

THE WAVE



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FEBRUARY 2016

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Beginning February 14... John: The Gospel of Light & Life

Take a closer look at the book of John, as presented in Adam Hamilton's newest book, **John: The Gospel of Light and Life**. The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels and includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in all the Bible: *And the Word became flesh, For God so loved the world, You who are without sin cast the first stone, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.* This gospel is filled with rich images and profound truths but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name.”

Books are now available, and many small groups will be participating in this study as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Easter. Join a small group, or start a new group. Contact **Dotty Rashba** at dotty.rashba@pv-umc.org with questions.

Ash Wednesday, February 10



Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which the pastor applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians. The ashes remind us of the most bitter fruit of our sin: death. We are also reminded of our need to repent (turn from sin and toward God) and to receive the good news that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for sin. We will offer a traditional Lenten service at **7:00pm** on **Wednesday, February 10**.

Upcoming Messages

– *Conclude God & Your Resolution message series* –

February 7 **Fall in Love**

– *Begin John: The Gospel of Light & Life message series* –

February 14 **Becoming Christ's Apprentice** (John 1:29-42)

February 21 **“I See,” Said the Blind Man** (John 9:1-12)

February 28 **“I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life”** (John 14:1-14)

OUR MISSION:

Making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist Church

Missions Corner

Family Promise News

Our church is hosting three families who have found themselves without a home. If you see someone unfamiliar while you're at choir, your small group or during worship, please welcome them and say hello. Volunteers will be staying with them each night and providing evening meals and weekend breakfasts. What a beautiful way to use our church home to serve others!

New Ponte Vedra T-shirts



"Ponte Vedra Runners" T-shirts will be available **Sunday, February 21!**

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home News

Ponte Vedra UMC will make its **annual trip to The Florida United Methodist Children's Home** in Enterprise on **April 2-3**. We are looking for six women and six men. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact **George Garcia**, george.garcia@pv-umc.org, 904-707-2800 for more information.

Sweaters and Jackets for School Kids



Webster Elementary School is in desperate need of warm sweaters and jackets, particularly Youth Size Large. If you have any gently used clothing items that could benefit these children in need, please leave them in the Children's Clothing Donation Bin in the future pre-school room or contact **Sharon Kehoe** at sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org.

A Note from St. Francis House...

To our friends at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church:

Just wanted to thank you for all the delicious meals you prepared for our residents at St. Francis House! More than a "chef's nite out" your dinners bring a flavorful new menu, blended with kindness and smiles.

Our special thanks to **Cooper Agent** and his culinary comrades who coordinate these wonderful meals. We are often blessed by **Lanny Benson**, **Sue Morris** and others from your congregation, also.

The gift of their time is priceless, but their kindness has very measurable results.

We truly appreciate you!

Karen Lundquist

Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator

Ponte Vedra UMC Prayer Group

The Upper Room Prayer Group meets **every Tuesday** at **10:00am** upstairs in Room 207. There are anywhere from five to seven people who pray for the prayer requests received from the previous Sunday prayer cards. We pray for national and international concerns and for our own friends and families. We welcome you to join us for either one Tuesday morning or as a regular attendee. We also welcome your prayer requests at any time and they can be submitted to Susan Bowler, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org, 280-5141 during office hours and they will be sent out online to all of the e-pray-ers. If you have a prayer request when the office is not open, you may go to www.pv-umc.org, pull down the ministries, choose prayer request and type the request yourself.

John: The Gospel of Light Small Group Studies

Sunday Morning:

- 8:30am Early Questers Group, Room 205
Carolyn Skordas carolin.skordas@pv.umc.org
- 9:45am Discovery Group, Room 207
Davis and Karen Johnson
- 10:45am Cornerstone Class, Room 207
Barry Durden barry.durden@pv-umc.org
- 10:45am Andy and Rita Andreu, Room 205
Andy and Rita Andreu

Tuesday Night:

- 7:30pm Johnsons' Group Marsh Landing
Priscilla & Nelson nelson.johnson@pv-umc.org
- 7:00pm Traveling Tuesday Group Various Homes
Stephen Dorsey Stephen.Dorsey@pv-umc.org

Wednesday Night:

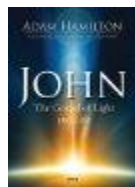
- 6:00pm Bill and Kelly Coggins, Room 207
Bill.coggins@pv-umc.org

Thursday:

- 8:00am Men's Group, Room 207
George Reed george.reed@pv-umc.org
- 10:00am Women's Group, Room 207
Lisa Middleton lisa.middleton@pv-umc.org

Saturday:

- 11:00am Saturday Group, Room 209
Scott Tinsley scott2.tinsley@pv-umc.org



You may purchase a for \$15 before and after each worship service in the foyer. Small groups are participating in this study as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Easter. Join a small group, or start your own with friends. Contact **Dotty Rashba** at dotty.rashba@pv-umc.org with questions.

February is National Name Tag Month



Do you have a PVUMC name tag? Are you wearing it? **If you don't have a name tag or yours has gone missing**, please request one by way of the Welcome Card on Sunday morning and by the end of the month it will appear on the name tag boards in the foyer. (You can leave it there each week or take it with you; up to you.) We all want to greet you by name so in honor of National Name Tag Month (yes, we're making that up), **request your name tag Sunday!** (Membership not required.)

Financial Status

General Fund Recap December 2015

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 121,043
Less Expenses	\$ 88,376
October Income/(Deficit)	\$ 32,668
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ (11,838)

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$5,057
Enhancement Fund	\$1,673
Memorials	\$2,515
Building Fund	\$226,228
Capital Reserves	\$32,901
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2016	\$ 15,260

January 2015 Giving, Attendance

Date	9:30 Attendance	11:00 Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
1/3	112	135	\$11,875	\$130	\$20
1/10	90	152	\$14,342	\$207	\$30
Connections	44				
1/17	112	134	\$12,828	\$6,100	\$2,925
1/24	145	147	\$12,204	\$471	\$49

Owed on Church Facility: \$1,707,740

Money Matters

Online Giving Now Available

You may now give online using **bank draft, debit, or credit card**. You may give on a one-time basis, or set up a recurring gift schedule. To avoid having the church pay debit/credit card merchant fees (2.75% - 3.50% of your gift) consider using the **free bill payer feature** available on most bank accounts. See pv-umc.org/give for details (with links) on these and other ways to give.

Ready to go to the online giving page? Scan this QR code with your smartphone:



PVUMC 2015 Financial Results

2015 has been another good year for Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. Along with numerous ministry and mission accomplishments, it's good to celebrate these money highlights of the year:

- (1) Receipt of over \$13,000 in our Christmas offering which went toward ministry partner Faithful Servant Missions' work in Panama and capital improvements at the Family Promise Jacksonville's headquarters at First United Methodist downtown
- (2) An extraordinarily successful spring capital campaign (\$213,000) to pay off the church parsonage and reduce the debt on the sanctuary building
- (3) The wonderful ministry and mission funded by faithful giving in support of the general budget and special missions giving. (10% of the general budget continues to go to work beyond ourselves.)

While we fell short of meeting expenses by \$11,800, this is not a big miss. We raised 98.6% of the money we spent. That said, we are reducing the 2016 budget in ways that will not impact our ministry. (The largest reduction is suspending extra principal payments on our debt.)

Following Jesus remains our focus at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. We continue our mission of making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Indeed, the first week of February will find us housing and serving three homeless families in our building through Family Promise. These families are on their way to self-sufficiency and we have a hand in that. God continues to seek to do new things through and among us!

United Methodist Women News

Our **United Methodist Women Recognition Sunday** will be **Sunday, February 14** at each worship service. You won't want to miss this special opportunity to recognize the women of the UMW and the many ministries they serve.



The UMW will have its first **Easter Bake Sale** Saturday, March 26 from 4:00 - 6:00pm. Our bake sale will coincide with the Easter Egg Hunt and block party. This is a perfect opportunity to pick up your Easter dinner dessert.

The Ponte Vedra chapter of the United Methodist Women is pleased to introduce to you a new project. We will be compiling a **church cook book!** We want our church family to search through their favorite recipes and if there is a special story or memory that goes with that recipe, write it down and we will include it! Specific dates for entrees and other details will be forth coming.

The **next UMW meeting** will be **Saturday, March 5 at 10:00am** upstairs in room 207. Our program will be a special Easter devotion. All ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to attend and bring a friend.

Lenten Prayer Service



New for the upcoming season of Lent: We are offering a **Lenten Prayer Service** each Wednesday at **7:00 beginning Wednesday, February 17**. This prayer opportunity will last 20 minutes or so. (Participating parents will be finished in time to pick up their children from C.I.A. and YCAM.) Meets in the sanctuary, front center section of seats.

Scout Sunday, February 21



Sunday, February 21 is Scout Sunday. To the children, youth and adults of our congregation who are involved in Scouting: **please wear your uniforms to church that day.** We want to honor you. We're delighted to be the charter organization for Scout Troop 288, Venture Crew 288 and Cub Pack 291. What's more, several girls and leaders of Girl Scout troops are a part of our church, as are Scouts and Cub Scouts in other units. We look forward to celebrating all scouts and their families as they join us in worship on the 21st!

Sunday Morning Snacks

The **snack calendar** is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the infant nursery. There are many Sundays available so please sign up and reserve the Sunday that has special meaning for you. Sunday morning snacks are available in the foyer from 10:30-11:00am and may be home made or purchased.

Men's Fellowship Chili Dinner, February 11

Thursday, February 11 at 6:00pm is more than just a chili dinner! Come learn a few secrets from **Rusty Russillo** before you hike the Appalachian Trail! Or... you can live out your inner explorer through his adventures! All men and boys are invited to attend this chili dinner and talk by Rusty. Please RSVP to Susan Bowler, 280-5141, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

Repentance frequently means an inward change, a change of mind from sin to holiness. But we now speak of it in a quite different sense, as it is one kind of self-knowledge: the knowing ourselves sinners, yea, guilty, helpless sinners, even though we know we are children of God.

– *Works I, 336.*



On A Musical Note

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Children's Corner

Kingdom Kids

Starting February 14 we will join the church wide study, *John: the Gospel of Light and Life*. Come join us at 9:30 or 11:00 as we explore through games, skits, crafts and more!

C.I.A. (Children In Action) Briefs

CIA is dividing into two groups beginning Wednesday, February 3.

CIA Juniors will be for children ages 5 through 2nd grade. CIA Seniors will be for children ages 3rd grade – 5th grade. Schedule is:

C.I.A. Juniors 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Brown Bag Dinner for all CIA 6pm – 6:30pm

C.I.A. Seniors 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Come join the action in February as we finish exploring **emotions** and how they bring us closer to God. Contact **Jenn Smith**, jenn.smith@pv-umc.org if you have any questions.

Save the date

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 13th through Friday, June 17th

Upcoming Events



Princess Tea Saturday, February 20 from 3:00 – 5:30pm. This event is for young ladies aged 3 years through 5th grade and their lady companions. Come dressed in your princess best for the occasion and be royally served by The United Methodist Women in the royal court! RSVP to Jenn Smith by February 15, 2016.

Tree Climbing Adventure on March 5, 2016 for all 5th graders – 7th graders. Join **Kelly Minter** and **Jenn Smith** as we head off to Gainesville for a day of fun in the trees! \$40.00 per participant. Contact Jenn Smith for more information.



Round Of Applause

- 👍 Our Renovation Team and Youth Ministry Leadership for completing the Quick Start Retreat January 30!
- 👍 Everyone who volunteered with our Nerf War Night
- 👍 The Connections Praise Band and the student leaders who helped make the *Connections* closing worship memorable!

NOTICE! We are **changing our Sunday night meeting times!** We will be meeting from **5:00 - 7pm** on Sunday evenings for dinner, games, announcements, and small groups. We will then have fellowship and recreation time from 7-7:30. Feel free to hang out after youth group, or head home at 7 and get ready for Monday!

Upcoming Events:

Sign up to Provide Sunday Night Dinners! A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to provide dinners this summer. We are currently signing up dinners from December through June! This is a great way to support our youth ministry! Contact Kelly if you want to sign up for this, or click this link! <http://tinyurl.com/jdtpbmu>

Tuesday Teen Bible Study We meet on Tuesdays at PVUMC from 4:30-5:30 in room 209. This bible study is for anyone in grades 6-12! Because of the release time for the high schools, any high school students who want to attend but need a ride should let Kelly know.

Busch Gardens Saturday, February 6. This is our annual outreach event! Bring your friends! We will travel to Tampa for a day of fun and fellowship at Busch Gardens! The total cost of the trip will be \$95/person. We will meet at PVUMC at 7AM, and will be leaving by 7:20. Please be on time, and remember to bring health forms for anyone who has not yet gone offsite with us in the 2015-2016 school year.

Dare to SPARK February 12-14. Join us in the annual youth leadership training event. This event is open to teens in all United Methodist churches in Florida, so this is a great opportunity to get to know other Christian teens, as well as be trained in student leadership. Total event cost is \$85, contact Kelly (kelly1.minter#pv-umc.org) if you are interested in going.

Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday, February 21 at 9:30AM. Any student who is grade 6 or older who wants to be part of this class, please contact Kelly (kelly1.minter@pv-umc.org) as soon as possible so we can order materials for you! Confirmation class involves weekly meetings through May, when we will confirm in front of our church. Confirmation Sunday is May 15. During our classes together we will learn central tenants of the Christian faith, as well as what it means to be United Methodist. This is a great opportunity, so sign up today!

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

How do you deal with disappointment? We all face disappointment, even heartbreak at times. We didn't get the job we wanted, there's a falling out in a relationship we treasure, someone close to us dies. These things happen, and it's hard when they do. **How do you deal with disappointment with the church?** I'm reading the book *Pastrix - The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* by Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. At her church's quarterly welcome event, after people have shared what drew them to the church, she shares the reality that

this community will disappoint them. It's a matter of when, not if. We will let them down or I'll say something stupid and hurt their feelings. I then invite them on this side of their inevitable disappointment to decide if they'll stick around after it happens. If they choose to leave when we don't meet their expectations, they won't get to see how the grace of God can come in and fill the holes left by our community's failure, and that's just too beautiful and too real to miss.

I'll raise the ante: **How do you deal with disappointment with God?** Granted, it's a different question since disappointment with God has everything to do with my expectations, nothing to do with God's failures, but it still comes down to, Will you choose to leave or stay to see the grace of God at work? Elsewhere Bolz-Weber writes, "We want to go to God for answers, but sometimes what we get is God's presence." May it be, for us, enough. – Pastor Jeff

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." – Lamentations 3:21-24



PONTE VEDRA United Methodist Church

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CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Teaching Pastor	David Moening
Arts & Spirituality Pastor	Donna Bowen
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Children's Minister	Jenn Smith
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Elisabeth Crumrine
Custodian	Jim McDonald

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