



# The BEACON January 2020

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## Seeing Jesus

For most of my preaching life I have taken pleasure in helping people see Jesus in new ways. I love showing a new angle to a Jesus that is familiar to so many. I love seeing the look of someone who sees something new about Jesus that they hadn't known before. I especially love it when I see it on the face of someone who thought there was nothing left to learn about Jesus. It's like seeing a couple who has been married for a very long time yet still finds new reasons to fall in love with the love of their life.

I think this will always be a part of my ministry. The danger of it though is, it can assume that everyone already knows who Jesus is. And that is something in 2020 we just simply must let go of. The reality is most people do not know who Jesus is. They may have a vague concept. They certainly have heard the name used—even if only said out of frustration. But they most likely met him.

Through the first part of the year we will be "Seeing Jesus." Some of us will have the challenge of trying to see him again for the first time. My prayer is that others will see him for the first time. But as Paul asked, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14).

There is a song in our hymnal, "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus." This is what we will be doing but I want to challenge you at the start of 2020, as we begin not just a new year but a new decade. The challenge is this: collect YOUR stories of Jesus. Write them, draw them, paint them, record them in some form or fashion. The Psalmist of Psalm 78 says they will, "tell the next generation all about the praise due the Lord and his strength—the wondrous works God has done ... so that the next generation and children not yet born will know these things, and so they can rise up and tell their children." (Psalm 78:4,8).

We do this as leaders of the church, we share the praise worthy deeds of God with each other that we see—we call them God Sightings. It's one of my favorite parts of our meetings. I love to hear not just how Jesus was at work in the Bible but is still at work in our lives. THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR TO GET TO SEE JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME. As I've said before, you may be the only testament of Jesus that others "read," the only "scripture" that others are ever introduced to. So as we "See Jesus" as we start 2020, I want to encourage you to not just see but also to share where you see God at work here and now.

Amazed by Grace, *Pastor Bridget*

# Parsonage Update

In October we held a Town Hall meeting to update all on the current status of our parsonage located at 1040 Penman Rd. The parsonage which has served the church and its pastors and their families well for nearly 30 years now faces many ongoing maintenance needs including the discovery of mold this year. Also, the location which was once ideal is now a challenge for families with young children. Then, on November 4th we held a Charge Conference where we voted to sell the current parsonage and purchase a new parsonage.

Since then the Parsonage Task Team, appointed by the Operations Team which was empowered by the Charge Conference has been busy at work. This team is led by Teresa Romano who is an Operations Team member and a local realtor. Other team members are: Don Ames, Cynthia Kastner, Dan Long, Denise Pauza, and Pastor Bridget Thornton. The Conference has parsonage standards and the team added additional standards they would like to see. The list included: 3 bedrooms with a dedicated office or 4 bedrooms, living area must be primarily on the first floor if a two story, it must be within a 15 minute drive of the church, it must be 2005 or newer and have minimal maintenance needs, it must be in a safe neighborhood, and it must be in an A/B school zone. The working budget was \$400,000. A bridge loan was secured by the Florida United Methodist Foundation. This loan will be paid off once the current parsonage is sold.

The parameters set by the team limited the search quite a bit in a large market. The team reviewed a long list of houses and toured five. In the end it was agreed that the best home for the new church parsonage is 2897 Discovery Way. The team then worked with the sellers to negotiate the best price for the house, go through inspections, and will close on the house on 12/26. The pastor and family will move into the new home on 1/4/2020. It's a 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1 story house located in a great neighborhood with A/B rated schools. It met all the standards of the team and then some. The final sales price for the home was \$325,000.

In the early spring the 1040 Penman Rd home will go on the market. A smaller home two houses north on Penman Rd recently went on the market and went under contract within a month for over \$400,000. This offers high hopes for our own sales process. As that progresses we will keep you up to date. Should the 1040 Penman Rd property sell for more than the new parsonage any "profits" are restricted in use by the Book of Discipline for capital use (that is cannot be used for operating expenses). These funds will be managed by the Operations Team which serves as our Trustees, per the Charge Conference resolution that was passed.

## Disciple Bible Study



Disciple Bible Study classes, led by Pastor Carmen Johns, will begin again soon. You won't want to miss them! The classes will cover six weeks on the Gospel of John and six weeks on Revelation. This is a powerful study that can transform your life and bring excitement to Bible study. The classes will meet on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. January 20—April 6. Please register as soon as possible, either by visiting the Information Table in the Lobby or calling the church office, so we can prepare adequate number of materials. See you there!

## Soup Sunday

Do you have a favorite soup you could share with everyone? Pea Soup? Chicken Noodle? Sunday January 12th after church we will have a Sunday Soup Tasting. Bring in a pot (crockpot or soup pot) of your favorite soup—and a ladle if you have one—to the kitchen before church. But don't tell anyone which soup is yours. Everyone is invited for soup tasting after church in Wilson Hall, and an opportunity to vote for the best soup. If you have any questions contact Cindy Kastner, (904) 221-4103.

## True North Mental Health Collaborative Event

True North Mental Health Collaborate is very excited to join Jacksonville Women For Christ to host international author and speaker Sheila Walsh on Monday, February 24 at 6 pm at Beach Church. Sheila will give an engaging talk on mental illness and you're invited. Tickets are \$20 which includes a light dinner.

Purchase tickets at <http://jaxwomenforchrist.org/speaker-events/>. *Make sure to scroll down to the Feb. 24 evening event.*

*Sheila is the author of "It's Okay Not To Be Okay: Moving Forward One Day at a Time." In this book, Sheila talks candidly about mental illness and how it has affected her life. While Sheila's events are normally directed at women, because of the nature of this particular talk, men are encouraged to attend as well.*

*Space is limited so get your tickets today!*

# **One Training—All Leaders, Keyholders —AND Everyone Who Works with Children & VBS Volunteers**

## **One Training—All the Leaders—One Saturday**

**WHO: YOU! Required to attend—staff (including preschool staff), key holders, Operations Team members, R Coordinators, and anyone in any type of leadership role. PLUS anyone interested in learning more about leadership and/or working with children. Also outside group leaders are required for one portion of the day.**

**WHAT: A one-day training that will include that annual child and youth protection policy training, security training, church structure, volunteer & employee conduct policies, team building, Mission Vital Signs, Ministry Action Plans, etc.**

**WHY: To build a cohesive leadership team between staff and volunteer leadership. Also, to energize and equip leaders. Finally, rather than ask you to come back for multiple Saturdays through the year, the vision is to do ONE longer training and be done for the year.**

**WHEN: Saturday, January 11th 9am—4pm (lunch & snacks provided).**

**WHERE: Wilson Hall**

**WHAT IF: What if I already have an obligation I cannot get out of? Then unfortunately you may have to attend multiple trainings throughout the year and those will be located at other churches. You'll be responsible for transportation, registration, and assuring you have required trainings for your position.**

**Children's Riddles**

**Answers:**

1. Frosted Flakes, 2 In a snowbank, 3. At a retail store, 4. A snowcap

## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU? LET'S TALK ABOUT RESOLUTIONS

It's the start of a new year and a new decade! Welcome to 2020! What do you want to happen this year? What things in your life do you want to remember when the next decade rolls around? Many people start off the new year with promises that are hastily made and quickly abandoned. You've heard of them...NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. Well what exactly does that mean, anyway? A resolution is just a big word for a promise...a resolve to do something. It is supposed to be a choice that you make with intention. The reason these are so popular on January 1st is because the new year means a new start! 366 days to get something right that you want to change.

Did you make any resolutions this year? If you did, great! If not, it's not too late. But let me give you

## Youth News

### INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

some ideas that might be different from the world's view:

1. **Make some ME time**—wait, I don't mean to pamper yourself (although there's nothing wrong with that), I mean to spend some time alone in thought, prayer, reflection, and purposeful planning for your day. Just 15 minutes can change your life for the better.
2. **Make New Friends**—talk to someone new at school. You might just make your best friend for life.
3. **Make Big Dreams**—What do you want to be or do when you grow up? Focus on what you love and build from that. You can do it!



Our first event of the year is an unforgettable experience! We are going to Winter Jam at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. We will provide transportation and ticket assistance to anyone who would like to attend. You will need to register to make sure that your permission slip is up to date. Artists mentioned on the lineup are **David Crowder Band**, **Passion**, **RED**, and more. It will be an event you will never forget! We are also in need of ADULT VOLUNTEERS, so if you are interested in helping out this is a great way to start off the new year! Contact Karen to register or for more information.

# Parent Portal

## YOUR DOORWAY TO INFORMATION

Welcome into 2020! It's hard to believe that we have reached this pivotal point in history...a new year, a new decade, and a new church service starting soon. We have some exciting plans for the new year at Christ United Methodist!

The year starts off with a night of music and ministry at Winter Jam 2020. I hope that you will make this a priority for your child to attend. This is a great way to start off the new year by pointing your child to Christ and seeing that there are wholesome, uplifting, TOTALLY banging musical options in the world of Christian music.

What about you? Would you like to come to a concert? We need parent volunteers to attend with us.

Speaking of volunteers, we have many opportunities for you to share your passions and talents if you are interested. Talk to Karen!

1. **Wednesday Night Meals**—Look for the signup option online or on the bulletin board outside the kitchen in Wilson Hall. We usually feed 10-15 people.
2. **Sunday School Teacher**—Curriculum provided and all planning done for you (if you want). We just need someone who loves God, is passionate about sharing wisdom from the bible, and loves kids!
3. **Mentor**—Be a friend to a kid who needs one. Pour into their life and make an eternal difference.

## Security Corner—Active Shooter

Why do our buildings have letters on them and doors numbered?

All buildings on Campus have been assigned a letter. A is the Office Complex and Sanctuary. B is Wilson Hall in its entirety. C, D, and E are assigned to the three Preschool buildings. Each room is assigned a letter and a number. The letter is the building the room is in. Those letters and numbers are on the doors, or directly above...Each room has a schematic diagram with the Building letter and Room number framed and hanging on the wall. This diagram also has the "run, hide, fight" information in the event of an active shooter or other such emergency.

In an emergency situation where the Neptune Beach Police or Jacksonville Fire Department are called give them the building letter and room number where the issue is. Both organizations have the master schematic. Their arrival will be facilitated by knowing EXACTLY where to go. In an emergency seconds matter.

Stay Alert, Stay Alive



## Children's Corner

### Bible Verse:

"Pray without stopping"  
1 Thessalonians 5:16



### Prayer:

Thank you,  
God,  
For all you do.  
Bless our friends and  
family, too.  
Amen.

1. What is the best kind of breakfast cereal to eat in the winter?
2. Where do snowmen keep their money?
3. If your reindeer lost his tail, where would you go to buy him a new one?
4. What do mountains wear to keep warm?

*Find the answers on the bottom of the Leadership Training page.*

## January Anniversaries & Birthdays





**3 Richard & Ann DeVane  
4 Fred & Carol Boyd  
26 Charlie & Michelle Forwood**



**3 Vida McCullough  
5 Davy Crockett  
5 Jessica Conover  
8 Carolyn Galphin  
8 Erma Christian  
9 Alice Thompson  
9 Barry Smith  
9 Ella Berry  
9 Kennedy Johnson  
10 Karen Kenjosian  
12 George Pringle**

**13 Landyn Santacrose  
14 Rosie Tallent  
18 Claudia Cornwall  
20 Jameson Goodner  
21 Cliff Dunlop  
21 Whitney Heer  
23 Jacquie Berry  
25 Mason Johnson  
27 Heather Wood  
30 Krista Wood**

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p>	<p>6 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm BSA/PACK 282</p>	<p>7 9:15 am Exercise Class 10 am Missn' Stitches 10 am Presch Connect 4:30 pm Feed Hungry 8 pm Alcoholics Anon</p>	<p>8 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 10 am UMW Board Mtg 10 am Preschool Chapel 5 pm Youth Night 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm Chimes Practice 6:30 pm Choir Practice</p> 	<p>9 10 am Christ Quilters 6 pm GSA Brownies 7 pm UM Men Mtg.</p>	<p>10 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 5-10 pm Winter Jam-Youth</p>	<p>11 9 am-4 pm Child/Youth Protection &amp; Leadership Training</p>
<p>12 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Soup Lunch</p>	<p>13 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 1 pm Fresh Expressions 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm BSA/PACK 282</p>	<p>14 9:15 am Exercise Class 10 am Missn' Stitches 10 am Circle One 6:30 pm Freedom Circle 7 pm R Coordinator Mtg. 8 pm Alcoholics Anon</p>	<p>15 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 5 am Hope Circle 10 am Preschool Chapel 1 pm Worship Design 5 pm Youth Night 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm Chimes Practice 6:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 10 am Christ Quilters 10 am Congregational Care Team Mtg. 5 pm Knight Chess Sch.</p>	<p>17 5-9 am Camp Gladiator</p>	<p>18   </p>
<p>19 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p>	<p>20 ML King Day Office Closed 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 10 am Disciple Class 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm BSA/PACK 282 6:30 pm Disciple Class</p>	<p>21 9:15 am Exercise Class 10 am Missn' Stitches 10 am Presch Connect 5:30 pm SAC Mtg. MCSMS 6:15 pm Operations Mtg. 8 pm Alcoholics Anon</p>	<p>22 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 10 am UMW Mission Study 10 am Preschool Chapel 3 pm Hype Team Mtg. 5 pm Youth Night 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm Chimes Practice 6:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight Chess Sch. 6 pm GSA Brownies 7 pm RAMP UP mtg.</p>	<p>24 5-9 am Camp Gladiator</p>	<p>25   </p>
<p>26 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 2-7 pm Jax Modern Quilt</p>	<p>27 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 10 am Disciple Class 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm BSA/PACK 282 6:30 pm Disciple Class</p>	<p>28 9:15 am Exercise Class 10 am Missn' Stitches 7 pm Church Council Mtg. 8 pm Alcoholics Anon</p>	<p>29 5-9 am Camp Gladiator 10 am UMW Mission Study 10 am Preschool Chapel 1 pm Worship Design 5 pm Youth Night 5 pm Camp Gladiator 6 pm Chimes Practice 6:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>30 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight Chess Sch.</p>	<p>31 5-9 am Camp Gladiator</p>	