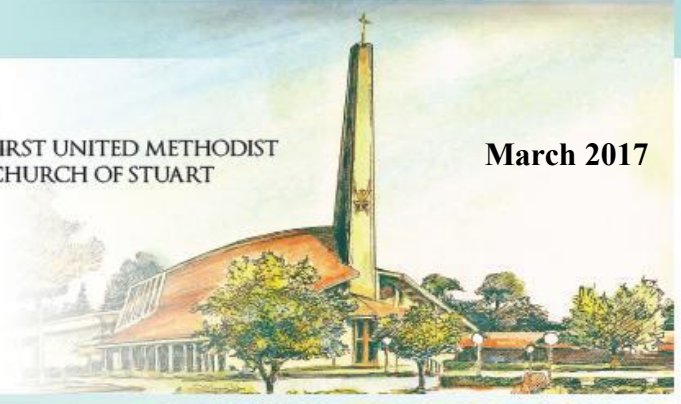


Steeple Echoes



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF STUART

March 2017



A Note from Pastor Jeff

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance (an outward expression of repentance) by all Christians. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

In addition to fasting, some people give things up for the forty days of Lent. Usually, these “things” will be foods, habits, or other things that they find pleasurable, mirroring Christ’s fasting in the wilderness. Some choose to add something to their lives (a daily Bible reading, for example) in order to draw near to Christ.

Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which pastors apply ashes to the foreheads of Christians. The ashes remind us of the most bitter fruit of our sin: death. We are also reminded of our need to repent (turn from sin and toward God) and to receive the good news that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for sin. Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in the Bible; Christians are free either to observe it or not. We will be offering a **Ash Wednesday service at 6:00pm on March 1.**

May the Lord strengthen us through this season,
Pastor Jeff

Preschool – FUMC Preschool

Director: Dr. Vicki Folds
drvicki@staurtfumc.org
Preschool Office: (772) 287-6265
Facebook: FUMPS123



Our FUMPS teachers have just returned from our annual UMAP Conference (United Methodist Association of Preschools) in central Florida. We were renewed and refreshed with workshops and by inspiring Christian keynote speakers.

Our school celebrates Ash Wednesday with a special visit from our pastors during our weekly chapel.

Our FUMPS friends will be celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday in March with special visiting readers and fun activities for all.

First United Methodist Preschool is open for public fall registration for children ages 2 years through VPk. Please stop by for a tour or share the news with a friend. It’s FUN at FUMPS!!!

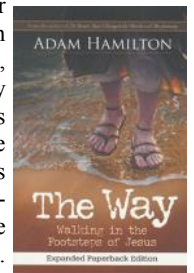
Dr. Vicki Folds

Pastor Kim’s Thoughts

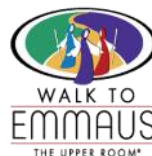
Ash Wednesday, March 1: 7:30-8:30AM you may receive ashes at our “drive through” in the church parking lot. **Ash Wednesday Service at 6PM** will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with a distribution of ashes and mediation in the Sanctuary.

First Sunday of Lent, March 5 will kick off the message series: *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. For six weeks, community groups will gather to prepare their hearts and minds for the season of Lent. You are encouraged to connect with a group that meets at church, or gather a group of friends together at work or in your home - as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus together. Groups at church are listed under *Adult Ministries* in this newsletter and on our website.

Author Adam Hamilton, is the senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. In this six-week video study, shot on location, Pastor Adam takes us to the Holy Land as we explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The series begins at the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized, and the wilderness where He was tempted. You will see the ruins of ancient Capernaum, where Jesus healed the sick, and ascend the mountain where He gave his most famous sermon. You will travel across the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus calmed the wind and waves, visit the last remaining Samaritan community in the world. The Final Week of the study ends in Jerusalem where Jesus spent His final days. This church-wide series is sure to have you ready for Holy Week and the glorious moment on Easter morning when we all shout together – “Christ has risen indeed!”



Want to keep on walking in His footsteps?



Walk to Emmaus is for you! Learn more by visiting the *Walk to Emmaus* table on Sunday, **March 5** and **March 12**, or pick up a brochure in the church lobby or church office. The “walk” seeks to inspire, challenge, and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and communities. On an Emmaus Weekend, you will: sing, reflect, pray, worship, learn, share Holy Communion, participate in small groups, experience God’s grace in community and in the world, and understand Christian love in action.

- Men’s Walk: Thursday, April 20, 6PM - Sunday, April 23 at 4:30PM
- Women’s Walk: Thursday, May 4, 6PM - Sunday, May, 7, 4:30PM
- Post Emmaus Gathering (men & women): Saturday, May 20, 4-9PM.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF STUART

1500 SOUTH KANNER HWY STUART, FL 34994 {BETWEEN US 1 & MONTEREY ROAD}

PH: (772) 287-6262 FAX: (772) 287-3768 E-MAIL: INFO@STUARTFUMC.ORG WWW.STUARTFUMC.ORG

We offer Christian sympathy to

Sheilah and Bill Neumann on the death of Sheilah's mother
Ann Dempsey and family on the death of husband and father, Earl
Linda Routhier on the death of her husband, Gordon
Jeannine Phipps on the death of her sister
The family of Carl "Rod" Dennis
The family of Kurt Radda

Gifts in Memory of

Robert Green
Minnie Wells
Ann Livingston

Grace Woodburn
Donald Beem

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards and prayers during my recent illness. I really appreciated it. I'm doing much better and look forward to seeing you in church! - Shirley English

Missions

Interim Director: Larry Anderson (larryandersoncm@gmail.com)
Mission House: Lucy Morin (772) 781-0223.

- **Manna Kitchen** a free community meal held Tuesday, 5-6PM in Fellowship Hall. .
- **Mission House** is open Monday – Friday 9 – noon as a community food pantry and financial assistance.
- On Soup-er Bowl Sunday we received five large containers full of canned goods. Total weight 825lbs. This will carry us for several months. We would like to thank all our members for such generous support. We are still in need of extra canned meat and tuna. Thank you and God bless. Larry Anderson, Caring Ministries.
- **Volunteers are needed to serve on the Missions Committee** Called to serve, but haven't found a place to connect? Consider joining the Missions Committee which relates to the many mission projects of our congregation including local and global missions, Manna Kitchen and Caring Ministries.
 - **Local Mission Resource Person**—Keeps a list of available "hands-on" local mission projects for our community groups.
 - **Local Church Representative** for the FUMC Children's Home. The LCR acts as a liaison between our church and the Children's Home, promoting the 5th Sunday offerings and other projects to the congregation.
 - **Covenant Missionary Liaison** communicates directly with the three global missionaries we support, appraising the congregation of the happenings and needs of these missionaries.
 - **Called to Connect Coordinator** coordinates the missional outreach of our congregation to a local school.

If you are willing to serve or would like more information on what is needed, please contact Larry Anderson at 772-781-0223 or email: larryandersoncm@gmail.com

Children – FUMC Kidz

Interim Director: Steve Carleo
scarleo@stuartfumc.org
Facebook: Stuartfumckidz



March's Theme: Forgiveness

Jesus made it possible for us to have God's forgiveness.

God showed us just how much He cares about forgiveness when He made the ultimate sacrifice and sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. While sin separates us from God, He offers grace and forgiveness as a gift for us to receive. We have been forgiven of so much, it's only right that we turn to those in our lives and offer forgiveness to them in return. That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

Our Memory Verse for March comes from Colossians 3:13.

"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." (NIV)

This verse, from Paul's letter to the church at Colossae, reminds us not only that God forgave our sins, but also that we should forgive others instead of holding grudges against one another. We pray that throughout March, families will let go of what they're holding against each other and choose to forgive. We think that this could be a powerful month in the lives of kids and families in our churches. We will spend the month taking a closer look at the way forgiveness shows up throughout a few of the parables Jesus told His followers.

- **Children's Moment:** Note, for the first Sunday of each month, we will have a Children's moment / message during the 9:30 and 11:00 AM services. **For 9:30 service attendees:** please bring your children to the Sanctuary instead of the Fellowship Hall. After the Children's Moment, Children's ministry volunteers will escort them to their respective classrooms.
- **Kidz Club** is held on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30PM in the Fellowship Hall (**dinner included**)! Each session is uniquely themed to foster Christian fellowship and to apply God's truth to our lives.
- **Nursery (4 and under)** is available during all our Sunday morning services check-in at Room 8. The *First Look* curriculum utilizes engaging activities to introduce children with a first impression of their heavenly Father and the wonder of His love for each of them.
- **K - 5th grade** meet Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30AM. The 252 *Basics* curriculum equips children with basic truths through Bible stories, fun-filled activities.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** a week of Bible school for children held at FUMC. Save the date for **June 12-16**.
- **Blessing Bags:** Last month, our students focused on "Loving One Another." To that end, we will be engaging in a local mission to gather supplies for the homeless in our community. Please help your children gather new toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel-sized soaps/shampoos, granola / protein bars, and drink mixes. We will gather the supplies throughout the month and have a time for assembling the blessing bags on the last Sunday of March at 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **WinShape Camp Kick Off Week:** Registration for WinShape Camp will be kicked off during the week of **March 19 – 26**. Keep up to date with the latest info by following our Facebook Pages: @stuartfumckidz and @wscstuart **WinShape Legacy Scholarships:** Would you like to sponsor one or more students from within the community so that they may attend camp this summer? Please contact Steve Carleo for more information.

All are invited for **Church Games Night, Friday March 24** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have some games on hand and you're welcome to bring your favorite. We'll also run a game or two of Bunco, a dice game involving 100% luck, a simple set of rules, and no skill (there are no decisions to be made).

We will have pizza **6:00PM**. Games will begin by 6:30PM and we'll finish around **8:00PM**. RSVP 772- 287-6262, gteed@stuartfumc.org if you're coming for pizza. Donations for cost of pizza welcomed.

Ignite Student Ministry ISM

Director: Mikiala Tennie
mikiala.tennie@staurtfunc.org
Facebook: ISMStuart



ISM works to fit into the mission of the church at large, "Making disciples for the transformation of the world!" We do that by acknowledging that when in 6th through 12th grade, students are on the biggest mission field they will likely ever set foot in; between school, extracurricular activities and neighborhood friends, they are constantly surrounded by those that need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. While on that mission field, students have the great opportunity to make disciples of those around them. Discipleship is simply helping someone get from point a to b, b to c, and so on and so forth. Through small groups we make sure that each student has a mentor and a place to belong. Within those small groups we apply the various Biblical principles taught on a weekly basis that are specifically geared towards teenagers. All middle and high school students are welcome to come and find their place! - Mikiala Tennie

- **Martin County DNow** (6-12th Graders) \$65, **March 3-5**
- **Beach Day, March 12**
- **Movie Night, March 19**
- **Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, April 1, 5-7PM** in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available on Sunday mornings March 19 and 26 in the courtyard.

Adult Fellowship

Director: Dee Blount (dblount@staurtfunc.org)



- **Connection's Café:** Wednesdays, at 5PM in the Fellowship Hall for fabulous food with friends. RSVP by Monday. \$7/pp.
- **BOSS (Band of Sister's in Spirit)** will gather for lunch on Thursday, **March 16** at noon at The Dolphin Restaurant, Jensen Beach. RSVP to Millie Fisher mightto11@aol.com or (772) 225-6854.
- **XYZ's** (The Over 55's) gather for dinner on **Thursday, March 23,** 4:45PM at Palm City Grill. RSVP by Wednesday prior.
- **Church Games Night, Friday, March 24,** 6PM (pizza), 6:30PM games until 8PM in Fellowship Hall. RSVP to 772-287-6262.
- **Hospital Visitation Requests** please notify the church office.
- **Special Events** for baptisms, weddings and funerals contact Dee Blount.

Worship / Fine Arts

Director: Tom Green
tom@staurtfunc.org



Sunday Worship

- **Traditional Services** at 8AM and 11AM (Sanctuary)
- **Contemporary Service** at 9:30AM (Sanctuary)
- **Children's School and Worship** 9:30AM (Fellowship Hall)
- **Fellowship Café** is open for coffee and donuts on the front patio and back courtyard between services.
- **Youth Worship** during ISM at 6 PM (Choir Room)

Fine Arts

- **Brass Ensemble** gather on Tuesday at 6PM
- **Celebration Choir** rehearses on Wednesday at 7PM
Want to join the Choir? Come along. No audition required.
The Celebration Choir thanks everyone who came out to support us at the workshop concert at Trinity UMC in Jensen Beach on February 19.
- **Wesley Ringers** meet on Thursday at 5:30PM
- **Praise Team** rehearsal Thursday at 6:30PM

Adult Discipleship & Communications

Associate Pastor: Rev. Kim DuBreuil (kdbreuil@staurtfunc.org)

Church Council Meeting Monday, March 20 at 7PM in the Choir Room.



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). This plan will show you how to rid yourself of debt, manage your money, and save wisely from a Biblical perspective. **Class begins Sunday, March 5, 8-9:15AM** in the Church Library (Room 3) and runs for 9 weeks. For more information, call the church office, 772-287-6262 and visit www.daveramsey.com/fpu

Bible Studies

- **Message Study Group:** Monday 1-2:30PM (Wesley Room). This ongoing group discusses & digs deeper into our Sunday Sermon. Message series: **The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus** Leader: Ruth Mandelbaum.
- **Men of Tuesday Morning:** Tuesday (from March 7) 7:30-8:30AM (Wesley Room). An ongoing study for men. Current study: **The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus** . Leader: Rev. Jeff Bennett.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Tuesday (from March 28) 9:30-11:30AM (Room 1). Women will be encouraged as they participate in this 5 week study, **One Thousand Gifts** by Ann Voskamp. Leader: Lois Giuffreda.
- **Bible Study on John:** Wednesday 3:00-4:45 PM (Wesley Room). The Gospel of John (Chapters 13-21). Leader: Alice Purkey.
- **Closer Walk Bible Study:** Wednesday 5:50-7PM (Wesley Room). An ongoing journey through the Bible: **Book of Job**. Leader: Jack Iarrobino. *No class Ash Wednesday, March 1.*
- **The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus,** Wednesday (from March 8) at 6PM (Room 1). Leader: Gerry Mueller. *No Living the Five class Ash Wednesday, March 1*
- **All In** by Mark Batterson. Wednesday (from March 8) at 6PM. (Church Library). Class runs for 6 weeks. Leader: Loree Weeks.
- **He Chose the Nails** by Max Lucado, 5 week study, Wednesday (from March 15) at 6PM in Room 2. Leader: Rev. Kim DuBreuil.
- **Bible Study on Matthew:** Friday 9:30-11:30AM (Wesley Room). An ongoing Bible study on Matthew. Leader: Hazel Gomes.

Sunday School



- **Pathfinders:** Sunday, 9:15-10:30AM (Room 1). Leaders vary.
- **Bell Ringers:** Sunday 9:30 – 10:30AM (Wesley Room). Leader: Bob Whitty
- **A Closer Walk Through the Bible:** Sunday 10:45 – Noon (Wesley Room). Book of Judges. Leader: Hazel Gomes

Young Adults Exploring Pastoral Ministry

You are encouraged to participate in a summer internship program.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact:

Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org

Rev. Sara McKinley at sara.mckinley@flumc.org

Office of Clergy Excellence

450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Lakeland, FL 33815

863-688-5563 x134

A 2017 Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship application is available

at: www.flumc.org/1BvP3-2iHt6GKAN-rHCrYiz-x0aLOGZ15-V-eZv8YVhmrVNW-DzeMWpL9Qh5ZMfET0

First United Methodist Church
1500 S. Kanner Highway
Stuart, FL 34994



ATTENDANCE

	8:00AM	9:30AM	11:00AM	Total
January 29, 2017	165	195	177	537
February 5, 2017	163	318	182	663
February 12, 2017	181	244	187	612
February 19, 2017	164	247	195	606

OFFERING

January 29, 2017	\$28,152
February 5, 2017	\$36,914
February 12, 2017	\$23,227
February 19, 2017	\$24,399

WAYS TO GIVE

Church: Place gift in the offering plate

Online Banking: Many banks offer a free bill payment service that you can set up to mail a check from your account at regular intervals automatically.

Gifts should be payable to:
 First United Methodist Church
 1500 S. Kanner Hwy, Stuart, FL 34994



Mobile phone: scan our QR code to access to our mobile giving site.

Website: www.stuartfumc.com/give

Text to give: Text STUARTFUMC + amount to 73256
 example: STUARTFUMC 50) *After your initial gift by text, you will receive instructions on how to set up your account, which will take a few minutes.*

You may give online using bank draft, debit, or credit card. You may give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. To avoid having the church pay debit/credit card merchant fees (2.75% - 3.50% of your gift) consider using the free bill payment service at many banks.

Church Office

Administrator: Catherine Ellis cellis@stuartfumc.org
 Treasurer: Sally Bifulco sbifulco@stuartfumc.org
 Financial/Membership Sec.: Sue Farrow sfarrow@stuartfumc.org
 Office/Communications: Geraldine Teed gteed@stuartfumc.org
 Maintenance Manager: Steve Blanton sblanton@stuartfumc.org
 Maintenance Staff: Trudy Eggleston, Kevin Perry, and Caleb McClellan

Office Phone: (772) 287-6262

Website: www.stuartfumc.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 – 5 PM. The FUMC staff is here to assist you and make your time on our campus more enjoyable. For more information, or questions, please contact us by phone or email.



**Leesburg Women's
 Retreat 2017**