

1st Methodist Church Weekly Update

February 19, 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.



Dessert With the Pastors Goes Virtual!

If you are new to 1st Church, either in person or online, we want to get to know you more! Join us for BYOB - Bring Your Own Brownie, a special "Dessert with the Pastors" event on Zoom, February 24 at 7 pm. This is your opportunity meet our Pastors and learn more about who we are and where you can fit in. To sign up, contact Gail in the church office at 941.639.3842 or gail@whatis1st.com so we can send you the Zoom link.



Feed the Harbor 2021

February 28, 2021 is our annual Feed the Harbor community outreach program at all area Publix stores. Feed the Harbor is an opportunity for you to donate unperishable food items to help restock food pantries around the Charlotte Harbor area. Churches from around the county have been assigned specific stores to help man, ours will once again be the Airport Road Publix. We have a need for volunteers to distribute shopping flyers and collecting donations 12 pm



to 3 pm on Sunday February 28. For more information, please contact Sherri O'Connell, sherri.oconnell1003@gmail.com.

Homebuilders Small Group to Return

Homebuilders is starting back up in March, and will be on Tuesday evenings from 6-8pm in fellowship hall. This program is geared towards young couples or families with kids. Childcare will be provided. We'll be diving into ALPHA's Marriage Course starting on March 2. For any questions or to register for the group, reach out to jordan@whatis1st.com

1st Church Higher Education Scholarship Birthday Box

The Scholarship Committee would like for our Bridge readers to remember the "Birthday Box" donation program with an opportunity to contribute to the higher education scholarship fund for our future recipients. During the month of your birthday, consider donating one dollar for every year old that you are. For example, if you are 50 years old, you would donate \$50. If you desire to financially support this program, you can drop off your donation to the Birthday Box located in the church office foyer. Also, there are Birthday Box envelopes located in the Life Center on the information table. Just place your donation in the Birthday Box envelope and place in the collection basket. May you have a happy birthday by donating a blessing to a future recipient!

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 at 612-867-3017or **sharpww@me.com**.



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

other believers. If you haven't signed up to be a part of this next step at 1st Church, we encourage you to do so today. Please send an email to Gail Sexton, **gail@whatis1st.com** or call 941.239.3842, ext. 207.

Word from Worship

Greetings 1st Church family:

Can you believe it's Lent? I feel like Christmas Eve at the Park just happened! What a crazy year! However, Lent is here, and we had a wonderful Ash Wednesday service. Due to Covid safety precautions, pocket stones etched with a cross were distributed in lieu of ashes. Lenten services are planned, and our weekly Wednesday noon services will begin this Wednesday, February 24. This year those worship services will take place in the Life Center and live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube channels. Please join us for these meaningful events. Holy Week and Easter services are in final planning stages- so watch for specific info in the Bridge. Please let me know if you are available to help with our Holy Thursday or Easter Sunday worship.

Thanks to everyone who wears name tags and those of you who sign in on the church app before you arrive. It really saves check-in time.

On Saturday, February 27 at 11 o'clock there will be a Celebration of Life service remembering Bobby and Jean Grose. This memorial service will be in our sanctuary, and social distancing and masks will be required.

I'd like to remind you of RPM (Rosie's Prayer Moments) on Thursdays at noon. If you don't have an hour available, please consider stopping by the sanctuary and joining us for a few moments to have us pray for any special prayer requests you might have. Everyone is welcome. I don't know anyone who has never had issues in their lives or know someone having issues. Everyone needs prayer and we all can pray. We talked today about not needing fancy or eloquent words to be able to pray. One of the simplest and most powerful prayers I know in times of need is: Help me Lord. Save me Lord. Please pray with us daily at noon and join with us in the sanctuary at noon on Thursdays. Prayerfully,

Rosie Young Worship Coordinator

Tomorrow Fund Update

Thank You

1st Church for
Your Generosity
FUNDING TODAY for a
STRONG TOMORROW









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.

Please refrain from entering the Life Center building if you have not been fully checked in by one of our hosts. 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 8:55 am.

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

Media Volunteers Needed!

Our 1st Church Media Team needs your help. We are looking for a few volunteers to assist with our Sunday service slides and cameras. Training will be provided, and there will be a rotating schedule. No experience is email required. Please Christa, christa@whatis1st.com to sign up. We greatly appreciate your willingness to serve look and forward to hearing from you.



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.

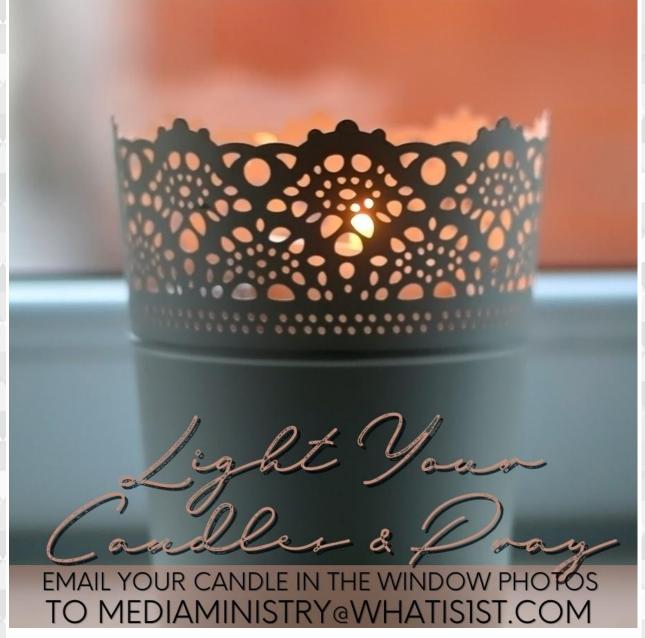
2021 Bible Reading Schedules

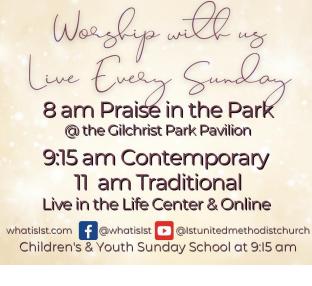
We want to encourage you to join us as we once again read through the Bible. **Reading calendars** are available for download and printing on our website, **whatis1st.com/bible2021**, and hard copies are available in the Life Center. Start your new year off right by committing to read God's Word!

















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



