13 | Wednesdays | 5:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall | Wednesday Night Suppers will only be once a month on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month beginning in March. Please RSVP by contacting the church office at 251-626-1334 or by emailing ministries@spanishfortumc.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE CHANGING!
Starting in March | Suppers Only On 2nd Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM
www.spanishfortumc.org/info for more details



FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY ON EASTER

Flowers will be available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one. These will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Cost, type, deadline, and order forms are coming soon.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.*