

Ponte Vedra *Church*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2022

From The Pastor's Desk

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (I John 4:10).

St. Valentine's Day, according to one legend, bears a rich heritage dating back to the third century. During that time a young Roman sympathetic to the martyred Christians, named Valentium was condemned to death by Emperor Claudius II.

Awaiting execution, Valentium devoted his love to the jailer's daughter who was blind. It is said that he prayed for her, and her sight was restored. The night before his death, he wrote her a love letter and signed it, "From your Valentine."

We, too, have a "Valentine" who wrote us a love letter and signed it with his blood. Because of his boundless love, grace, and favor, our sight has been restored as well.

I invite you to continue to share his love with others. After all, as someone has said, "Love is not love until you give it away."

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Jacquie

Church Events

- Feb 1st - Acts 2 Connection Begins
- Feb 2nd - YCAM & H2O Resumes
- Feb 12th - UMW Prayer Breakfast 10 am
- Feb 12th - Youth Pizza/ Trivia Night 7pm
- Feb 18th - Women's Retreat Payments Due
- Feb 19th - Mary Alice Sanders Memorial Service
- Feb 26th - Run With A Mission
- Feb 27th - Home Again Items Due At The Church

A Message From Pastor Edwin

During the month of February, many of us express our love and appreciation for our loved ones. In the form of cards and gifts, many of us give as an expression of our love. Along with celebrating and expressing our love for friends and family, it is important to keep before us the greatest expression of love ever. Jesus said to His disciples, “*No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.*” (John 15:13 CSB). As we express our love for others this month, may we also remember Christ’s tremendous expression of love for us by giving His life.

Proverbs 22:17
“A merry heart does good like medicine”

Last week, we had a great time of discussion, fellowship, and encouragement at our Life Learner Group Facilitator gathering. Each facilitator is doing a wonderful job and we appreciate their faithful ministry.

Pastor Jacquie and I are looking forward to the start of our *Acts 2 Connection* virtual gatherings which will begin on February 1st at 7 pm via Zoom. If you would like to be a part of this small group gathering, please send me an email at familyministry@pontevedra.church.

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 CSB).

~Pastor Edwin

Come Join Our Women in Mission

Our United Methodist Women would like to invite all women of the church to join us for a Mission Prayer breakfast now scheduled for Saturday, February 12th at 10:00 at the church. We are blessed to be called into mission work for our Lord and would love to have you with us. Cheryl Bradford of Faithful Servant Ministries in Costa Rica will be our guest speaker. This is one of our covenant ministries in which many of our ladies have been honored to participate personally. In 2021, though unable to visit Costa Rica, we donated \$545 to this worthy ministry. Hopefully, when Covid lifts, we can again see this work carried out in person.



Despite the pandemic, our PVUMW ladies raised over \$5,500 for our covenant missions this year --\$2,225.25 to District Missions, \$1,075 to UMCOR \$545 to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, \$545 to Home Again St. Johns, \$595, to Hart Felt Ministries locally. In addition to raising mission dollars, we have also fed the homeless, donated sleeping bags, and purchased Christmas gifts for the elderly. We are blessed to be the hands of Christ locally and throughout the world.



We will also be sponsoring a church-wide women's retreat in March at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island. This is a very special place since it marks the area where the Wesley's began their ministry in America. There is much to be viewed historically here, and our fellowship enables us to get to know our sisters in Christ better. The dates are March 18-20, 2022. Please contact Jo Miller or Jennie Dorsey if you are interested in joining us.

Parsonage Update

The search for a new parsonage is ongoing. Several properties have been viewed but none have met the objectives established for a parsonage that will meet our church's pastoral needs long term.

A potential parsonage should be within a 20-mile radius of the church, have 4 bedrooms or 3 bedrooms and a separate study, 2½ baths minimum, 2-car garage or larger and have at least 2,000 SF of living space.

Two looming challenges we face in our search are 1. Very scarce inventory and 2. Ever-increasing price points. The church has in reserves approximately \$552,000.00 from the sale of our former parsonage to be used to secure another. We have a very competent realtor assisting in our search.

We would ask anyone aware of properties going on the market soon that would comply with our specifications and financial resources to contact Barry Durden at barrybaysurf@gmail.com.

A Message From SPRC

The SPRC met virtually on January 18. We discussed Carly Speigel's hiring as our new nursery worker. She started on January 9. Work on the Annual Report for the Conference is underway. We voted to separate the Director of Youth Ministry (full time) and Director of Children's Ministry (part-time) positions back to two separate jobs as they were pre-COVID. All were appreciative of Rachel for wearing both hats in the interim. A search is underway to fill the positions; we discussed the possibility of hiring Ministry Architects to run a search if we are unsuccessful in identifying qualified prospects through our efforts. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is April 19, though we will meet in the interim if necessary.

George Reed

Welcome Our New Pastoral Family at La Sierra

We have a new pastor at La Sierra! Welcome Pastor Maikel Serrano, Pastora Leisbel, and their two kids. They have hit the ground running and will continue sharing the Good News throughout the La Sierra community. If you use Facebook and would like to keep track of the church, "Like" the [La Sierra Facebook page](#).



GriefShare

Our first Grief Share support group finished in January. There were only 2 participants. But both of them were so grateful for our listening, our prayers, and especially for the help that they both testified to having received from our sessions. When asked what had helped the most, one of the ladies said there were too many to count.

Our second session started, but it is not too late to come. As one of the 2 from the first group said, it might have been more helpful if there had been several more participants. We learn and grow in community, and the journey of grief should not be done in isolation. You are also welcome to bring a friend for support.

We meet Tuesdays at the church from 4 – 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Marg Farnsworth at 217-722-3176 or the church office at 904-280-5141.

Stephen Ministries - God's Love In Action

The Stephen Series logo symbolizes that we all are broken people and that it is through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole. Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-on-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.



In the past two years, we have all experienced challenges in our life. Times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as:

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Divorce or separation
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- A terminal illness
- Incarceration
- Aging
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- A chronic illness
- Relocation

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry has equipped lay people to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties, such as those above, in their lives. The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.

Call one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Rick Williamson at 904-699-7951 or Marg Farnsworth at 217-722-3176, or the church office at 904-280-5141 for more information.

Family Promise 2022

The 2022 schedule is out for all Family Promise host churches. Ponte Vedra Church's first host week will be April 17th through April 24th. This will be an off-site host week. That means that they will be staying at the Family Promise headquarters at Arlington Congregational Church. Our church will be providing all the supplies they need for the week such as diapers, lunch & breakfast foods, snacks, etc. We will also be asking for donations of grocery gift cards.

We are anticipating a full on-site host week from August 14th through August 21st. This is when up to 3 families will be staying at our church. We will provide them with a warm meal each night, a safe place to spend the night, welcoming overnight hosts, and all the supplies they need for that week. The special blessing of hosting on-site is that you get to know the families personally. You will be blessed!

I appreciate the generous support this church brings to Family Promise through your time, talent and treasure. For more information, you can contact Cecily Browning by email at tcbmom@hotmail.com or call the church office and leave your name and number, and I will call you back. Thank you!





RUN WITH A MISSION



PRESENTED BY HAPPY TRAILS 4X4

FEBRUARY 26 2022

8:30AM NOCATEE, FL

STAY AND ENJOY THE FSM FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL AFTER THE RACE!

5K * 10K
1 MILE FUN RUN

BENEFITING FAITHFUL SERVANT MISSIONS IN PROVIDING FOR THE PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL & SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF KIDS IN COSTA RICA

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION  [RUNSIGNUP.COM/RUNWITHAMISSION](https://www.runnersup.com/runwithamission)

Come join us in Nocatee at the 9th Annual *FSM RUN WITH A MISSION*. Proceeds from the race will support our mission. There will be a 10k, 5K and a 1 Mile Fun Run through community streets and the paved Nocatee Greenway Trails, starting and finishing near the Splash Water Park.

The *FSM RUN WITH A MISSION* will be Saturday, February 26th, 2022. Second Wind Race Timing will provide professional timing for the 5K and 10K races. Awards will be given for top finishers overall and in various age groups. All events will take place in Nocatee and will be followed by FSM Family Fun Festival.

This event supports Faithful Servant Missions in providing for the needs of children in Costa Rica. Specifically, FSM seeks to improve the physical, educational and spiritual health of the communities we serve. For more information, visit our [website](#).

Our *FSM RUN WITH A MISSION* event provides a significant impact with the help of many friends, family, church and business partners. Together we can help make a difference. This year will build on last year's success and continue to change the lives of those that FSM serves.

Be sure to [sign up today](#) to ensure an awesome price for a fun event with a great cause!

Registration Costs:

\$30.00 - 5km Run/Walk . 10km Run . Virtual

\$25.00 - 1 Mile Fun Run

Prices Increase after January 27, 2022 11:59pm

HOME AGAIN ST. JOHNS



Our church will collect items for Home Again St. Johns in February as a love gift to the homeless in St. Johns County.

You may contact Rita Andreu at andreus-place@bellsouth.net with any questions.

Please bring any of the following items to the church by February 27, 2022.

Tarps 10x10 and 10x12 (great need)

Heavy/Thick Blankets

Sleeping Bags

Jackets

Hats

Gloves

Socks

Underwear for both men and women

(new)

Boots

Tennis shoes

Scarves

Tents

Batteries (AAA/AA/C/D)

Green Propane Bottles

Shaving Razors & shaving cream

Laundry detergent

Coffee, Creamer & Sugar

Backpacks

Toilet Paper

Flashlights



A Message From Our Music Director

Do you like to sing? The Praise Team, Praise Choir, YCAM (Youth Creative Arts Ministry), Bell Choir, and Traditional Choir are all looking for new members for the 2022 year. From beginners to seasoned vocalists, if you love to worship in song, this is the place for you. Contact Scott Tinsley at 904-280-5141 or media@pontevedra.church for more information.

Practice for this year's Easter cantata, "Who Do You Say I am" has started! Join us Thursday nights at 7:30 pm for practice.

Tuesday - 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

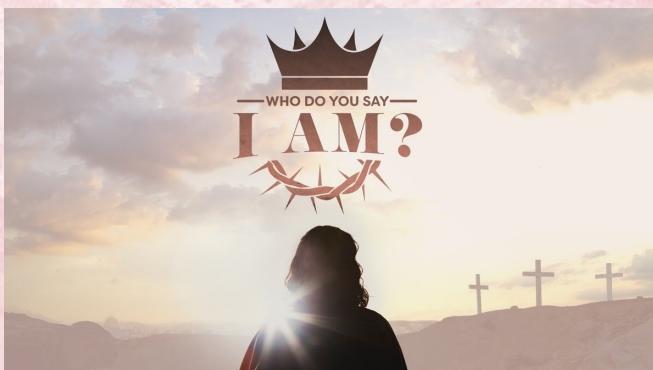
6:30 pm Praise Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday - 6:00 and 7:30 pm YCAM

Thursday - 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal



Ushers/Greeters Needed!

If God has blessed you with the gift of hospitality there is a place for you in our Usher/Greeter Ministry! We will be scheduling a training in the next few weeks so keep an eye out for the details or you can contact us at info@pontevedra.church.

Children's Happenings



UPCOMING EVENTS



Email Rachael Clements at cym@pontevdra.church for more details or to sign up as a volunteer.



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



April 9th, 2022
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Ponte Vedra Church
76 S. Roscoe Blvd.

Youth Happenings

H20 AND YCAM will resume on Wednesday February 2nd, 2022.

YCAM meets at 6 pm and 7:30 pm
And H20 meets from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Dates and times for confirmation have not been determined. If you would like more details about this 6-week program geared towards middle schoolers, please email cym@pontevdra.church.



YOUTH PIZZA AND TRIVIA NIGHT

02.12.2022 7-9 PM
PONTE VEDRA CHURCH
76 S. ROSCOE BLVD



WE WILL BE MAKING OUR OWN PIZZA THEN HAVING A TRIVIA CONTEST.
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT!

Where does pizza come from?

A GERMANY

B FRANCE

C ITALY



BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd - Becky Dearien
- 5th - Rachel Clements
- 11th - Mary Sekeres
- 21st - Susan Sprouse & Pastor Edwin Richiez
 - 23rd - Bill Tinsley
 - 24th - Jeffrey Koch



76 S. Roscoe Blvd. Ponte Vedra, FL 23082
www.pontevedra.church

Church Staff

Lead Pastor	Rev. Jacqueline Leveron
	leadpastor@pontevedra.church
Director of Family Ministry	Rev. Edwin Richiez
	familyministry@pontevedra.church
Director of Children and Youth	Rachel Clements cym@pontevedra.church
Admin. Assistant	Kristen DeArmas info@pontevedra.church
Accountant	Lynn England accounting@pontevedra.church
Director of Music	Scott Tinsley media@pontevedra.church
Custodian	Jim McDonald campus03@outlook.com



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