



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon

April 2018 NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS FROM PASTOR EDDIE

April 5th and April 19th - We continue meeting at Dunnellon Eye Care for our book club. All are welcome! We will be discussing best seller books in the near future and invite the entire community. We will also offer our own authors, and their books will be there with us as a part of our discussion.

April 21st @ 10:30am - Once again we will have Bullywink Bullfrog story time at Second Life Thrift Shop. Hoping to invite one of the Scout groups again to have a sale as we did last time.

April 22nd @ 9:30am service - Will be our yearly Scout Sunday with the scouts participating and we will be honoring our Eagle Scouts. All are welcome.

April 17th – SPRC meeting special time this month.

April 24th @ 7:15 am - We want to make sure that everyone knows about our Administrative Board meeting on the 24th. We want to offer congratulations to Kylie Fagan for we will be doing her wedding service this month, and she is marrying Matt Campbell.

We will continue to offer a new Small Men's group titled "Iron Men" this month at 6:00pm in the Youth Building. The group's title comes from Proverbs 27:17 where the Scripture says that "iron will sharpen iron".

Brother Steve Schlei will continue his Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons in the Chapel at 3:45pm. All are welcome to these activities.

FUMC DUNNELLON FACEBOOK PAGE

Committee Chair's we need your help! We want to keep our webpage and Facebook page current and relevant! Please provide updates on what your respective committees/groups are doing, as well as we would like pictures of our church's activities so the pictures can be posted to our Facebook page and also our website. If you are the Chair of a Committee, we are asking that you or someone designated from that group email information and take pictures of the activity and send to Rachele, our Media Tech at rachele@fumcdunnellon.org.

FUMC HARMONY PRESCHOOL

April 14th - We will be participating in this year's Boomtown Days! Our booth will be located across the street from Grumbles House, in the yard of Always Something. We will be offering a children's cupcake walk, an old-fashioned candy store, and pie eating contest.

ALL INVITED TO ATTEND

April 14th – Boomtown Days in Dunnellon Historical Area
April 27th @ 6:00pm – Art Show
May 11th @ 6:00pm – Musical and VPK Graduation

Do you have a background in Education? The Harmony Board would like to start a volunteer program with the church to bring the church & school closer. There is so much talent & knowledge in our church from which our school could benefit and grow with, which in turn benefits the children in our community. Please contact a Harmony Preschool Board Member if you are interested in volunteering.

Board Members: Linda Jones, Gloria Couch, Jane Bowley, Barbara Surian, Rebecca Henderson, Cindy Cooper, and Malinda Claffey.

KINGDOM BUILDER INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Did you know? There is an upcoming Thy Will Be Done Planned Giving workshop planned for Wednesday, May 9, 2018 sponsored by the Kingdom Builder's Endowment Committee. Tom Wilkinson from the Florida United Methodist Foundation will be presenting and answering your questions. Join us to learn some practical, legal and spiritual steps you can take as part of a life time of intentional Christian stewardship.

Did you also know? There are members of our church as well as our DFUMC Finance Committee that have found a way of "Doing Well, While Doing Good". It's by investing in the **Florida United Methodist Foundation's Development Fund**. Any Florida resident, church, organization or business can invest in the foundation development fund knowing your money is helping churches and ministries thrive. Investing in the Development Fund is...

Good for you - You get an above-market rate of 1.5%, helping you build your savings and only takes \$100 to open an account. You can withdraw all or a portion of your funds at any time with no penalty or fee.

Good for the Church - Churches and ministries get the resources they need to refinance existing loans or fund new

construction, repairs and expansions. The funds help's ministries be good stewards of their resources because loans come with a below-market interest rate of 3.5%, fixed payments with flexible terms and competitive closing costs with no application fees or points.

Good for others - Your investment helps churches and ministries build new sanctuaries so more people can worship, add day-care facilities so children can grow in a Christian environment, renovate areas for youth so young people can have a safe place to learn with kids their age. The list of ministry possibilities is endless.

The Florida United Methodist Foundation's Development Fund is where investors and borrowers come together to create more opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If interested in becoming an investor in the Development Fund, contact a member of the KBIC committee, church office or obtain a request offering circular at www.fumf.org.

MISSION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Honduras, by Rick DuCharme: The Mission Committee was able to send \$3,500 to our missionary Bob Wood, Jr. for the Honduras Feeding Program.

Cuba, by Rick DuCharme: Pastor Yabay reports that the rebar needed for the roof construction of the new church has finally been purchased. The roof construction will begin in early April.

Kenya, by Rick DuCharme: James Githukah's health has been improving. He asks that we pray for rain to break the drought conditions there in Kenya.

Habitat for Humanity, by Rick DuCharme: Elizabeth Chryst reports a highly successful Strawberry Festival in Ocala raising sufficient funds to construct one, and maybe one and a half, new Habitat Homes.

Rural Mission, by Rick DuCharme: The Mission Committee will send approximately \$2,500 with three members of our church, Carol Stroup, Dottie Moberly and John Woodstuff to join 13 missionaries from New England at the Rural Mission project in Hollywood, South Carolina April 7-14.

Missionary Scholarship Fund, by Rick DuCharme: This is our Mission emphasis for April. Scholarship recipient, Emily Wood, daughter of our Honduras missionary Bob Wood, Jr., was interviewed through a Skype conference call at all three services March 25th. Studying at Asbury College, Emily is majoring in Education with a future in Mission work. Her tuition costs are \$2,000 per semester. Checks in support of Emily can be made out to Dunnellon FUMC, Memo Line: Missionary Scholarship Fund.

Hernando Homeless Ministry, by Susie Phillips: Through our own Happy Feet program, Tom Tarkenton offered funds from this mission to purchase shoes for the children associated with the Citrus County Family Resource Center. I made contact with Ginger West and she advised as to the sizes needed. Seventeen pairs of girl's and boy's shoes were purchased along with socks. The Covenant House in Citrus County receives food donations from Ocala and has shared food with us twice for the homeless. Many blessings for this kind donation.

Each Wednesday nurses are at Connections and available to offer assistance. I have been in contact with the nurses that visit the facility in Hernando every Wednesday. They shared with me a list of various over-the-counter medicines needed. I brought it before the Mission Committee and they approved the purchase of these medicines. Purchases have been made twice and delivered directly to the nurses on Wednesdays. Our church has received a very nice thank you card which has been shared with the Mission Committee.

The Hernando Homeless Ministry has two new volunteers from our congregation! Pat Jordan and Rita Winkler. Along with making their first delivery of food this Friday, they have been purchasing nice used sleeping bags and cots from yard sales. Blessings Pat and Rita!

Once again, many thanks and blessings for your continued support of this ministry through your "J" Dollars. To date this year our church has collected \$1,235 "J" Dollars! PTL!

Ronald McDonald House, by Susie Phillips: There are a few souls in our congregation that are faithfully bringing in the aluminum pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. As soon as I receive them I drop them off at the local McDonalds. Our five-year-old great granddaughter, Carly, who lives in Georgia is collecting tabs from her family and delivering them to their local McDonalds restaurant.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Prayers and Squares members meet at Friendship Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month (unless notified differently) from 9 – 11 AM. New members are always welcome. Fabrics, batting, and patterns are available at the meeting. We will also do the cutting out of a pattern for you, layer a quilt, and assist new quilters.

Due to the size of our congregation it is impossible for us to automatically make a quilt for each person whom is ill or hospitalized. Prayer quilts are made on request. A black notebook with information sheets to request a quilt for a friend or loved one is located at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. A prayer quilt may also be requested by calling Charlotte Eberhard at 352-465-7330 or Laura Rutkowski at 352-465-0527.

Thank you to the Country Quilters for the quilts and quilt tops they provided to this ministry during the month of March. We now have blue bags with the Prayers and Squares logo on them to put prayer quilts in, thanks to the many financial contributions from those whom have received a prayer quilt. Thank you, Malinda Claffey, FUMC office staff, for this idea and follow through in ordering these.

Prayer shawls and scarves are available for those whom have a new health issue and have already received a prayer quilt. FUMC shepherds may take one to their lambs. These are in a tub marked "Prayer Shawls", on a shelf in the closet in Friendship Hall. Cards and bags are available to go with them. Please write the name of the person in the notebook provided. We need more people interested in making these shawls. Free patterns for crochet or knit shawls are available on the internet. One prays for the recipient as you knit or crochet. Contact Lorna Gillespie, 352-447-6143, or Charlotte Eberhard if interested in helping with this part of the ministry.

We would like to share this thank you note received from Gary and Deborah Shelley:

"I would like to thank all of you for the prayer quilt I recently received. My wife and I are fairly new to Dunnellon and this church family. When the quilt was presented to me we were pleasantly surprised. I believe the quilt is a reflection of Christ's love for us, the power of prayer by those who made the quilt, those who tied a prayer knot and signed the enclosed note. From my heart comes a special thank you for all your prayer and the special healing touch of each hand made quilt (# 1475). It has provided me comfort as I wrap myself in its love. I thank you and the Lord for healing me through this medical crisis. In Christ's Love, Gary & Deborah Shelley"

SHEPERDS MINISTRY, by: Adele Strasburger

As of this time we have 39 confirmed Shepherds covering 299 Lamb families. We still have 44 Lamb families who are in need of a Shepherd. These numbers are constantly changing as we gain new Lamb families and, unfortunately, lose others. The networking has seemed to be working. We have had several instances where Pastor has texted me regarding Lambs, and I have referred messages to their Shepherds; who have, in return, advised us of what they have learned about the Lambs. It definitely helps us to keep in contact with the families in our congregation who do not have others to look in on them.

We are still trying our best to get a meeting scheduled. Everyone seems to be so busy, but it is something that I feel is necessary. I will be sending out invitations as soon as we can get a date set. At this time, I would appreciate any information regarding any changes that may have occurred with your Lambs. I can then let the office know of this change and they can update their records. I would appreciate any information to be in the form of a text, e-mail, or written note, so that I have a hard copy to refer to.

If there is anyone who is interested in this ministry, we definitely need to hear from you. We can always use additional Shepherds. It is not a difficult ministry--it is not a "DO FOR" ministry. It is a "PRAY FOR and CARE FOR" ministry. Taking the time to pray and care is one of the greatest ways to let the Lord show through you. Please contact me if you are interested. Blessings.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date - July 9th - 13th

"Rolling River Rampage" is this year's theme for our VBS. We want to lead kids on an action-packed VBS adventure! Rolling River Rampage invites children on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God!

We Need Volunteers! Promotion will begin during the month of April for volunteers to join our VBS Team to make this year a huge success for the children of our community!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 5th @ 11:00am – **Fresh Expressions @ Dunnellon Eye Care**

Thursday, April 19th @ 11:00am – **Fresh Expressions @ Dunnellon Eye Care**

Tuesday, April 24th @ 7:15pm – **Administrative Board Meeting**

Friday, April 27th @ 6:00pm – **FUMC Harmony Preschool Art Show**

Thursday, May 3rd @ 11:00am – **Fresh Expressions @ Dunnellon Eye Care**

Friday, May 11th @ 6:00pm – **FUMC Harmony Musical and VPK Graduation**

Saturday, May 12th – **UMW Celebrate Women Luncheon**

Thursday, May 17th @ 11:00am – **Fresh Expressions @ Dunnellon Eye Care**

Thursday, May 31st @ 11:00am – **Fresh Expressions @ Dunnellon Eye Care**