



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. He has made everything beautiful in his time.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

God in his magnificent sovereignty created a world with different seasons. We, too, have different seasons in our lives. Ironically enough, when we are young, we can hardly wait to grow older. Then when we are older, we begin to look back, nostalgically longing for “the good old days.”

The Church of Christ also experiences distinct seasons as well. Though some seasons might be painful and challenging, they are still beautiful because God’s presence in our lives help us to live in the rhythm of his grace.

Let’s live through our season trusting and glorifying the God who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light! 1 Peter 2:9

Dear Ponte Vedra Church Family,

My family and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the way in which we have been received by this loving congregation. Your kind gestures and demonstrations of love have been a great blessing to us. We are grateful and honored to be a part of such a loving congregation and look forward to our involvement in the life of Ponte Vedra Church.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Edwin



A Fond Farewell,

I really don’t even know how to begin to say how much I have loved serving all of you at Ponte Vedra Church. Beginning all the way back to August 11, 2006 this job has been one of the most important and fulfilling things in my life. I have been here for precious children to be born and for some very dear people to go home to Heaven. You have shared the ups and downs with my husband’s health and listened to the stories and looked at pictures of my beloved cats and dogs. It makes me cry to think I won’t be here to have lunch around the silver table with this tremendous staff. I consider all of you to be an extension of my family and my dearest friends. Thank you, all of you, for the great memories. - Susan



AUGUST 2021

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Missions



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home 5th Sunday Offering, August 29

Each **5th Sunday** we receive a special offering for **The Florida United Methodist Children's Home and Madison Youth Ranch**. The Home's ministry includes residential care, emergency shelter care, therapeutic group care, independent living, foster care and adoption services. Children come because of abuse, abandonment or because of family breakdown due to divorce, drug abuse, illness or death of a parent. Checks may be made out to PVUMC and designated "Children's Home."

Stephen Ministry



The Stephen Ministry Logo, with the broken person behind the cross and the whole person in front of the cross, symbolizes that we are all broken people and that it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole.

Stephen Ministry is a caring ministry being used by thousands of congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people. Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople - Stephen Ministers - who provide one-to-one, **CONFIDENTIAL** Christ-centered care to people experiencing some of life's difficulties.

As the COVID-19 pandemic goes on, the needs for care continue to grow in congregations and communities everywhere. People from all walks of life are struggling with a variety of challenges - grief, health concerns, isolation, anxiety, and more. In the midst of all this, Stephen Ministry congregations are doing amazing ministry, providing much-needed care.

Visit www.stephenministries.org to learn more about Stephen Ministry and to watch online video stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives.

Stephen Ministries work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time. If you think you might be interested in having a Stephen Minister Caregiver, contact **our new Stephen Ministry Leaders:**

Rick Williamson, 904-699-7951 or rwilliamson1301@yahoo.com

Marg Farnsworth, 217-722-3176 or mfarns934@gmail.com

Rick and Marg will be commissioned during the Traditional Worship service soon. Please watch for details in the Sunday Bulletin and the Church Connection Newsletter.

of Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church

76 S Roscoe Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 Church Office: (904) 280-5141
(Open: Mon-Thur 10:00am-2:00pm, www.pontevedra.church)



United Methodist Women July Meeting News

“You will call upon Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13

A wonderful group of **27 United Methodist Women** came together in our church Sanctuary on Saturday, July 24th to seek God. They called upon our Lord to bless our church, our nation and those suffering oppression throughout the world.

After the welcome, the opening prayer and *The Purpose of United Methodist Women*, **Dona Prall** led us in a Patriotic Melody, which reminded us of the **blessings of living in this free country**. We then united in prayer for our **neighbors in Cuba** and **for the leaders of our country and churches**. We **prayed for revival of the faith that made us “One Nation Under God.”** We continued in **prayer for our children and schools for safe re-openings and for Godly teachers**. We sought **blessings and guidance for the military and first responders, who risk their lives for our protection**. **“A Prayer for Our Nation”** by Rev. Billy Graham reminded us of where we need to focus if we are to remain free and blessed by God. Finally, we concluded our prayer time with intercessory prayers submitted by those attending. We were all grateful for the strength we felt by praying together.

Our program focus was on *Hart Felt Ministries*, a local UMW mission. **Ann Cook** shared her experiences with the beginning of this mission under the faithful leadership of **Jane Hart** many years ago. This local missionary focus of our UMW offers assistance to more than 800 elderly persons in the Jacksonville area. The help we offer to this mission goes beyond monetary donations as we are able to volunteer our time to help those who are often completely alone. Ann shared many humorous stories of the folks she has helped through *Hart Felt* and the prayers that continue to be needed for this worthy endeavor. If anyone would like to volunteer, please speak to Ann.

We were happy to report that **10 women from our UMW assisted with the Ponte Vedra Church VBS this year**. We may have enjoyed it as much as the children; watching them engage in learning about Jesus through Bible Stories, singing, crafts, science, games and even food. A special thanks to **Rachel Clements** for coordinating this wonderful event, and to the helpers from our unit: **Ann Cook, Jennie Dorsey, Corrine Garrison, Tiffany Kershner, Mary Moyes, Nancy Noble, Lenora Rath, Mary Sekeres, Carolee Smith, and Sandra Williamson**. We were blessed to be able to plant seeds for Jesus in these children.

Finally, we were reminded of our **church-wide Women's Retreat, coming March 18-20, 2022, at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island**. **Pastor Jacquie** is assisting in the planning of the program. All women of the church are welcome to participate. Please contact **Jo Miller** if you are interested. Jo reminded us that the **Navy Band** may still be performing a community concert at our church this Fall.

We adjourned to a delicious “take-away” **brunch prepared by our UMW Executive Committee**. Hope to see you at our next meeting in September.

UMW assisting with VBS!



Are you wearing your name tag?

Please stop by the name tag board as you enter on Sunday mornings and put your name tag on. If you do not have a name tag and would like one, clearly write your name on the back of the Connect Card stating you would like a name tag. Over time, we will replace the old name tags with new ones that sport our terrific new logo! They will look something like this:





Men's Bible Study group 1 meets in person at the church and virtually on GOTO Meeting **every Thursday morning from 8-9am**. **Men's Bible Study group 2** meets virtually **every Thursday evening from 7-8pm**. New attendees are always welcome!

Men's Bible Study will host a **pancake breakfast Saturday, September 25th at 8am at the church**. Email **John@daquilaLLP.com** to RSVP. Our speaker to be announced. Welcome anyone interested in learning more about our Thursday morning and evening Bible study groups.



Grief Share is Coming!

What is Grief Share? Grief Share is a program featuring Biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally-respected grief experts and real-life stories of people followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed.

Many grieving people find that they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have already returned to their daily routines. Too often, people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Do not allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

Grief Share will be held: **September 9, 4:30pm, Ponte Vedra UMC**

Length: **13 weeks, about 2 hours each week**

Cost: **\$19 (cost of the workbook)**

To Register or questions: **Call Marg Farnsworth 217-722-3176**

Praise and Prayer Night, Wednesday, August 11 at 7pm



The next **Praise and Prayer night is Wednesday, August 11th at 7pm in the church Sanctuary**. This month the focus will be on **praying for different countries of our world**. Please don't miss this opportunity to enter into God's presence in prayer, praise and worship. If you have never attended a Praise and Prayer night we invited you to do so. It is a smaller, intimate gathering with plenty of area for personal prayer. We look forward to seeing you.

Children & Youth Happenings

Children's Happenings

Our summer program has continued to be loads of "Fun in the SON". We've learned about how getting ready for the beach and summertime herbs & spices can remind us of God's love.

Looking forward to fall; we are working on re-staffing our nursery and we ask that you bear with us as **we transition back to a more robust Sunday morning offering for children, with nursery care and Children's Church during both services**. In the meantime, we will continue to offer **Kingdom Kids lessons during the 9:30 service** (with the lesson being posted online for those who do not attend that service). If you or anyone you know is interested in working with and for our children, please contact **Rachel Clements**.

Children In Action



We will not be resuming right away. Instead, we will use the month of August to focus on our **Sunday morning activities and our special events** (like the **monthly movie night** and **Summer Splash**).



Youth Events

The Youth worked hard this summer with a **roster FULL** of mini-missions. We have **met twice to pack sandwich bags for the homeless, donated supplies to the Humane Society, and will finish up with a school supply drive for kids in need**.



YCAM (Youth Creative Arts Ministries) **Wednesday, August 4th**, followed by board games. This youth praise band is open to all rising 7th graders- rising seniors. All skill levels and instruments (or voices) are welcome. Contact **Scott Tinsley** for details.

On **August 11th** H2O Youth will resume with a **NERF WAR at 7:30**. Please join us for our **Praise and Prayer** and then meet Youth upstairs in the **NEW YOUTH ROOM**!



Memory Verse

Vacation Bible School was a wonderful time of ministry to children in our church and beyond. We sang, taught and played games with over 40 children

Our theme this year was “Knights of North Castle” and throughout the week our Knights in Training learned how to put on the Sword of the Spirit, the Shield of Faith, the Belt of Truth, the Shoes of Good Peace, the Breastplate of Justice and the Helmet of Salvation.



Many Thanks to all those who volunteered their time the week of VBS to make this ministry outreach such a success! We could not have done any of this without YOU!

*******If you loaned a Christmas tree, they are in the hall across from the nursery. Please pick yours up at your convenience.**



Small Group Leaders Class

Do you lead a small group class? Is this something that you feel you are called to do? Please join **Pastor Jacquie** as she leads a class using the text, ***The Class Meeting*** written by Kevin M. Watson. In this study you will learn creative ways to lead, and keep a small group engaged. It will be interesting and informative. **This is a required class for all small group leaders and for those of you that want to lead a class.** Stop by the church office and pick up your book during office hours, 10:00-2:00 Monday –Thursday. The cost of the book is \$11.



Ponte Vedra Church is **collecting school supplies for Osceola Elementary School**. For a list of requested items, please see the table in the foyer. **Bring your donations anytime between now and August 22nd**. They will be delivered to Osceola on August 23rd.

Church Staff

Lead Pastor	Rev. Jacqueline Leveron	leadpastor@pontevdra.church
Director of Family Ministries	Rev. Edwin Richiez	familyministry@pontevdra.church
Director of Children and Youth	Rachel Clements	cym@pontevdra.church
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Accountant	Lynn England	accounting@pontevdra.church
Director of Music	Scott Tinsley	media@pontevdra.church
Custodian	Jim McDonald	campus03@outlook.com

