



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 67 No. 7
July 2026

Freedom

The man looked much older than he was due to a lifetime of drug abuse that had aged him beyond his years. As he spoke, he communicated that what was fun and exciting at first soon turned into a habit that now enslaved him.

While visiting Cuba approximately twenty- five years ago I took mental notes after listening to people talk of their lack of freedom. I often think of the word restraint simultaneously with the word freedom. There is an airline commercial via credit card advertisement for points where the airline attendant speaks into the microphone and tells the passengers that they can take off their seatbelts and roam about the cabin freely.

For the Christ follower freedom is never found in doing anything one desires (1 Corinthians 6:12) and then simply flash one's grace card out of their pocket and continue to live without a hint of confession, transformation and or Christ-centered direction. In the parable of the young lost son (Luke 15) the freedom he sought was anything but free but led him to a dead end. However, it is in the dead-ends of life that many a time bring us to the cross, grace, and to the transformative changing of the heart and mind by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Freedom in Christ does not come from our very own ego driven efforts but it comes from the words of the Apostle Paul, "I no longer live but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20) Our efforts/works of willpower is a direct correlation to the law that shows us that we will never get it down. In other words, we will fall short. The law exposes our sin and our need for a Savior. Jesus does what we cannot do. He pays the penalty of our sins which leads not only to our salvation and the changing of our eternal destiny but in how we live life. True freedom as a Jesus follower is found not by our efforts but by yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in us. This freedom is the Holy Spirit's enabling us to walk after God. The essence of Christian freedom is no longer to be led by ourselves in the tyranny of sin but to be led by the Spirit. "And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago." (Ephesians 1:13)

In a few days Independence Day will be celebrated. Fireworks will be displayed high into the sky, hot dogs and hamburgers will go from grill to picnic table. This year's 250th celebration, like every year before, declares that the United States is no longer under the control of Britain and is now free.

On a much deeper level take a moment and pause and thank God in the celebration of being free from the control of sin to the freedom of being led by the Spirit.



Rich

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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



VBS PREP
Tuesdays &
Thursdays in June
9-11 am
Education Building

**VOLUNTEER
TRAINING**
July 9th
6:30 pm

JULY 13-17 6-8:30 pm

Registration now open for volunteers and participants at:
<https://www.vbspro.events/p/5c9a12>

COMING THIS FALL

The Alpha Course

The Alpha course is a 15 week class that explores the basics of the Christian faith. Topics include: the identity of Jesus, faith and prayer, life's purpose, the Holy Spirit, the Bible & more!

Facilitator: Pastor Rich Edwards

Would you like to become a Lay Servant?

Does this describe you?

Are you an active member of FUMC? Are you eager to serve your church by becoming well informed on Scripture Doctrine, our Wesleyan Heritage and the organization of the church? Are you interested in learning more about witnessing through church and community. Maybe you're interested in care-giving ministries? Are you interested in improving your communication and leadership skills?

If any of these areas interest you, you should join our Lay Servant Team!

For details about Lay Servant Ministry, contact Ava Guy @ 609-284-0391 or Pastor Armando

24 weeks

DISCIPLE I

FAST TRACK

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

TOPICS: Genesis thru Revelation

Facilitated by Walter Robinson & Susan Mottice

Thursdays starting August 27th

6:30-8 pm ~ Room 105, BLC

Study guides needed (available from Cokesbury)

Please call Susan @ (440) 289-9051 for more information.

24 weeks

DISCIPLE II

FAST TRACK

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

TOPICS: Genesis & Exodus; Luke & Acts of the Apostles

Facilitated by Sue Iven Richter

Tuesdays starting September 8th

6:30 - 8 pm ~ Room 103, BLC

Study guides needed (available from Cokesbury)

Disciple I is a prerequisite

Please call Sue @ (772) 275-1972 for more information.

24 weeks

DISCIPLE III

FAST TRACK

Remember Who You Are

TOPICS: The Prophets and the Letters of Paul

Facilitated by Gail Fritz

Thursdays starting September 10th

10-11:30 am ~ Room 105, BLC

Study guides needed (available from Cokesbury)

Disciple I is a prerequisite

Please call the Gail @ church office for more information.

32 weeks

DISCIPLE IV

UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

Concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads naturally to an emphasis on worship in the study.

Facilitated by Rad Orlandi

Tuesdays starting August 11th 6:30-8 pm ~ Room 101, BLC

Study guide needed (available from Cokesbury)

Prerequisite: Disciple I, II & III

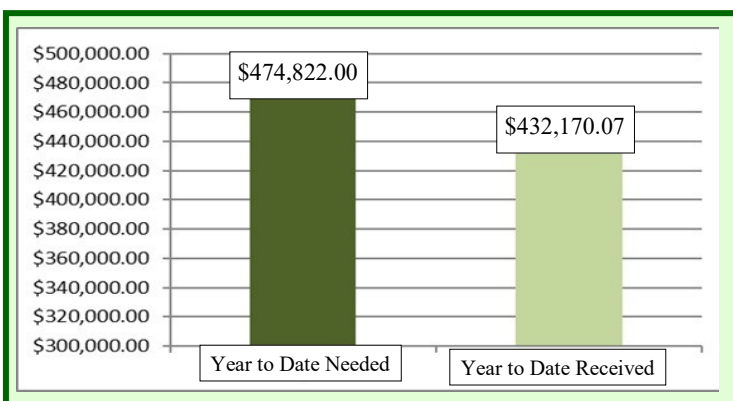
Please call the church office for more information.

Record of Our Faithful Attendance

	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
8:00 am	76	80	69	65
9:30 am	102	100	75	86
11:00 am	114	116	114	119
11:30 am (Hispanic)	85	90	63	82
Sunday School	49	50	32	35

Budget

In the month of June we received \$54,538.92 toward our monthly need of \$79,137. Your financial dedication is appreciated.



Kaitlyn Barber	Lily Hamel
Chris Barber	Sara Hume
Andrew Ryan Connow	Lorena Barbara Martinez
Robert Davis	Zacchary T. McClure
Tyler Ewald	Jeremiah Megerle
Douglas Gifford	Zachary Michel
Ezra Gordon	Carole Moody
Torey Griffith	Johnna Moody
	Judi Moody

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.



Free

Movie Night

FUMC Church, 260 SW Prima Vista Blvd

July 18th

Bring the family and join us in the youth room for a free movie night. Bring this flier and get a free bag of candy with your popcorn, soda, or water. Doors open at 5:45 pm. Move starts at 6 pm.



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

Kathy Banks 19 S. Tallyho Dr, Springfield, MA 01118
Desmond & Phyllis Brice 401 SE Starflower Ave, PSL, 34983
Miriam Busch 8 Lake Vista Trail #105, PSL 34952
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
Betty Grace Heaton Colliers Assisted Living, Room 210, 9825 S US Hwy 1, PSL, 34952
Barbara Metts 302 Rio Mar Drive, PSL, 34952
Violet Millenbruch Addington Place of Stuart, 3400 SE Aster Lane #109, Stuart, 34994
Marge Owens Highgate Senior Living, 1600 Petroglyph Point Dr #103, Prescott, AZ 86301
Fred & Deanna Stevens 418 SE Verada Ave. PSL, 34983
Paul Wade Hidden Lake Senior Community, Room 11D, 1006 33rd St., Vero Beach, 32960
Patricia Whiddon Freedom Plaza, Apt 510, 1010 American Eagle Blvd., Sun City, FL 33575
Kati White Watercrest, 279 NW California Blvd. Room 124, PSL 34986
Ginny Young The Gardens 1699 SE Lyngate Dr. Apt. 252, PSL, 34952



SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Grace is a gift. Like the freedom that we enjoy in this country, that grace was paid for with somebody else's blood. Do not forget it. Don't take it for granted."

- Chris Pratt, Actor



If you are aware of an illness, hospitalization, or death in the family of one of our members please notify the church office. This will help us better serve you. We would rather receive several phone calls than none at all. Please do not assume that we already know.



If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter "The Beacon" in your email box and receive our daily e-prayers, just send an email to secretary@pslfumc.com and we'll add you to the list!



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.

FOOD PANTRY

Current Needs

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



An Equal Opportunity Provider

Our Food Pantry serves families in need on Tuesdays from 10 am - noon in the Outreach Center. Please bring your donations of non-perishable foods. Special needs: Toilet paper & bags (reusable & plastic). We also offer clothing through **Hope's Corner**. Clean, gently used clothing is accepted. Special needs: Men's clothing. Currently, we need additional volunteers to work on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am - noon. With your help,

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

GATHER G2G GROW

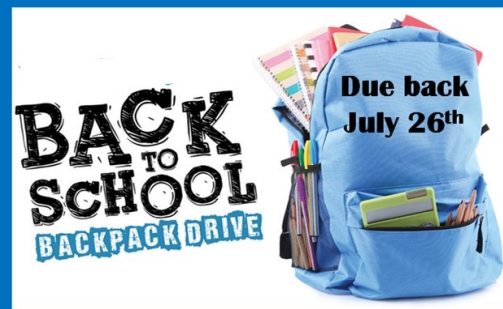
A ministry where people can gather to connect and grow together in relationship with one another and with Christ.



Connect with your church family and others through conversation at the table, while enjoying a light meal.

WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN JULY

Our next Gathering will be
Sunday, 8/16
5:30 to 7:00 pm

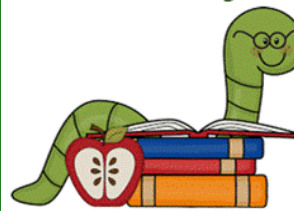


Grade specific school supply lists will be available in the Narthex, the BLC lobby and the church office very soon. No need to purchase the backpack. Please return your donations by July 26th!

Let's see what we can do to help Northport K-8 students and teachers achieve more this year!

Children's Books Needed

Once again we will be offering **FREE BOOKS** to our VBS participants. We are currently low on books for **Grades Kindergarten-to-3rd**.



Please bring your donations of new or gently used books to the Church Office.

THANKS!!!



United Women in Faith
Lunch Out

July 18th
12 pm

RSVP to Darlene Tilton
772-302-3852

1640 Seaway Dr, Fort Pierce, FL 34949



PRESCHOOL
NOW ENROLLING

Ark Academy Preschool is now offering enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Please call 878-3099 with any questions.

260 SW Prima Vista Blvd., Port St Lucie

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
PRAYER

6:30-7:30 pm
Room 101

Join us as we seek God together!

