

1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PUNTA GORDA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



OFFERING NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST BY SEEKING, SHAPING AND SENDING DISCIPLES

I have seen Satan fall like lightning!

I am talking about watching the lives and behaviors of the people who follow Jesus here at 1st Church.

In Luke 10, Jesus appointed a group of followers to go out in ministry. When they returned, they were joyful because they had seen fruit in what they had done. Jesus responded with "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." (Luke 10:18)

At one level, I think Jesus is saying that when ministry is done, the good that is accomplished helps in the process of defeating the Enemy of our souls. Fruitful and faithful ministry is a part of the work of the Church in its assault on the gates of Hell.

And, in 2020, I saw Satan fall like lightning.

I saw worship and compassion,
lives touched and lives transformed,
Jesus honored and people loved.

Every single one of those moments was a bit of heaven poured into the lives of others by the people who call themselves Christians here at 1st Church.

In the pages that follow you will see some photographs and read some descriptions of ministry offered in the name of Jesus – ministry that helped push Satan over the edge.

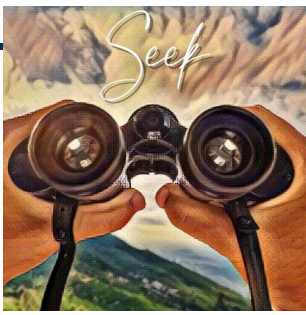
And, one more thing – thank you to all of you who, through your giving and your serving, your praying and your loving, your singing and your ringing, have partnered with Jesus in the ministry that brings his Kingdom a few steps closer to reality here on earth.

I am proud to serve as your pastor, as together, we honor the One who is Lord of lords and King of kings.

Yours in the Cause of Christ,

Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike Loomis



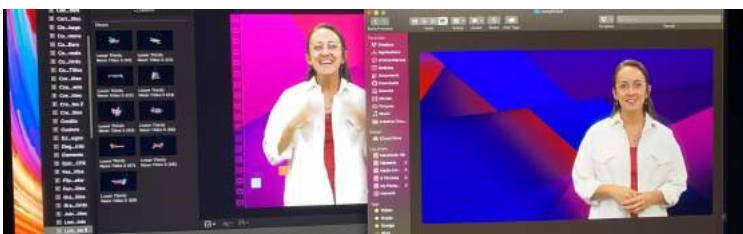
**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, LOVING OTHERS, AND
CONNECTING THEM TO JESUS AND HIS BODY, THE
CHURCH, IN A LIFE-GIVING, ONGOING RELATIONSHIP
WITH HIM**

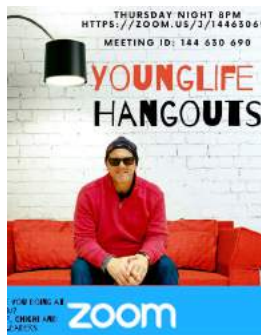
Even though we did not gather in-person for months, we never closed the door on our worship services. We gathered together online for Sunday morning worship, mid-week worship during Lent, Holy Thursday and Resurrection Sunday, including Easter Sunrise service from the bank of the Peace River. We moved from using Facebook Live to live-streaming our worship services. We averaged almost 1,200 people weekly in worship, both in-person and online. We continued to reach out and share the Gospel of Christ, partnering with Younglife and Wyldlife once again. We held Drive-thru Communion

We had 27 new members join us in 2020 despite the pandemic

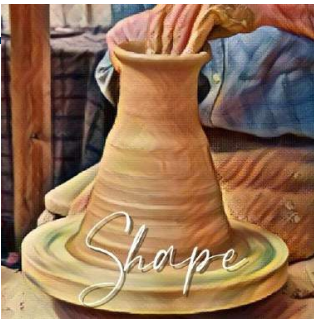
While Choir was sidelined by concerns for spreading the virus, the Handbell Choir was in full swing to help us lead worship on a regular basis.

We were eventually able to celebrate weddings and give thanks for the lives and witness of some of our saints with memorial services in-person.









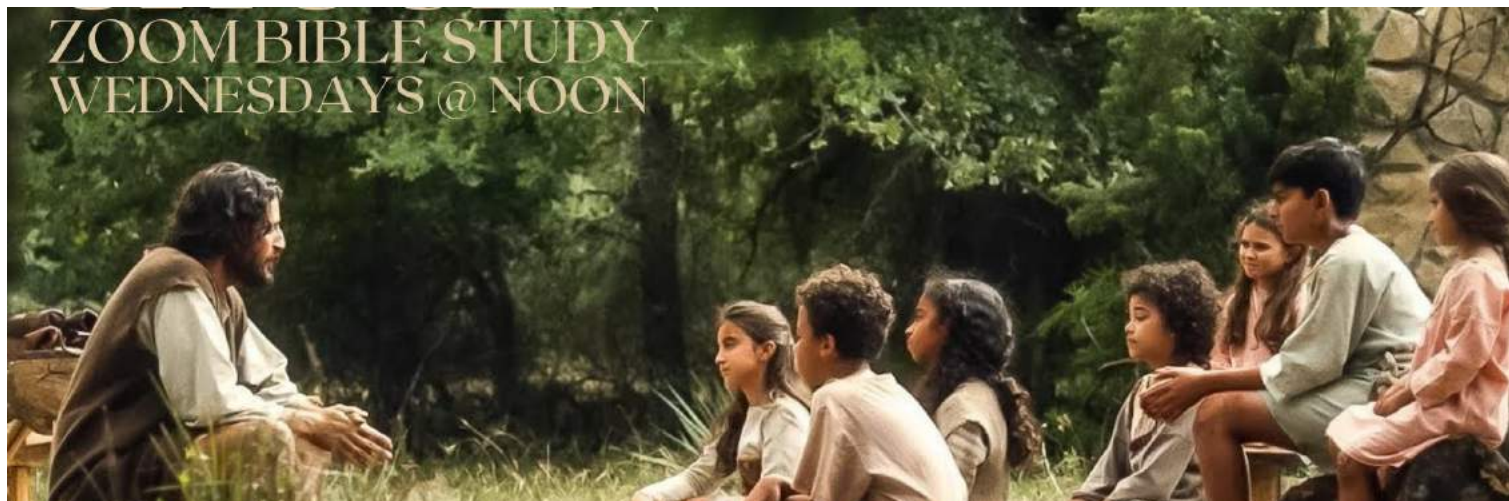
**INVESTING IN THE LIVES OF ONE ANOTHER
TO TRANSFORM HEARTS, SOULS, MINDS AND STRENGTH
INTO THE LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST**

As with worship, discipleship opportunities moved on-line for much of 2020. Children's, youth, adult Sunday School classes and small groups all went virtual by using Zoom. In addition, youth and children volunteers delivered 'Sunday School in a Box' to all of their students EACH month!

Pastor Mike hosted a Lenten Bible Study on Zoom each Wednesday using the 8 episodes of the new video series, "The Chosen".

The "Say Yes" group met on Monday nights and we were able to begin hosting Prayer Meetings once again, as well. We welcomed Jordan Flick to our staff as the Director of Children's Ministry just days before we "moved out of the buildings". And, Tim Buck continued his great work with our youth. Nine youth gave their lives to Christ during 2020, and we were able to place their handprints on the youth group family tree.



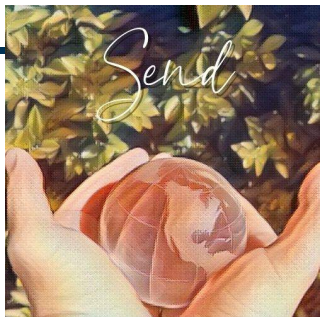




Family Tree

Did you know in the Life Center there's a game room set up for teens to enjoy with their friends? In addition to the board games, the ping pong, foosball and pool tables, there is a giant tree painted on the wall. This is NOT just any ordinary tree! It has special "leaves" made from the handprints of many of our teens who have been a part of United 4 Him throughout the years. These aren't handprints of students who visit or attend a gym night or special event. These are handprints of students who have made a commitment of faith to follow Christ and accept Him as their Savior. Recently, following a special salvation message, teens were extended the invitation to put their faith in Christ alone for their eternal salvation. Students had the opportunity to then make a public profession of new faith. Nine students came forward to profess their faith in Jesus, adding their handprints and name in permanent marker to the tree joining dozens of students who have done the same thing over the 15 years. Praise God along with us that even in the midst of a pandemic lives are still being touched by the Good News of Christ's forgiveness. Now nine more young souls are growing in their new Christian faith and serving God as part of His/our family!

Tim Buck , Director of Youth Ministries



MOVING MINISTRY OUT OF THE CHURCH AND INTO THE WORLD TO TOUCH OTHERS WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS

Almost every single form of outreach in our Mission and Service area continued in 2020, although some had to find creative ways to do so. We continued to find ways to bless the homeless. Food donations were received, both in-person and drive-thru. Shower Ministry, held for the first 3 months of 2020, had to close down.

We responded by increasing our giving to Jesus Loves You Ministries to help them serve more people. Food continued to be prepared and delivered on Tuesdays. Through the very generous donations of our congregation, we gave over \$24,000 in assistance to help pay rent, utilities, buy food and even bunk beds.

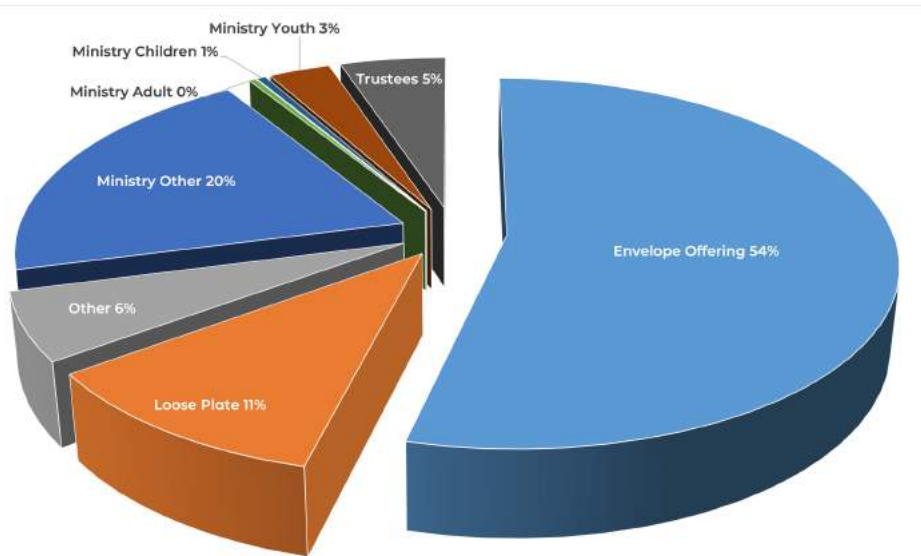
Our youth went on a mission trip to the Children's Ranch in Madison, FL. Valerie's House was able to minister to grieving children, and GriefShare offered hope for the grieving during the holidays, providing incredible blessings in the lives of those who were able to come.

Thousands of dollars were donated to UMCOR for disaster relief, as well as giving to our Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

We helped build our 10th house through Apostles' Build with Habitat for Humanity, blessed caregivers and children alongside the Foster Children's Network at Christmas, and provided hundreds of meals on Thanksgiving Day through pickup and delivery. We continued to host blood drives for OneBlood of Charlotte County, with no less than ten donors each time potentially saving over 150 lives.

We continued to support two sister churches in Cuba, multiple missionaries and gave Bibles, supplies and water filters to help those local churches to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

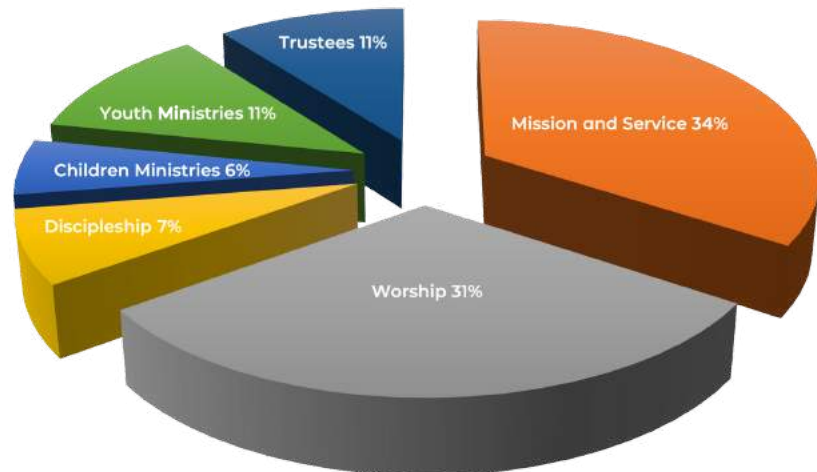


2020 REVENUE

Envelope Offering	831,198.68
Loose Plate	170,616.00
Other	91,801.20
DESIGNATED FUNDS	
Ministry Other	310,528.67
Ministry Adult	5,362.22
Ministry Children	6,888.00
Ministry Youth	46,294.37
Trustees	79,067.04
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,541,756.18

2020 EXPENDITURES

Mission and Service	503,906.09
Worship	454,537.38
Discipleship	109,375.46
Children Ministries	82,947.96
Youth Ministries	167,614.65
Trustees	<u>153,667.33</u>
Total Expenditures	1,472,048.87



FINANCE TEAM

Eddie Webb, Finance Chair
 Lindsay Harrington, Church Council Chair
 Myrt Creigh, Lay Leader
 Dick Brewer, Stewardship Chair
 Marty Voss, Treasurer

Tom Little, Pastor Parish Rep
 Hezzie Sammons, Trustee Rep
 John Miller
 Craig Holcomb

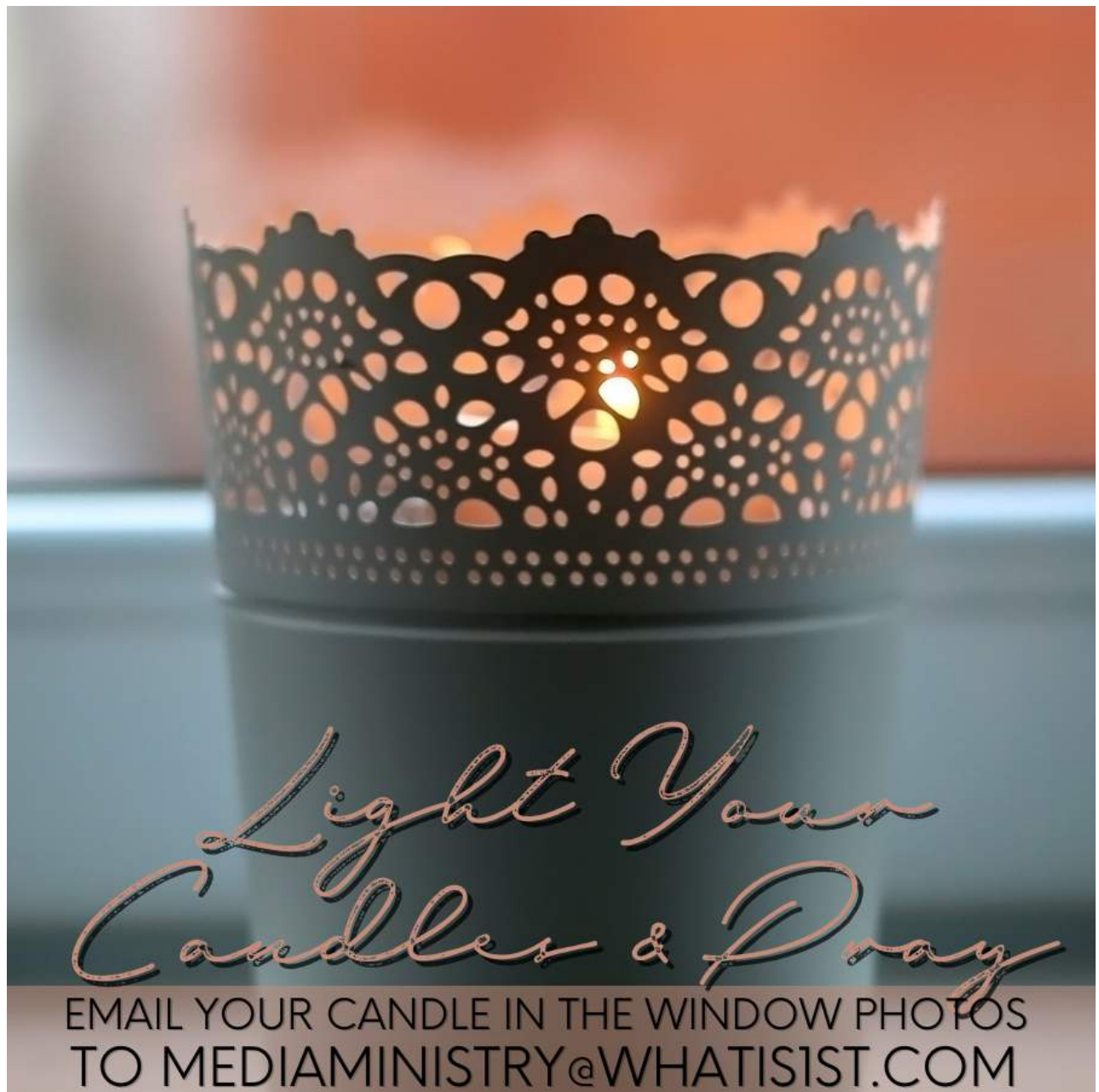
Denise Holcomb, Finance Manager
 941.639.3842, ext 226- denise.holcomb@whatistst.com
 Kathy Butgereit, Administrative Director
 941.632.3842, ext. 201, kathy.butgereit@whatistst.com

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Young Life
 Worship Fund
 Crossroads Hope Academy
 Care Ministry
 1st Class Concerts
 Music Fund
 Bargain Boutique
 Habitat For Humanity
 Campus Improvements
 Landscape Fund
 Elevator Fund
 FLUMC Children's Home
 Sanctuary Lighting
 Jericho Road
 Easter Offering
 Men of Faith
 Thanksgiving Dinner/Seed money
 Food Pantry - Various
 Feed the Harbor
 Fishes Loaves
 Shower Ministry/Homeless Meals
 Faith Promise Mission Fund
 YL Campaigners Fund
 Cuba Mission
 Cuba - Pastors
 Cuba - Bibles
 Cuba Mission Trip
 Cuba - Taguasco
 Cuba - Guaro

Undesignated Memorials
 Thanksgiving Offering
 Children's Ministry Donations
 Good News Club
 Vacation Bible School
 Children's Ministry Endowment Fund
 Jesus Loves You Ministry
 Harmony Class
 Holiday Flowers
 Staff Love Offering
 Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Cancer Support fund
 UMCOR
 Christmas Offering
 Emerging Ministries
 Youth Fund Donations
 Youth Camp
 Youth Mission
 Youth Endowment Fund
 Pastor's Discretionary Fund
 Special Missions
 Library Fund
 Beth Moore Study
 Grief Share
 Stewardship
 Audio Upgrade
 Today Matters
 TOMORROW





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