



Messenger

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

FEBRUARY 2023

A generational passion for justice

By Jim Patterson

Jan. 4, 2023 | UM News

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-generational-passion-for-justice>

Key points:

- A book by an Episcopal priest explores the life of his great-great-grandfather, a Methodist clergyman and abolitionist.
- The Rev. George Richardson was chaplain for a Black Army regiment during the Civil War.
- George Richardson's adventures are balanced by the Rev. James Richardson's account of his own journey leaving a journalism career to become an Episcopal priest.

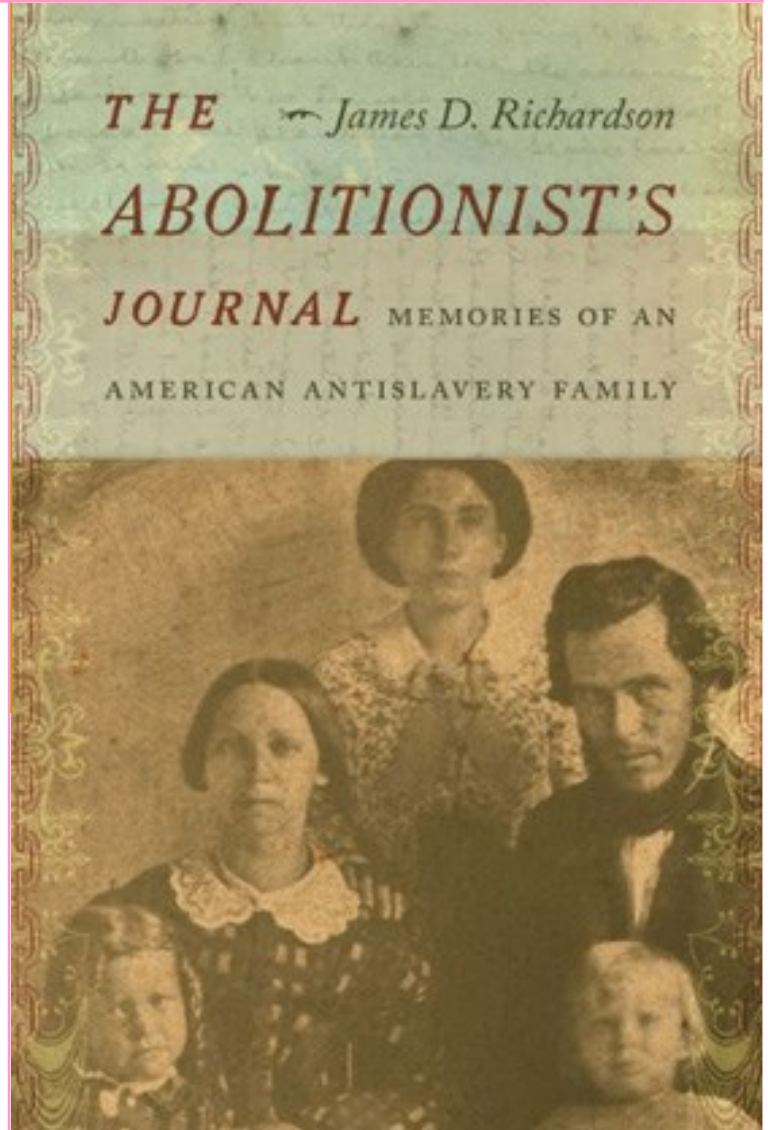
The axiom that history is written by the victors doesn't hold when it comes to the story of abolitionists in the United States.

"The Confederates wrote a history that abolitionists were radical lunatics and that nobody really wanted to free the slaves except a few fanatics, and that the North really wasn't fighting to end slavery," said the Rev. James D. Richardson, author of a new book that attempts to correct these errors.

"...It was a very deliberate way of rewriting history to justify what was really a treasonous war against the United States. Only in recent years are we coming to grips with that ... and finally, really writing the history that needs to have been written all along," he added.

In "The Abolitionist's Journal: Memories of an American Antislavery Family," Richardson, a journalist and Episcopal priest, focuses on the story of the Rev. George Richardson, his great-great-grandfather. Written with the help of George Richardson's unpublished memoir, it's a harrowing tale of a Methodist pastor and abolitionist who risked his life for the cause of ending slavery.

George Richardson helped at least one slave — and



*Book cover courtesy of the
University of New Mexico Press.*

probably more — to escape via the underground railroad, was chaplain for a Black Army regiment during the Civil War and once hid for 10 days in thick Texas woods from a murderous white posse angered by his support for Black people.

The pages of George Richardson's "Recollections of My Lifework" contain "stories of war, white vigilantes, Black schools, church politics and frontier congregations," James Richardson said in his book.

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“He recounted getting lost on horseback in Minnesota in the winter and the crushing devastation in the Mississippi countryside in the days after the Civil War. He wrote of life in Black shantytowns, Texas panhandle cowboys and Idaho Mormons.”

George Richardson’s cinema-worthy adventures are balanced by James Richardson’s account of his own journey leaving a thriving journalism career to take up his call to ministry. He worked at The Sacramento Bee, The Riverside Press-Enterprise and The San Diego Union covering politics, the Ku Klux Klan, the environment and other issues.

“I’m hoping by my telling my story that it has the effect of pulling the story forward,” James Richardson said. “I also feel like my calling as a priest and as a journalist are very related. ... To me, both vocations are about bringing light into darkness and pursuing truth and afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted.”

Author Neil Henry, the former dean of the University of California-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, is the author of “Pearl’s Secret,” which traces his family’s mixed African American and white heritage. James Richardson said Henry’s book influenced the structure of “The Abolitionist’s Journal,” which also balances present-day autobiography and historic stories of ancestors.

Henry characterizes James Richardson as “a man of the world.”

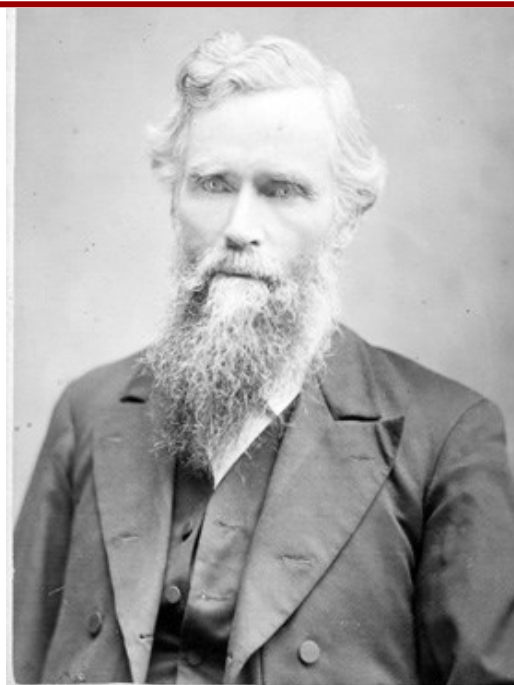
“But he’s also got a deeply spiritual side that was reflected in his book,” Henry added.

In addition to George Richardson’s memoir, James Richardson culled through other family journals and letters in his extensive research for “The Abolitionist’s Journal.” The Richardson family has a long tradition of putting their stories on paper, but its history with the abolitionist cause had been downplayed by his grandparents, James Richardson said.

“As we’re all climbing the white social ladder, having this ancestor who worked with ‘colored people’ was a little socially awkward for them,” James Richardson said. “The larger story of the white social caste system had the effect of really making this something of an embarrassment in our family.”

James Richardson’s father didn’t feel that way, and mentioned his grandfather’s memoirs in his own unpublished autobiography.

“He made sure that my sister and I knew about the civil



The Rev. George Richardson was an itinerant Methodist preacher who rode circuit across the country and served as chaplain to a Black regiment during the American Civil War. Richardson’s commitment to racial equality included serving as a “station master” on the underground railroad. Photo courtesy of the Rev. James Richardson.

rights movement, watched the Selma ... protests and the hideous reaction of the police in that community in the early 1960s,” James Richardson said. “He put us in front of the TV to make sure we saw it. He told me he admonished his mother to stop using the N-word.”

Richardson identifies strongly with his great-great-grandfather.

“I was kind of panicking about going off to seminary and quitting my (journalism) career and trying to figure out how to beg for my job back,” he recalled. “When I read (my ancestors’ memoirs), it kind of clicked in me that I’m joining the family cause here.”

Although there are parallels, he’s quick to acknowledge that he’s not the equal of George Richardson.

“I would not pretend to be George Richardson,” he said. “I’ve never put my life on the line like he did. I was never a chaplain in the Army. I have never had vigilantes trying to kill me.

“So, I’m not him.”

Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests.

2022 Annual Budget Summary

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.

Income

Total Income:	\$414,144
<u>Monthly Budgeted Goal:</u>	<u>\$396,000</u>
<i>Income Over Goal:</i>	<i>\$18,144</i>

Expenses

Church Programs:	\$2,727
Finance:	\$1,804
Church Administration:	\$16,243
Facility Maintenance:	\$103,401
Personnel:	\$268,242
<u>Conference Apportionments:</u>	<u>\$32,382</u>
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	<i>\$424,799</i>

Income Under Expenses: \$10,655

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. 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!

February Birthdays

1 Brenda Pittman
4 Charlotte Studstill
8 Billy White
11 Sara Coniglio
12 Russ Beeker

14 Duane Torneden
17 Debbie Grimes
17 Nancy Torneden
18 David Stallings
20 Grace Lazzari

21 Deb Kerschner
21 Ed Patterson
24 Fay Kikta
27 Bonnie Sego



February Anniversaries

3 Robert & Debra Preston
5 Marion & Joy Brady

5 Richard & Grace Barron
15 Ted & Hillary Page

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on [Ash Wednesday](#) and ends on Holy Saturday. [Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten](#), meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, [fasting](#), and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

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



Lent is a journey of preparation for following the way of Jesus.

Keep doing the things you love.

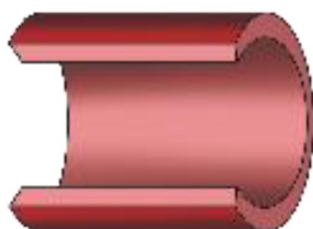
Catch health problems before they go too far.

Life Line Screening offers a 4-screening package to provide peace of mind or early detection for risks of stroke and cardiovascular disease.

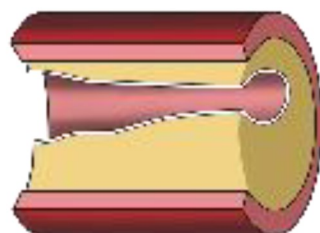
The combination of these tests helps detect problems—before you have symptoms and while you and your doctor can still take action...so you can keep doing the things you love.



Plaque buildup can lead to cardiovascular disease, stroke and aneurysms.



A normal artery allows blood to flow through easily.



Plaque buildup in the arteries reduces your blood flow and can be dangerous if left untreated.

Register now to check the health of your arteries

4 Important Screenings for Only \$149 (Special Package Pricing)

- Carotid Artery Disease
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
- Atrial Fibrillation (AFib)

**Join the 10 million people who have been screened.
We are coming to your neighborhood.**

When: Wednesday February 8, 2023

**Where: First United Methodist Church
206 S Hopkins Ave Titusville FL 32796**

To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call toll-free **877-792-8479** or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.

EASTER LESSONS & CAROLS

**Sunday, March 26th
3:00 p.m.**

Free Admission

(donations accepted for electrical & lighting upgrade in our sanctuary.)

**First United Methodist Church
206 S. Hopkins Ave.
Titusville, FL**

Featuring:

**Broadstreet, CrossPointe, Soliloquy, & Vivos Voco
and local soloists!**



February 2023

First United Methodist Church


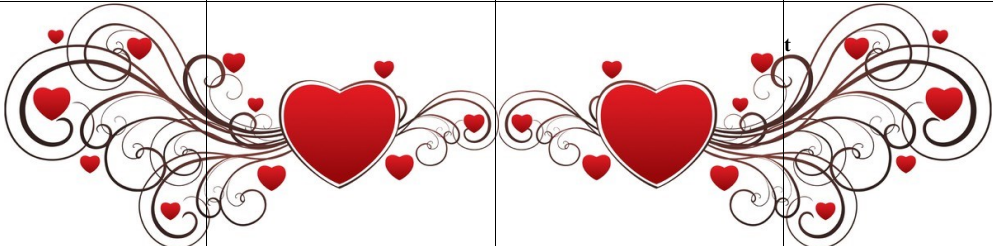
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	2 9:00am Ladies Day Out 9:30am PEO Meeting	3 1-3pm Food Pantry	4 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	6	7 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	8 9:00am Life Line Screening 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	9 10:30am Retired Trachers Mtg.	10 1-3pm Food Pantry	11 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
12 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	13 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	14 Valentine's Day 2:30pm Sit & Fit	15 10:00am ADK 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 5:30pm Yoga 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	16 9:30am PEO Meeting 12:00pm Ladies Day Out 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg	17 1-3pm Food Pantry	18 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
19 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	20 Presidents' Day	21 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	22 Ash Wednesday 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	23	24 1-3pm Food Pantry	25 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
26 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	27	28 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet				

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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
Lauren Good - Family Ministries	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

Website: www.fumctitusville.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/682694095204027

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Instagram Handle: [@UnitedChurch321](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedChurch321)

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

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