Dear Members and Friends of Safe Harbor Family Church,

Spring greetings to each of you! I am still new and learning about Safe Harbor Family Church as one of your pastors, but feel I’m making good progress. I have lots of help and support! Thank you church staff, BOD, & congregation! We’ve had meaningful worship, long meetings, intense and intentional conversations, sweet birthday recognitions and, a highlight for me, the lovely reception to welcome me to the church as a new member and a new pastor among you. Yes, church life is full of vim, vigor, hope and promise! Aren’t we glad we are together!

On Sunday, April 2, we sang a song to mark the “promise” of resurrection and the “promise” of who we are becoming as God’s loving people at Safe Harbor. Do you know it? Natalie Sleeth wrote the music and words in 1986 as a choir anthem and then shaped them into a hymn. I know my daughter, Martha, was about 10 years old when she started singing “In a Bulb There Is a Flower” as a solo in church! She loved the melody and the words. She could understand the words and relate to the message.

What about you?

Every time spring comes around, I want to sing this song because it has a teaching about the meaning of Easter (spring in the church season) that sums up what God may want us to remember.

Perhaps we can read and re-read these words whenever we are feeling a need to reaffirm that Easter is about the “promise” that God is with us in every season of life and God sees and believes in the promise of who we are and who we are becoming.

(Con’t on page 2)
Thank you to all who serve delicious meals when it is your turn and for the opportunity to gather for prayer and study each week. We welcome children, youth, adults to our mid-week services. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and Service is at 7:00 p.m. We conclude by 8:00 p.m.

What does God see we are becoming at Safe Harbor? May we trust God to lead and guide and shape us to be an Easter people. Thank you for nurturing the “promise” we share to be God’s loving family of faith. It continues to be my joy to get to know each of you. Let us continue to join in worship and service, in conversation and in celebration of faith and life! I look forward to seeing you each week!

Grace, peace and God’s love,

Rev. Ann Michele

Rev. Ann Michele will be away April 17 - April 25 for vacation. Please call one of our Associate Pastors with any special need. Thank you!
Birthday Bash Rescheduled!

SHFC Birthday Bash is April 9th this month! We will celebrate all birthdays for the month during our Birthday Bash!

Please bring your favorite dish or two to share.

Sweets are already provided by Sugar Magnolia Takery!

Birthday Bash is immediately following church service.

Food Pantry

Safe Harbor Food Pantry Ministry is always in need of can goods to help persons that struggle to make ends meet.

If you can help, please bring your cans of food to the church anytime that the church is open.

Any of your pastoral staff can help you find space to shelve the food.

Have a Need? Call or Text the Church Phone

There is a pastoral staff member who responds to calls placed to the church phone, 601-906-8934.

If you need a pastor, please call the church phone and leave a message. Leaving a message will help to direct your call or question to the appropriate pastoral person. As we start to develop our new pastoral team, please know that the best way to contact us is to call the church phone.

Please be sure to leave a message so we can respond more appropriately to your call.

Calls will be responded to as quickly as possible but because staff members also work outside of church, we pledge to reply to calls within 24-hours (or sooner).

Thank you from your pastoral staff team. Love and peace: Alan, Pastor Ann Michele, Cindy, Glenn, and Julia
Don’t Forget!

SHEPHERD’S TASK FORCE
Meets at 6:30 p.m. on 2nd Tuesdays. Come join us and serve with us. Next meeting is April 11.

Please feel free to bring your supper and something to share if you’d like! If you are running late, still come. We can eat, meet, prepare for service to our congregation.

If you have taken a break from serving on Shepherd’s Task Force but want to return, just speak to Rev. Ann—she’s grateful for you to return and give your service/leadership to SHFC!

CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sundays at 4:45 p.m.

SHFC GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
April 14, 7:00 p.m.
Remember no services on Wednesday during Holy Week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Children/Youth and Adult
Sundays at 5:15 p.m.

We’d love to have you join us!!

Worship thoughts by Alan

Grace

During this time, isn’t it wonderful to know that God is a God full of grace?

Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

God’s grace forgives us of all things; overlooks all that we do or that we have done. But what about us. Do we show the same grace to each other? If our partner does something that we feel offends us, do we show him/her grace? What if our friend or our family does something that hurts us? Are we able to look past those things and still love them, or do we hold grudges against them and show them no grace? It is time that we cast off our judging,
critical attitudes and love people as they are. Is that easy? No. But we must do that or we will be lost forever in our own pride. This week, I learned the importance of showing grace and giving grace. None of us is perfect, so we must all be willing to love, even when it hurts.

Grace knows no limits.

Card Ministry

The Card Ministry group is in need of Postcard Stamps. This group meets at 6:00 p.m. every first Tuesday of the month at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland. There are five or six of us that meet regularly.

Join this Ministry!

If you would like to come and be a part of reaching out to others, come – we will see you there!

Embrace Grace
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Volunteer Meeting TBA

Sundays 5:15 - 5:45 - Sunday School in Kidz Harbor (drop off begins at 5:10)

Sundays @ 6 for kidz 6 & younger - Kidz Harbor

Wednesdays after dinner - Kidz Harbor

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to all Kidz Harbor volunteers who make all of this possible!

ACTIVITY:

Spring has Sprung!
Find words relating to SPRING!!!

Find the words below in our puzzle!

Spring Word Search:

Find words related to SPRING:

April
April Fool's Day
bloom
bud
Buddha's Birthday
cherry blossom
crops
daffodil
Earth Day

Easter
farmer
flower
grow
June
May
Mother's Day
new leaves

plant
plow
seed
shower
sprout
thaw
tulip
wake up
warm
Rumor has it that the Craft Group is meeting on April 21st at 7:00 p.m.

YACHT Club

Spring has sprung and the beauty of the season is evident of God’s handiwork. Just as He has made all things around us beautiful, He is creating that same beauty in you. No matter how tough or scary life can get, remember the beauty and the love of God.

I am thankful for each of you and hopeful for the future. We have lots of exciting things in the works.

You each bring so much to this group and to Safe Harbor.

Look forward to seeing each of you on Wednesday nights after supper as we continue to grow and share our journeys!

You guys are AMAZING and loved more than you know!

Love and blessings,
Julia

Craft Group

Rumor has it that the Craft Group is meeting on April 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Craft and location to be determined. Listen for announcements!

A Night of Old Time Singin’

Mark your calendars!

It’s a Gospel Singin’, Auctionin’, Dinner Eatin’ event!

Inspired by the music of Bill and Gloria Gaither.

Saturday, June 10
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Have you heard the story about a newly appointed young preacher? He was contacted to hold a graveside service. Being new to the area, the preacher started early to the cemetery, but soon lost his way. After making several wrong turns, he finally arrived a half-hour late. The hearse was nowhere in sight, and the work-crew was relaxing under a nearby tree, eating their lunch. The pastor went to the open grave and found that the vault lid was already in place. Not to be deterred, he took out his book and read the service in its entirety. As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the work-crew say: “Maybe we’d better tell him that’s the septic tank.”

Well, sometimes stuff just happens! We think we know what it is that we are looking at—motivation and effort are not understood or even appreciated. Sometimes just showing up is what matters. Even if we don’t understand all of the reasons or have all the answers to the many “why-questions” of life, we keep showing up to do what God has asked us to do. We use our God-given gifts and talents.

But what makes a person a person? Is there some magical formula that makes a person? The old nursery rhymes once taught us that ‘little girls are made of sugar and spice, and everything nice.’ While ‘little boys are made of snips and snails and puppy-dogs’ tails.’ For the record, other versions of the rhyme include additional items that little boys are made of - 'Snaps, Frogs, Snakes, or Slugs'.

While you may not be made of sugar or snails, you are made of something. Consider - what makes you? Is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control to be found within you? What about the seven virtues? Does faith, hope, charity, fortitude, justice, prudence, or temperance have a place with you? What gives you strength when life is easy or when life is difficult?

Michael Jordan once said, “I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” Michael kept using his talents; he didn’t let difficulty, trials, or failures stop him.

Remember the song, “We fall down, but we get up”? We get up again and again because God works through all things. As Lent draws toward an end, we rise together with Christ – forgiven, loved, and provided with an example to follow – Jesus! May every day be a little Easter in your life - Celebrating the bad with the good - Celebrating Good Friday AND Easter Sunday. May God always be found in the midst of all life – the good and the bad – to lead each of us toward the way of Christ! Peace and Amen.

Love you all,
Glenn

SHFC Good Friday Worship Service

Good Friday Worship Service is April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Remember no services on Wednesday during Holy Week.

Glimpses of God from Glenn...

GOOD FRIDAY

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<td><strong>5th Sunday in Lent</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 PM - Praise Service</strong></td>
<td><strong>Birthday Bash</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30p - Crossover</strong></td>
<td><strong>7p - service &amp; YACHT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Palm Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30p - Fondren Presbyterian Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shepherd's Task Force</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Crossover</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maundy Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 pm - Card Ministry Meeting</strong></td>
<td>(at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)</td>
<td><strong>5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30p - Crossover</strong></td>
<td><strong>7p - service &amp; YACHT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2nd Sunday of Easter</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7p - service &amp; YACHT</strong></td>
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"Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness."
~ Floyd W. Tomkins

**Safe Harbor Family Church**
An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ
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