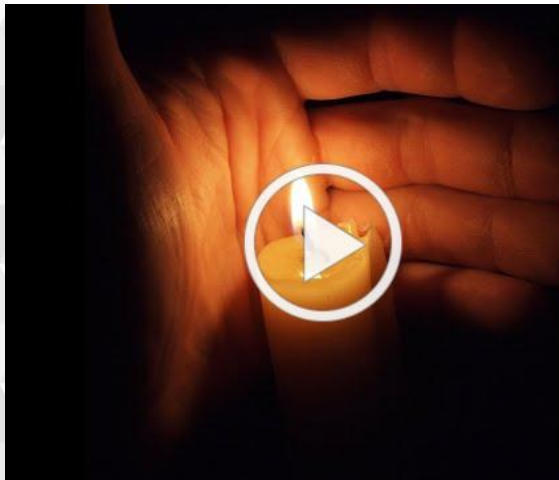




1st Methodist Church Weekly Update

April 2, 2021



If you haven't seen this special message from Mike, please take a moment to watch this important video message and then share it with your family and friends by copying the link and pasting it to the social media channel of your choice. We continue to encourage you to light your candles and share them with us. Please remember to send us a picture at mediaministry@whatis1st.com.

Community Easter Sunrise Service Gilchrist Park Pavilion Sunday, April 4 @ 6:30 am

Please bring a chair or blanket for your comfort

Everyone is Welcome!

**Hosted by Cleveland United Methodist, Friendship
United Methodist and 1st United Methodist Churches**

Purple Passion Project

For the past two decades, you have supported our youth's mission program each Lenten season. This year, the goal is to reach out to those affected by the riots last summer in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The Purple Passion Project allows you, their church family, to not only show prayerful support, but financial as well. Special purple contribution envelopes are available at our giving stations in the Life Center this Sunday. Online giving is also available for this project by going to **whatis1st.com** and clicking our online giving button or using the "giving" option in our Church app. Your gifts are an investment in the spiritual lives of our teens, and we greatly appreciate your generosity.





Holy Week Services

1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PUNTA GORDA

WORSHIP WITH US ON RESURRECTION SUNDAY

GILCHRIST PARK SERVICES

SUNRISE SERVICE AT 6:30 AM
BLENDED WORSHIP 8 AM
CONTEMPORARY 9:15 AM
PETTING ZOO & GOODIES FOR THE KIDS AT 10 AM
8 AM AND 9:15 AM WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON
FACEBOOK.COM/WHATIS1ST

THE LIFE CENTER SERVICE

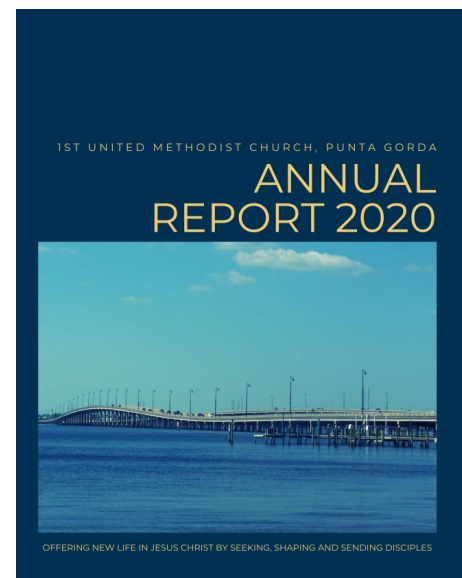
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 11AM
ALL SERVICES IN THE LIFE CENTER WILL BE
LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK.COM/WHATIS1ST AND
YOUTUBE.COM/1STUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH

1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 507 W MARION AVENUE - PUNTA GORDA
941.639.3842 - WHATIS1ST.COM - ADMIN@WHATIS1ST.COM

2020 Annual Report

The 2020 Annual Report is now available online. Click the link below to access your copy. Thank you for your faithfulness and support throughout the past year. We look forward to even greater things in the year to come!

[Click Here for our 2020 Annual Report](#)



Word from Worship

Dear friends --

Here we are, in the midst of Holy Week. Easter is coming! You can tell it's close - tulips are blooming, Easter baskets are on the shelves of the grocery store and people are shopping for new spring outfits. Many things to do this week, but let's not forget what Easter is primarily about - our response to Jesus and the cross. Easter is the time when we remember the event that our faith is founded on; Jesus' death and resurrection through which we find eternal life. Although we

live by this every day, it's special to take this week to really reflect on what Jesus suffered and endured on our behalf. It's a great week to share our faith; maybe send faith based Easter cards or by doing special acts of kindness for a friend, neighbor or a stranger. No words are really needed, because God's light will shine through our actions, and maybe lead to more meaningful conversations.

Just a reminder: the Easter Sunrise service this year is at Gilchrist Park at 6:30am. The 8 o'clock and 9:15 services will also take place at Gilchrist Park. The 8 and 9:15 park services will be available for online viewing on Facebook as well. The 11 o'clock service will take place in the Life Center building as usual. Please plan to observe Easter worship with us at one or more of our worship opportunities.

Have a blessed Easter!

Praying for you,

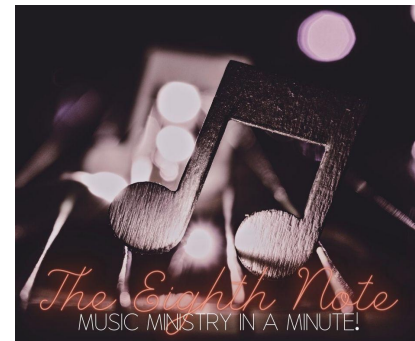
Rosie Young

Worship Coordinator

The Eighth Note – Music Ministry in a Minute!

Greetings Everyone,

Happy Easter! Did you know that the Easter season in the church year starting on April 4 runs all the way to Pentecost Sunday on May 23? During this period of time the church celebrates Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension and the Holy Spirit's empowering the church. Hallelujahs, Alleluias, the Gloria Patri are brought back into worship. Stoles and paraments change from purple to white and gold (with the exception of red on Pentecost Sunday).



As we enjoy this Easter season the sights of brilliant sunrises, the sounds of joyous music and birdsong, and the sweet scent of Spring flowers. There is a lesson all around us even when things look not very promising, like before a sunrise there is darkness, before the joyous music there is silence, before the birdsong there is an egg, before the sweet scent there is a blub, before the Resurrection there was a tomb.

Easter reminds us even when things look hopeless, they are not. By God's grace we too share in this promise full of an eternal renewal and an abundance of hope.

Christ Is Risen!

Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Soli Deo Gloria!

David Bellows

Director of Music Ministries

This Sunday's Music – April 4, 2021 – 11:00AM Service

Prelude:

The Holy City- S. Adams

A Joyful Ring – B. Kinyon

Easter Glory – C. Moglebust

Trumpet Tune in D Major – J. Stanley

Jennifer Peters, Trumpet

Chancel Ringers

Chancel Ringers

David Bellows, Organ

Offertory: Rise Up, My Heart, With Gladness – J.S. Bach Jerri Marsee, Soloist

Postlude: Toccata from Symphony V- C. M. Widor David Bellows, Organ

Thank You!

On behalf of everyone at 1st Church, Facilities Manager, Joey DePetro would like to thank Ron Shand for all his great volunteer work at the church and for, most recently, power washing and repairing the gazebo in our main parking lot. You are very appreciated!

Our Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the Loomis family on the passing of Debbie's mother, Nita Shaw. Ms. Nita peacefully passed away on March 7 at the age of 88 in Plant City, Florida. A memorial service will be held on April 9 at 2:00 pm at the 1st United Methodist Church in Plant City, FL. Pastor Mike and Debbie, along with their family, greatly appreciate your prayers and support during this difficult time.

Harmony Class to Offer New Andy Stanley Bible Study

The Harmony Class will begin a new 6-session Bible study on Sunday, April 25th at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This video-based study is, 'better decisions, fewer regrets' - 5 Questions to Help You Determine Your Next Move - by Andy Stanley. In this Bible study, Andy teaches us five catalytic questions to ask every time we make a decision. Stop regretting bad decisions! Learn how to ask more questions first! Moderator Debbie Harrington invites everyone to attend. RSVP requested but not required to debbie2u@comcast.net or text 941.380.0213.

Scroll down for more of *The Bridge*

Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Build Project

We are one of 9 churches working with Habitat for Humanity to build a home in Port Charlotte for Eugene Rihl, a single dad and his two year old son Carson. Eugene is a marine mechanic and is very excited about realizing his dream as the Apostles Build homeowner for 2021. Our commitment is to provide volunteers and to raise \$4,200 to help with costs. On January 10th and 17th many of us were able to write a blessing on 2x4s which will be used for the interior walls. Twelve 1st Church volunteers worked on the home Saturday, January 30th. Donations are welcome. Please indicate 'Apostles Build' on your offering. For more information, call Wayne Sharp



Media Deadlines

As we continue to move back to in-person for our Bible studies, small groups and church events, we want to encourage you to promote your events and outreach programs in our weekly newsletter, *The Bridge*. All articles and media submissions must be received by 5 pm on Wednesday. Recording times are limited and must be scheduled **no less** than two weeks prior to your desired promo date. To schedule a recording or submit an article for *The Bridge*, please email christa@whatis1st.com.

**FOLLOW US & JOIN US THIS SUNDAY LIVE AT 9:15 & 11 AM
ONLINE ON FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE AND WHATIS1ST.COM**

Scroll down for Worship Service information

Praise in the Park



Join us this Sunday at 8 am for *Praise in the Park*! Open to everyone, this is your opportunity to join us for "in person" worship as we enjoy God's scenery from the lawn of the beautiful Gilchrist Park Pavilion, *weather permitting of course*. Please plan to bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets, and, yes, we will be asking you to practice social distancing. Don't forget to join our "Praise in the Park" group on our Church

App! Please make sure you are connected with us through the app or through social media, as we will be keeping you posted for any changes to our worship schedule in case of stormy weather!

See you Sunday for Praise in the Park!

Join us for Worship In-Person This Sunday!

If you are planning on attending our services please remember the following:

- **Masks are required at all times.**
- Temperatures will be taken at check-in.
- Social distancing is being enforced per CDC recommendations.
- Families may sit together, but please leave three seats between you and others not in your family.
- If you are feverish or not feeling well, we ask that you stay home and join us online on our Facebook and YouTube channels.



At this time, you may only enter the Life Center through the **main entrance facing the Fellowship Hall courtyard**. All other exterior doors will be locked, with the Life Center opening at 9 am. Please refrain from entering the Life

Center building if you have not been fully checked in by one of our hosts.

Please note, both of our services will be broadcast LIVE to our members and guests at home through our website, whatis1st.com, as well as our Facebook and Youtube channels. With time constraints and necessary lighting changes for our live feed, we do ask everyone to take a seat directly after you check in for your safety.

As a reminder, all 11 am attendees, please remain in your vehicles until we are given the all clear after sanitization has been completed.

We'll see you Sunday!

Opportunities

Service Opportunity

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to water our flowers on campus through the remainder of the dry season. Unfortunately, we do not have a sprinkler system, and the job can be a bit overwhelming for the small maintenance staff we have on hand. If you are interested, please call the church office, 941.639.3842 and Gail will direct you to Joey DePetro for further information. Thank you and have a great day!

Community Outreach Opportunity

1st Church Family would you like to be the voice of a child who greatly needs your help? Rick Sloan, the Charlotte County Recruiter for Guardian Ad Litem is looking for volunteers who are willing to advocate for children who are abandoned, abused and neglected by no fault of their own and end up in the child welfare system. All volunteers are trained free of charge and the training is currently done online. One only needs to have a heart for these children, an ability to learn and 10-12 hours per month to volunteer.

If you would like to help in this worthy cause, please contact Rick Sloan at Rick.Sloan@gal.fl.gov or by phone at 941-467-4663.

Friendship Ministry Callers

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of 1st Church's "Friendship Ministry Callers," an important component of ConneXions. ConneXions is the new faith initiative which Pastor Mike announced in early 2021. He challenged us all with the question "How do we become the Church of Jesus Christ, as Jesus intended us to be?" Surely, outreach and kindness play a large role. Mainly because of Covid, there is an urgent need to



stay in touch with members of our spiritual family. Many of these folks are not able to attend weekly services yet yearn for fellowship and spiritual nourishment. Would you be willing to make check-in calls again for the Church? We are beginning a telephone ministry, hoping to get commitments for callers who can make 10 - 15 calls at least every six months, if not every quarter, so no one slips through the 1st Church cracks. Please consider if you are able to serve the faith community in this action. If so, please contact Gail Sexton at **gail.sexton@whatis1st.com** or 941-639-3842.

Media Volunteers Needed!

Our Media Team is need of several individuals to help in the media booth with slides and cameras on a rotating schedule. No experience is required, and full training will be provided. We also need two to three people to serve as hosts for our online services. Hosts are responsible to greet our viewers, answer questions and provide information about our church app, online giving and prayer team in the chat area on both our Facebook broadcast and YouTube channel. Training will be provided as well. If you are interested in any of these positions, please email Christa, christa@whatis1st.com.



Crafters Group

Do you crochet, knit or draw? Crafters needed for our weekly crafting sessions every Wednesday 1:30-3:30 in Room 9. Some projects we have created in the past:

- Cards for our own CARE MINISTRY to use to encourage others in our church and community
- Crochet Octopus toys - Donated to Galisano Children's Hospital, Fort Myers
- Baby Blankets - Donated to Careline Pregnancy Center in Port Charlotte
- Christmas Cards - Donated to the Veterans Home, Port Charlotte

We look forward to seeing you there! We are always looking for new ideas, so feel free to share your favorite patterns with us!

For more information, please contact Diane Houston, 941-740-1016, **houstonfla04@yahoo.com** or Rosalie Wilford, (941) 639-6198.

Get Connected!



Pastor Mike recently introduced the new accountability small group ministry, "Connexions." This is your opportunity to connect with other Christ followers, to hold each other accountable in your daily walks with Christ and implement some of the same practices and worship habits developed by Methodist founder. Connexions will challenge you and help build stronger relationships with

2021 Bible Reading Schedules

[illegible]

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School @ 9:15 am

Youth Group @ 5:07 pm



Worship with us
Live Every Sunday

8 am Praise in the Park

@ the Gilchrist Park Pavilion

9:15 am Contemporary

11 am Traditional

Live in the Life Center & Online

whatis1st.com  @whatis1st  @1stunitedmethodistchurch
Children's & Youth Sunday School at 9:15 am

MEDIA MINISTRY

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS NEEDED:
CAMERA OPERATORS, VISUAL TECHS,
& VIRTUAL GREETERS

EMAIL CHRISTA@WHATIS1ST.COM FOR INFO

+++

Ways To Give



WEBSITE
WHATIS1ST.COM



ACH WITHDRAWAL
CALL 941.639.3842 TO SET UP



BY MAIL
1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
507 W. MARION AVENUE
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950



BILL PAY
CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

PRAYER team

TUESDAYS AT 9 AM

EMAIL PRAYERTEAM@WHATIS1ST.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION



Today Matters Mental Health Ministries Service

Saturday, April 17 - 4 pm - Life Center

Our Guests:

Michele Ladd

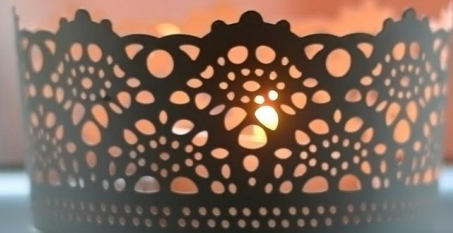
National Veteran Resources



Melissa Hall

Suicide Prevention Coordinator

Bay Pines VA Medical Center



Light Your
Candles & Pray

EMAIL YOUR CANDLE IN THE WINDOW PHOTOS
TO MEDIAMINISTRY@WHATIS1ST.COM

Our Office Hours are Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm
507 W Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda 33950
941.639.3842 - whatis1st.com

FOLLOW US & JOIN US THIS SUNDAY LIVE AT 9:15 & 11 AM
ONLINE ON FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE AND WHATIS1ST.COM



1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

507 W MARION AVENUE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

941.639.3842 | WHATIS1ST.COM | 1STCHURCH@WHATIS1ST.COM

OFFERING NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST BY SEEKING, SHAPING & SENDING DISCIPLES

