



TO THE POINT

*A letter from Rev. Stephen Hoffman,
Pastor of First United Methodist Church
of Palmetto*

www.fumcpalmetto.org

May/June, 2009

Dear Friends,

Beginning on Easter Sunday we begin worship with the joyful affirmation that “Christ is risen!” It is impossible to write that phrase without ending it with an exclamation point, but it is an exclamation with an explanation. This is how Thomas Keating explains how the resurrection is an exclamation:

“Easter is the awakening of divine life in us. ‘Christ is risen!’ is not merely the cry of historical witness. It is the cry of all the people of God throughout the centuries who have realized Christ rising in them, not only in the form of emotional enthusiasm, but in the form of unshakable conviction. The light of Christ reveals the fact of our abiding union with Him and its potential to transform every aspect of our lives.”

“Our abiding union with Christ” is the source of all love and what makes both faith and hope real in our lives. We have had a significant Lenten and Easter season and we all owe a debt of gratitude to the combined ministries of all our musicians, the worship committee, and our superb lay speakers as well. Our observance of Holy Week was also made especially significant by our hosting of Family Promise once again. A big thanks to all who served both from our congregation and our partner churches. Christ is risen indeed!

Summer Worship Schedule

The last two weeks we have conducted a poll about our summer worship schedule in both worship services. Thank you to all who participated and especially the generous spirit with which you have shared your various perspectives. This will be our schedule:

During June, July, and August we will have a combined worship service at 9:30 a.m.

This is something new for our church, and I am aware that this change in schedule asks something from each of us. Everybody is being asked to be willing to make some adjustments. These are some of the benefits:

- ◆ People from both services will be able to fellowship with one another.
- ◆ Early service people will hear the choir.
- ◆ Utility costs will be conserved.
- ◆ It is an opportunity for us to try something new.

I am also aware that this schedule asks something from each of us. For our working families Sunday is not only a time of worship it is also a significant time of Sabbath and recreation. This is also important and was a big reason in not just canceling the early service in favor of the 10:45 service. Also, for some late worship people, coming to worship earlier will mean a change in plans for meeting people for lunch. I am trusting a spirit of generosity from all of you. Thank you for that!

Bob Marble to speak.

It has been very good to have Bob Marble home with us since right before Easter. As you know, he is an inspiration to all of us as he serves with the American Red Cross that ministers to the emergency family needs of our military in uniform serving overseas. Bob has completed one assignment in Baghdad, Iraq and has plans to accept another assignment returning on June 29.

Bob has agreed to present a program on the work of the American Red Cross with a power point presentation of photographs he took while on assignment. This will be on **Tuesday, 16 June. There will be a covered dish supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Program at 6:45 p.m.** You are urged to invite friends from the community to join us that evening.

Take Dad to the Ball Game!

We are also planning our trip to watch the Tampa Bay Rays in honor of Father's Day. The game we will attend as a church is Saturday, June 27. The game will be between the Rays and the Florida Marlins. It begins at 7:09 p.m. Fathers are invited to attend as guests of the church. As discussed at Church Council other tickets will be available at the reduced rate of \$25. (Reduced from \$25). We have reserved a block of tickets by the Rays bull pen. The ticket also includes a complimentary hat. We are also making arrangements for an 18 passenger bus to make travel easier. Last year we had 40 people attend and had a great time. Call the church office for reservations!

Please note that we have included birthdays and anniversaries for both May and June. The next letter will be in July. I love serving Christ with you here in Palmetto!

Grace and peace,

Stephen

The Sunday after Easter we held a Re-Dedication Ceremony for our church bell which was refurbished in a joint project of our Trustees and Thrift Shop.

To commemorate this occasion the following poem was penned by Louise Rickert.





We wish a Happy Birthday in May & June to

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|---|--|
| 5/1 - Pam Salmond | 6/1 - Giovanni Palacios, Jeannette Quesenberry |
| 5/4 - Jean Hensley | 6/2 - Carleton Sprinkle |
| 5/5 - Joyce Lawson | 6/3 - Gail Moulton |
| 5/7 - Dick Benroth | 6/4 - Jim Grant, Ruth Van Sickle |
| 5/9 - Barbara Cordwell, Nicholas Thiers Fay Tokanos | 6/5 - Cecil Klock |
| 5/10 - Earl Hadley, Dean Shelley | 6/6 - Eddie Mercurio |
| 5/11 - Fannie Wilke | 6/11 - Patty McRee |
| 5/12 - Marlene Jurgensen | 6/13 - Robert Miller, Sr. |
| 5/13 - Lisa Kirkland, Alison Thomas Loretta Thompson | 6/14 - Janet Thoreson |
| 5/15 - Jimmy Clements | 6/15 - Freddie Russo, Maddie Russo |
| 5/16 - Mercedes Staples | 6/16 - Ronald Touchton |
| 5/18 - Barb Gaulien, Anna Gianotes | 6/17 - Kristen Kubecka, Kimberly Neumann |
| 5/19 - Bob Wahl | 6/18 - Ty Revell, Beulah Travis |
| 5/20 - Fernando Bartolon, Bud Van Sickle Jackie Voss | 6/19 - Dick Garrison |
| 5/22 - Barbara Hersh | 6/23 - Court Courtney II, Josh Edington |
| 5/23 - Connor Kirkland | 6/24 - Carrie Klepfer, Suzanne Morrison Judi Windle |
| 5/24 - Beulah Scott | 6/26 - Jordan Courtney, Harry Poling |
| 5/25 - Sawyer Pascoe | 6/27 - Dennis Bundy, Ginnie Luft |
| 5/26 - Wendy Marble | 6/28 - Sara Doyle, Melba Hunt |
| 5/29 - Mia Thomas | 6/29 - Lura Beth Keogh, Bob Walwork |
| 5/31 - Beth Thornton | 6/30 - Forest Klepfer |

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in May & June.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5/5 - M/M Bob Marble | 6/7 - M/M Coby Gaulien |
| 5/9 - M/M Rick Russo, Jr. | 6/11 - M/M Jim Grant |
| 5/10 - M/M Maurice Durkee | 6/12 - M/M Jim McRee II |
| 5/12 - M/M Bill Jackson | 6/13 - M/M David Brown |
| 5/22 - M/M Elvin Mahan | 6/14 - M/M Dick Benroth |
| 5/30 - M/M Jon Snyder | 6/15 - M/M Calvert Courtney, Sr. |
| | 6/18 - M/M Curtis Troxell |
| | 6/23 - M/M Jimmy Clements |
| | 6/26 - M/M Mick McCormack |
| | 6/28 - M/M Allen Langford |





First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

330 11th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

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Return Service Requested

We are instruments of God called to be neighbors in this community and world through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on quality worship, spiritual growth, and effective service.

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Saturday & Sunday Evening Hispanic Worship 6:30 p.m.

Senior Pastor
Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Music Director/Organist
Mary Shields

Pianist
Michele Jurgensen

Administrative Assistant
Noni Hammerstrand

Giovanni Palacios
Pastor of Hispanic Mission

Church Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

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fumcpalmetto@yahoo.com

MEMORIAL DAY



MAY 25, 2009

As we plan times of recreation for Memorial Day, let us also stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to those departed — especially those who fell in uniform while serving our country,

Thank you Father God, for these special lives, for sacrifices made, liberties preserved, and friendships shared. Comfort all those whose mourning is fresh. Amen.