

# 1st Methodist Church Weekly Update

February 26, 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.

### In Memory of Bobby and Jean Grose

Join us tomorrow, February 27, as we gather to honor and celebrate the lives of Bobby and Jean Grose in the Sanctuary at 11 am. Our thoughts and prayers are with their daughter, Kimberly and the Grose family. Please note CDC safety precautions will be enforced, and everyone will need to wear a mask.

### **Shower Ministry Returns**

After 11 months, the Homeless Shower Ministry returns to 1st Church on Sunday, March 7. Thanks to your support, the ministry has collected enough clothing, and is not in need of any donations at this time. However, if you would like to support this outreach program, we encourage you to pray for the mission and those they minister too. If you would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Peter Gillen, **gooddecision@msn.com**.

#### Feed the Harbor 2021



This Sunday is the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Feed the Harbor event to help restock our local food pantries. All you need to do is shop at Publix on Airport Road and drop off your donations with our volunteers who will be in the parking lot. Everything donated will go to help those in need right here in Charlotte County. Thank you for being a part of this amazing ministry for the past 12 years! For more information, please contact Sherri O'Connell, sherri.oconnell1003@gmail.com.

#### **Bring on the Sweets!**

Easter candy donations are being collected for our Resurrection Day services. Bins will be available in the Fellowship for your donations. We greatly appreciate your support and participation of this outreach!

#### **Purple Passion Project**

For the past two decades, you have supported our youth's mission program each Lenten season. From purple ribbons and quarters to purple envelopes, your faithfulness has helped to send our students on trips to help spread the love of Christ by helping to rebuild homes, business and small communities across our country. 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. This Sunday, you will see special purple contribution envelopes at our giving stations in the Life Center. Please stop and pick one up before you leave service, pray for this mission and give generously out of love for Christ and our students during this Lenten season. 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.

#### 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 RV'ers Outing

Nine couples from our church will be RV camping (tents are also welcome) in March at Hardee Lakes County Park, Bowling Green, FL. We will arrive on March 22nd and depart on March 26th. If you would like to join us, contact Peter Gillen at **gooddecision@msn.com** or call him at 941.661.8367 by March 8.

#### **Media Deadlines**

As we continue to move back to in-person, 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**.

### **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!

#### **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 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> many of us were able to write a blessing on 2x4s which will be used for the interior walls. Twelve 1<sup>st</sup> Church volunteers



worked on the home Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Donations are welcome. Please indicate 'Apostles Build' on your offering. For more information, call Wayne Sharp at 612-867-3017or **sharpww@me.com**.

# Scroll down for more of *The Bridge*

### **Word from Worship**

Hey 1st Church friends,

First, a reminder to wear your name tag. If you need a magnetic one, you can let me or Gail, in the Church office know and one will be ordered for you. I do want to remind you that our our weekly Wednesday Lenten services have begun. This year they are held in the Life Center building each Wednesday at noon. Please join us for these meaningful worship times.

Please remember that the staff back at the AV area are very busy during worship

and the time leading up to live production. They are not able to chat or answer questions while working, and if we stand in front of their area it blocks the cameras. Thanks for your help with this problem.

Make sure you fully read the Bridge to keep informed of upcoming events. It's a busy season at 1st Church, and I don't want you to miss anything.

I am looking for help! I need greeters for Holy Week services and if you aren't able to attend worship in person, I am in need of virtual greeters for the 915 or 11oclock online services. If you can type hello - you can do it! It's very easy- we'll give you all the info you'll need. It's a great way to serve and reap many blessings. Please contact me with any questions.

As always, please continue praying The Lord's Prayer at noon daily. Please stop by the sanctuary on Thursdays at noon and let our RPM team know how we can pray for you.

Have a blessed and healthy week. Keep on praying! Rosie Young Worship Coordinator

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





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 themain 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**

#### **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 questions and viewers, answer provide information about our church app, online giving and prayer team in the chat area on both our broadcast Facebook 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

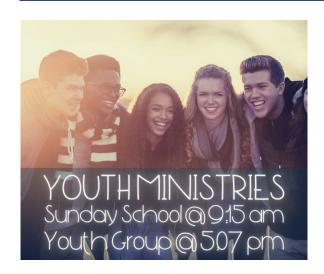
other believers. If you haven't signed up to be a part of this next step at 1<sup>st</sup> Church, we encourage you to do so today. Please send an email to Gail Sexton, **gail@whatis1st.com** or call 941.239.3842, ext. 207.

### 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

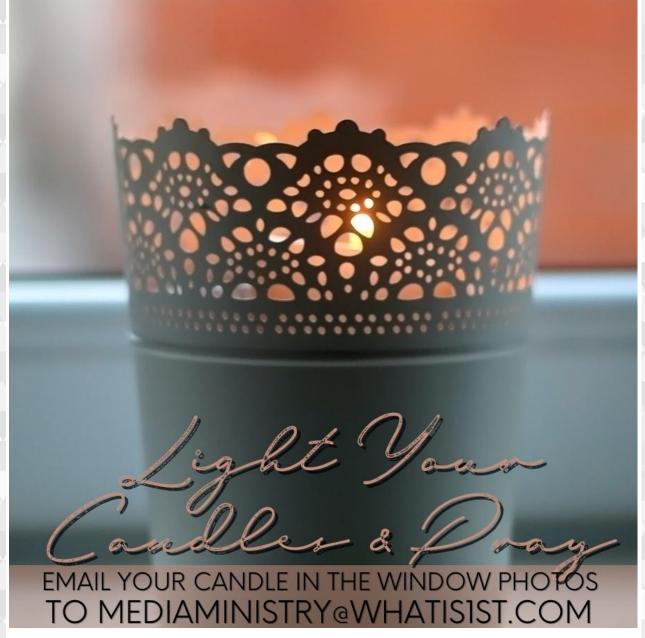


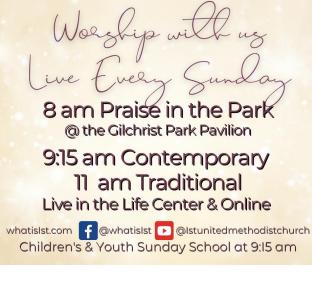
available in the Life Center. Start your new year off right by committing to read God's Word!

















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

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