

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE
206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
JUNE 2019



“Story telling was at the center of the beginnings of the Jesus movement. And I think we're right to call it the Jesus movement here because if we think of it as Christianity, that is, from the perspective of the kind of movement and institutional religion that it would become a few hundred years later, we will miss the flavor of those earliest years of the kind of crude and rough beginnings, the small enclaves trying to keep the memory alive, and more than that, trying to understand what this Jesus meant for them.” This statement begins an article dealing with oral tradition and religion specifically speaking about the rise of Christianity and the resurrection story. I was asked after my Easter article if we could trust the Gospel accounts given that they were written so long after the event.

I believe the answer is yes and I want to share the thoughts of others on this question and end with my own. At the time of Jesus crucifixion and resurrection, the common method of sharing an event was through oral repetition of the story as shared by direct witnesses. The common people of the era were typically illiterate and, therefore, the only means for most to share was through the spoken word. Such is the case of the sharing of the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was shared from person to person and generation to generation as the teachings of the Pentateuch had been in Israel until the writing of the text in a later era.

We cannot understand the necessity of oral traditions and of the carrying of important facts through spoken word in our instant society that even allows us to speak words into our smart phones and create a written record. I believe this ability has decreased how we view the importance of the spoken word and come to see it as temporary and unreliable. However, imagine how carefully we would be with spoken word if we did not have this ability. For example, in Alex Haley's book *Roots*, we find Haley going to Africa to hear of his family, the story of Kunta Kinte. He is told the family storyteller will arrive and retell the history of his family. Haley asks him to go to a certain part of the story only to be told the story can only be told from the beginning, apparently to assure accuracy. We forget there are others for which the accuracy of the spoken word is essential to life and is for them reliable.

Let us look beyond my basic assumption that spoken language in certain societies is key to their transmission of information and is reliable to the specific topic at hand. N.T. Wright, theologian and professor at the University of Scotland, tells us, “There is no form of early Christianity known to us that does not affirm that after Jesus' shameful death, God raised him to life again.” Wright holds the most widely held belief affirming that resurrection is the central tenant of the early church. Likewise, Paul writes, “Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” The event of the resurrection was the central focus of early Christians, it was the confirmation of who Jesus was; it was the event, which lead them to understand the life and teaching of Jesus as Messiah.

Third, we need to look at the Biblical statements of the presence of the resurrected Jesus in the world. In 1 Corinthians 15:6 Paul writes that Jesus appeared to over five hundred believers and that most of them are still alive. I realize we can claim an apparition based on the desire of the believers to hold on to Jesus but the number Paul states and the fact that many are still alive indicates there was a commonly held belief among persons who not only heard of the event but also were witnesses to the event. If there were any way, in which the ruling authority could have refuted and ended the telling of the event, surely they would have done so in order to destroy this subversive group that was drawing away its followers to a new understanding of God.

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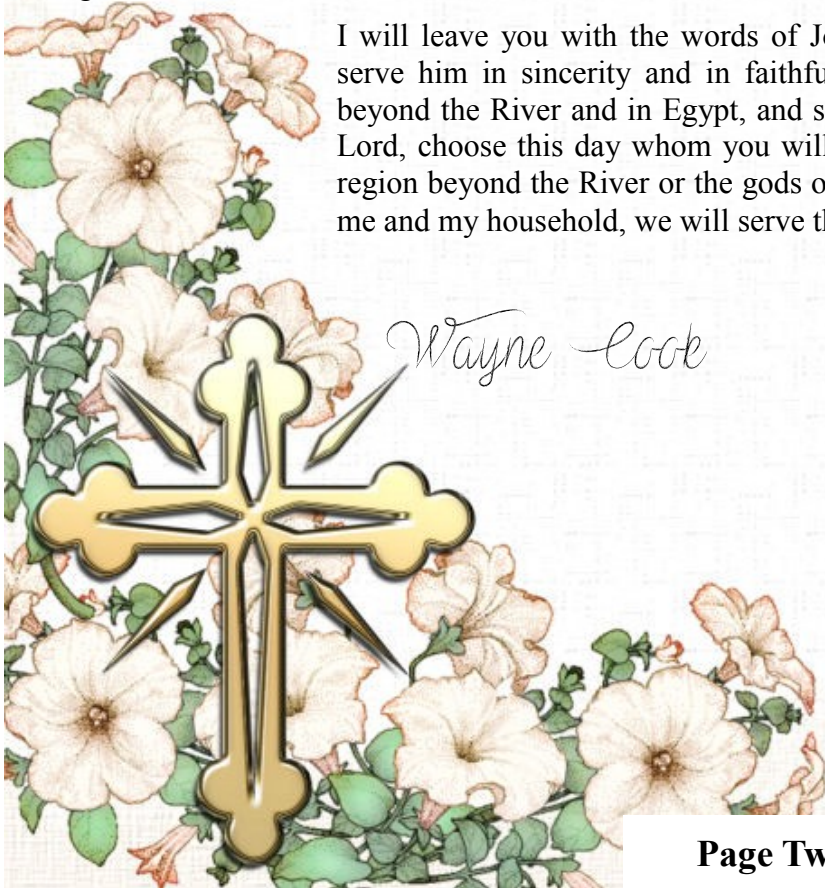
Fourth, let us examine human nature. Would you be willing to die for a lie? Would you continue to put forth a lie even though it caused you to become a political and religious enemy to the ruling powers of your culture and world? Chuck Colson, one of the Watergate conspirators, tells us that Watergate proves the resurrection. He says, "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned, and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world—and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible." These twelve unlearned common men, former fisherman lived and died to share the message of the resurrection. I agree with Colson, even intelligent men with great power cannot keep a lie quiet for very long and certainly given the choice of being beaten and dying or recanting the story, they would have recanted, often this happens even if the story is true.

Finally, and possibly most importantly, is our own individual decision. Regardless of the evidence, we each make decisions daily as to what we will and will not accept as credible evidence of events. We can be presented with irrefutable facts on any number of events or possible future events and choose not to believe the evidence...instead choosing to believe the stories that whirl around us attempting to sway us to a side of the argument. Currently, we are dealing with the issues of immigration, climate change, abortion, marriage, vaccination of children, and many others. On these issues, the facts are rarely what causes us to choose which side we will support; rather our own hearing and emotional or spiritual understanding sway us to one side or the other. We are people who are often carried along more by our own desires and thoughts than by factual evidence. Ultimately, each of us has to decide whether to believe in the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus. We are presented with facts, arguments and counter facts and arguments, yet we have to decide what is real for us.

As for me, I have chosen to believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus as presented in the Gospels and recounted by Paul. I find comfort and hope in the resurrection. I trust that God is able to raise all people. Is it possible I am wrong? Of course it is, but, I still choose to believe.

I will leave you with the words of Joshua 24:14-15, "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now, if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Wayne Cook



(White 1998)

(Wright 2016)

(New Revised Standard Version Bible 1989)

(Always Be Ready n.d.)

(New Revised Standard Version Bible 1989)

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES



Kendell St. Jean, son of Syncia Jeanty, graduated Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School and will be attending the University of Central Florida.

Amy Kathlyn Springfield, granddaughter of Ruth Alman and the late Tom Alman, graduated on May 18th with her degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Virginia (UVA) in Charlottesville, VA.

Jonathan Thomas Springfield, grandson of Ruth Alman and the late Tom Alman, graduated on May 17th with a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology from Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, VA.

Matthew Balaski, grandson of Randy and Lynn Coleman, graduated on Saturday, May 25th, from Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, MS. He was awarded a cord for academic excellence. He played football and competed in powerlifting while in high school. He will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi in the fall where he will be majoring in Construction Technology.

Nathan Bryan Whitson, grandson of Roy & Sue Whitson, graduated from Titusville High School. He will continue his studies at UCF in computer Science.

Tyler Andrew Winn graduated on Friday, May 24th, with his high school diploma after being home-educated. The commencement ceremony will be held at Calvary Memorial Church in Roanoke, Virginia. Ty plans to continue his studies at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke with an emphasis in business. Ty's parents are Marty and Ruth Winn. Ty's grandparents are Jim and Carolyn Winn.

June Prayer Focus

“There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.”

— Isaiah 4:6

May 26–June 1 — Seek Wisdom

June 2–8 — Annual Conference

June 9–15 — Blessings on our families

June 16–22 — Fathers and their children

June 23–29 — Peace in the lives of our community

June 30–July 6 — Our Nation

Lay Liturgists/Readers for June

June 2 — Jerry Copeland

June 9 — Faye Kikta

June 16 — Patsy Clark

June 23 — Jennifer Evans

June 30 — Mike Mustard



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

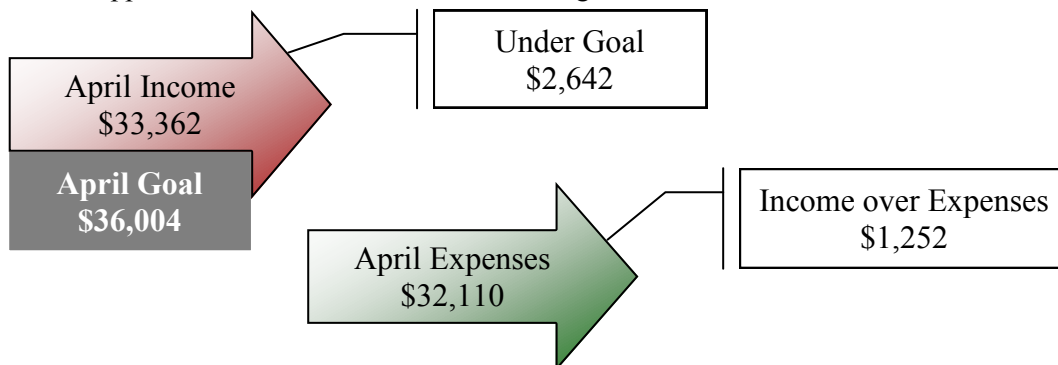
- 9 Frank & Linda Russell
- 11 Red & Brenda Honaker
- 14 Dennis & Kathy Metott
- 16 Wayne & Janet Cook
- 17 Rich & Linda Wilson
- 21 Truman & Barbara Scarborough
- 23 Mike & Judy Brooks
- 26 Jan & Faye Kikta
- 30 Jake & Debbie Huether

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Judy Hill
- 2 Robbin Pyles
- 3 Ingrid Patterson
- 9 Michael Evans
- 10 Fred Henn
- 11 Bertie Gillespie
- 12 W. O. Brown
- 15 Ed Grimes
- 17 Glenda Nealeigh
- 18 Lois Garnett
- 18 Charlotte Rinehart
- 20 Jennifer Evans
- 21 Fran Nolan
- 23 Ralph Howington
- 24 Herb Brown
- 24 RJ Cooke
- 25 Jan Grimard
- 26 Enis Nathaniel
- 29 Libby Cooke
- 29 Laurilee Thompson
- 30 Harold Yount

The Church's Budgeted Finances

The Finance Committee appreciates your contributions and donations. With your support we will be able to continue sharing God's love with those around us.



The budget for 2019 is **\$432,047** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$36,004 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year.

ADULT MINISTRIES

KNIT WITS — Every Tues. @ 11am in the Fellowship Hall

CHAIROBICS — On break until September.

LINE DANCING — On break until September.

PATCHWORK FRIENDS – 1st Wed. of each month @ 9am in the quilting room

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP – Resumes in September

— PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES —

LADIES DAY OUT

Thursday, July 18th @ 11:30am – Tea World at Titusville (Searstown) Mall

*To reserve a space, call Carol Stephens at 321-267-2600 or
sign up at the rear of the church.*

To sign up for any of these programs, check the table in back of the sanctuary.

It's very important to sign up so we can prepare for the program.










Memorial Gifts

We would like to acknowledge and thank the families and friends who have designated memorial gifts to our church this year in memory of those who have gone to be with our Lord and Savior.

<i>Vance Alexander</i>	<i>Alfredo Hernandez & Greg Morgan</i>	<i>Frank & Ann Rist</i>
<i>Ruth Alman</i>	<i>Adrienne Herrell</i>	<i>Bob Russell</i>
<i>John & Joanne Baker</i>	<i>Kaye Hooper</i>	<i>Frank & Linda Russell</i>
<i>Bill & Kitty Baldwin</i>	<i>Jake & Debbie Huether</i>	<i>Truman Scarborough</i>
<i>Helen Becker</i>	<i>French & Naomi Johnson</i>	<i>Barbara Schwartz</i>
<i>Robert C. Bessen</i>	<i>Jewell Johnson</i>	<i>Betty, Eric, & Jean Shearouse</i>
<i>Vie & Yvette Boodhoo</i>	<i>John & Debra Jones</i>	<i>Georgia Smith</i>
<i>Barbara Borman</i>	<i>Frank & Ann Kennedy</i>	<i>John & Carol Stephens</i>
<i>Marion & Joy Brady</i>	<i>Kerry Kennedy</i>	<i>Kay Stewart</i>
<i>Lew & Barbara Brinkley</i>	<i>Carol Key</i>	<i>Tommie & Michelle Suggs</i>
<i>Nancy Bunting</i>	<i>Grace Lazzari</i>	<i>Jim & Sharon Talbert</i>
<i>M.J. and K.S. Carrabba</i>	<i>Jan Lichtenwalter</i>	<i>William & Rachel Terry</i>
<i>Randy & Lynn Coleman</i>	<i>Michael & Dina Maurer</i>	<i>Laurilee Thompson</i>
<i>Keith & Libby Cooke</i>	<i>Joseph & Cheryl Maxwell</i>	<i>Bill & Natalie Walls</i>
<i>N. Lucille Deeter</i>	<i>Walter & CJ McAllister</i>	<i>John & Maxine Watkins</i>
<i>Ken & Louise DeTorres</i>	<i>Sammy McGraw</i>	<i>Herman Wattwood, Jr.</i>
<i>Teresa Fannin</i>	<i>Trudy Metzger</i>	<i>Rich & Linda Wilson</i>
<i>Joseph & Judy Fine</i>	<i>Ed & Ingrid Patterson</i>	<i>Jim & Carolyn Winn</i>
<i>Patsy Gadapee</i>	<i>John & Marie Pridgen</i>	<i>Richard & Amy Yunker</i>
<i>Paul & Jan Grimard</i>	<i>Bill & Lois Queen</i>	<i>Caroline Zaffery</i>
<i>Ed & Debbie Grimes</i>	<i>Michael & Laurie Richards</i>	
<i>Gary & Joanne Hamilton</i>	<i>Judith Riddle</i>	

June 2019

First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
2 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	3 3:00pm Worship Design 7:00pm SPR Committee Mtg.	4 Annual Conference 11:00am Knit Wits 1:00pm Line Dancing Rehearsal 5:00pm Handbells 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	5 Annual Conference 9:00am Patchwork Friends 7:00pm Chancel Choir	6 Annual Conference	7 Annual Conference 12:00pm Band Practice 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	8 Annual Conference 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	10 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm Worship Design 5:30pm Finance Comm. Mtg.	11 11:00am Knit Wits 1:00pm Line Dancing Rehearsal 5:00pm Handbells 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	12 6:00pm Ladies Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	13	14 12:00pm Band Practice 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	15 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
16 Father's Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	17 3:00pm Worship Design 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	18 11:00am Knit Wits 3:30pm Dove Circle 5:00pm Handbells 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	19 7:00pm Chancel Choir	20	21 12:00pm Band Practice 1-3:30pm Food Pantry 5:30pm Friday Fellowship	22 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
23 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	24 3:00pm Worship Design	25 11:00am Knit Wits 5:00pm Handbells 6:30pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	26 7:00pm Chancel Choir	27	28 12:00pm Band Practice 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	29 7:30am UMM Breakfast 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
30 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship						

June 2019

FUMC Staff

Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 204
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 207
Keith Meck - Facilities Manager	Ext.202
Carol Henn - Music Director	Ext 209
Nursery	Ext 208
Reception Desk	Ext 201
Amy Martin - Children's Ministries	
Lauren Peterson - Director of Student Ministries	
Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus	321-603-0235
Keith Cooke - Financial Secretary	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	

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First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave
Titusville, FL 32796

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8am – 4pm, Monday - Friday
Closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 269-7631

Fax: (321) 269-8359

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com

Website: www.fumctitusville.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/682694095204027

Twitter Handle: @MethodistFirst

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCchscOcLDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q>

