



The Beacon

A light of information & inspiration

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

260 SW Prima Vista Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
(772) 878-1155

Volume 66 No. 2
February 2025

Let Love Be Sincere

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:9-10

Dundo is a remote city in Angola, as far North East as you can go before entering into the Democratic Republic of Congo. When Icel, our middle daughter Amanda, and I, lived for one year in Angola (2009-2010), we were never able to travel to Dundo. At the time the roads were impassable, and police were everywhere and heavily armed in order to protect diamond mines. Such a trip would have been all but impossible.

But why would we have wanted to go there in the first place? It was precisely from this most inaccessible place that we had received the largest group of students at the orphanage in Quessua. People from Dundo (Lunda Norte Province) speak a different language than those in Quessua (Malange Province), as they belong to a different ethnic group, the Chokwe nation. Truth be told, we found persons in Malange who were not fond of the presence of Chokwe students among them. A decade earlier, Chokwes and Kimbundos (ethnic group in Malange) were fighting for opposing sides in the Angolan civil war (1975 – 2002). Resentments were still present between the two groups.

However, my family and I found the Chokwes to be fascinating persons. They had spent days on the road before arriving in Quessua, and were all so eager to study. They told us captivating stories about the native traditions they still maintain, the kind that would make you think that you were talking to someone from pre-Colonial Angolan times. Now, these were not frightening stories; these were practices of community support, mentoring of young ones, and life lived in closeness to nature. Eventually, the brightest from this group graduated with honors from the Quessua High School and went on to pursue university careers, many of them with financial support from the Florida Annual Conference. Young boys who grew up in the bushes are now adult leaders of a great church and nation.

As a surprise that God had in store for us, in 2024 Icel and I were able to visit Dundo as part of a Florida Team. Our dreams finally came true...and reality was even much better than we expected. We found a church in revival, and the most hospitable people you can ever meet. We even received an audience with the acting provincial governor. We witnessed that relationships between Chokwes and Kimbundos have greatly improved. They continue to work together for the good of the Angolan church and nation.

For Christians, “love your neighbors” is not a suggestion but a commandment. “Love must be sincere,” i.e., manifest in actions. We cannot show favoritism for the rich or the poor. The apostle Paul calls us to “hate what is evil...and be devoted to one another in love.” A little action carried out in love goes a long way. It comes from the heart of God and changes our lives and our neighbors.

As we celebrate love in the month of February, let us remember that we are all created by the same God and in His image. Love ALL your neighbors in concrete and palpable ways.

Happy Valentine’s Day,

Pastor Armando



Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Armando Rodríguez
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Associate Pastor

Rev. Rich Edwards
redwards1629@gmail.com

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Our Vision & Mission

**“Shining the Light of God’s Love” Through:
Inspiring Worship
Personal Growth
Intentional Outreach**

 Church Webpage
www.pslfumc.com

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:30a –4:30p

Sunday Morning Worship
8:00a Traditional Worship
9:30a Contemporary Worship
11:00a Traditional Worship
11:30a Spanish Worship
Worship with us online at
Facebook Live
9:30a & 11:00a

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Come explore membership at First United Methodist Church!!

February 2nd ~ 12:30 pm

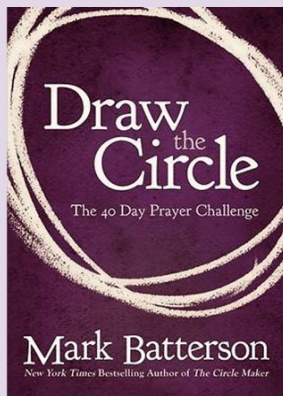
February 16th ~ 12:30 – 2:30 pm (lunch provided)

Room 101, BLC

Our pastors will be your guides and share with you how membership can bless you tremendously with new friends, new connections to the church, and new vistas for your spiritual growth.

You can sign up on the Attendance Form on Sunday or call the church office.

We hope you will join us!



LENT STUDY 2025

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th

We have selected the church-wide Lent study:

“*Draw the Circle; the 40 Day Prayer Challenge*”

by Mark Batterson

(Pastor Rich will be leading a group on Sundays - March 2, 9, 23 & 30, 5:30–7:30 pm at his home in the Gatlin Area, reach out to redwards1629@gmail.com to join his group).

The book can be obtained through Christianbook.com, Cokesbury.com, Barnesandnoble.com & Amazon.com.



easyTithe™
GIVE HERE



You can make your donations at pslfumc.com by clicking on the easyTithe link, use the easyTithe app or scan this QR code.

CAREGIVER Support Group



While caregiving can be a very rewarding experience, it also places added stress on the caregivers life. If you are a caregiver, please come to this open and compassionate group where you can discuss concerns, stressors and topics only caregivers understand. Learn new ways to handle everyday caregiver issues and receive information on supportive resources.

Meeting at FUMC every 2nd & 4th Tuesday 1-2:30 pm in Room 105, BLC
For more information call Cathi Habermehl @ (215) 280-8075



February 3

Anyone who has lost a loved one is invited to join us. We meet the first Monday of every month at noon in Room 101 of the BLC.

Bring a brown bag lunch!



Presented by the FUMC Witness Team

“The Forge”

Sunday, February 23

6:30pm ~ Beacon Life Center

A kick off to the Lent Bible Study
(Draw the Circle-40 Day Prayer Challenge)

FREE

“Through the prayers of his mother and biblical discipleship from his new mentor, he begins discovering God’s purpose for his life is so much more than he could hope for or imagine.”



FUMC APP

Available NOW! Contact the church office by email at secretary@pslfumc.com to receive your individualized code for downloading and accessing the App. Please include your address & phone numbers.

Stay connected with your church community all the time, anywhere with the MyUCD App at no cost.

- Watch Church Services Anytime, Anywhere
- Announce Events & Programs
- Members are able to contact staff easily
- You/Version Bible for daily verses and study
- View Church events for immediate access
- Visit Church Website
- Full Directory of all church members
- Online Giving
- Call & Message the Church
- Call a Member
- Full Directory of all church members

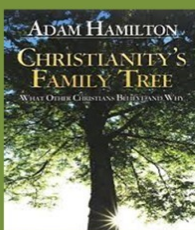
Contact the church office to get your individualized code for accessing our new FUMC APP

Christianity’s Family Tree

presented at Pathfinders

Sundays at 11 am in Room 105

February 9, 16, 23 & March 9



Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. For each group, he gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

Call the church office to sign up or fill in at the bottom of the Attendance form on Sunday. (No book required)



Update Contact Info

Have you moved?

Have you changed your email address or telephone number? Do you use only your cell phone now? **Does your church know?**

Please call the church office at 878-1155 to update your records or email - secretary@pslfumc.com



Hope's Corner is a clothes pantry that distributes clothing to those in need. We serve the people that visit our Food Pantry every Tuesday, from 10am till noon.

Please help us by donating your unwanted or outgrown, gently used, seasonal clothing items for men, women and children of all sizes.

Thank you

Our Mission Team presents...
Pasta Dinner



Fundraiser
&
Silent Auction



Proceeds to support our many
FUMC Missions

**February
7th
5-7 pm**

\$12 Adults 13-100 & beyond

\$8 Kids 6-12

Under 5 Free

**Tickets for sale in the
church office (772) 878-1155**



**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

March 5th - 7 pm

Sunday, February 11

Beacon Life Center Lobby

7:30 am – 12:30 pm



**VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE
&
CUDDLY BEAR TREAT
GIFT BAG FUNDRAISER**



Hosted by the FUMC Food Pantry

RAD'S ON THE RUN AGAIN

HALF MARATHON

FUNDRAISER EVENT

Proceeds for our 65th Anniversary wish list!

MARCH 2nd

Help us reach our goal of

\$5000.00

Two Ways to Sponsor

*Pledge a set amount for each mile Rad completes.

*Pledge a flat amount regardless of how many miles Rad completes.

You can make your pledge on the Attendance Form
found in your bulletin on Sunday!



HONOR AND
REMEMBER WITH
**ALTAR
FLOWERS**



Order 2025 Flowers Now

We have many, many openings for Altar Flowers this year. The chart is in the Narthex. Forms are available in the Narthex or the church office. Please complete the dedication form and make payment when you put your name on the chart.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

12 pm Pot Luck Luncheon
1 pm Pledge Service
1:30 pm Presentation

United Women in Faith
CELEBRATE

February 19

Room 101, BLC

**Guest Speaker:
Evelt Simmons**

"History of Women & Where Are We Going"

FOOD PANTRY

Current Needs

Cereal
Pasta
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Tuna
Canned Soup
Pasta Sauce
Macaroni & Cheese



An Equal Opportunity Provider

As of January 21st, 225 individuals visited our Food Pantry, providing meals for 841. Hope's Corner served 87 people this month.

We are making a difference together!



SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

True wisdom leads you to your knees.

-Pastor Armando Rodríguez



If you are aware of an illness, hospitalization, or death in the family of one of our members please notify the church office. This will help us better serve you. We would rather receive several phone calls than none at all. Please do not assume that we already know.



The Youth have started the year off well. We have started exploring the Kingdom of God. This is a five week study where we answer questions like Who is Jesus of Nazareth? and What was the gospel that Jesus proclaimed? We also helped out a church member with some work around the house. We helped clean up the outside patio and did some cleaning inside. We look forward to going back to help in the future with some bigger projects as well. We enjoyed being able to help out and spend time with her.



We also went to Universal's Rock the Universe at the end of January. We took a group of 30 people to enjoy a night of fun, rides and music. There were a total of nine different musical groups that praised and helped us worship our wonderful Lord. The youth built bonds with friends and welcomed new friends on this trip.

In the month of February I am hoping to send some of the youth on a Chrysalis weekend. This is similar to an adult Emmaus weekend but aimed for High school students. They get sponsors and a fun filled weekend of God's blessings. We will continue to invite new friends to our church and are always looking for adults that want to work with them and guide them into the future. We also have plans to continue to learn about Jesus and his love and kingdom for us.



YOUTH GROUP
WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS
6:30-8:00 PM
6th-12th Grade
 A gathering to meet fellow Christian students, to experience the life of the Church, and to learn more about Jesus!

Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 for children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. We will be learning about Jesus, singing worship music, playing games, and having fun together.

Lighthouse Kids

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**

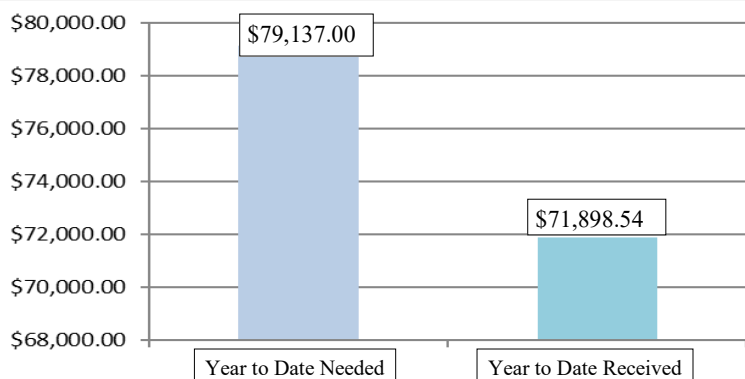
love

Record of Our Faithful Attendance

	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
8:00 am	76	62	73	76
9:30 am	85	83	90	914
11:00am	132	138	123	135
11:30 am (Hispanic)	95	99	93	105
Sunday School	49	54	51	53

Budget

In the month of January we received \$71,898.54 toward our monthly need of \$79,137. Your financial dedication is greatly appreciated.



Memorial Gifts

Given in memory of

Gill Hanlon

by Jayne Thomas Pinelli

Judith Beckman

by Pat Skudera



*Our Love & Prayers Go to Our Friends
with Our Visitation Team*



Heinz Altenburger 16921 NE 176 St, Woodinville, WA 98070

Kathleen Banks Black 2830 SE Cabana Lane, PSL, 34952

Desmond & Phyllis Brice 401 SE Starflower Ave, PSL, 34983

Ruth Cooke Watercrest Assisted Living, 279 NW California Blvd, PSL 34986

Sandy Fercho 9890 SW Coral Tree Circle, PSL, 34987

Carol Gary 5018 Heskett Lane, Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Althia Griffith 2034 SE Ellington Ter. PSL, 34952

Wayne Habermehl Heavenly Adult Care ALF, 3934 SW Kakopo St, PSL, 34953

Betty Grace Heaton Wickshire Assisted Living Room 210 9825 S US Hwy 1, PSL, 34952

Marie Montag 407 SW Magnolia Cove, PSL, 34986

Marge Owens 1600 Petroglyph Point Dr, #310, Prescott, AZ 86301

Evelyn Reis Savannas Park Health & Rehab. Center, Room 303, 1655 SE Walton Rd, PSL, 34952

Paul Wade Hidden Lake Senior Community, Room 11D, 1006 33rd St., Vero Beach, 32960

Martha Watson Harbor Place Room 340, 3700 SE Jennings Rd. PSL, 34952

Patricia Whiddon Freedom Plaza, Apt 510, 1010 American Eagle Blvd., Sun City, FL 33575

Kati White Palm Gardens, Room 120, 1751 SE Hillmoor Dr. PSL, FL 34952

Helen Williams Edgewood Park Place, Room 108, 1930 E 12th St., Casper, WY 82607



WALL OF HONOR

Kaitlyn Barber
Robert Davis
Tyler Ewald
Douglas T. Gifford
Ezra Gordon
Torey Griffith
Lily Hamel
Anthony LoPrinzi

Zacchary T. McClure
Jeremiah Megerle
Zachary Michel
Carole Moody
Johnna Moody
Judi Moody
Rob Preston, Jr.

Please pray for our Service Personnel Please call the church office if someone should be added to the list or is no longer on active duty.



Please join our Visitation Team
by wishing a **Happy Birthday** to:

Martha Watson February 7
Harbor Place Rm 340, 3700 SE Jennings Rd. PSL, 34952

Heinz Altenburg February 19
16921 NE 176 St.
Woodinville, WA 98070

Kathleen Banks Black February 27
2830 SE Cabana Lane, PSL, 34952



2025 FUMCPSL OFFICERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson - Deb DePorter
 Vice Chairperson—Gary Stannis
 Recording Secretary—Kim Nelson
 Pastors-Armando Rodríguez, Rich Edwards, Barbara Martínez
 Lay Leader - Gary Stannis
 Annual Conference Delegates-Jeziel Carrasquillo, Evett Simmons
 UWF Representative - Lorna DeGrazia
 Treasurer - Carolyn Hamel
 Church Administrator - Gladys Dolan
 Board of Trustee Chairperson/President - Walter Robinson
 Finance Committee Chairperson - Andy Speros
 Interpreter of Connectional Giving—Icel Rodríguez
 Staff/Pastor Parish Rel. Chair— Audrey Delaune
 Financial Secretary - Laura Henry
 Congregational Care/Nurture - Kim Nelson
 Children's Coordinator - Karen Dulemba
 Ark Academy Director - Dawn Stannis
 Disaster Coordinator - Gary Stannis
 Discipleship - Rich Edwards
 Missions/Outreach - Jeannette Owens & Icel Rodríguez
 Witness - Janet Pederson
 Worship - Dean Skinner
 Youth Director - Holley Lane
 Youth Representative—
 Hispanic Ministry Representative—Barbara Martínez
 Residing Hope Representative—Esther Ruppel
 At Large Member for Lay Speakers - Cherie Portinga
 Historian - Kim Nelson

OTHER MINISTRIES, TEAMS & COMMITTEES

Food Pantry—Jackie Rose Bennet, Dana Heath
 Hope's Corner—Ava Guy
 Women's Prayer Group — Chris Bogley
 Men's Prayer Group — Dana Heath
 Caregivers Support Group—Cathy Habermehl
 Good Grief Group—Kim Nelson
 Visitation Committee - Rita Etherington
 WHY Coordinator - Dawn Ginter
 Funeral Reception—Elaine Toivola
 Prayer Shawl - Carolyn Hamel & Sherry Barton
 Quilters - Carolyn Hamel & Sherry Barton

Church Staff

Senior Pastor— Armando Rodríguez
 Associate Pastor—Rich Edwards
 Assistant Pastor/Hispanic Ministry— Barbara Martínez
 Church Administrator - Gladys Dolan
 Administrative Assistant—Stephanie Welch
 Director of Student Ministries— Holley Lane
 Children's Director—Karen Dulemba
 Traditional Music—Julie Propst
 Choir Director—Cindy Forbes
 Contemporary Music— Jessica Pons
 Hispanic Worship Leader - Josue Martínez
 Ark Academy Director—Dawn Stannis
 Custodians—Gloria Walker, Bob Andrade, Dean Fowler

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Chairperson - Audrey Delaune
 Annual Conference Delegates-Jeziel Carrasquillo, Evett Simmons
 Lay Leader - Gary Stannis
 Class of 2025 - Esther Ruppel, Rubie Manwarren, Zachariah Hills
 Class of 2026 - Kim Mullins, Carl Carter, Danielle Robinson
 Class of 2027 - Pat Orlandi, Audrey Delaune, Ava Guy

NOMINATING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson - Armando Rodríguez, Pastor
 Vice Chairperson—Kim Nelson
 Lay Leader - Gary Stannis
 Class of 2025 - Kim Nelson, Kathy Wilkins, Cherie Portinga
 Class of 2026—Sue Iven, Doug Owens, Carole Bowen
 Class of 2027—Jeziel Carrasquillo, Jarmo Toivola, Ted Allender

TRUSTEES

President - Walter Robinson
 Vice President - Bob Preston
 Secretary - Gloria Walker
 Class of 2025 - Gloria Walker, Winston Dixon, Steve Brickley
 Class of 2026 - Jonah Houseal, Walter Robinson, Bob Preston
 Class of 2027—Neal Wilkins, Jeff Pederson, Alan Etherington

FINANCE

Chairperson - Andy Speros
 Secretary - Wayne Fercho
 Financial Secretary - Laura Henry
 Treasurer - Carolyn Hamel
 Head Counter - Rubie Manwarren
 Annual Conference Delegates - Evett Simmons, Jeziel Carrasquillo
 Administrative Council - Deb DePorter
 Trustees Chairperson - Walter Robinson
 Lay Leader - Gary Stannis
 Staff Parish Chairperson - Audrey Delaune
 Church Administrator - Gladys Dolan
 Class of 2025 - Andy Speros, Wayne Fercho, Pat Necklen
 Class of 2026 - Rubie Manwarren, Anthony Moens, Charles Forrest
 Class of 2027 - Harry Canterbury, Carlos Romero, David Waters
 Other Members - Bob Richter, Tom Gifford, Elaine Toivola, & Icel Rodríguez

First United Methodist Church of Port St. Lucie



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 Senior Pastor, Armando
 Rodríguez