



# Messenger



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

MARCH 2022

## Clergy Morale in Today's Time

By the Rev. Dr. René Lawson

Jan. 26, 2022 | GARLAND, Texas ([UM News](#))

### Key points:

- Reports indicate that clergy burnout is at an all-time high. Showing them appreciation would go a long way.
- Potential causes include ongoing isolation due to COVID-19, division within the church and the nation, and serious decline in church attendance.
- Clergy need to support one another, and be supported by the wider church as well.

While each New Year raises hope for a better future, there are some practical considerations that need addressing, particularly regarding clergy morale.

A retired clergy colleague recently stated that he felt sorry for today's United Methodist pastors because of all the enormous challenges facing the ministry. Scratching his head, he didn't know how pastors could manage all the stressful events that have affected daily living. Indeed, it's not the same church that it was in the 1960s and 1970s, when attendance and interest were much higher.

The unfortunate result, according to sources such as the Barna Group, Washington Post and Christianity Today, indicate that clergy burnout is at an all-time high. Up to 38% of Protestant pastors have considered quitting full-time ministry. The percentage grows even higher with mainline Protestant pastors.

There are a number of factors to consider when it comes to clergy burnout.

1. The pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 have forced the church to explore alternative methods of simply being the church. While the virus has given birth to new and creative ways of being in ministry, the church still struggles to maintain a connected presence with its parishioners. In essence, our United Methodist Church is striving to maintain its "connectional" status.



2. Our nation is terribly divided, particularly on matters regarding the welfare of its citizens. Barbara Walter, an expert on civil war affairs from the University of California at San Diego, recently reported that the [United States is drawing very close to starting a civil war](#). Civil disobedience, mistrust, and violence are an alarming trend, with political or tribal allegiances threatening to tear America apart.
3. A recent Pew Research poll demonstrated [a disturbing trend in church attendance](#): Only 25% of the U.S. population attends church on a regular basis. Religious life has been declining for years and it continues to decline. Who can blame today's younger generations for avoiding the church when the church fights within itself?
4. Matters regarding social justice, such as racial relations or the LGBTQ+ community, are contentious subjects. What makes matters worse are leaders who refute formal education in favor of

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self-proclaimed revelation ... which might be totally outrageous!

Indeed, storm clouds line the horizons of our United Methodist Church. The delay of meeting as a General Conference has placed on hold important matters that desperately need discussions and decisions. It feels as if the church has been placed on pause. Who knows what tomorrow will bring to our beloved church? Indeed, these are anxious times.

What are clergy to do during these turbulent periods? How can they survive what seems to be a freefall?

First, they can be inspired by reading how the prophets and disciples of old overcame their difficult times. The Bible is filled with stories of God's people overcoming all kinds of adversities. It was challenging during biblical times and it continues to be challenging today. No one said that being a clergyperson in the church would be easy. There will be moments when God expects leaders to stand up against all hard times. The Good News is that the church of Jesus Christ will always prevail!

Second, clergy need to support and care for one another. They should take care of each other by offering prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. They should focus on lifting morale. Being a clergyperson is one of the loneliest occupations in the world. Consider the following observation as noted in the [Harvard Business Review](#): "The solitude of the ivory tower seems to be a real phenomenon. Graduate degree holders ... reported higher levels of loneliness and less workplace support than those who had only completed undergraduate or high school degrees."

Clergy often feel isolated, as if no one cares. Many wander around aimlessly, trying to keep their churches together. And truth be told, many clergy persons compete against each other, which further isolates their capacity to support one another.

Here's one thing I learned while serving in the military: If your people feel wanted and appreciated, they will work extra hard to complete whatever mission may be before them. If they do not feel wanted or appreciated, and simply left on their own, morale will suffer and efforts to fulfill the mission will be diminished.

Perhaps some may remember a term known as a "steel beach picnic." Navy ships and submarines out at sea for long periods of time sometimes have a steel beach picnic on the topside of a ship. These moments often featured grilling food and playing games. Sometimes sailors even engage in a dip into the ocean. These moments are designed to boost the sailors' morale. Why does the commander allow such behavior? He/she knows that a high level of morale is needed to effectively fulfill a mission.

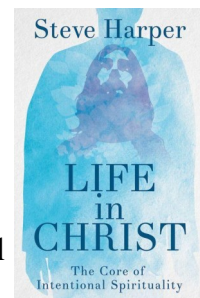
Looking toward the future, clergy members need to feel appreciated in order to stay true to the task before them. They need a morale booster. They need words of encouragement and understanding. They need something to keep them moving forward, even if it is just one foot in front of the other. Clergy need and appreciate your support if they are to continue to fulfill the mission of ushering in God's Kingdom in a conflicted world.

*Lawson is senior pastor of St. Philip's United Methodist Church in Garland, Texas.*

## Lenten Book Study

**Begins  
Tuesday, March 1st @ 1pm.**

***Life in Christ:  
The Core of Intentional Spirituality***



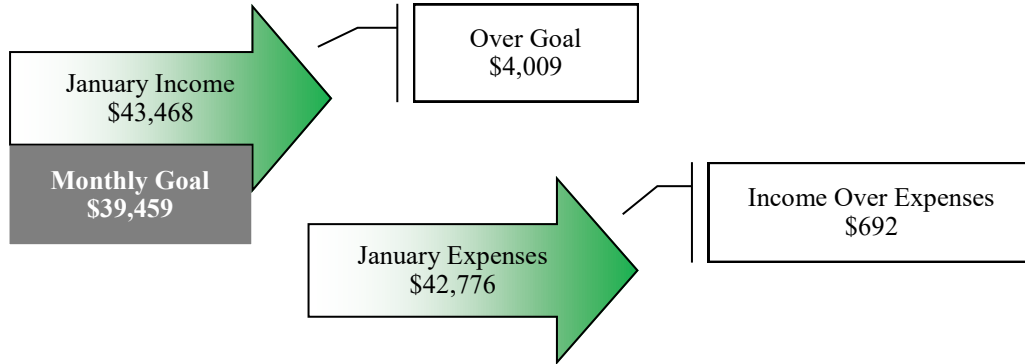
Join Pastor Wayne in a book study in reading and discussing *Life in Christ: The Core of Intentional Spirituality* by Steve Harper.

Steve Harper helps us recognize our tendency to search for life through rules and dogmas rather than in relationships with other people and with God. He taught us to see spiritual life as a movement, where we are always on the way, continually taking steps to align our lives with Christ. He shows us how Christ can be the goal and pattern for our lives, and motivates us to live as God's beloved and as instruments of God's love.

Books can be purchased through [Smile.Amazon.com](#) or [Walmart.com](#).

### 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 2022 is **\$473,502** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$39,459 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year. Although we have begun trying to cut expenses where we reasonably can, we are still feeling the financial pinch from the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are able to still contribute during these lean times, please help us to maintain our regular operating costs as you find you are able. Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the current storm we are in.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating!

# March Birthdays

- |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Dale Mays       | 12 Florace Hensley | 21 Kessandra Jeanty |
| 5 Jim Clark       | 12 Linda Russell   | 23 Joshua McKelvin  |
| 6 Judith Riddle   | 13 Gene Burgess    | 26 Jeanne Mays      |
| 6 Kyle Gilreath   | 13 Selina Bowling  | 29 Keith Cooke      |
| 8 Billy McLean    | 14 John Stephens   |                     |
| 10 Debbie Huether | 20 Randy Coleman   |                     |

# March Anniversaries

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 John & Sally Bradford  | 17 Jerry Copeland       |
| 5 Matt & Beth Driscoll   | 20 Fred & Carol Henn    |
| 13 Ed & Ingrid Patterson | 27 Jeff & Beth Williams |

## When did Ash Wednesday begin and why do we celebrate it?

[www.UMC.org](http://www.UMC.org)

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an [ancient symbol](#). In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

The imposition of ashes on the heads of Christians to mark the beginning of Lent can be traced at least to the 10th century. Marking the forehead with the sign of the cross is a more recent adaptation.

In earlier centuries, ashes were used to mark those who had been separated from the church because of serious sins and were seeking to be re-admitted to the fellowship of the church. In effect, they were redoing the process of final preparation for church membership along with

those doing it for the first time. They were sprinkled with ashes and given rough garments to wear as a sign of sorrow for their sins and their commitment to seek renewal in Christian life through this season.

Since the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a general rite for all in the Western church. The Orthodox churches have never observed this rite.

United Methodists first adopted an official ritual for Ash Wednesday that involves the use of ashes in the 1992 Book of Worship. Prior to that time, Methodists either had no official service at all for this day (through 1964) or an "ashless" Ash Wednesday Service (1965 Book of Worship). The use of ashes remains optional in the current Book of Worship, and, indeed, in all rites for this day. Ashes are an "accessory" that demonstrates an awareness of mortality and an intent to repent. The actual awareness and the corporate and personal acts of repentance are the substance of services for the first day of Lent.

In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering [who we are and who we can be](#).

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

# Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 2  
10AM-2PM

FUMC  
HENNESSY HALL

HENNESSY HALL WILL BE OPEN FROM 10AM-2PM FOR AN OPEN TIME OF REFLECTION THROUGH PRAYER STATIONS. COMMUNION AND ASHES WILL BE GIVEN BY PASTOR WAYNE AT 10AM AND 1 PM.

# Finding Balance As a Caregiver



Balancing the time that we have to bond with the struggle to get through each day.

**Saturday, March 12th**

**10:00 - 11:15 a.m.**

**First Christian Church  
2880 W. Jay Jay Road  
Titusville, FL 32796**

**Sponsored by:**



St. Francis  
**REFLECTIONS**<sup>®</sup>  
Lifestage Care  
Established 1977 - Licensed 1990



**First Christian  
Church  
of Titusville**

**Join us for this free seminar**



Our Speaker will be Cami Leech Florio, Chief Strategic Officer for St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care, a not-for-profit hospice and palliative care organization serving Florida's Space Coast. In 2020, Cami and her husband Michael were called to care for her father in their home during the last six months of his life. The experience of caregiving was the most challenging and the most fulfilling experience of her life. Cami has shared her journey through social media, essays, and letters. Cami has developed a passion for supporting caregivers, which has significantly influenced her work as a hospice professional.

**Caregiver's Reflection  
by Cami Leech Florio**

**It was an honor, you know  
to care for you**

**Days were long, nights were blurry  
a period of self discovery**

**We learned patience  
with ourselves, with each other**

**Simple moments were sweet,  
a story, smile or laugh**

**Sometimes, quiet reflection, grace  
gratitude in our tears**

**We did our best, each day  
we were blessed!**

**To Register for this Free Event:**

Aim your phone camera at this QR Code



or go to:

[www.fcctitusville.com/caregivers](http://www.fcctitusville.com/caregivers)

For More Information on:

**St. Francis Reflections**  
<https://reflectionsllsc.org/>

**First Christian Church**  
[www.fcctitusville.com](http://www.fcctitusville.com)

Senior Ministry at Indian River City UMC Presents:

# CHAPLAIN NORRIS BURKES

[www.thechaplain.net](http://www.thechaplain.net)



Indian River City UMC  
Sanctuary  
1355 Cheney Hwy  
Titusville, FL 32780

Saturday  
March 19, 2022  
2p - 3p

## Book Sale & Signing

### About this event

Come join Retired USAF Chaplain, Syndicated Columnist, Speaker & Author, Norris Burkes, on Saturday, March 19th for a talk on "Faith and the 5 other F words I Live By."

*"When I asked a patient where he got his spiritual support he answered, 'I'm not sure I even believe in God'.  
"That's OK," I said, "I'm in customer service, not sales."*

# FINNEGAN

*Tim*



*Presents*  
**HOW THE IRISH SAVED CIVILIZATION**  
*An evening of Story & Celtic Song*

March 16th @ 6:30pm

BOOKING CONTACT  
KRICKET MOROS 321.505.4267

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY  
MARCH 8TH  
AT 10AM



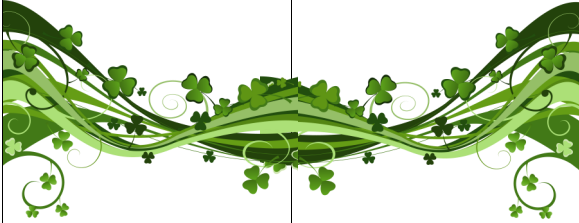
HENNESSY HALL

*It's time for us to come back together!*

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# March 2022

## First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:00pm Lenten Book Study 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	<b>2 Ash Wednesday</b> 9:00am Patchwork Friends 10am-2pm Ash Wednesday Svc. 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11am Ladies Day Out 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	<b>5</b> 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
<b>6</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am UMW Meeting 1:00pm Lenten Book Study 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 10:30am Retired Teachers Mtg	<b>11</b> 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	<b>12</b> 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
<b>13</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	<b>14</b> 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	<b>15</b> 1:00pm Lenten Book Study 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	<b>16</b> 9:00am ADK 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Celtic Concert	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> 9:30am PEO Mtg 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg 	<b>18</b> 9:30am Ladies Day Out 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	<b>19</b> 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
<b>20</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1:00pm Lenten Book Study 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	<b>23</b> 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	<b>26</b> 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
<b>27</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	<b>30</b> 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	<b>31</b>		

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## FUMC Staff

Reception Desk	Ext 201
Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 202
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 203
Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary	Ext. 204
Leah Patterson - Finance Secretary	Ext. 204
Lisa Mick - Dir. of Children's Min.	Ext. 205
Lauren Peterson - Student & Adult Min.	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson—Custodian	Ext. 206
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	
Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus	

## **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](mailto:office@fumctitusville.com)

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Facebook:

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

