



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. 9
September 2026



Port St. Lucie Police Department Honors Heroes from our Church

It could have been a calamitous Sunday morning in our church. On May 31, 2026, an armed individual attempted to kidnap Suzanne Barber, member of our congregation, as she was pulling into our back parking lot to attend the 11am Traditional Service. This diabolical plot was thwarted, however, when five of our regular worshipers leaving the 9:30am Contemporary Service confronted the perpetrator, they convinced him to let-go of his intended victim and leave our premises. To grasp the gravity of this situation, consider that there were also children nearby on the playground of our Ark Academy school, which faces the back parking grounds.

Now these five heroes have been honored by the Port St. Lucie Police Department. On August 12, 2026, they received the Community Hero Award in a ceremony celebrated at the PSL City Hall. The picture above shows, starting with the second from left to right, Todd Moore, George Webber, Alanna Webber, Suzanne Barber (the survivor), Jim Mawhinney Jr., and Wayne Fercho. They were all recognized for their “extraordinary courage, selfless actions, and unwavering commitment to the safety of another person during a dangerous and life-threatening incident.”

In Psalm 121:8, we read, “the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” Each and everyone of the persons involved gives the credit to God for deescalating the situation with very firm but compassionate words; they even thought of the physical wellbeing of the assailant (who is now indicted and in jail). It is also essential to recognize the role of Sargent Walter Robinson, our head of Trustees and Security, who a few weeks prior to the incident taught a workshop on self-defense and security procedures, in which instructions were put into practice during the potentially tragic events.

To all these brothers and sisters, our deepest gratitude. May God help us to make our world more peaceful and secure.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Armando

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Armando Rodríguez
pastorarod@outlook.com

Associate Pastor

Rev. Rich Edwards
redwards1629@gmail.com

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Barbara Martínez
barbaramartinez873@gmail.com

Church Administrator

Phil Raiford

phil@pslfumc.com

Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Welch

secretary@pslfumc.com

Director of Youth Ministries

Holley Lane

holleylane22@gmail.com

Director of Children's Ministries

Karen Dulemba

karen.dulemba@stlucieschools.org

Music Ministry

Julie Propst

musicbyjulie@gmail.com

Cindy Forbes

cindyforbes13@gmail.com

Josue Martínez

josuespanishworship@gmail.com

Heather Barber

hwmusicbox@gmail.com

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



CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th • 5:30 P.M.

BEACON LIFE CENTER

LAWRENCE HALL



FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL AGES
ALL ARE WELCOME! Join us for an evening of connection.



Please bring your favorite dish
(Appetizer, Salad,
Veggie or Entrée)



UWF ladies will be
bringing desserts



Beverages will be
provided!



RSVP by Sept. 16th on
your Attendance Form or by
calling the church office.

MISSION TEAM PASTA DINNER

TAKEOUT DINNER

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER
4



SUPPORT OUR MISSION
& ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!

TICKETS
\$10

SUPPORT THE
MISSION TEAM!



FUMC Witness Team presents

Trunk or Treat

October 24th 5 PM to 7:30 PM

We are looking for individuals, church committees or teams
to sponsor trunks and provide treats to pass out.

For more information, contact Janet Pederson (772) 370-0183.

We will need a lot of trunks, so we encourage EVERYONE to participate.

It will be "Trunk" Loads of FUN!!!



Lighthouse Kids

Thursday evenings
from 6:00-7:30 for
children in
Kindergarten through
fifth grade. We learn
about Jesus, sing
worship songs, play
games, and have fun
together.

YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS

6:00-7:30 PM

6th-12th Grade

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



Sunday, September 27th

12:30 pm ~ Room 101 ~ Beacon Life Center

A light lunch will be served!



Prayer Shawl

These ladies (and sometimes gentleman) meet to
crochet or knit prayer shawls, hats, baby blankets,
afghans, etc. Some shawls are donated to the
church for shut-ins, those who are ill, or to outside agencies like
Hospice or to a Veteran's Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie. This
group also partners with the New Baby Ministry by providing
baby blankets to new mothers. You do not have to have
experience to join. All are welcome. They meet Mondays at 1
pm in Room 102 of the Beacon Life Center.



Lighthouse Quilters

This group fellowships together while working on
quilted and sewing projects. Quilts have been made
for our shut-ins, veterans, and Mustard Seed Ministries. They
have sewn pillowcases for Hibiscus Children's Center in Jensen
Beach, and pillowcases, laundry bags, and Christmas stockings
for Residing Hope. You do not have to be an experienced
quilter or sewer to join in. All are welcome. They meet
Thursdays at 9 am in Room 101 of the Beacon Life Center.

Hope in the Darkness: The Church in Cabezo



In the midst of Cuba's severe energy crisis and the many challenges facing communities across the island, the people of Cabezo, a rural community in eastern Cuba, are experiencing constant and extended blackouts—often lasting for days at a time. Electric appliances become unusable, the little food they have spoils, darkness takes over, and the intense heat becomes increasingly difficult to endure.



Yet, even during these difficult times, the light of Christ continues to shine through our sister church in Cabezo. Their ministry goes beyond preaching the Gospel and sharing the hope of Christ. They are serving, caring for, and providing practical help to some of the most vulnerable members of their community.



Back in April, our church sent a solar generator to Cabezo, allowing the church to power its instruments and sound system during worship services, even when the electricity is out. This simple gift has helped ensure that worship and fellowship can continue despite prolonged power outages.



At a time when medicines are in critically short supply across the country, we purchased \$500 worth of prescription medications through Blessings International. We are also gathering over-the-counter medicines to help meet the community's urgent medical needs.



Every gift makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity, your donations of over-the-counter medicines, and your prayers for our brothers and sisters in Cuba. Together, we are helping the Methodist Church in Cabezo shine as a beacon of hope, compassion, and the love of Christ during an extraordinarily difficult season.



Thank you for helping bring hope to the darkness!

Icel Rodriguez ❤️

First United Methodist Church



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 this month: tuna fish, peanut butter, pasta sauce, rice, toilet paper and empty bags (reusable & plastic). We also offer clothing through **Hope's Corner**. Clean, gently used clothing is accepted.

In the month of July, 227 individuals visited the pantry, providing meals for 861 family members. Hope's Corner had 82 patrons offering 1,230 pieces of clothing for their families. Thank you to all who have donated clothes and food. A special thanks for your donations of bags and toilet paper.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



**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



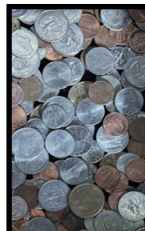
Please join our Visitation Team by wishing a

Happy Birthday to:

Althia Griffith 9/22
2034 SE Ellington Ter.
PSL, 34952

Kati White 9/22
Watercrest
279 NW California Blvd.
Room 124,
PSL 34986

Phyllis Brice 9/24
401 SE Starflower Ave,
PSL, 34983



DID YOU KNOW?

Have you seen the plastic jars with labels saying "It's All About Change" around our church campus? Ever wonder what they are for?

The jars are for families to take home to use for their extra change! The money collected is used to help pay down the principal on our Mortgage.

Won't you consider donating your loose change to help the church with these funds? It is amazing how quickly the change adds up. We are very grateful to all those who currently support our efforts with the change jars.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE CHANGE CAN MAKE!

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
PRAYER 6:30-7:30 pm
Room 101**

Join us as we seek God together!

Women's Prayer Group



We're Praying!
* for you
* for ourselves
* for our church
* for our church family
* for our nation
* for the sick
* for the poor
* for the lonely
* for EVERYONE!

Won't you join us?

Thursday Mornings at 9:30 am in the Beacon Life Center

*Small Effort.
Big Impact.* ❤️

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We're looking for a few volunteers to help straighten up the hymnals, papers, envelopes and pencils in the back of the pews each week in the Sanctuary.



It's a simple way to help keep our worship space welcoming and ready for everyone.



THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY for a small group that's already meeting here each week to serve for about 30 minutes before or after your meeting.

Thank you for helping make a difference! ❤️



Men's Prayer Group
Wednesdays at 6:45 am
Conference Room
Please join us!

"Where two or three are gathered in my name I am in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20

Record of Our Faithful Attendance

	8/2	8/9	8/16	8/23	8/30
8:00 am	102	69	65	76	66
9:30 am	92	86	75	88	83
11:00 am	126	118	125	125	120
11:30 am	87	79	86	87	83
Sunday School	36	48	47	53	46

Budget

In the month of August we received \$75,728.01 toward our monthly need of \$79,137. Your financial dedication is appreciated.



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

Sara Hume
Lorena Barbara Martinez
Zacchary T. McClure
Jeremiah Megerle
Zachary Michel
Carole Moody
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.

Memorial Gifts

Given in memory of

Evelyn Reis

by Donna Sanford

Tiffany Robinson

by Tom & Jean Gifford

Wayne Habermehl

by Cathi Habermehl

in loving memory



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



SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total."



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.