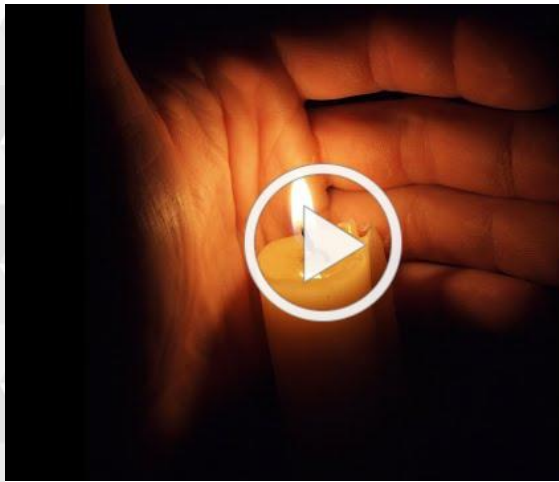




April 30, 2021



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.

24/10 *Prayer*

MAY 13 - 23

SIGN UP AT WHATIS1ST.COM/PRAY247
KICKS OFF FOLLOWING OUR PRAYER MEETING
MAY 13 AT 6 PM IN THE SANCTUARY



Word from Worship

Hey 1st Church friends --

I believe that summer has arrived early this year. We have truly been blessed with beautiful weather. Our Praise in the Park services continue at 8 am with no fear of frost! Seriously, we only had a very few weeks of cold weather over the winter months. We have been blessed with faithful members and guests at the outside service, and we are thankful.

Please be in prayer for the Today Matters Mental Health Ministry. Their next service on May 15th features guest speaker, Randy Grimes, former NFL player for Tampa Bay. Mark this date on your calendar and watch for additional information.

We are currently having sign up for our 24/10 prayer room available online or at each service. I believe this will be a time of significant spiritual growth. Please don't miss this opportunity. "OH Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night.." Nehemiah 1: 5-6. Some have asked why we can't just pray at our own homes. Of course, daily prayer is vital but the experience of prayer with another prayer partner in the sanctuary or designated place was a special experience. There's something about the discipline of showing up at a particular place at a particular time that places a whole new importance on it. I'm sure that some incredible stories and experiences will be shared at the completion of this 10 day journey.

I'm praying for you

Rosie Young

Worship Coordinator

rosie.young@whatis1st.com

Summer Mission Trip

Key Tags are now available to take home and pray specifically for a member of our youth summer missions team. Pick up a key tag located in Lenox hall by the missions board or in the Life Center foyer.

Each tag has one name of a student or adult volunteer going to serve in Kenosha, Wisconsin this July. Please take one home today and continue to pray for this individual as we meet regularly to prepare for this 9 day trip. Pray also for the people we will serve in Kenosha that they will be receptive to the Gospel as we shine God's light into their lives.



Join us to Celebrate & Be Heard ! Mental Health Awareness Walk

**Saturday, May 1, 2021
9 - 11 a.m.**

@

Laishley Park



*Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs
Pet friendly/kid friendly event • Please follow social distancing guidelines*

There will be a brief program where community members share their inspiring stories.
Then, we'll embark on a scenic 1/2 mile walk through our beautiful Harbor Walk in effort to raise awareness for mental health.

**FREE T-shirts to first 100 walkers
FREE refreshments & snacks • Community information tables
Honor Beads • Raffle Prizes • #AntiStigma rocks • And more...**

No registration necessary; we hope to see you there!



A Firm Foundation

What does the future hold for The United Methodist Church? It is the question being asked all around our denomination. What should be the response to the competing visions and notable division within contemporary Methodism in North America? Can we explore the issues confronting us in a post-Christendom era without rupturing our relationships?

A valuable resource for Pastor Mike's current sermon series, this carefully curated volume engages the deep heart questions of United Methodists and casts a compelling vision by trustworthy voices for dynamic faith. Contributors explore the power of classic ideas such as:

- The Lordship of Jesus Christ
- Engaging scripture meaningfully
- The power of the Holy Spirit
- The promise of sanctification
- Living with undivided purpose
- Fostering dynamic discipleship
- The gift of the global church



A Firm Foundation is a useful tool not only in navigating present challenges but in pursuing the future promise for the people called Methodists. The foundational principles which have guided Methodist thought from the beginning of John Wesley's countercultural movement remain rich resources as we explore what it means to remain faithful disciples in the tradition of the Wesleys. *A Firm Foundation* books are currently available for sale in the church office and at each service if anyone would like one for \$10 each.

Scroll down for more of *The Bridge*

Bargain Boutique Update

The Bargain Boutique would like to thank you for your continued support during this season, and make you aware of their new phone number, 239.264.6533. Operating hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am until 2 pm. The Bargain Boutique is located on the corner of McGregor and West Marion Avenue.

Attention all cookie bakers!

The "Thank You" (aka Cupcake) ministry needs you. Our next "Thank You" target for July will be the Hospice workers who do such a fabulous job with the end of life process both as a comfort to families and for those that are passing on. Please, if you love to bake and would like to participate in this fun and rewarding ministry, call me, Kathy Kresge at 941-661-1175 or Gail in the church office.



2020 Annual Report is Now Available!



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!

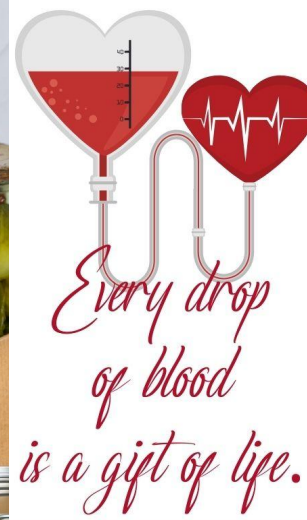
[Click Here for our 2020 Annual Report](#)

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**

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021



ONEBLOOD BLOOD DRIVE

MAY 9, 2021
8:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

Main Parking Lot

1st United Methodist Church
507 W Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda

Appointments recommended

To schedule visit:

oneblood.com/donate-now
use sponsor code # 10245.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 6TH, 2021

COMMUNITY
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER SERVICE

THURSDAY
MAY 6 @ 12 PM

PUNTA GORDA
CITY HALL ANNEX
126 HARVEY ST, PUNTA GORDA

LORD POUR OUT YOUR
LOVE, LIFE, AND
Liberty

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

70
Years of Prayer
for America
(1951-2021)

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

TODAY MATTERS
MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Connecting the mind, body and soul embraced through faith,
empathy and dignity by removing the stigma of mental health.

RANDY GRIMES

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneer &
Motivational and Recovery Speaker
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The Life Center @ 1st United Methodist Church 507 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda
Visit what1st.com/todaymatters for more information or call 863.244.6289

The Eighth Note – Music Ministry in a Minute!



Greetings Everyone,

In 1971, Bill and Gloria Gaither, founding members of the contemporary Christian music movement wrote one of the top five most requested songs by United Methodists.

Bill's reason for writing this song was "in the midst of social upheaval, threats of war, and betrayals of national and personal trust. It was into this world at such a time that we were bringing our third little baby.

Assassinations, riots, drug traffic, and war monopolized the headlines. It was in the midst of this kind of uncertainty that the assurance of the Lordship of the risen Christ blew across our troubled minds like a cooling breeze in the parched desert. Holding our tiny son in our arms we were able to write..." the song *Because He Lives*.

Wanted Three More Handbell Ringers!

Summer is a great time to consider joining the Chancel Ringers. We practice social distancing and have a lot fun making music. The group rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Life Center. Ability to read music is necessary. Contact David Bellows for more information: david.bellows@what1st.com

Soli Deo Gloria!

This Sunday's Music – May 2, 2021 – 11:00AM Service

Prelude: Tuba Tune in D Major – C.S. Lang

Offertory: The Lord's Prayer – A. Malotte

Postlude: Toccata In Seven – J. Rutter

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!

As a reminder, our outside services are always subject to change due to the weather. Please make sure you are connected with us through the app, our email list or social media to receive our updates concerning schedule changes.

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.**
- 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.



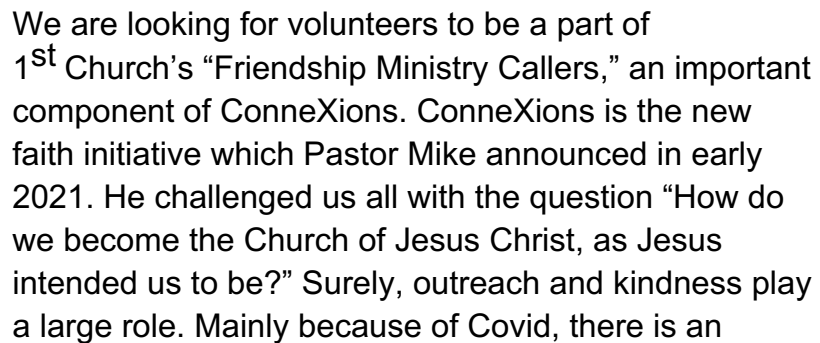
At this time, you may only enter the Life Center through the **main entrance facing the Fellowship Hall courtyard**. All other exterior doors will be locked. We'll see you Sunday!

Opportunities

Service Opportunity

Church Website Update Coming!

Friendship Ministry Callers



Media Volunteers Needed!



MEDIA MINISTRY
IMMEDIATE POSITIONS NEEDED:
CAMERA OPERATORS, VISUAL TECHS,
& VIRTUAL GREETERS
 EMAIL CHRISTA@WHATIS1ST.COM FOR INFO

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

Week 1	Matthew 1:1-12
Week 2	Matthew 1:13-23
Week 3	Matthew 2:1-12
Week 4	Matthew 2:13-23
Week 5	Matthew 3:1-12
Week 6	Matthew 3:13-17
Week 7	Matthew 4:1-11
Week 8	Matthew 4:12-23
Week 9	Matthew 5:1-12
Week 10	Matthew 5:13-48
Week 11	Matthew 6:1-15
Week 12	Matthew 6:16-34
Week 13	Matthew 7:1-12
Week 14	Matthew 7:13-27
Week 15	Matthew 8:1-13
Week 16	Matthew 8:14-22
Week 17	Matthew 9:1-13
Week 18	Matthew 9:14-17
Week 19	Matthew 9:18-26
Week 20	Matthew 9:27-34
Week 21	Matthew 10:1-42
Week 22	Matthew 11:1-19
Week 23	Matthew 11:20-24
Week 24	Matthew 11:25-30
Week 25	Matthew 12:1-13
Week 26	Matthew 12:14-21
Week 27	Matthew 12:22-37
Week 28	Matthew 12:38-45
Week 29	Matthew 13:1-17
Week 30	Matthew 13:18-23
Week 31	Matthew 13:24-30
Week 32	Matthew 13:31-35
Week 33	Matthew 13:36-43
Week 34	Matthew 13:44-46
Week 35	Matthew 13:47-50
Week 36	Matthew 14:1-12
Week 37	Matthew 14:13-21
Week 38	Matthew 14:22-36
Week 39	Matthew 15:1-9
Week 40	Matthew 15:10-20
Week 41	Matthew 15:21-28
Week 42	Matthew 15:29-39
Week 43	Matthew 16:1-12
Week 44	Matthew 16:13-28
Week 45	Matthew 17:1-9
Week 46	Matthew 17:10-21
Week 47	Matthew 18:1-13
Week 48	Matthew 18:14-35
Week 49	Matthew 19:1-12
Week 50	Matthew 19:13-22
Week 51	Matthew 19:23-30
Week 52	Matthew 20:1-16
Week 53	Matthew 20:17-28
Week 54	Matthew 20:29-34
Week 55	Matthew 21:1-11
Week 56	Matthew 21:12-17
Week 57	Matthew 21:18-22
Week 58	Matthew 21:23-27
Week 59	Matthew 21:28-32
Week 60	Matthew 21:33-46
Week 61	Matthew 22:1-14
Week 62	Matthew 22:15-21
Week 63	Matthew 22:22-33
Week 64	Matthew 22:34-46
Week 65	Matthew 23:1-12
Week 66	Matthew 23:13-35
Week 67	Matthew 24:1-12
Week 68	Matthew 24:13-28
Week 69	Matthew 24:29-35
Week 70	Matthew 25:1-13
Week 71	Matthew 25:14-30
Week 72	Matthew 25:31-46
Week 73	Matthew 26:1-16
Week 74	Matthew 26:17-29
Week 75	Matthew 26:30-46
Week 76	Matthew 27:1-10
Week 77	Matthew 27:11-46
Week 78	Matthew 28:1-10
Week 79	Matthew 28:11-20

Week 49	Matthew 21:33-46
Week 50	Matthew 22:1-14
Week 51	Matthew 22:15-21
Week 52	Matthew 22:22-33
Week 53	Matthew 22:34-46
Week 54	Matthew 23:1-12
Week 55	Matthew 23:13-35
Week 56	Matthew 24:1-12
Week 57	Matthew 24:13-28
Week 58	Matthew 24:29-35
Week 59	Matthew 25:1-13
Week 60	Matthew 25:14-30
Week 61	Matthew 25:31-46
Week 62	Matthew 26:1-16
Week 63	Matthew 26:17-29
Week 64	Matthew 26:30-46
Week 65	Matthew 27:1-10
Week 66	Matthew 27:11-46
Week 67	Matthew 28:1-10
Week 68	Matthew 28:11-20

Week 69	Matthew 29:1-12
Week 70	Matthew 29:13-27
Week 71	Matthew 29:28-35
Week 72	Matthew 29:36-40
Week 73	Matthew 30:1-12
Week 74	Matthew 30:13-20
Week 75	Matthew 30:21-28
Week 76	Matthew 30:29-38
Week 77	Matthew 31:1-12
Week 78	Matthew 31:13-20
Week 79	Matthew 31:21-28
Week 80	Matthew 31:29-38
Week 81	Matthew 32:1-12
Week 82	Matthew 32:13-20
Week 83	Matthew 32:21-28
Week 84	Matthew 32:29-38
Week 85	Matthew 33:1-12
Week 86	Matthew 33:13-20
Week 87	Matthew 33:21-28
Week 88	Matthew 33:29-38
Week 89	Matthew 34:1-12
Week 90	Matthew 34:13-20
Week 91	Matthew 34:21-28
Week 92	Matthew 34:29-38
Week 93	Matthew 35:1-12
Week 94	Matthew 35:13-20
Week 95	Matthew 35:21-28
Week 96	Matthew 35:29-38
Week 97	Matthew 36:1-12
Week 98	Matthew 36:13-20
Week 99	Matthew 36:21-28
Week 100	Matthew 36:29-38

Weekly Progress Tracking	
Week	Days Read
1	1/7
2	2/7
3	3/7
4	4/7
5	5/7
6	6/7
7	7/7
8	8/7
9	9/7
10	10/7
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98	98/7
99	99/7
100	100/7

501 Day Bible Reading Program

Read one verse Bible or just one chapter each day

Choose a reading pace

Keep the Bible more accessible

Read the Bible every day for 501 days. This program is designed to help you read the Bible more consistently and to keep it more accessible. You can choose to read one verse or one chapter each day. The program is flexible and can be adapted to your schedule. You can read the Bible in the morning, afternoon, or evening. You can read the Bible in a quiet place or in a noisy place. You can read the Bible in a car or in a house. You can read the Bible in a library or in a church. You can read the Bible in a park or in a field. You can read the Bible in a room or in a hall. You can read the Bible in a kitchen or in a bathroom. You can read the Bible in a bedroom or in a living room. You can read the Bible in a study or in a library. You can read the Bible in a church or in a synagogue. You can read the Bible in a mosque or in a temple. You can read the Bible in a school or in a university. You can read the Bible in a hospital or in a prison. 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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

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Children's & Youth Sunday School at 9:15 am

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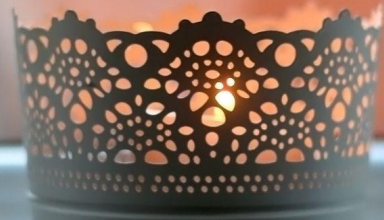
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