

# First United Methodist Church Messenger

drawing near to the heart of Christ

Newsletter - June 2011

As we shift staff responsibilities at First UMC Gulfport and I move into a different role, I wanted give you an idea of part of what I will be doing. My new title is Minister of Formation and Service. I will have primary responsibility for working to establish and grow the Formation and Service ministries that are part of our discipleship at First UMC Gulfport.

**Spiritual formation** is the growth and development of the whole person by an intentional focus on one's

- ⇒ Spiritual and interior life
- ⇒ Interactions with others in ordinary life

**Formation** is a process that happens to everyone, from birth through adulthood. Our intentional spiritual formation at First UMC includes all Sunday Morning Journey Groups, Christian Book Club, Disciple Bible Study groups (both short and long term) and all short-term journey groups.

George East and I are the co-shepherds of this discipleship pillar. We have asked a group of people from our congregation to help think through what formation looks like for our church.

**Ongoing opportunities:**

- ⇒ Sunday Morning Journey Groups: brochures are available at all the sanctuary entrances and the storyboard in the north sanctuary entrance.
- ⇒ Discover 1<sup>st</sup>: 4-week class for any and all who would like to know who we are as a community of faith.

**Some upcoming opportunities in the formation pillar are:**

- ⇒ Disciple Bible Studies (long and short-term classes-start in the fall)
- ⇒ Christian Book Club (look for information-ongoing now!)
- ⇒ Many Short-term journey groups that will be offered starting in the fall.

**Service:** Those who follow Jesus are to be a “living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your reasonable, spiritual service of worship” (Romans 12:1). We are called to serve.

As a congregation seeking to live into our calling, we have formed a Service Working group that focuses on the big picture of service for our congregation. We have split all service opportunities into 3 categories: Local, USA and International.

**Local:** Focuses on the service needs in our community. Feed My Sheep, El Pueblo, and assistance that our church provides for those in need, just to name a few.

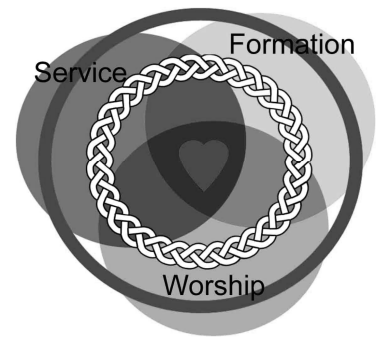
**USA:** Disaster Recovery, Youth Missions, and Navajo missions.

**International:** Our church is committed to a partnership with Will and Ella Faircloth, missionaries in Costa Rica, to build and support the Methodist children’s home in Costa Rica. These trips happen once a year.

We are all called to be in service to those in need, locally, within the US and Internationally.

If you have any questions about any opportunities that our church is involved in please contact Chris Ray at the church 863-0047 or email him at [chris@fumc-gulfport.org](mailto:chris@fumc-gulfport.org)

Chris



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# Worship - Formation - Service

*under the Dome of God's watchfulness & care*

Worship in June and July will focus on Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. Of all his writings, these seem to be the most tender and familiar. Paul had a deep love for the brothers and sisters in Philippi. We can hear it in his words. I invite you to prepare for worship this month and next by reading the book of Philippians. I've also listed the focus scriptures for each Sunday. As you read, as three questions.

What does this passage say about God?

What does this passage say about human beings?

What does it say about the relationship between God and human beings?

Those are good entryways into scripture.

I'll see you in worship under the dome of God's watchfulness and care,



## Philippians

**June 19 – Phil 1.12-27a Fathers' Day - Living Toward God**

**June 26 – Phil 2.1-11 Some Things You Have to Sing**

**July 3-- Phil 2.12-18 In Fear and Trembling**

**July 10-- Phil 3.1-11 The Power of the Resurrection**

**July 17 – Phil 3.12-21 Press On**

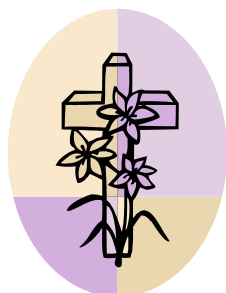
**July 24-- Phil 4.1-9 Rejoice, Gentleness, Thanksgiving**

**July 31 – Phil 4.8-14 Through Christ**

## Our Christian Sympathy...

...to the family and friends of **Dorothy Thompson. You are invited to the Graveside Committal Service for Dorothy Thompson Thursday, June 30 at 11:00 a.m. at the Biloxi National Cemetery.**

...to the family and friends of **Chellie Ormon.**



## Seniors 2011

Seniors 2011 is planned for Thursday, June 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Handsboro Community Center on Switzer Rd., Gulfport. Criminal investigators, Duncan Foster and Hannon Beaver and Sharon White, mediation person for consumers will share about "The latest scams, frauds and identity theft dangers." Two performers from "WINGS" of Lynn Meadows will do an excerpt from "Cinderella." The program is sponsored by Garden Park Medical Center and hosted by Ada Reid. It is free to all. Seniors are especially invited to attend. There will be handouts, door prizes and refreshments.

## SASSY SENIORS

The Sassy Seniors go on the Road to Vrazel's on Wednesday, June 15 at 1 p.m. Please email Ada Reid @ [slntonsr@cablone.net](mailto:slntonsr@cablone.net) or call her at 864-4721 to let her know if you will attend. She has to let them know more than 24 hours before our arrival date which is Monday evening or Tuesday morning. And if you make reservations and DO NOT CANCEL THEM BEFORE SHE CALLS THE NUMBER IN, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR A MEAL. THAT IS THEIR RULE BUT THEY HAVE GIVEN US THE PRIVATE ROOM AT NO COST. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD AND LET ME KNOW WITHOUT ME CALLING YOU. THANKS, ADA



## *drawing near to the heart of Christ*

### **Minister to Families with Children and Youth**

- Ryan George

Let's look at some research for a second... \*

1. The average child or teen will spend around 40 hours a year in church.
2. The family gets 3,000 hours a year with the same child or teen.
3. In self-reporting surveys, children and teens point to parents as the number one spiritual influence in their lives.

POP QUIZ- If you were to choose an area to invest your time, money, and resources for spiritual development, where would you expect the biggest results? Circle one: The family or the church.

The family and the church are the only two institutions set up by God to show his love to the world. The church exists to point the way to a relationship with Jesus. The family is uniquely setup to show what that kind of love looks like on a daily basis. By working together, combining the influences of these two angles, we can have a more significant impact on our children and teens and our world.

Restating it: the family ministries at FUMC should be focused on the family and the church working together for the cause of Christ.

What does that look like? It looks like the family starting to have intentional moments to have spiritual conversations. It looks like the church looking to support and equip mom, dad, grandma, and guardian so that these conversations aren't frightening. It looks like the family looking to find areas to serve together and the church providing room for intergenerational service and discipleship within the family.

It looks like the Family Fun Day on May 29<sup>th</sup> (BTW: another one is in the works for around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July). These give us a chance to have full family participation while being the church. This has us aiming at working together with the light of the church and the heart of the home to do more than what we can accomplish alone.

Come be a part. You are needed.

(\*Research taken from Think Orange by Reggie Joiner which I would highly recommend that everyone read. Ask me for a copy.)



#### **Please Pray For....**

...David Bittle, nephew of David and Barbara Powell, who is in Afghanistan.

...Lee Farley, grandson of Sharon Olson, who is in the Marines.

...Tyler Schultz, grandson of Gene and Betty Schultz, who is in the U.S. Air Force.

...Brister Bishop, son of Wade and Ruth Bishop, who is in the U.S. Navy.

#### **Friends Who Pray Together**



Studies show that religion and happiness are linked. But faithful church attendance may not be enough: In a large survey, those

most likely to rate their life satisfaction as a perfect 10 went to services weekly and saw close friends there. Church regulars without pals in the pews didn't see the boost - they were less satisfied than infrequent attendees with friends, says study head Chaeyoon Lim, Ph.D., of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. So go to service, by all means-but don't skip coffee hour.

**Discover 1st  
Sundays in June  
Lunch and Overview  
Sunday, June 5th  
11:00 in the Fellowship Hall**

The Messenger  
2301 15th St., Gulfport, MS 39501

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Email: andy@fumc-gulfport.org  
Hope Morgan Ward – Bishop  
William T. McAlilly – District Superintendent  
Andy Johnson – Pastor

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We're on the Web!  
[www.fumc-gulfport.org](http://www.fumc-gulfport.org)

### Gifts Given

In honor of our FUMC Graduating Seniors  
Given by Barby White

In honor of Andy Johnson  
Given by Jane Anderson

In honor of David Delk  
Given by Jane Anderson

In loving memory of Thames Lloyd  
Given by Jane Anderson

In loving memory of Dorothy Thompson  
Given by Emily Robinson

In loving memory of Rose and Dave Epperson  
Given by Cynthia and David Epperson



*Christian Book Club:* The next meeting is Tuesday, June 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Frank and Christy Moseley, 2576 Brighton Circle, Biloxi. The book that will be discussed is "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. You are welcome and invited to attend.

Gulfport First – Our Legacy of Love  
Memorial gifts to your church  
meet two important needs at once.

- (A) They allow you to express your feelings at the loss of a loved one.
- (B) Your gift to your church helps support its mission and ministry.

# DISCOVER FIRST

Discover First is a 4-week orientation to the life and ministries at First United Methodist Church – Gulfport. Based on our model of Discipleship, the sessions will cover the Pillars of Worship, Service and Formation.

The series begins on June 5 with  
lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00  
Continues on June 12, 19 & 26  
Location: Fellowship Hall  
Sunday mornings at 10:45  
Contact: George East, 864-7566