

St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church
(904) 797-4416



Email your
prayer concerns
to the church
office at
shoresumc@bellsouth.net

Online Giving is
available for
contributions to
the Church
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Apportionments
Food Pantry and
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www.shoresumc.org
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February 14, 2021

Pastor Carolyn's Conundrums:

I have found myself reflecting on the movie *Les Misérables*. There are some wonderful theological discussions and conundrums within it. I highly recommend the movie, even if you ordinarily don't like musicals. The movie centers around the main character, Jean Valjean. He stole bread to feed his starving family and went to prison for 5 yrs and then another 15 for trying to escape. When released he was on probation and was terribly scarred (spiritually and emotionally) by the treatment of the guards in prison and then of common people when he got out. Needing help, a Bishop takes him in and feeds him. Valjean sees an opportunity in the silver in the church. He steals it and is caught. The Bishop forgives him and even gives him the remaining silver candlesticks.

Jean Valjean is then thrown into turmoil. He had learned to hate the world and God; yet this act of forgiveness reignited something within him. How does he reconcile these emotions? Here is part of the song he sang:

If there's another way to go I missed it twenty long years ago My life was a war that could never be won They gave me a number and murdered Valjean When they chained me and left me for dead Just for stealing a mouthful of bread	One word from him and I'd be back Beneath the lash, upon the rack Instead he offers me my freedom I feel my shame inside me like a knife He told me that I have a soul, How does he know? What spirit comes to move my life? Is there another way to go?
Yet why did I allow that man To touch my soul and teach me love? He treated me like any other He gave me his trust He called me brother My life he claims for God above Can such things be? For I had come to hate the world This world that always hated me	I am reaching, but I fall And the night is closing in And I stare into the void To the whirlpool of my sin I'll escape now from the world From the world of Jean Valjean Jean Valjean is nothing now Another story must begin!
Take an eye for an eye! Turn your heart into stone! This is all I have lived for! This is all I have known!	

What do we do when faced with the forgiveness of Christ? Do we allow Christ to change us, to transform us into something new? In the rest of the movie, Jean Valjean does precisely that. Lent starts on Feb 17th. A time to come face to face with our sin and the forgiveness of Christ; may we use this time to seek God's transformation and be transformed by the Holy Spirit!



1st

Ann Schubert
Judy Vershava

3rd

Mickey
Thayer

4th

Cheryl Jeffries

5th

Charles Millard
Dennis Jones
Jordan Buck

8th

Shirley Jordan
Madison Johnson

10th

Portia Warner

1th

Elaine Iles
Susan Corcoran

14th

Addison Burns

17th

Dave Westlake

21st

Barb Wentz

23rd

Terri Ernissee

25th

Bill Vershava

27th

Elizabeth Scales

29th

Marian Griffing

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Drive-In Service on February 17th at 5:00 pm. All are welcome. Each person will receive a small packet of ashes on the way in to self-administer during the service.

Finance & Church Council Meeting

For the month of February the Finance Committee Meeting will be held on **Monday, February 22nd** at 5:00 pm in the Christian Education Building. The Church Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, February 22nd** at 6:00 pm in the Christian Education Building. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing when in the building.

Drive-in Service-Come as you are and stay in your car!!!

Pastor Carolyn will be wearing a cordless microphone and there will be 4 large amplifiers placed outside. Car windows or sunroofs will need to be open to hear. Since the service will begin promptly at 9 AM, plan to arrive 15-30 minutes ahead of time so that the ushers can get you properly parked. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Cars will be parked in "every other" space. You will need to stay in your car, so masks are not required. You may want to bring your own water or coffee. Keep in mind that bathrooms will not be available. You will be able to hand in your offering at the end of the service by dropping it in a bucket as you leave. Because the electrical equipment and keyboard are going to be outside, we will not hold a service in the rain. The decision will be made at 7 AM if we are "GO." If there is need to cancel, it will be posted on the church's Facebook page before 7:15 AM and an email will be sent out to the Google Group list. We will continue to videotape our service and post it online by noon on Sundays. God bless you and keep you safe from all harm!

Rev. Randy Strickland's Book Titled "How Do I Decide? A Christian's Guide to Making Decisions"

Rev. Randy Strickland said when he retired he was planning on writing a book and he did! "Do you ever sense that there's far more to making a decision than what you're experiencing? Do you ever wonder how Christianity helps you to make better decisions? Do you ever question how you can deepen your relationship with God by making better choices? In this very thought-provoking book, you'll learn how every day decisions can impact your life--both positively and negatively. More importantly, you'll find practical Christian guidelines you can apply easily to your own life." It is also available on Christianbook.com and Cokesbury. (It also is listed on Goodreads.com and Draft2Digital.com but they are not as familiar.) The book can be purchased either as an ebook or as a paperback by using the following links: Amazon---

https://www.amazon.com/How-Do-Decide-Christians-Decisions/dp/B08R1ZHSMH/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_1?crd=1302LRSCVNE91&dchild=1&keywords=randy+strickland+author&qid=1609869601&srefix=randy+strickland%2Caps%2C163&sr=8-1-fkmr1 and Barnes & Noble----

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/randystrickland?requestid=1844211>.

The paperback is \$9.95 and the Kindle or Nook is \$2.99.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The NFL's Super Bowl will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021, in Tampa. We will have our annual "Souper Bowl" at Shores UMC on that day when we participate in the national "Souper Bowl of Caring." We will make a church wide effort to collect non-perishable food and monetary donations for our local Ecumenical Food Pantry. Specially marked bins will be available before and after church services. You can put your food in the bins. Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plates/bucket. Please mark your envelope for "Souper Bowl." Our donations will be weighed and counted and included in the



national total. Our neighbors will be the beneficiaries of your generosity. Help the Outreach committee continue this successful annual food drive! Thank you!

Resuming In-Person Worship at Shores UMC

The In-Person Worship Service will begin at 11:00 AM. Masks required. Reservations are required. How Should I Register for Worship? First and most importantly, no one should come to the service who has had a fever or symptoms of Covid-19 (which includes cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, recent unexplained loss of taste or smell, or a sore throat), or have had known exposure to a Covid-19 case in the prior 14 days, or are waiting for Covid-19 test results. **Please register each week by calling the church office (904-797-4416), between 9 AM and 1 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday.**

Sanitization Information

The church Sanctuary building is being cleaned every Saturday by a Janitorial Service and on Sunday afternoons by Enviro-Master Virus Vaporizing Service (<https://enviro-master.com/commercial-cleaning-services/virus-and-germ-spraying/>). Hand sanitizer will be available at various locations.

Online Services
www.shoresumc.org

Drive-in Service

Come as you are.
Stay in your car!
9:00am
Every Sunday
(weather permitting)

**In-Person
Worship**
11:00am
Every Sunday
Reservations Required

Church Office
Closed February
15th



**St. Augustine Shores
United Methodist Church**
Phone (904) 797-4416

Church E-mail
shoresumc@bellsouth.net

Web Address
www.shoresumc.org

Reverend Carolyn Westlake
pastorcarolyn5199@bellsouth.net
507-208-5842 (Text or call)
904-460-2014

Google Group
Call the church office to receive periodic
e-mails sent to members of our Google group.



Ash WEDNESDAY

Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter Sunday. This year Lent will start on February 17th, 2021; and if you are following the 40 days tradition, Lent will then end on Holy Saturday, April 3rd, 2021.

because
HE BENDS DOWN TO
LISTEN
I WILL PRAY AS LONG AS I HAVE
breath
PSALM 116:2

Above all else, guard your
heart, for everything you do
flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23

fb/joy of dad