



March 2009

Steeple Echoes



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1500 S. Kanner Hwy, Stuart, FL 34994 (P.O. Box 539, Stuart, FL 34995)

Church Office (772) 287-6262 Fax: (772) 287-3768
Preschool Office: (772) 287-6265 Mission House: (772) 781-0223
Visit our new website: www.stuartfumc.org
Senior Pastor: Phillip Short

A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

Holy Week at First United Methodist Church, Stuart

It is never too early to plan for Holy Week. Here's what you'll want to catch here at Stuart First United Methodist April 5th to April 12th.

Palm Sunday (April 5th) - This worship service commemorates the day that Jesus rode a donkey from Bethany, over the Mount of Olives, through the Kidron Valley, and through the gates of Jerusalem. This day was, and still is, very rich in Messianic symbolism. The *Liturgy of the Palms* will be offered at 8 and 11. There will be palms and pageantry at 9:30 as well. The Youth Confirmation Class will be confirmed at the 9:30 service.

Lenten Lunch (April 8th, 12:10 p.m.) - Dr. Susan Schmidt will bring the message. She will be speaking from her capacity as the Director of Missions.

Maundy Thursday (April 9th, 7 p.m.) This worship service will commemorate The Last Supper, the institution of The New Covenant, and Jesus' introduction of the sacrament of Holy Communion. This will be especially poignant in light of the Christian Seder.

Good Friday (April 10th, 7 p.m.) - Good Friday worship will offer a service of Tenebrae. Come and experience this especially moving liturgy through which we will honor Christ for His most profound sacrifice.

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) (April 12th) - We will offer a sunrise service on the front patio of the sanctuary at 6:30 a.m. The other worship services will be at their set hours, 8, 9:30 and 11. Bring flowers from your yard and garden to decorate the cross. It will be waiting for you on the front patio. Bring a bell to ring. At a set time in the worship service, we will proclaim Christ risen and death defeated. We will ring the bells in a celebration of praise. Bring your friends and neighbors to all of the above.

Wednesday Lenten Luncheons

Come, you will be blessed!

Our staff is very excited about our Lenten Luncheons this year. Each week one of our staff will be preaching:

Donna Lewis (Children/Families Ministry)	March 4
Alex (Torch) Kumpf (Youth/Discipleship)	March 11
Dee Blount (Church Growth)	March 18
Sherry Rasmussen (Music)	March 25
Chris Buehler (Youth)	April 1
Pastor Susan (Missions)	April 8

How exciting is this church? A chance to hear the staff preach. Please call in your reservation. Cost is \$5.00.

This year we will have the service and lunch in the fellowship hall. When you call your reservation in the office will be able to share the lunch menu for that week with you.

We look forward to seeing all of you for this exciting time in the church.

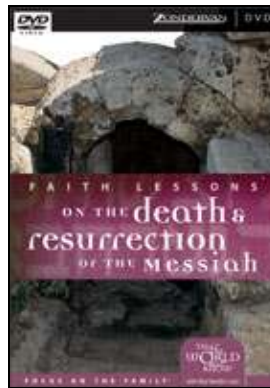
Study for Lent

The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah
by Ray Vander Laan.

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm
5 weeks - March 4th-April 1st.
in the Sanctuary.

Facilitator: Nick Blount
There will be no cost for this study.

Please call the church office at
287-6262 to sign up.



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Sunday Night Youth

6:00 to 8:00pm

Dinner at 6:00 — cooked each week by Cathie McCarthy.

The cost for dinner is \$2.00 per person!

From 6 to 7pm — games, 9-square, hanging out with friends. **We now have a “Quiet/Game Room” in Room 1.** This is a place for “calm” hanging out. There are bean bag chairs, board games, video games, etc. No “loudness” allowed!

At 7pm we go into the Sanctuary for announcements, some great praise and worship and a lesson.

Bring a friend and come join us!

“Young Youth” Sunday School

6th to 8th grade

9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Choir Room

(Except the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, when all youth attend the 9:30 church service.)

Taught by Julie Arrighi and Dian Bush (with occasional help from Alex “Torch” Kumpf and Chris Buehler)

The class is currently doing an exciting study on the life of Jesus!



United Methodist Youth Summer Camp at Leesburg

Rising 4th to rising 12th grade

July 6—11, 2009

(Senior High option, June 29—July 4)

Cost of camp is \$365. The church will scholarship each student who is an active member of the youth group and/or church family, half the cost (\$182.50). The cost to the parents will be \$182.50.

There are scholarships available through the Methodist Conference. Scholarship applications are available through the church or youth office and must returned to Chris Buehler by March 22.

Camp fills up fast so get your application in ASAP! They are available from the church/youth office.

For more info on the Youth Group contact:

Chris Buehler, Youth Director

Alex “Torch” Kumpf, Youth Ministry

Assistant/Spiritual Growth Director

Church Office: 287-6262

cbuehler@stuartfumc.org akumpf@stuartfumc.org

“Spiritual Sponsors” Needed for Confirmation Class!

This year we are asking members of our church to “spiritually sponsor” members of our confirmation class. This would involve prayers, notes, calls of encouragement and, possibly, standing up with the students as they are confirmed. We want our church family to take seriously the task of welcoming and shepherding our youth as they join the church!

Call or e-mail the youth department if you would like to serve in this way!



“30 Hour Famine”

March 20-21

New Hope Fellowship Church,
Palm City

This will be the 6th year our youth group (along with 15 other churches in our county) has participated in World Vision’s “30 Hour Famine.” Our Youth will fast for 30 hours to get idea of what hunger feels like! They will also raise money to help feed starving children worldwide.

It’s an unbelievable fact that 26,000 children die each day from hunger and hunger-related diseases!

The youth of our church, of our county and around the entire country are determined to lower these numbers! (And we are, since not too long ago 40,000 children died each day!)

The youth department will be glad to discuss the Famine with you if you’d like more info!



College Scholarships

High School Seniors!

There are college scholarships available through the Methodist Conference!

Contact Chris Buehler for more info.

Summer 2009 Youth Dates for Early Bird Planners:

- **Vacation Bible School:** June 15-19
- **ReCreation Experiences Home Repair Mission Trip to North Carolina:** June 20-27 (Year #8!)
- **Leesburg Summer Camp** — July 6-11 (Senior High option — June 29-July 4)
- **Senior High Alumni Mission Trip to the Bahamas** — July 26 to August 1

Any Youth, age 11 - 18, is invited to check out our exciting Youth Group!

Mission of the Month—March 2009

Youth Summer Mission Trips and Scholarships

The mission outreach of our church begins here at home! This month, your donations will help the youth of our church learn more about themselves and how to serve others! Locally, our youth deliver Meals on Wheels, work with Habitat for Humanity and do other service projects. We are also called to serve in other communities and countries.

We have many young people in the Youth group who need financial assistance to serve others through mission trips and to attend summer church camp!

This summer we will again be using your donations for three specific youth opportunities. The first is our annual mission trip to Asheville, NC to do home repair with “ReCreation Home Repair Ministries.” This will be our eighth consecutive year working with this ministry and it is a challenging and exciting experience for all participants. We are so involved with “ReCreation” that many of their summer staff are former members of our youth group! We anticipate taking 50 youth and adult leaders to North Carolina this year.



In July we plan to take a group of senior high students to the Bahamas to do home repair with “Bahamas Methodist Habitat.” These “out of country” trips are a great way for our students to serve people who have a much lower standard of living than we do! These mission experiences are never forgotten and they allow the students to put “feet to their faith.”



The Florida United Methodist Youth Summer Camp at Leesburg is the third area where your donations make a difference. Last year we sent 40 children and youth to Leesburg Camp! They enjoyed a great week full of exciting activities, awesome worship, personal small group discussions and lots of good fellowship! Leesburg camp is a place where lives are changed and commitments to Jesus are made. Many of our youth attend camp year after year and wouldn't think of missing it!

All of these events have the potential to be life-changing for our youth, as they learn more about servant hood and about living a life focused upon Jesus Christ. We will be doing 100% scholarships for some youth who would otherwise never have a chance to participate in a mission trip or church camp, and partial scholarships for others. In these tough economic times we are trusting God to provide what is needed to allow the young people to serve and mature in His name.

If you are able to help make these summer experiences possible for our youth, please make your check payable to FUMC and mark it “Youth Scholarships.” (This is an earmarked account.) Place your check (or cash) in the envelope found in your bulletin or in the pew. Donations can also be dropped off in the church office.

We praise God for the members of this church and thank you in advance for your financial help and your prayers!

In His Name,

Christina Buehler,
Youth Director



SATURDAY WORKSHOP



EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENTING MADE FUN

**Saturday, March 14th
9:00am – 2:00pm**

Facilitator: Donna Lewis

Cost \$25 (includes workbook and lunch)

The Love and Logic Process:

Love allows children to grow through their mistakes.
Logic allows children to learn from the consequences of their choices.

Guided Principles of Love and Logic:

- Shared control
- Shared thinking and decision making
- Apply empathy before delivering consequence
- Provide opportunity for building self-concept

Our website, www.loveandlogic.com, provides parents and educators with up-to-date information about Love and Logic, products, articles, handouts, and a listing of Love and Logic seminars in cities throughout the United States.

Free childcare available by PRIOR RESERVATION.

To register for the seminar and for childcare, please call the church office at 287-6262 or visit www.stuartfumc.org

Boy Scout Troop 823 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fellowship Hall.

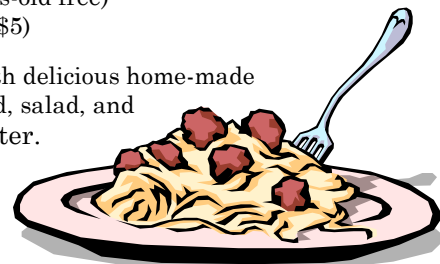
Friday, March 27, 5:00 – 8:00p.m.

Proceeds will support upcoming camping trips for the boys. Come enjoy the Italian ambience and delicious food served by our well-trained staff of boy scouts. Advance tickets available from any member of Troop 823 or between services on Sunday, March 22.

Cost: \$6 (under 3-years-old free)
(Advance tickets only \$5)

MENU: Spaghetti with delicious home-made meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and coffee, tea, milk or water.

Sodas and desserts available a la carte for \$1 each.



Thank You!!



A special thank you and God bless you for donations received during Children's Ministry Mission of the Month (February). Donations will be used toward scholarships for elementary children for the 2009 Leesburg United Methodist Camp and our 2009 Vacation Bible School.

This exciting **children's concert event** is based upon the award-winning *God Rocks!* BibleToons animated children's series and is the **most fun family event of the year!**

Let's Rock together!!!!!!

SIMULCAST SATELLITE CONCERT!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FAMILY

Are you ready to rock
with...

God Rocks!

Fellowship Hall

**Saturday,
March 21, 2009 9:30am**



Featuring a **dynamic, engaging musical concert** performed by members of the award-winning *God Rocks!* ministry team, this unique event will also feature the world **broadcast premiere of "Starlight Rescue"** a fantastic new, interactive animated adventure! All of this designed to energize **children ages 4-10** with the Good News of the Gospel. **God Rocks!** is a great opportunity to **IGNITE** your children's ministry, **REACH OUT** to children in your community and **CONNECT** families in a **POWERFUL** way!

Strategic Planning Team

Just in case you haven't heard, there is a Strategic Planning Team which meets weekly to discuss upcoming events and cast vision for future events and direction. The mission of the Strategic Planning Team is to develop, organize and coordinate ministries of the church which will turn the vision, mission and core values of First United Methodist Church of Stuart into action. It consists of our Senior Pastor, program staff, EVOT (Employee/Volunteer Operations Team), and representatives from laity teams.

In addition to the vision of our local church, this team is accountable to the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church for promoting and measuring the Missional Vital Signs of:

- Passionate Worship
- Radical Hospitality
- Intentional Discipling
- Salty Service
- Extravagant Generosity

Pastor Phillip has already mentioned the significance of these signs in previous articles, sermons, and administrative meetings. You will be hearing much more about them in the near future.

It is essential that our church operate as one body with many parts, all working together for the good of the entire body. Many fresh and inspired ideas have been presented to the team through the laity of our church as well as our program staff. We want to encourage these ideas while making sure we are serving the whole church and the world beyond the church. We need your help. If you have an idea, please present your proposal to one of our staff or to EVOT, and be prepared to take on whatever is necessary to help make the task you are proposing a success.

Town Hall Meeting Monday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Our church board meets every other month, usually on the last Monday. At our last meeting, it was realized that there was so much positive and forward momentum. One of the members-at-large came up with the idea of opening up the next meeting to the entire church! So I want to invite you to a "Town Hall Meeting" on Monday evening, March 30th at 7 o'clock in the Sanctuary.

You may expect to hear reports on the church's finances, trustees and staff parish committees. In addition to this, you will find out what has been going on in the areas of long-range planning, discipleship, children's ministries, youth, missions and worship.

You will also be invited and encouraged to ask questions. Please come on out!

Pastor Phillip Short

Find God by Pastor Susan Schmidt

"How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?" (John 5:44)

If we are displaying our spirituality to impress men, still seeking honor from others, still living to appear righteous or special or "anointed" before people, can we honestly say we have been walking near to the Living God? We know we are relating correctly to God when our hunger for His glory causes us to forsake the praise of men.

Does not all glory fade in the light of His glory? Even as Jesus challenged the genuineness of the Pharisee's faith, so He challenges us: "How can you believe when you receive glory from one another?" What a weak comfort is the praise of men! Upon such a frail ledge do we mortals build our happiness!

CONSIDER: Within but a few days after the Lycaonians attempted to worship Paul, they were congratulating themselves for having stoned him! (Acts 14:11-19)

CONSIDER: Was it not the same city whose songs and praise welcomed Jesus as "King-gentle, and mounted upon a donkey" (Matthew 21:5-9), that roared "Crucify Him!" less than one week later? To seek the praise of men is to be tossed upon such a sea of instability! We must ask ourselves, whose glory do we seek in life, God's or our own? Jesus said "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory" (John 7:18a). When we speak from ourselves and of ourselves, are we not seeking to solicit from men the praise that belongs only to God? To seek our glory is to fall headlong into vanity and deception. "But," Jesus continued, "He who seeks the glory of the One who sent

Him is true and there is no unrighteousness in Him" (John 7:18b)

The same quality of heart that made Christ's intentions true must become our standard as well. For only to the degree that we are seeking the glory of God are our motivations true! Only to the degree that we abide in the glory of Him who sends us is there no unrighteousness in our hearts!

Therefore, let us give ourselves to seeking the glory of God, and let us do so until we find Him. As we behold the nature of Christ, as our eyes see Him, like Job we "abhor" ourselves and "repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:1-6 KJ). As we are bathed in His glory, we shall be washed from seeking the glory of man.

If we truly find Him, no one will have to tell us to be humble. No one need convince us our old natures are as filthy rags. As we truly find God, the things which are so highly esteemed among men will become detestable in our sight (Luke 16:15).

What could be more important than finding God? Take a day, a week, or a month and do nothing but seek Him, persisting until you find Him. He has promised, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13).

Find God, and once you have Him, determine to live the rest of your life in pursuit of His glory. As you touch Him, something will come alive in you: something eternal, Someone Almighty! Instead of looking down on people, you will seek to lift them up. You will dwell in the Presence of God. And you will be holy, for He is holy.

Open your heart; keep it open and you'll find God.

Love, Susan



Cooking For Kindness

Help us celebrate the return of an awesome ministry at First United Methodist Church!!!! Cooking For Kindness is a unique cooking ministry designed to share the love of Jesus by preparing and sharing entrees with others. We meet one time per month to prepare the entrees and freeze them in the Cooking For Kindness freezer.

The frozen entrees may be checked out by anyone in our church family to share love and kindness to others!! If someone has a new baby, illness or death in family, or just needs encouragement, Cooking For Kindness is there for YOU to use!!!!

Come join us on the 4th Thursday of each month as we have awesome fellowship and prepare the entrees. Each month we will ask for donations of ingredients for our recipe of the month to help support this ministry. The donations can be dropped off at the church office. This ministry can only be successful with your support and participation!!!!!!

We will meet on Thursday, March 26 in the church kitchen at 10:00 a.m. Our recipe of the month will be Ground Beef Stroganoff. We try to make twenty plus entrees in two different sizes to accommodate individuals or family needs. As we meet and cook different recipes each month we will be able to offer a variety of different entrees. **The ingredient donations needed for our March recipe are:**

- 1 –Lg. Container of Salt and Pepper
- 20 pounds of ground beef
- 8 large onions
- 20 – 14 oz. cans of low sodium Beef Broth
- 1 – 5 pound bag of flour
- 20 – 8 oz. containers of Sour Cream
- 2 – 20 ounce containers of ketchup
- 2 – 16 oz. bottles of Worcestershire Sauce
- 20- 4 oz. cans of Mushrooms (sliced)
- 20 – Bags of Egg Noodles (12 oz. – 16 oz./med. sized bags)
- Aluminum Foil
- Wax paper
- Plastic Wrap
- Aluminum Tin pans to put the entrees in to freeze and serve

We have provided the opportunity for everyone to participate in the donation of the ingredients by breaking the recipe down into small donations. You may buy larger quantities of any one ingredient, therefore, cutting the amount of small cans needed.

How can you support, Cooking For Kindness? There are numerous ways to help!!! Please pray for us, donate an ingredient or make a monetary donation towards the purchase of ingredients, come join us as we prepare the meals, or PARTICIPATE by using the entrees to share the love of Jesus with someone you know!!!! If you have any questions or would like further information, please call, Debbie Spahn at 220-0088!!!!!!

If you want to read ahead for our March Services:

Sunday, March 1st

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10 **Epistle:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

Sermon: "Covenant Promises" (Mark 1:9-15)

Sunday, March 8th

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-7

Psalm: 22:23-33

Sermon: "Risk and Promise" (Mark 8:31-38)

Sunday, March 15th

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20:1-7

Psalm: 19 **Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon: "Law v. Grace" (John 2:13-22)

Sunday, March 22nd

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm: 107:1-3, 17-22 **Gospel:** John 3:14-21

Sermon: "Before v. After" (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Sunday, March 29th

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm: 51:1-8 **Epistle:** Hebrews 5:5-10



Florida's Blood Centers' Mobile Unit will be in our church parking lot on **Sunday, March 29th** from 7:30a.m.—

12:30p.m.. For an appointment to save a life, please sign up in the narthex on Sundays, March 15, 22, 29 or call Nancy Fuller at 286-3698.

The 37 pints of blood collected here in November could save 111 lives! Please donate if you possibly can.



Preventative screening for:

Stroke/Carotid Artery

Heart Rhythm (Atrial Fibrillation)

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Peripheral Arterial Disease

Osteoporosis

- * 80% of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs.
- * Ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke.
- * Stroke is a leading cause of death/ permanent disability.
- * Screenings are fast, painless, affordable and convenient.

First United Methodist Church

Monday, April 6, 2009.

Pre-registration is required.

Please call 1-800-324-1851

For more information see the flyer in your bulletin during the month of March or visit:

www.LifeLineScreening.com

Our Church Finances
General Expense Fund Through
January 31, 2009 and 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Revenues:		
General Income	101,438.94	114,082.11
Expenses:		
Conference Expenses	12,996.50	11,951.84
Operating Expenses	70,676.99	96,410.51
Inviting Expenses	516.85	4,310.35
Worship Expenses	2,246.22	2,237.58
Discipleship Expenses	4,036.35	6,907.07
Serving Ministry Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>317.83</u>
Total Expenses	<u>90,562.91</u>	<u>122,135.18</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>10,876.03</u>	<u>(8,053.07)</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	210,136.20	239,787.77
Net assets, end of month	221,012.23	231,734.70

New Golf Cart.

We wish to thank the many people from our church family who donated money in order for us to purchase a new golf cart. This will enable us to transport people from our parking lot to the church buildings to enjoy our programs. We thank all of you for your gift.

A Note from the Endowment Committee

This is an acknowledgement of a gift recently received from the Strock estate. Mr. Strock was a member of our church who relocated to his home state.

The church is very grateful for receiving such monetary gifts which are used in connection with projects, for example, recently the sanctuary was completely renovated and rededicated on December 7th. A considerable amount of money was withdrawn from the appropriate endowment funds to help make this project possible. All donors can be justly proud.

Any gift is graciously accepted, whether it is cash, stocks, bonds, CD's or even real property, and will be wisely used in the interest of any and all church projects as deemed necessary to further the enhancement of God's Kingdom.

Yours in Christ, The Endowment Committee

Our Church Family

We wish to extend Christian Sympathy to:

The family of Bill Wade

Anniversary Wishes

We wish to congratulate Jim and Janice Faulkner who are celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary on March 2nd.

We wish to congratulate Robert and Dorothy Israels who are celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary on March 30th.

In Loving Memory of:

Shirley Economan

Mary Bridget

Pam Valentias

Mary Bridget

Birthday Wishes

Congratulations to Curt Whiticar who celebrated his 98th birthday on February 13th.



For information about the movie visit:
www.fireproofthemovie.com

Fireproof Your Marriage small groups have just begun and will run until Easter, Thursdays and Saturdays in homes.

Call the church office at 287-6262 to sign up so that we can order materials (cost \$12 per person).

Men's small group at Joe Ritter's home on Mondays will study the book *The Love Dare*.

Music Ministry

Celebration Choir News



The Celebration Choir is preparing for an **Easter Cantata** entitled ***God So Loved the World*** by Camp Kirkland and Tom Fettke. It will be performed on April 5, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. The choir is also working on selections for the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, April 10, 2009. More singers are always welcome! It is never too late to join us! Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30p.m. Call me, Sherry Rasmussen – 334-5780, or the church office for more information.

Gospel Sing-Along

Sunday, March, 29th at 4pm in the Sanctuary

We will sing some of your favorite hymns. Come along and sing with us! Special music by Cornerstone Quartet, featuring guest organist Gil Wagener. Free will offering will be taken for our guest organist.

Church Staff

Pastor Phillip Short Senior Pastor
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Linda Warren lwarren@stuartfumc.org
Geraldine Teed gteed@stuartfumc.org
Maintenance Staff: call or email the church office
Steve Blanton, Trudy Eggleston, Kevin Perry, Tony Ruela, Bob Muth

United Methodist Women's Circles

Faith: 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30a.m. in the Lounge.
Leader: Ada Caby.

Hope: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 5:30p.m. in the Lounge. Nursery available. Leader: Michelle Deen.

Ruth: Ruth Circle will tour Frances Langford's Designer Showcase House to benefit the Children's Home Society on Tuesday, March 3rd. Please, meet at the church at 9:00am. Tour begins at the home at 10:00am. RSVP to Brenda Daly, 286-4604. Lunch will be at the High Tide Beach Grill after event.

Susanna: First Monday of the month at 6:00p.m. in the Lounge. For information please contact Pat Langhorne at 221-7550

Priscilla: Trip to Hope Rural School and lunch at Seminole Inn. Meet Thursday, March 5th at 9:00a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool.

UMW Unit Meeting Membership Event Saturday, April 25th
9:30am-11:30am. Open to all UMW unit members. Bring a friend! Meeting will be at Perkins Restaurant, 2583 SE Federal Highway, Stuart. We will have a guest speaker and door prizes! Please RSVP to your circle leader by **April 20th!**

Find out more about First United Methodist Church, Stuart at www.stuartfumc.org

Sunday Worship: Traditional at 8:00 and 11:00am; Contemporary at 9:30am.
Tuesdays: Manna Kitchen (Free Community Meal from 5-6:00pm.)
Wednesdays: Family Dinner from 5-6:00p.m. Classes at 6:15pm
Fridays: Celebrate Recovery: Worship at 7:00pm; Small Groups at 8:00pm

First United Methodist Church
Steeple Echoes
P.O. Box 539
Stuart, FL 34995

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!