

# The Messenger

A Monthly Publication by  
First United Methodist Church of Lutz  
No. 133 - March 2020



**Create in me a clean heart,  
O God, and  
renew a right spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:10**

SERVICE TIMES

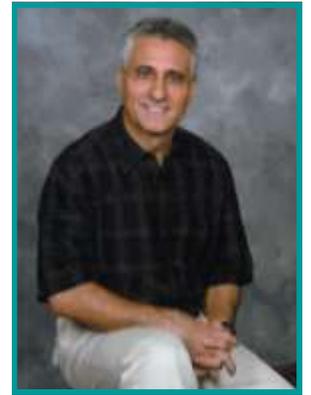
8:00 AM - Chapel

9:45 AM - Blended

11:30 AM - Contemporary

# A Word From Pastor Rick

March 2020



## To The Ends of the Earth

Dear Church Family,

**Many people do not realize John Wesley's heart for missions. He tried coming from England,** early in his ministry, as a missionary to help the Indians in Savannah Georgia, though he did not feel successful. In an article by Paul Lawler, he reminds us that Thomas Coke, the first Methodist bishop, is considered the father of Methodist missions. Filled with affection for Jesus and His gospel, Coke died while on his way to share Christ with people in India. Coke is also credited with pioneering the sharing of the Gospel to islands in the West Indies, Sierra Leone, Nova Scotia, Ireland, and France. **In light of Coke's legacy, many overlook how the Great Commission was a part of Methodism's** originating impulses. Christianity eventually spread like wildfire across the untamed land that would eventually make up the US through the leadership of Francis Asbury, one of Wesley's appointed leaders.



He explains that it was Dr. George Hunter who once said, "There was a time when we Methodists would say with John Wesley, 'The world is my parish.' Today, we far too often say, 'The parish is my world.'" There is a general discomfort with the challenge to world missions. Contrary to the great commission, too many of us are content to keep the gospel at home and to ourselves. Jesus' teachings and the Great Commission (Mt 28:19-20) do not permit that. Terry Law, a great evangelist used to say, "Nobody deserves to hear the gospel twice until everybody hears it once." The great commission calls us to the ends of the earth. Jesus offers us the power of the Holy Spirit to help us reach our world for Christ in Acts 1:8, which says, **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my**

witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." As your Pastor, while I have tried, I have not done nearly enough to help others develop world vision. May God help all of us to open our eyes.

**I hope our church's passion for missions grows and grows. It is part of our calling, and we must keep our hearts open.** Rejoice when you hear messages about missions. Pray for missionaries. Support missions. Be willing to become personally involved.

And, please remember to pray for the team of 14 who are headed to communist Cuba, representing our church again: Shawn Alvelo, Charlie Bordelon, Jordan Bordelon, Lynn Bordelon, Sarah Bordelon, Rick Cabot, Vicki Cabot, Sherry Craig, Dianne Dent, Nancy Gray, Ed Owen, Jackson Vorhees, Kirby Vorhees, & Tim Vorhees

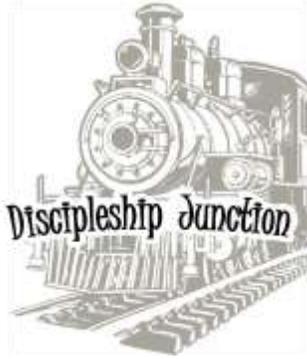
As Always, You Are Loved,

*Pastor Rick*

# Discipleship Opportunities

11:00 EARLY Start Time for Discipleship Junction, 04/05 Each Palm Sunday, during our 11:30 elementary children's Sunday School hour, the kids participate in a Seder Meal.

It's a tremendous learning experience that they look forward to each year. As part of our Drama unit for the Easter month, we don our first century costumes, welcome Jesus into the city and then "zoom ahead" four days to the Last Supper.



Again this year, we are having them make the Unleavened Bread for the Seder. In order to pull this off though, we'll need to start Discipleship Junction at 11:00 for this one week only. Most kids are here for both BIG House (9:45 hour class) and Discipleship Junction so there's no need to worry; but, if your child comes to just DJ, please have them here by 11:00 on the 5th so that they can enjoy this extra-special element of our Seder Meal.

## JELLYBEAN JAMBOREE

Just behind VBS, our JellyBean Jamboree is our 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Children's Outreach event each year! Your help is VERY MUCH

needed - everything from candy donations to helping with **games to serving food to "hiding" eggs!** Our Sign-Up Board will soon be located in the lobby and our LifeSaver Candy Collection bin will be out beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>!

In March, our 1st thru 4th grade Kids will be studying the story of Creation! Our BIG House special guest, Professor Tesla, will introduce our Creation Day each week with one of his wacky experiments!



meets during the 9:45 Worship Hour

meets during the 11:30 Worship Hour

### CURRENT DISCIPLESHIP OFFERINGS

Wilderness, Salvation and Grace

**Builder's Class, Sun 9:14am in the Conference Room**

Facilitated by various class members

The Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament

Sisters In Christ, Sun 9:45am in Rm #304

Facilitated by Shira Martin

The Book of 1st John

Kingdom Men, Sun 9:45am in Rm #301

Facilitated by Ryan Martin

The 5 Love Languages

Heart to Heart, Married Couples, Sun 9:45 in Rm #104

Facilitated by Dan & Rebecca Lehman

#### The Devil's Influences

Wisdom Seekers, Sun 11:30 am in Rm #301

Facilitated by Sandy Stack

Women of the Bible

Women of Faith Bible Study,

Monday PM, 7pm @ The Lockharts

Risen

WAM! (Wednesday AM), 10am

facilitated by Sandy Stack

## VBS Time is ALMOST Here!



July 13 - 17<sup>th</sup>

8:45 - noon

(doors open at 8:30)

FREE EVENT

Ages: (potty-trained) 3yrs thru (rising) 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Registration Opens Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>

Volunteer meetings to be announced soon!

Church History

Wednesday, 7pm in the Fellowship Area

facilitated by Frank Hearne & Deb Mucha

Life & Theology of Paul

Wednesdays, 7pm in Rm #303

facilitated by Bob Brittain

Financial Peace University

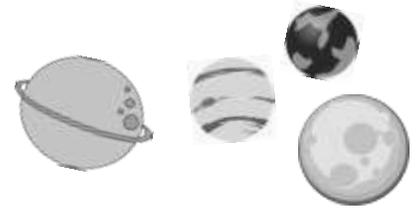
Wednesdays, 7pm in Rm #301

Facilitated by John Lockhart



# 'Tween Corner

A ministry designed specifically for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.



9:45 AM, Room #302



On Sunday mornings, our 'Tweens are studying God's big story - the Bible! Through an engaging and hands-on program, we will cover from Genesis to Revelation. Come and join us!

Join in on the fun



Sunday School

9:45 Sunday Mornings  
Room #302 - Matt Sargent

Planet56

Friday, March 13th! - TBA

Wednesday Night

7 - 8:15pm Wednesday Nights,  
Teachers: Ashley Booth, Lauren Johnston - Room #302



## March News

### Sunday Night Youth

March Series: Community  
5-7 PM, Group Games, Group Fun  
Group Discussions

John 13:35

*"By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Wednesday Night FUEL:

March Series:  
Community Digging Deeper  
7-8:15pm  
Bring Your Bibles  
Small Group Atmosphere!  
Fun, Challenging and Life Impacting

### EVENTS

Wonder Walk

Saturday, March 7th  
Meet here at the church at 7:30am  
Return 1:00pm  
Lunch Included

**Mystery Event**

Sunday, March 15th  
5 to 8 PM  
(This event will be off campus)

**Passion Camp \$50.00 Deposit  
Due, Sunday Night - March 1st**



# Church News

**“...Your face, Lord, I will seek.” Psalm 27:8**



Wonder Walk for Cornerstone Family Ministries  
Hyde Park UMC located at 500 W Platt Street  
THIS WEEKEND, Saturday, March 7 \*\* 8:00 AM - Noon  
Please walk and get sponsors, or sponsor one of your favorite kids in our Youth program! Give Matt, our Youth Director, a call today for more information (813) 949-1751 x230.

Cornerstone Family Ministries serves nearly 20,000 children from families who live at or below the poverty level each year. Through our sponsorship of 160 early childhood learning centers, these children receive nutritious meals, early childhood education, and connections to local churches. Wonder Walk specifically raises scholarships for the most needy children we serve at our Rosa Valdez Early Childhood Learning Center and Lab School. In existence for over 120 years, the Center provides each child an accredited early childhood education, regular developmental assessments, three nutritious meals a day, and the love of Christ shared through a loving and compassionate team of staff and volunteers. In addition, each classroom is led by an experienced, degreed and credentialed early childhood educator who loves the Lord and wants to share the good news of that love with the children and early childhood education interns working in their classroom every day.

### Cuba Mission Trip Update March 13 thru 21, 2020

Please keep our Cuba Team in your prayers as they travel to and from our Sister Church in El Bon, Cuba, and pray that everything makes it through Customs in Havana (which will be stricter yet):

- A million thanks to all who gave toward the Cuba Mission Trip needs! We know the Lord will bless you back a hundred-fold for helping to meet their needs!
- Donut Success! On behalf of The Youth Ministry **Department, we want to say a BIG “thank you” for taking part in the Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser.** We raised \$665 to go towards the ministry of the Cuban teens. Thank you for investing in their lives! They are on FIRE for our Lord, and your love will help them to grow in their spiritual walk! They will rise up to be the next generation of Christians, leading others to Christ. THANK YOU!

### Lenten Prayer Nook

Each Wednesday, from 6:30 to 8 PM, you are invited to come and pray in our specially designed Prayer Nook located in the southwest corner of the Sanctuary. Come for as long as you

like for a self-guided time of prayer. There will be prayer requests submitted by others that you can pray over, and you can write a prayer request(s) of your own.

### **Easter’s Around the Corner & We Need Your Help**

(Questions? Please contact the church office.)

Volunteers for Various Areas of Ministry: Roman soldiers at the crucifixion; Roman soldiers to guard the tomb; Ushers for Seder, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise Service.

Easter Flowers: Live lilies and begonias are used to decorate the church for Easter. You may purchase and dedicate flowers to a loved one for just \$7.50 each. Plants may be taken home after the last service on Easter Sunday. Easter Flower envelopes can be found on the Usher Table in the back of the Sanctuary (place in offering plate or turn in to the office).

Calling all Prayer Warriors: Church, we need your prayers for our Jellybean Jamboree outreach. We believe that one of **God’s greatest desires is to reach families in our community** who do not yet know Him. Please pray:

- That all who attend will see/feel the true meaning of Easter
- That God will have His way in this event
- **For God’s protection, wisdom, and good weather**
- That unchurched children will attend, hear the gospel, and receive Christ
- Door Prizes Needed - If you can donate a door prize (i.e., **art projects kits, Lego building sets, small child’s ride-on toy, etc.**), please drop off in Janell’s office, Room #106.

### Art Class \*\* March 7th, at 1 PM

Our next FREE Art Class will be held on Saturday, March 7th, from 1 to 2:30 PM. As always, you are encouraged to bring your friends, but please RSVP to Lynne at [klzbrown@gmail.com](mailto:klzbrown@gmail.com) so she’ll know how many to prepare for.

### Church-Wide Workday - Saturday, March 28th 8 AM to 1 PM \*\* Lunch Provided

The more, the merrier! Come and help us spruce up our **church campus in time for Easter! We’ll be pressure washing, painting inside, light bulb changing, preparing the parsonage backyard for our Easter morning service and beautifying our landscape outside.** If you have a pole saw to reach high limbs with, please bring it with you. Afterwards, we will enjoy a fantastic time of breaking bread together over lunch, which will be provided! Questions? Call Ryan at (813) 205-8077. Hope to see you there, and we thank you, in advance.

Movie Night \*\* March 20th, at 7:11 PM

Come at 6:45, with finger foods to share, and socialize before the movie. Movie begins at 7:11. Free drinks and popcorn provided. FMI, call Vicki Apple at (813) 949-1751, x221. See you there!

### Prayer Ministry

**Did you know there's a team of Prayer Warriors waiting to pray for and with you? Here's how to submit prayer requests:**

- Write them & place them in the Prayer Box on the Usher Table in the back of the Sanctuary, or
- E-mail them to prayer4first@gmail.com, or
- Call the church office at 949-1751, or
- Submit them on our website: <http://www.fantasticfirst.org/prayer>.

Please send updates and praise reports to Christine (757.608.8539) or Natalie (813.382.0594).

Our Heartfelt Condolences are Extended To Carrie Burdette Chambers on the loss of her husband of 20 years, Dwayne Chambers.

**This 'n That** - Join the fun!

FMI = For More Information

Business Connections: Mike Apple has compiled a booklet of business owners who are members of our church, in the form of a directory. You can find them on the black shelving unit in the lobby. If your business information is missing and **you'd like to be included, drop off your business card in the church office.**

Christian Social Services provides food for the needy in our community. Our March emphasis is boxed pasta meals (e.g. Mac & Cheese, etc); however, any and all donations are gladly accepted. Please place them in the brown bins by the front entrance. Thanks!

Dinner Club: Be grouped up with others from our church to share a meal together once a month. Groups are automatically reassigned a couple of times a year. Contact Darryln to sign up at (813) 949-2181 or Lexie at (813) 920-9305.

Drama Team: If you are interested in being a part of the drama team, please contact Alyssia Clark at (215) 906-8913. Speaking, non-speaking and behind-the-scenes parts are available. They rehearse at 1 PM on Sundays prior to a performance.

Help With Homework is a free outreach program to help kids of all ages with their homework (follows the Hillsborough County School calendar). FMI, contact Bill at (813) 949-4390.

Homeless Ministry: Please continue bringing in travel-sized toiletries to be distributed to those in need (place in basket on the black shelving unit in the lobby).

Hospitality Ministry: **If you'd like to serve once a month as a greeter, usher, or welcome desk greeter, please contact the church office, and we'll connect you with the appropriate**

leader.

Kitchen Crew: **If you'd like to be a part of the Kitchen Crew** to serve one Sunday per month helping to prepare, set out, and serve our Sunday morning fellowship hour goodies, then call Sharon at (813) 949-6420.

**Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast** meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, 7:30 AM, in the Gathering Room. FMI, call Paul at (813) 949-5771.

**Men's Small Group Study** meets at the church on Thursdays, from 7 to 8 PM. FMI, call John at (813) 787-1098.

Online Giving: Did you know that you can give online? E-Giving is available at [fantasticfirst.org](http://fantasticfirst.org). FMI, call Vicki Apple at (813) 949-1751.

Year-**Round "Shoebox" Collections:** Each month, we collect specific donations (you can drop them in the big shoebox at the back of the sanctuary). At the end of the year, we pack boxes with these items. **This month's emphasis is: Soaps, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, floss, washcloths** (no glue or toothpaste, please).

Sew & Sow teaches boys & girls how to **"sew"**, then they use their talents to **"sow"** by serving others with their talents. They meet the last Friday of every month, 5 to 8 PM. Bring \$5 for pizza!!! FMI, contact Chris Giordano at 813-838-5748 or email her at [ncgiordano@verizon.net](mailto:ncgiordano@verizon.net).

Snowbirds: Thank you for letting the church office know when **you're flying north. This helps us keep our mailing list up-to-date, and we save money on return and forwarding postage.**

WAM! (Wednesday AM) Bible Study meets Wednesdays, at 10 AM, in the Gathering Room. FMI, call Sandy at (813) 973-2070 or Betty at (813) 767-3532.

Women of Faith Fellowship Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7 PM, in the Gathering Room. FMI, call Susan at (813) 977-1371.

Youth Group: Making Champions for Christ! FMI, call Matt Sargent, our Youth Director, at (813) 370-8360 (see Page 4 for current schedule).

### Worship Arts Department of Fantastic First

If God has blessed you with talent and you would like to use it in worship to Him and in leading others into worship, then please join us. E-mail Cliff, our Worship Arts Director, at [cliff@fantasticfirst.org](mailto:cliff@fantasticfirst.org) to learn more about joining any of these

**groups. There's something for everyone! Come join the fun!**

Worship Arts Offerings: **Children's Choir, Grades 1 thru 6,** Thursdays, 5:30 to 7 PM, Orchestra (all ages) - Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Handbell Choir - Tuesdays, 7 PM, Adult Choir - Thursdays, 7:15 PM.

Also Available: Small Ensembles - Trios, Quartets, etc., Drama - Help bring the message to life, Tech Team - Sound, Video & Lighting, Praise Band - Contemporary Worship

### Congratulations To

**Mike Avent** on becoming proud Grandpa to **Mason Alexander Brown**, born to his youngest daughter on June 14,

2019, weighing in at 8 lbs, 21-1/2 inches! Welcome to our world, Baby Mason! **Dennis & Deb Mucha** on becoming proud grandparents again!!! Their daughter, Hayley, gave birth to **Meredith Malaika Grace Ceallaigh** on Feb. 22nd. Baby weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz. Malaika (Ma-like'-a) is a Swahili word that means "angel". Hayley, husband Wayne and sons Lucas and Ameaus are so excited!



Mason Brown



Meredith Ceallaigh

**Carrie Burdette Chambers** on the birth of her granddaughter, **Delilah Grace**, born on January 16, 2020! She weighed in at 7 lbs. **4 oz, and 20" inches long. Welcome to our world, baby Delilah!**

**Emmalyn Dunn** and her heifer (Beckham, who weighed in at 1,518 lbs) on winning Reserve Grand Champion at the Pasco County Fair!!! Hard work pays off!



Emmalyn Dunn (2nd from the right) & Beck



Office Sweethearts Rebeca, Jeanne, Mike, Kirsten, Lexie & Sharran

### Office Sweetheart Luncheon

The Vickis, Pastor Rick and our Office Sweethearts had fun and enjoyed a delicious meal at **Vallarta's Mexican Restaurant** in Odessa! Thanks, again, to ALL of our Sweethearts (many of whom couldn't join us that day). We couldn't do what we do in ministry for our Lord without all of your help. You are loved and oh-so appreciated!



Byron & Bonnie Westfall

### So Long, Farewell

Sad "goodbyes" to **Byron & Bonnie Westfall**, who will be moving to Texas. Bonnie has served faithfully at the Welcome Desk for many, many years! We wish them well, and praise God for the time we were blessed to have them in our lives here at Fantastic First! They said, **"This will be a bittersweet move.**

There is so much we shall miss and so many people. Love, **Bonnie and Byron."** **On Sunday, March 8th, Bonnie will be at the Welcome Desk one last time. Please stop by to wish them well.**

### March - Volunteer of the Month

The United Methodist Men are pleased to announce that **Lauren Johnston** has been chosen as our Volunteer of the Month for March! Lauren has been a member since she was 12, when she joined after taking Confirmation Class here at Fantastic First. She may be just 19 years of age, but that **doesn't stop this young lady! Lauren has been developing into a natural Christian leader from a very young age. Christ's love just overflows from her life.** For many years she, as a youth, volunteered her time in many ways and always with a bright smile and joyful heart!



Lauren Johnston

Here are just some of the ways Lauren serves (or has served) here at Fantastic First: She helped with a variety of events, such as serving during our Seder Celebration and other church events with meals. She has also helped **with the Ladies' Tea event. She** volunteered to help with special fundraisers and has worked helping seniors with special needs around their home. She volunteered to go on Youth Mission Trips to Canton, Nashville, New Orleans and Kentucky. As a college student (soon to be a senior at USF), Lauren volunteers with the Tween ministry on Wednesday nights, helping Matt. She has always demonstrated a heart for helping and serving and has developed a passion for the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) mission trips. Lauren was crazy enough to wear a giant shoebox just to help promote our church-wide collection efforts. Additionally, she coordinates all of the donated gifts and helps orchestrate our OCC craft events, as well as helping to facilitate our annual Packing Parties for this outstanding mission and ministry. With everything else that Lauren has going, she also finds time to help regularly with the nursery ministry at church. Lauren was a key helper in what was one of **our church's ministries which regularly touched many families with the love of Jesus - Parents Night Out.** She has also helped a great deal with Vacation Bible School.

Lauren, this is an awesome Christian service resume for anyone - especially someone so young. You have a maturity beyond your years, and we are so proud of your resilient faith. Your faithfulness has touched the heart of God and inspired us all at First Lutz. Thank you, Lauren, for your commitment to Christ and to your church family. You are loved!

# First United Methodist Church of Lutz

960 West Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, FL 33548

(813) 949-1751

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## Return Service Requested

### March 2020

Sent with love and a prayer to:



## Easter's Around the Corner

Get your costumes ready, & help us tell the Easter story!

Palm Sunday - 4/5

Seder - 4/9

Good Friday - 4/10

Jellybean Jamboree - 4/11

Easter - 4/12

**EASTER...**  
THE WEEKEND THAT SAVED  
THE WHOLE WORLD