Flipping through these pages you will see we have much to celebrate here at FWBFUMC. The past three months we have had wonderful events like our Fellowship Retreat. Our fall programs have started up with many people enjoying the Wednesday night fellowship meal and the studies afterwards. We owe a huge thanks to Jimmy Whited and Chris Krol for leading those studies.

I thought I would take just a moment and explain our overall communications strategy for getting information to the congregation:

This publication, *The Sand Dollar*, is for sharing celebrations we have as a church. It looks over the last quarter and lifts up those things for which we need to thank God; like new members, mission trips and updates from the Children and Youth ministries. We get to see the fun things like First Friends and hear about the ways God is using our congregation.

*First Things* is a monthly announcement flyer. It covers all the events for the coming month and mentions the important things to look forward to in the next quarter.

We also send out emails with special information and announcements. These range from notices of member’s deaths, special worship services or information from the various church committees. If you do not receive emails from the church, please call the church office and we will add you.

We are always trying to make sure you know what is going on here at FWBFUMC and I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Sand Dollar*!

You servant in Christ,
In August, we ate lunch along the Choctawhatchee Bay at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. We enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship. A special thank you to David and Judy Arrowsmith for making the arrangements at the club. We also celebrated those who had birthdays that month, Lottie Early and Lee Robinson.

In September, we took a trip to historical Pensacola and rode on a retrofitted 1930’s Ford transit bus for a two hour guided sightseeing tour. Our tour guide was very funny! We saw many historic landmarks, enjoyed some snacks, and some good laughs!

On October 14th, we went on a trip to Eden Gardens in Point Washington and toured the Wesley house. After our tour, we enjoyed a nice picnic lunch.

Lamar Brown First Friends will be taking a trip to Bellingrath Gardens in Theodore, AL on Monday, November 11th. Keep an eye on the bulletin for details.

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**Freedom Festival**

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New Members

Fort Walton Beach Pack 527 celebrated their first pack meeting as a new charter organization at FWBFUMC.
2 Chronicles 7:14 tells us, “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Some of us, I included, think that verse says “humble ourselves to pray” which it doesn’t. 2 acts there, humble AND pray. Through prayer and time spent with God, I felt led to spend another night out with our unsheltered brothers and sisters on our porch. This time there were 4 of us from the church that felt led by God to “humble” ourselves to spend the night outdoors, and to “pray” with our unsheltered brothers and sisters.

79 degrees was forecasted to be the low that night and 95 was the high. We started at The Landing around 3:00 in the afternoon of September 12, which is a good spot for our friends because you get a breeze off the water and ultimately a quiet safe place to stay for the day. We brought our backpacks full of clothes and provisions to hand out over the course of the day. We arrived at Fort Walton Beach First United Methodist Church shortly before 9:00 pm to meet the pizza delivery guy to feed everyone around. It was time to set out bedding for us and our friends as well. We then all gathered in the middle of Methodist street and had about a 25 person prayer circle that lasted for about 15 minutes. Our church team each witnessed and shared a little about what the night meant and to express our love for the community. One of the most powerful prayer circle experiences I have ever had, I’m sure others would attest to this as well. Then it was time for bed and an opportunity to pray one-on-one with a few of our unsheltered friends.

The end of the verse that is mentioned above says, “I will hear from Heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.” 17 people that have slept on our porch since we started this in February of 2018 have moved on and gotten jobs and housing. That number will have gone up by the time you read this. Through your prayers and outreach to our community we are experiencing the healing that God is telling us about and it is a wonderful thing to watch. Keep praying folks, God is listening!

Chris Krol
Evangelism Team Leader
Student Ministry

Mid-High Trip
We started our July off with a trip to Atlanta with our middle schoolers. We spent time at Stone Mountain Park and took in a laser light show and fireworks. We also spent a day at Six Flags! We had a great time of fellowship and getting to know our new 6th graders.

Oakwood Summer Camp
We finished up our summer calendar with our Summer Camp at Blue Lake. We talked about what it meant to have a radical faith. It was a great week of growth and seeing people step into new leadership roles.

OneNight
OneNight is designed for us to bring friends into a laid back environment where students can engage in community by connecting with others. We hosted a Water Night on the front lawn and a Neon Night in the fellowship hall. Each night students brought friends that had not attended before.

OnMission
OnMission are projects that help our students learn what it means to live in a radically open and loving community that reflects God’s love for the world. We recently helped re-tarp a roof in Panama City and served at Waterfront Rescue. Each of the events resulted in students taking part in something they have never done before. We spent time celebrating those victories!
Children’s Ministry

July was a busy month for the Children’s Ministry. We went bowling, back to school shopping for kids at Fresh Start, Big Kahunas 3 times, and went to Camp Baldwin for summer camp. It was our first time going to Camp Baldwin for summer camp, we took 13 kids and 3 adults for 5 days. We had an absolute blast.

August we slowed down a little as the kids went back to school. We started small groups back on Wednesday night, and have had a wonderful turn out each week. We are super excited for the time to spend with these kiddos playing outside and enjoying God’s creation.

September children’s choir has started. We have 35 children and are picking up from 7 different schools here in Okaloosa County.

The Children’s Ministry needs help:
Van driver and van rider on Tuesdays. It only requires a couple of hours a week. Nursery volunteer - about an hour on Sunday mornings, every couple months.
FUMS started the 2019-2020 school year with 24 staff members and over 140 students! We currently have 10 classes for children ages 1-5.

FUMS had our annual book fair on September 16-20 which provided the teachers with many new classroom books. During the same week, we had Grandparent’s Day. It was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance.

See You At The Pole
On September 25, we held our annual See You at the Pole event. Students met around the flag in the school courtyard for a time of worship and prayer.

Storybook Parade
On October 31, FUMS will hold our annual Storybook Parade. FUMC members are encouraged to come out and host a trunk for our school trunk-or-treat. Below are some photos from last year.
In the fourth of my series of messages to our congregation, it remains my intent to keep you informed of the many activities of your Trustee committee and their impact on our daily operations.

Of particular interest to each of you as it relates to your generous contributions, is how well our committee manages the funds entrusted to us to provide for both the security and the maintenance of our extended facilities. In this regard, let me begin by bringing you up to date on our security program. As I mentioned in my last message, the glass doors have been installed in the breezeway. The entrance is controlled to only those with bonified requirements to be in the building - all others must be identified by Ann Marie before gaining entrance. All exterior doors have been rekeyed and persons feeling they need a key must fill out the FUMC Building Key Request Form and present it to the Administrative Assistant for forwarding to the Church Access Committee. This may sound cumbersome, but it is working quite well with little delay in granting access to those in genuine need and is a big step toward ensuring no unauthorized personnel are in our buildings or our school. Recording cameras have been installed throughout the facilities and particularly in each classroom. They are constantly monitored on all our computers. We are most vulnerable during Sunday services when the narthex doors are open to our congregation. We have a group of greeters in the parking lot to help our congregation and to monitor any situations that may arise. They are our first line of defense until the doors are locked 15 minutes after the start of each service.

I have also appointed Dr. David Arrowsmith as our Chief of Security. David is a long-time member of our church, has been on virtually every committee at one time or another, knows our people, and our facility. If you spot David making his rounds, be sure to thank him for taking on this most important assignment.

You may have heard rumors that Pastor Dave is moving out of the parsonage. The needs of his growing family have greatly exceeded the space and accommodations of the parsonage, and he has requested the Church Council to authorize a move out and to be provided a housing allowance. This proposal was reviewed by the Staff Parish Relations, Finance, and Trustee committees and approved by the Church Council effective on the date he moves out of the parsonage. Dave and his family have located a much larger home to purchase and they anticipate moving the end of September. This will not only provide space for his growing family, but an opportunity to build some equity toward eventual retirement. Considerable debate was generated by all responsible committees on whether to rent or to sell the parsonage. The decision approved by the Church Council has been to rent it for a period of two years and then decide on its disposition. In this regard, since the Trustees committee is responsible for church property, it will be our task to prepare the building for rental to include interior, as well as exterior repairs, painting, etc. I have appointed Wes Norton and Maggie Lawson to a Parsonage Sub-committee responsible to determine what rehab is required, the cost, and timelines we might expect until it’s ready to be put on the rental market.

With God’s Blessings

Jim Ifland, Chairman - Trustees Committee
In September we hosted a Fellowship Retreat at Camp Baldwin in Elberta, AL. We had a fantastic time spending time with our church family. We brought Jonathan Seale to be a guest speaker. Jon is the Family Pastor at Hope Hull UMC. We also invited Tom and Jenna Hood to lead us in worship throughout the weekend. Here are some highlights from the weekend. Our theme for the weekend was “We are the Church” based off 1 Corinthians 12.27.

Next year’s Fellowship Retreat will take place at Camp Baldwin on September 18-20, 2020. Mark your calendars now!
The Sager Brown Team from First United Methodist Church was led by Jerry Stone. Returning members were Tommy Britt and Gail Polomski and “newbies” were Gary and Patsy Hunter. Sager Brown is a beautiful campus with red brick dorms, cafeteria, gym, and administrative offices. The warehouse is just down a walkway from the main campus. The campus has chairs along the river and a gazebo so you can relax and reflect. Sager Brown has an RV Park with full hookups for those with campers. Tommy and the Hunter’s stayed here in their campers along with 3 other campers.

Each team had meal duty for one meal during the week. We had the first breakfast. There was a prayer list in the Susanna Wesley room that people could put prayer requests and praises on during the week. At the closing vesper service we prayed over everyone on the list. Sunday night we had our first group meeting and were given an overview of what to expect during the week. Monday morning we had orientation by the director and then went to the depot for orientation there. Gerretta Dugas was the administrative depot assistant and she explained how we would be verifying the hygiene kits. They wanted everyone to work on the hygiene kits Monday so we would be sure to get them finished. We packed 13,160 kits that week.

The warehouse was an amazing sight. It was so well organized and ran very smoothly. We worked in the air conditioned room inside the warehouse. The kit supplies and list were on the tables and the kits were in large cantaloupe boxes. We had kit checkers, supply runners, box packers, kit suppliers, and rejected materials sorters. This was a time for laughter, meeting new friends, and working together to supply the hygiene kits needed for the Sudan shipment.

On Wednesday, we had a half day working and a half day for community outreach or sightseeing. The outreach projects were St. Mary Center of Hope, Chez Hope, Matthew 25 International, St Jules Apartments, Hearts & Hands for Homes, Community Garden, and facilities repair, beautify, and landscape. There are many opportunities for you to serve other than the depot.

Thursday night we had a vesper service to close the week. Friday morning we all said our goodbyes and hoped to meet again. We have 10 slots for the October 11-16, 2020 Sager Brown trip and all 5 of us are going back so we really only have 5 openings. To see pictures of our week and other weeks you can go to https://www.flickr.com/photos/sagerbrownmissions/album.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 1st</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Green</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Chili Supper Kick Off</td>
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<td>December 2nd</td>
<td>Children’s ministry in FWB Christmas Parade</td>
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<td>December 7th</td>
<td>Children’s Choir sings at FWB Christmas Tree Lighting</td>
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<td>December 8th</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. – Hope and Healing Service</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. – Cookies and Caroling</td>
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<td>December 11th</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. – Operation Hope Christmas Party</td>
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<td>December 15th</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata (One Service)</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Progressive Dinner</td>
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<td>December 24th</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</td>
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