

PASTOR'S NOTE

We are on the way to Pentecost, noted by many as the birthday of the church, celebrated 50 days after Easter. There are several pivotal scriptures containing post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. But very often, like the 2 men on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) we fail to embrace the Risen Christ even when He may be walking right beside us! Or as Jacob stated when he saw the ladder let down from heaven, "God was in this place, and I didn't even know it". Elizabeth Barrett Browning made famous the lines "Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God, But only he who sees takes off his shoes; The rest sit round and pluck blackberries."

Most of my life I had great vision. I never experienced issues until recently while driving one evening the lights of cars began to blur. I went to get an eye exam and they discovered cataracts. I was given glasses to help me see at greater distances. I was amazed at the clarity of vision that the glasses provided. By the time you read this I will have had cataract surgery and an implant to help my vision more permanently. Thankfully, I had help to regain my vision.

The scriptures indicate that spiritual realities are only seen with "spiritual eyes". We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Or another dimension is Paul's teaching that the "god of this world" (Satan) has blinded the eyes of people so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Interestingly, the men on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened to really see Jesus when he broke bread with them (Luke 24:31). Certainly, there was nothing in the bread that caused them to recognize Jesus. But in that moment, they saw Jesus as the Risen Lord! This was clearly the action of God's grace to open their eyes. It is well stated in one of the best-known hymns, Amazing Grace, which includes the lines, "I once was lost, but now I'm found. Twas blind but now I see". As we travel on this journey to Pentecost, I pray our eyes would be open to see and follow our Risen Christ as we live as Easter people in our world.

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 office at 251-626-1334.

OPEN PRAYER

Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m.
Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.
Main Campus ~ Sanctuary
www.spanishfortumc.org/info

UMCOR SPECIAL OFFERING APRIL 14 8:45 & 11:00 AM Services

UMCOR SPECIAL OFFERING | April 14 | 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Services | Main Campus | Sanctuary
During our offering time we will be collecting a special offering for UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief. If you wish to contribute, please indicate on your check or envelope "UMCOR."

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CHOIR | Ongoing | Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. | West Campus | WD108, 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 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.



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

ACOLYTE SIGN UP | Going on Now | Anyone who is 3rd grade and up 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/SFUMCAcolyte2>.

Acolyte Ministry

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 Sunday

April 21 | 8:45 AM

www.spanishfortumc.org/info

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.

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.





Register now!

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

www.spanishfortumc.org/vbs

VBS PREP DAYS | April 8 & 22 | West Campus Children's Area | Join us as we prepare for VBS 2024 - Scuba - Diving Into Friendship with God. For more information please contact Elizabeth DeRocher at 251-626-1334 or elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org.



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 call 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 Various Areas | 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! Please register by May 15th to ensure you get a t-shirt! For details and registration click the QR code to the left or go to www.spanishfortumc.org/vbs. If you have questions, contact Elizabeth DeRocher in the church office at 251-626-1334 or email her at elizabeth@spanishfortumc.org.

AGAPE HANDS

Puppet Team



Spring Program | April 28 - 4 p.m.

www.spanishfortumc.org/info

AGAPE HANDS PUPPET TEAM SPRING PROGRAM

April 28 | 4:00 p.m. | West Campus | WC112, Youth Area | The puppet team would like you to join us for a fun afternoon program. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth DeRocher at children@spanishfortumc.org.

WHEN GOD DOESN'T FIX IT: LEARNING TO WALK IN GOD'S WILL | April 10 | 6:30 p.m. | West Campus WD101, Office Area | Join Pastor Kitsy Dixon in a continuation from the study, "Questions God Has for Us". It is based on the unexpected moments in life that bring us to question our faith. The text is written by Laura Story and will be utilized as a video-led Bible Study on trusting God when the narrative in life does not go the way we expect. The study book is \$10 each and can be picked up in the church office. For more information please contact Kitsy Dixon at kitsy@spanishfortumc.org or 251-626-1334.



EASTERN SHORE CHORAL SOCIETY: SPRING CONCERT | April 30 | 7:30 P.M. Main Campus Sanctuary | For more information please contact Mary Katherine Kilgore at 251-802-4757 or escs.artisticdirector@gmail.com.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS | Beginning weekly again on April 3rd! | 5:00 p.m. | Main Campus MC101, Fellowship Hall | Beginning again on April 3rd, Wednesday night suppers will be every Wednesday night at 5 p.m. All other activities for adults and children will begin at 6:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. If you have questions please contact the church office at 251-626-1334 or email ministries@spanishfortumc.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS
WEEKLY
Wednesdays @5:00 PM

www.spanishfortumc.org/info

Missed Worship?

Check out 103.3 FM or 840 AM

Sundays
at Noon

www.spanishfortumc.org/info



PRIME TIMERS FUNNY GIRL TRIP | April 14 | 1:30 p.m.

University of Mobile, 5735 College Pkwy, Mobile, AL 36613 | Travel with the Prime Timers to see the musical "Funny Girl" at the University of Mobile. For more info please contact Asher or Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3928 or email sansandra@aol.com.



PRIME TIMERS FRIDAY NIGHT OUT | April 26
6:00 p.m. | Main Campus | MC101, Fellowship Hall
Once again we will enjoy pizza and a movie. Join us in the fellowship Hall. Donations for food appreciated. For more information, please contact Asher or Sandra Carmichael at 251-751-3828.



NEW MEMBER |

Joey L. Turner

BAPTISM |

Jace Price



Contact Mike Owenby



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH STAFF

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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.*