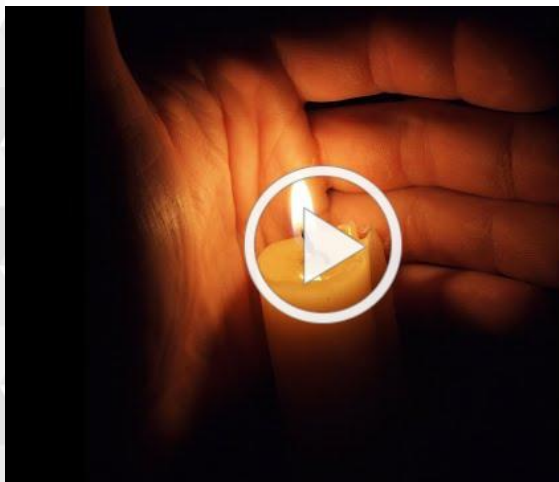




1st Methodist Church Weekly Update

March 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.



HOLY WEEK
1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PUNTA GORDA
WORSHIP WITH US

PALM SUNDAY
PRAISE IN THE PARK - 8 AM AT GILCHRIST PARK
9:15 CONTEMPORARY & 11 AM TRADITIONAL IN THE LIFE CENTER

HOLY THURSDAY **GOOD FRIDAY**
7 PM IN THE LIFE CENTER 12 PM IN THE LIFE CENTER

RESURRECTION SUNDAY
SUNRISE SERVICE AT 6:30 AM - GILCHRIST PARK
PRAISE IN THE PARK 8 AM & 9:15 AM - GILCHRIST PARK
PETTING ZOO & GOODIES FOR THE KIDS AT 10 AM
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 11AM IN THE LIFE CENTER

ALL SERVICES HELD IN THE LIFE CENTER WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON
[FACEBOOK.COM/WHATIS1ST](https://facebook.com/whatis1st) AND [YOUTUBE.COM/1STUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH](https://youtube.com/1stunitedmethodistchurch)
1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 507 W MARION AVENUE - PUNTA GORDA
941.639.3842 - [WHATIS1ST.COM](https://whatis1st.com) - ADMIN@WHATIS1ST.COM

United Methodist Children's Home Virtual Open House March 27th

With Covid restrictions in place, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) had to cancel all in person "Open Campus" events scheduled since March 2020. These events would give guests the opportunity to tour the campus, meet the residents and see the mission they support firsthand. This year, the Children's Home will be going virtual, offering a live tour via live stream to all their supporters. The event will feature an update from their President/CEO, testimonials, music from the children and a virtual tour of the home. We encourage you to tune in tomorrow, March 27, as the FUMCH Open House will premiere at 10 a.m. on their Facebook page, [facebook.com/fumch](https://www.facebook.com/fumch). It will also be available on their **YouTube channel** and website, <https://www.fumch.org>, following the event. To access the feed, please click the bold links provided in this article.

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 will be available at our giving stations in the Life Center again this Sunday. 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 as we close out this Lenten season. Online giving is also available for this project by going to [whatis1st.com](https://www.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.



Word from Worship

Greetings Church family-

As we prepare for worship services during Holy Week, I am filled with gratitude for a Church family like you. You may know that we lost a nephew this week, and the love and support from so many is such a blessing, and we thank you.

Just a reminder: this Sunday, 3/28 is Palm Sunday with a regular worship schedule - 8:00 am at Gilchrist Park and 9:15 and 11 o'clock in the Life Center.

Thursday, April 1 at 7pm will be Holy Thursday service in the Life Center - as well as a Good Friday service at 12 noon on April 2 in the Life Center. You will be able to view these both on line if you are unable to attend.

The Easter schedule is as follows: 630 am Sunrise service, 8:00 am and 9:15 am service all at Gilchrist Park. Following the park services there will be a petting zoo and special activities for the children. Please plan to share in these meaningful events.

It is with much surprise and dismay that I just was informed by our supplier that we are unable to get our Easter Lily order this year. Apparently this is another example of Covid striking again! I am desperately trying to find alternatives but we will all be surprised! All these life challenges are a reminder to not be defeated, but instead try to use them to make me stronger. I can only do that through prayer. Adversity comes in so many ways -- accidents, illness, failures, grief, hard times, hurts, or misfortune of any kind. But the Lord tells us that adversity will come - and while these trials don't feel good, if

we don't let them defeat us, we will be stronger. God is always walking through these times with us.

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.
When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.
When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up;
the flame will not consume you. Isaiah 43:2

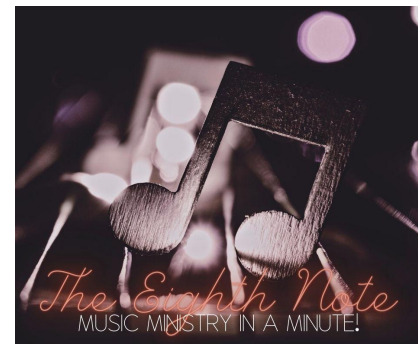
I'm praying for you!

Rosie Young
Worship Coordinator

The Eighth Note – Music Ministry in a Minute!

Greetings Everyone,

Palm Sunday is nearly upon us. You may have noticed that this service starts out as a celebratory parade and ends as a funeral procession... this is not a mistake. Palm – Passion is really a bittersweet day where we celebrate our redemption by Christ's sacrifice. This reminds of the great anthem by John Stainer "God So Love The World".



*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that through Him the world might be saved.*

Ride On, King Jesus! Help lead us out from the desert paths in our lives to an Easter of unending joy.

Soli Deo Gloria!
David Bellows
Director of Music Ministries

This Sunday's Music – March 28, 2021 – 11:00AM Service

Prelude: A Joyful Carillon – M. Bedford Chancel Ringers

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna – D. Wagner Chancel Ringers

Processional – W. Mathias

Offertory: The Palms – J. B. Fauré

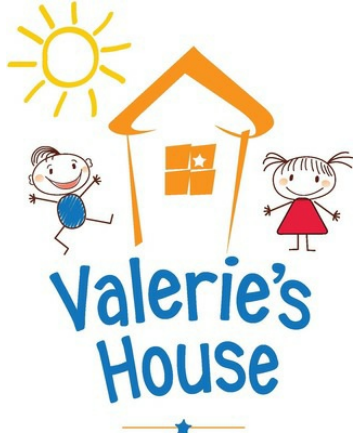
Jerri Marsee, Soloist

Postlude: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross – R. B. Farlee

Scroll down for more of *The Bridge*

Valerie's House Update

On the 1st and 3rd Monday night of each month



our church hosts Valerie's House. This is a unique Grief Program for kids ages 4 - 18 who have recently lost a parent. Currently we have 6 small groups meeting serving approximately 21 Charlotte County families. Any given week we will have 30 or more children and often their caregiver(s) attendance at the meetings. This is such a blessing for these children and their caregivers to be able to learn more about their grief and share with others who have also experienced this type of loss.

We want to thank the dozen so facilitators and mentors who regularly help us run this program. We want to thank you, the members of 1st church, for partnering with Valerie's House to use 6 classrooms for small groups, along with the gym and playground for this vital program. We also want to thank all of you who have donated teddy bears for these children, they love them!! We are now asking for journals to be donated. We want each of our grieving children to be able to use journals as a way to express their grief and record some of the daily struggles. This tool will help them immensely as they begin to process these new and challenging emotions they face on a daily basis. Consider purchasing a journal of any kind and placing it in the Valerie's House Teddy Bear box located in Lenox Hall by the missions bulletin board. Thanks again for your support and continued prayers for the Valerie's House Children.

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 612-867-3017 or sharpww@me.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!

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**



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!



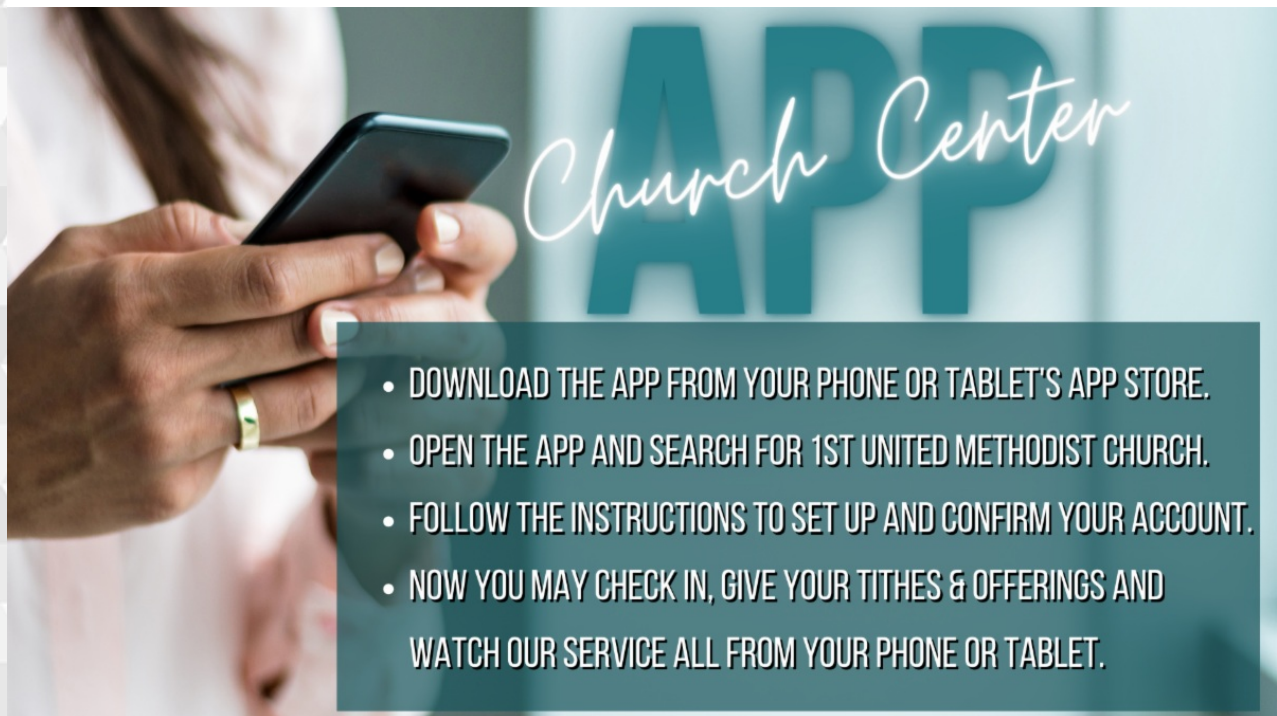
Pastor Mike recently introduced the new accountability small group ministry, "Connexions." This is your opportunity to connect with other Christ followers, to hold each other accountable in your daily walks with Christ and implement some of the same practices and worship habits developed by Methodist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

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.

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!



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

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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

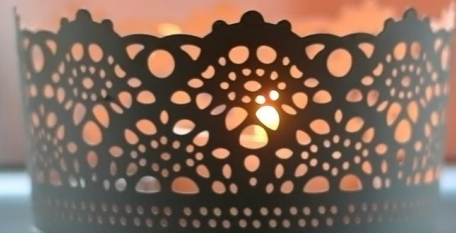
National Veteran Resources



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

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