



# The Pipeline

## First United Methodist Church Port Neches

MISSION: To know God and to make God known

### FROM THE PASTOR



#### CHURCH STAFF

##### **Pastor**

Rev. Curtis Matthys  
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##### **Secretary**

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##### **Financial Secretary**

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##### **Mother's Day Out/ Children's Director**

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##### **Pianist/Organist**

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##### **Custodian**

Zachary Lege'

*Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread. While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"*  
Luke 24:35-36 (CEB)

Christian worship is filled with profound actions: heads bowed in prayer, arms raised in praise, standing in reverence during a Scripture reading, coming forward to give an offering. One ancient and significant gesture in worship is the passing of the peace. Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains our hearts, hands, and tongues in the ways of peace.

From the beginning Christians have exercised this practice. "Peace be with you" is a greeting Jesus himself used with his disciples (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26). The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words "Grace and peace be with you" (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2).

Today in many congregations we pass the peace during a mutual greeting, after words of assurance, or prior to celebrating the Lord's Supper. At these times we leave the comfort of our seat, turn to our neighbors, grasp their hands, and speak the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you" and receive the words in turn, "And also with you."

The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21). What's more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21). Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God's call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

Admittedly, passing the peace lasts only a moment, and it's possible to participate without intention. Some may question the sincerity of our words and doubt the value of such a humble gesture.

It's important at the same time to recognize the cumulative impact of weekly passing of the peace. By regularly practicing this gesture, our hearts are shaped in the form of the words. Consider the daily practice of training toddlers to say "please" and "thank you." Though at the beginning the toddler mechanically repeats the words, eventually their heart fills the words with grace and gratitude; indeed, their heart is shaped in the form of "please" and "thank you." In the same way, passing the peace gives us the vocabulary for expressing peace as we mature in faith and, in fact, shapes our hearts and minds in the form of peace.

Still, passing the peace feels strange to many United Methodist. The phrase rolls clumsily from our tongues. It seems to wear better on Catholics, Episcopalians, or "liturgical types." It's not surprising then, that many churches have abandoned the practice, opting instead for a more colloquial, "Hi, how are you?" "I'm fine, thanks."

My hope is that passing the peace dares us to move beyond ourselves—our interests, our concerns—and create Christ-like community with others. It is the practicing of "a communal way of life framed by Christ's peace" that makes this gesture so significant.

All things considered, perhaps, our anxiety over passing the peace is simply embarrassment. It's kind of weird. We fumble the words. It moves us outside our comfort zone. In that case, what may be needed most when passing the peace is generous hospitality. While I acknowledge that it might feel strange, some of you will be relieved to be free from having to make small talk!

As we practice passing the peace I want you to consider these questions. How could the same hand that embraces the frail hand of the elderly, the shaking hand of the sick, the tentative hand of the introvert, the rough hand of a laborer, or the soft hand of a little child ever leave us at odds with our brothers and sisters in Christ? Could the hand that is regularly trained in worship to extend peace become a cause of reconciliation? This is the possibility that a simple gesture on Sunday gives us.

The peace of the Lord be with you,  
Pastor Curtis

Click here to learn more  
[Chuck knows Church](#)

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## CHURCH MEMBERS

Paul Aguiard	Ann Prouse
Stephanie Andrews	Rob Rector IV
Amy Boneau	Ruth & Troy Reynolds
Donna Clifton	Janet Sanders
Don Cribbs	Bonnie Snelson
Chuck DuBois	Global church
Cookie Felps	
Joan Girolamo	
Travis Guidry	

## FAMILY MEMBERS

Bob Atchley	Linda Makelki
Jaimie Daws	Bryan Matts
Janet Duncan	Mark Pittman
Candice Franklin	Amy Read
Jane Frazier	Maurine Roberts
Ruth Garner	Tookie Schamber
Brenda Guidry	Mary Ann Sigur
Merri Haley	Ted Tudor, Jr.
Gail Hamilton	Susan Youngblood
Betty & Fred Hogg	
<b>Family of Michael Leger</b>	

## ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME

Kathleen Bobbitt	Gwen Park
<b>Lorene Broussard</b>	Betty Ragan
Mitzi Griggs	Ted & Beverly Tudor
Shirley Hurd	
Larry McFatter	

## FRIENDS

Brenda Acord	Sue & Venix Morris
<b>Sherry Baker</b>	Jared O'Neill
Rachel Benoit	Tom O'Neill
Wanda Bienvenue	Peloquin family
Aaron Broussard	David Patrick
Alison Clary	<b>Family of Doug Rathgurber</b>
Dee Culpepper	Mike Rhodes
Linda Denzlinger	Roggenkamp family
Jada Gentile	Robert Seymour
Ricky Hagler	Spikes Sturdivant
Rachel Hall	Dodie Taubert
Betty Healin	Mike Trahan
Jason Jeanese	Andrea Turner
Rick Kolander	Shanda & Jamie Vincent
Natalie Laws	Carly Walker
Tabatha LeBeouf	Wesley Welborn
Carl Lewis	Susan White
Jon Lindenberger	Ginger Williams
Terry Lloyd	Lisa Wooden
Carol Loupe	
Dom Mars	

## MILITARY

John Alexander	Kevin Knippa
Ed Andrews III	Eddie Pierce
Stephanie Andrews	Jonathan Welborn
Dalton Celusta	Eric Youngblood
Tommy English	Military Families
Brian Howard	
Travis Johnson	

## HOMEBOUND

Freddie Cotten	Janearle Turner
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A very special **Thank You** to everyone for our Christmas gifts. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring congregation. It's a wonderful family and it's a joy to be here! We truly appreciate your generosity.

With love,  
Pastor Curtis, Gwen, Robert, Misty, Allenda, Zachary,  
Adam, Brittany, Keith, and Christy



We will be taking down the Christmas decorations this **Thursday, January 10, at 10 am.** If you are available to help, please join us - the more, the merrier!

**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019**  
On **Sunday, January 20** all members will be consecrated during each service. Please plan to attend either the 8:50am or 11am service.

HELP...I had a cloth basket with candy in it on the table with the basket of peppermint near the fellowship hall. This basket was given to me as a gift. If you know what happened to it please let me know.  
Thank you,  
Pam Coffman

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**February 17**  
**5:30 pm**  
**in the hall.**  
We will have a covered dish dinner, along with a **FOOD AUCTION!** If you have never been to this event, get ready to have a really fun time.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Jan 10, 10am:**  
Removal of the Greens

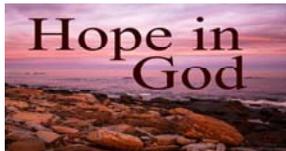
**Jan 15**  
**5:30 pm:** Trustees-choir room  
**6:30 pm:** Finance-choir room  
**6:30 pm:** Promises-parlor

**Jan 21**  
**Church Offices Closed**  
**Martin L. King Day**

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT**

**Sunday, January 27th**  
**from 2 pm - 6 pm**  
**at Wesley UMC, Beaumont**

**All Laity & Clergy are encouraged to attend!**



# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## ACOLYTE TRAINING

All 1st through 8th graders interested in serving as an acolyte are invited To the one-day training on **January 13, 2019**, from **2:00-3:00 pm** In the sanctuary.

All trainees will be given instruction and will have the opportunity To practice lighting and extinguishing the altar candles. Those who Are presently serving are also welcome to come.

Please see Donna L. Lumpkin (or call/text 409.201.9106; or email ledonna@swbell.net) if your child is interested. Applications Can be completed at the training. Those receiving this training will Begin serving in February. This is a vital ministry of our church And we welcome your child's participation.

Our youth are deeply appreciative of the snacks and drinks, meals and great support from our Church. If members would, we would love to be considered for donations of small bottle individual Gatorade drinks, soft drinks, bottled water, individually wrapped snacks and sweets, chips and dips, or homemade snacks and food! For more information please contact Roxanne at [rsmithparks@msn.com](mailto:rsmithparks@msn.com).

## C.L.I.C.K.



### C.L.I.C.K.

(Christ Lives in Christian Kids)

**Free—Everyone Welcome—Snacks provided**

Kids in Kindergarten thru 5th grade learn through art, creative cooking, and science experiments.

**Wednesdays from 6-7 pm in the Children's Building  
BEGINNING JANUARY 9TH.**

## Story Hour Is back!

If you have not signed up to help, please consider doing so. You'll have a great time with our kiddos learning about Jesus. Sign up sheet is in the hallway across from the coffee area.

Story Hour is provided during the early service for children *ages 3 years through 2nd grade.*

The children are provided a structured activity in the Children's Building following the Children's Moment.



Story Hour

**UMW MONTHLY  
FOOD DRIVE**  
for Community Care  
& Prayer

The items for February 3:

**FRUIT SNACKS  
TUNA**

# PRESENCE

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

Sunday School .....	56
8:50 am Praise Service .....	66
11 am Traditional Service.....	54
Worship Total .....	120



## GIFTS

**December 23  
Offering**

Sys. Contrib.	\$8599.00
Vanco	2825.00
Loose Plate	<u>51.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,475.00</b>

**Dec 24-30  
Offering**

Meth Children's	\$1232.00
Sys. Contrib.	2280.00
Vanco	1320.00
Loose Plate	<u>65.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4897.00</b>

**Dec 31-Jan 6  
Offering**

Sys. Contrib.	5305.00
Vanco	2035.00
Loose Plate	<u>68.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7408.00</b>

## SERVICE

**January 13, 2019**

Greeters  
Fidelis Class

Children's Sermon  
Pastor Curtis

Story Hour  
Betty Wienert

# YOUTH NEWS

For I know  
the plans  
I have for you,"  
declares the LORD,  
"plans to  
prosper you  
and not to  
harm you,  
plans to  
give you hope  
and a future.

*Jeremiah 29:11  
(NIV)*

## **J29—Youth Ministry Wednesdays**

**6:15 pm** J29 Youth (6th-12th grade)

## **4th Sundays**

**3-4:30 pm** Big 4:5 (4th & 5th Grades)  
**4-6 pm** J29 Sr High (9th - 12th Grades)

Misty Cohrt-Youth Director  
(409) 656-7800  
youth@fumcportneches.org

know GOD ...  
make GOD known



## **First Sunday After Epiphany January 13, 2019**

### **LECTIONARY READINGS**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29 UMH 761  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

### **SUNDAY, January 13**

**8:50 am Praise & Worship**  
**10 am Sunday School**  
**11 am Traditional Worship**

### **MONDAY, January 14**

**9-11 am Disciple study-Asbury**  
**6 pm Cub Scouts-CB**  
**7-9 pm Disciple study-Asbury**

### **TUESDAY, January 15**

**9 am-2 pm MDO**  
**10 am Loose Threads**  
**5:30 pm Trustees-choir room**  
**6:30 pm Finance-choir room**  
**6:30 pm Promises-parlor**

### **WEDNESDAY, January 16**

**6 pm C.L.I.C.K.**  
**6 pm J29 Youth**  
**7 pm Chancel Choir**

### **THURSDAY, January 17**

**9 am-2 pm MDO**

### **SUNDAY, January 20**

**8:50 am Praise & Worship**  
**10 am Sunday School**  
**11 am Traditional Worship**

To receive reminders, ministry news, weather cancellations,  
& more simply text @fumcpn to the phone number 81010.