



The Beacon

A light of information & inspiration

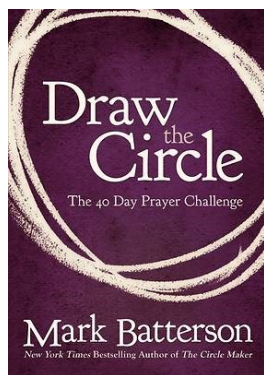
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

260 SW Prima Vista Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
(772) 878-1155

Volume 66 No. 3
March 2025

“Draw the Circle”

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Let me begin by quoting an influential author: “I have a confession to make. Even though I wrote a book on prayer, and my personal prayer life was thriving, I had failed to lead our church in corporate prayer. When that changed, everything changed with it.” These are the words of Mark Batterson, in the introduction to his book *Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge*, page 9. Well, I too have a confession to make: I also have failed to lead our congregation at First UMC-PSL into a deeper, *corporate* expression of prayer. We do have many persons who pray in our church, and even small groups, such as Emmaus reunion groups. But as a church we are doing very little corporate prayer, that is, coming together as a congregation with the purpose to intercede and being in the presence of God for longer periods of time.

As an attempt to change such failure on my part, we will study this book, *Draw the Circle*, by Mark Batterson. I have been asked why change to a book of devotionals instead of a study book for our Lenten small groups. The answer is that this is not only a collection of devotionals. This a deep book that challenges us to our core so that we are more invested in prayer as a church. Consequently, I invite all our small groups to read this book in two ways simultaneously: read it as a daily devotional and also study it in healthy discussions in our small groups. As you read, take note of the ways in which this book asks you to change and grow in your/our prayer life. See which are the ideas that motivate you the most, and also those statements with which you may disagree. Then come to the small groups with your notes and discuss them with all members. Our goal is that in our meetings we will also make some time for prayers.

Sounds like a plan? Please, email or call Pastor Rich or me with any questions or recommendations you might have about the book. My suggestion is that we read 8 devotionals per week so that we can finish the book in 5 weeks (there are a total of 40 devotionals). I will share at least one question per devotional for discussions, but please, bring your own ideas and discussion questions every time you meet in your small group.

In the exhortation above from 1 Thess 5:17, Paul is addressing not an individual but the entire church in Thessalonica. As a matter of fact, all Pauline letters, even those written apparently to individuals (1-2 Timothy and Titus), are actually written to the entire church at the cities addressed. This means that the appeal to dedicate more time to prayer (“pray continually” or “without ceasing”) includes coming together as a church to be in communion with God. As another example, remember the group of disciples at the Upper Room in the days leading up to Pentecost: they had gathered together at this place to pray as a group. This is what we need to do more in our church: encourage one another by weaving together intercessions that intermingle with one another and ascend before the presence of God as one corporate prayer from all the church. May God allow this to be so.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Armando



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Our Vision & Mission

**“Shining the Light of God’s Love” Through:
Inspiring Worship
Personal Growth
Intentional Outreach**

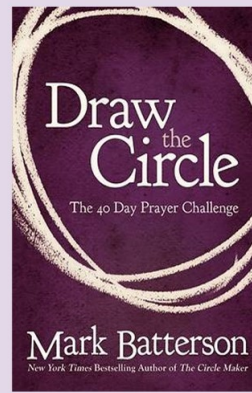
Church Webpage
www.pslfumc.com

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:30a –4:30p

Sunday Morning Worship
8:00a Traditional Worship
9:30a Contemporary Worship
11:00a Traditional Worship
11:30a Spanish Worship
Worship with us online at
Facebook Live
9:30a & 11:00a



**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**
March 5th - 7 pm



LENT STUDY 2025

“Draw the Circle: the 40 Day Prayer Challenge”
by Mark Batterson

We have open classes:

Sunday 5:30 pm Pastor Rich's home
Monday 9:30 am Riverpark Marina
Tuesday 1:00 pm Conference Room, BLC

Call the church office if you would like to join a group.

Cars & Crafts



Custom Cars & Creative finds

**Classic Cars, Food Trucks,
Vendors and more**

March 8th, 2PM-5PM

**For more info, contact
janetpederson1227@yahoo.com**



**First United
Methodist
Church
Port St. Lucie**

*Shining God's
Light Since 1960*

**Celebrating 65 Years:
Help Us Improve Our Church Home!**

As we mark our 65th anniversary, we're working to enhance our beloved church property and create a welcoming space for all.

Our Wish List includes:

- Mortgage assistance
- Improved property maps & signage
- Renovation of Sanctuary doors & windows
- Enhanced security buzzer
- Parking lot restriping
- New dry erase boards
- New mailbox & stand
- Steam cleaning chairs
- Upgraded lighting

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Our Food Pantry held a Valentine's Day Bake Sale & Cuddly Bear Treat Gift Bag Fundraiser on February 9th and raised over \$1000.00 for the Food Pantry operations.

EGG STUFFING PARTIES

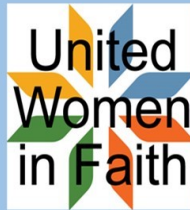
Wednesdays, 10a-12p

Room 101, Beacon Life Center

**JOIN US FOR
THE FUN!**



Starts
March
5th



March Unit Meeting

March 19th

1 pm

Room 101, BLC

LEGACY PLANNING

Guest Speaker: Lynn Steele

Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 19th 10 am-1 pm

Sportsman's Park West
(At Prima Vista & Irving)

Egg Hunts
Face Painting
Bounce Houses

Food Trucks
Music
Fun



Free Childrens Books!!!

Bring your children to meet the Easter Bunny!!!

PASTOR'S
BIBLE
STUDY

Book of Job

Suffering and Justice at
the Courtrooms

Wednesday 6:30 pm

BLC Room 101

Pastor Armando Rodríguez

Feel free to drop in the class without need for
registration. No study book required

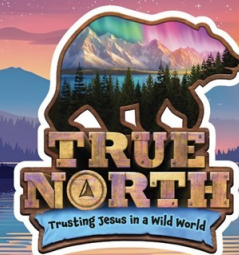


Each month that has a fifth Sunday, the United Methodist Churches in the Florida Annual Conference are asked to receive an offering to support the ministry of Residing Hope (formerly known as Florida United Methodist Children's Home). When you contribute to this offering, you allow them to carry on this life changing ministry. The tradition of the Fifth Sunday Offering stretches back to the very beginning in 1908.

This month has a fifth Sunday on March 30th.

VBS 2025

SAVE THE DATE
June 23rd-27th





MISSIONS TEAM PASTA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

A BIG THANK YOU to our wonderful church for a very successful Pasta Dinner. We auctioned off many very beautiful baskets that were so generously decorated by RaeAnn Stanavich. We also had paintings & craft items donated by Elisa, Beth Compitello, Vicky Cowels, and the wall hanging from a Collective group of artist from the Art Therapy Class. Nate Portinga, donated beautiful photography that we also auctioned off. We also give a big thank you to the Bell Ringers, Aposento Alto Ladies, and United Women in Faith for the delicious desserts. To Holly and the youth who generously donated their time and service, we so appreciated. To Laura Henry, we thank you for graciously stepping up for the team and leading the kitchen crew with your many years of knowledge in the St Lucie County School System. A final Thank you to our wonderful Missions Team, who donated their time, talent and hard work to make our dinner a success. I am so blessed to be a part of this team. In closing we grossed \$3,230.41 for the dinner. This means we are able to use those funds and to serve God within the community and globally.

Blessing to All,
Jeannette Owens



RAD'S ON THE RUN AGAIN

HALF MARATHON

FUNDRAISER EVENT

Proceeds for our 65th Anniversary wish list!

MARCH 2nd

Help us reach our goal of

\$5000.00

Two Ways to Sponsor

*Pledge a set amount for each mile Rad completes.

*Pledge a flat amount regardless of how many miles Rad completes.

You can make your pledge on the Attendance Form found in your bulletin on Sunday!



MISSIONS TEAM Food Drive

During the 40 days of Lent, we ask you to be the hands and feet of Jesus and purchase one non-perishable food item for each day, and bring your offerings to church on Sundays. We will have large baskets set up with signs to hold all the food items. The food drive will begin on Wednesday March 5th, Ash Wednesday. Please provide this gift to our neighbors in need and show them the love of God through our congregation! THANKS TO ALL!
Benefits the FUMC Food Pantry and our local community in need!

HONOR AND REMEMBER WITH

ALTAR FLOWERS



Order 2025 Flowers Now

We have many, many openings for Altar Flowers this year. The chart is in the Narthex. Forms are available in the Narthex or the church office. Please complete the dedication form and make payment when you put your name on the chart.



SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Following Jesus isn't about having a Bible verse in your bio or wearing a cross necklace. It's about seeking God's heart, denying your flesh and living set apart.

YOUTH GROUP

WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS
6:30-8:00 PM

6th-12th Grade

A gathering to meet fellow Christian students, to experience the life of the Church, and to learn more about Jesus!



Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 for children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. We learn about Jesus, sing worship music, play games, and have fun together.

Lighthouse Kids

FOOD PANTRY

Current Needs

- Cereal
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Tuna
- Canned Soup
- Pasta Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese



An Equal Opportunity Provider

Volunteer opportunity with

Northport K-8

April 14-17
Spring Holiday Shop

Will need to complete:

- * background check
- * volunteer application

Apply / register as a Volunteer at:
<https://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/our-district/volunteers/>




Northport K-8

For more info:
Danielle Robinson
danielle7869@gmail.com
(772) 530-3800

Thank you for your support 🙏


In the month of February, 306 individuals visited our Food Pantry, providing meals for 1,224 family members. Hope's Corner served 117 people this month.

We are making a difference together!



United Women In Faith Circles

We are hoping to start a new group to accommodate those needing an evening meeting. We also have 4 active circles as listed below that always welcome new members. For more information, please call Joan MacGuire at (772) 418-3173.



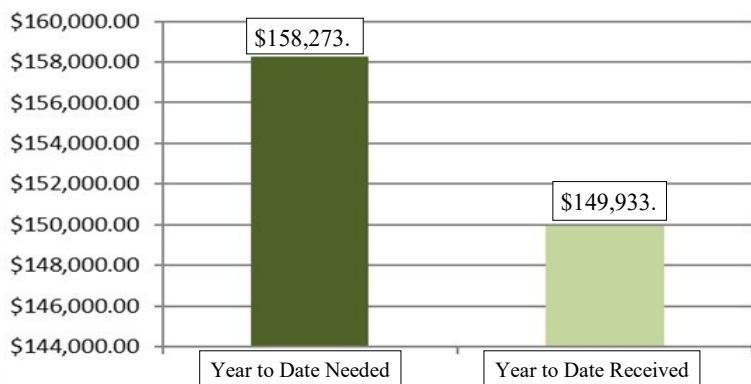
Centennial Circle 2 nd Monday – 12:30 PM	Marta Circle Last Thursday – 7:00 PM
Lydia Circle 4 th Tuesday – 1:00 PM	Priscilla Circle 2 nd Thursday – 1:00 PM

Record of Our Faithful Attendance

	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
8:00 am	91	77	71	69
9:30 am	98	123	78	98
11:00am	132	123	148	132
11:30 am (Hispanic)	79	96	74	92
Sunday School	58	69	65	18

Budget

In the month of February we received \$78,034.56 toward our monthly need of \$79,137.
Your financial dedication is greatly appreciated.



*Our Love & Prayers Go to Our Friends
with Our Visitation Team*



Heinz Altenburger 16921 NE 176 St, Woodinville, WA 98070

Desmond & Phyllis Brice 401 SE Starflower Ave, PSL, 34983

Ruth Cooke Watercrest Assisted Living, 279 NW California Blvd, PSL 34986

Sandy Fercho 9890 SW Coral Tree Circle, PSL, 34987

Carol Gary 5018 Heskett Lane, Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Althia Griffith 2034 SE Ellington Ter. PSL, 34952

Wayne Habermehl Heavenly Adult Care ALF, 3934 SW Kakapo St, PSL, 34953

Betty Grace Heaton Wickshire Assisted Living Room 210 9825 S US Hwy 1, PSL, 34952

Marge Owens 1600 Petroglyph Point Dr, #310, Prescott, AZ 86301

Evelyn Reis c/o Diane Ewald, 3709 Morning Dove Court, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Paul Wade Hidden Lake Senior Community, Room 11D, 1006 33rd St., Vero Beach, 32960

Martha Watson Harbor Place Room 340, 3700 SE Jennings Rd. PSL, 34952

Patricia Whiddon Freedom Plaza, Apt 510, 1010 American Eagle Blvd., Sun City, FL 33575

Kati White Wickshire Apt.117, 9825 S US Hwy 1, PSL, FL 34952

Helen Williams Edgewood Park Place, Room 108, 1930 E 12th St., Casper, WY 82607



Memorial Gifts

Given in memory of
Judith Beckman
by Shirley Miller



Please join our
Visitation Team
by wishing a
Happy Birthday to:
Patricia Whiddon March 26
Freedom Plaza, Apt 510
1010 American Eagle Blvd
Sun City, FL 33575



Kaitlyn Barber
Chris Barber
Robert Davis
Tyler Ewald
Douglas Gifford
Ezra Gordon
Torey Griffith
Lily Hamel

Anthony LoPrinzi
Zacchary T. McClure
Jeremiah Megerle
Zachary Michel
Carole Moody
Johnna Moody
Judi Moody
Rob Preston, Jr.

Please pray for our Service Personnel Please call the church office if someone should be added to the list or is no longer on active duty.



March 9th



easyTithe™
GIVE HERE



You can make your donations at pslfumc.com by clicking on the easyTithe link, use the easyTithe app or scan this QR code.



March 3

Anyone who has lost a loved one is invited to join us. We meet the first Monday of every month at noon in Room 101 of the BLC.
Bring a brown bag lunch!



For more information, call Kim Nelson at (772) 448-4209.

CAREGIVER Support Group



While caregiving can be a very rewarding experience, it also places added stress on the caregivers life. If you are a caregiver, please come to this open and compassionate group where you can discuss concerns, stressors and topics only caregivers understand. Learn new ways to handle everyday caregiver issues and receive information on supportive resources.

Meeting at FUMC every 2nd & 4th Tuesday 1-2:30 pm in Room 105, BLC
For more information call Cathi Habermehl @ (215) 280-8075