



**First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon**  
**April 2019**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**PASTORS COMMENTS**

Spring time has come and already we have had some amazing weather for Florida. Holy week which is always a wonderful time in our church family begins April 14<sup>th</sup>, the current schedule follows:

14 April - Cantata at 8 and 11 o'clock. I will be preaching at the 9:30 service that day.

17 April - Wednesday night service is cancelled

18 April - Maundy Thursday service at 6 PM. Our United Methodist Men's President Ray Horne will be leading a drama for us that will lead us into communion for that night.

19 April - We are joining with the Dunnellon Corral for a Good Friday service at First Presbyterian Church downtown at 11 o'clock on good Friday

21 April - There will be three services for Easter. Sunrise (TIME TBD), 9:00 and 11:00. After sunrise there will be a breakfast with an Easter Egg Hunt to follow. In between the 9:00 and 11:00 services there will be a second Easter Egg Hunt. Both are open to children of all ages, just bring your Easter basket!

I will be preaching at all three of the services but the Sunrise Service will be a different sermon.

22 April - Monday after Easter our scouts are sponsoring the court of honor program that evening and Tuesday night will be our next board meeting April 23 at 7:15

We are also hoping in the month of April to fit in a training session on a Wednesday evening by our Agape Safety Ministry preparing us to deal with someone wanting to cause harm on our church property. We are so thankful to the Trustees for labeling each of our buildings with numbers and the church address.

As you all know, the called General Conference of 2019 stated that we will continue with the "Traditional Plan" in our Book of Discipline that holds to the Orthodox conservative views of the Methodist tradition regarding the Bible and the way we live out those principles. Our prayers now are for the 2020 Conference to hear from all the churches in the various sides of this issue. They will discuss how this is all going to play out for the future of the Methodist church. Thank you so much for your faithfulness and your love for the Lord as we have worked through these issues this last year. Blessings in Christ name.

**FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDRENS HOME – by Donna White**

I recently accepted the position of liaison between our church and The Florida United Methodist Children's Home. So, Bob and I decided to attend their "Day on Campus" in Enterprise, FL, to see how to better serve in this role. We were very impressed with the campus, the staff and the children. Our hearts were touched by the testimonies of several of their current and former residents. Their lives were transformed during their time on campus and they are better prepared to assume their place in today's complex world. The United Methodist Children's Home was originally established in 1908 as an orphanage. In 1939 the name was changed to the Florida Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) because the Florida Conference assumed total funding responsibility and an increasing number of children coming into their care were not only orphans, but victims of abuse, abandonment, neglect, death of parents, and broken families. FUMCH does a lot more than just provide children a place to live. They ensure they get good medical care, nourishing food, proper clothes, and education. They provide counseling, lots of love, attention, and a positive lifestyle. They help them develop their skills. And they work hard to share with them a childhood that's as normal as possible under very difficult circumstances. But the most important thing they give them is hope: they teach them about Jesus Christ and how He died for them so that they may have Everlasting Life. In short, they provide for their physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. The Children's Home has two Residential Care facilities, commonly called "campuses." There is the Central Florida Campus in Enterprise and the North Florida Campus in Madison County. The Central Florida Campus features an Independent Living Program and Emergency Shelter. The campuses serve school-age boys and girls in group-living, family-style residences, which are sometimes refer to as "homes." Typically, there are bedrooms for one or two children in each, a family room, living room, dining room, kitchen and laundry room. Each

residence accommodates up to ten children at time. The children live in one of fourteen cottages with a capacity of 8 to 10 residents and their house “parents”.

For those of us who shop through Amazon, the Amazon Smile shopping allows a portion of your purchase to be donated back to the Children’s Home. All you have to do is click this link and then shop like you normally do through Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0638479> To read more about the Children’s Home and the many ways of contributing, whether with time or money, visit their website at: <https://www.fumch.org/> Respectfully Submitted Donna White.

### **FORGET ME NOT ELDER CARE MINISTRY**

We continue to meet our Mission goal providing 4 hours of care to the elderly, providing their caregivers respite one day a week. Caregivers of frail or elderly patients have the hardest job of all. Their care is often 24 hours a day, leaving little personal time or relief. Each Tuesday, from 12:30 until 4:30 in Friendship Hall, we provide social activities to anyone who is alone, lonely or just wants some companionship. We will be open throughout the rest of the summer. This program gives the caregiver a few hours of time off and a much-needed emotional break. We just got a couple of new folks but we are always looking for volunteers, if you'd like to give of your time to this worthy effort, please call Grace Burks.

### **HERNANDO HOMELESS MINISTRY – by Mike & Susie Phillips**

Mike and I want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. The outpouring of love through your “J” Dollars and various donations is astounding. So much has been happening since the last newsletter. We are in the process of ordering multiple tent sets online at Walmart: tents, sleeping bags and tarps. In addition to these items Ginger West said they need more tarps. Tents sometimes are donated without tarps to keep the sun off them to keep them cooler and prevent sun rot. Another need right now in the food line is soup and various canned vegetables. Also needed are female hygiene products. When Mike and I make the run to Sam’s on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, we will see about purchasing these items in larger quantities than at the regular retail store.

The Homeless Ministry is touching so many people’s hearts. Right now, there are two ladies in our church that have friends in the Catholic and Presbyterian churches in town that are donating good used clothes to the homeless. These clothes are brought in each Sunday and we take them to Hernando that week. These clothes are in addition to the regular donations of clothes we receive each Sunday.

At our monthly Mission Meeting I mentioned the CCFRC gives away bikes when individuals do not have transportation. The next day two bikes were at the church and Mike picked up two more and all four were taken down the next day. They have gentlemen at the resource center that repairs them if needed. Walmart is giving us six \$25.00 gift cards which I am spending on over-the-counter medicine. Our new Dunnellon Publix has also given us \$67.00 towards food.

Once again thank you for your prayers, “J” Dollars and spreading the word about the need of some of God’s lambs. Blessings to all, Mike and Susie

### **MISSION COMMITTEE – by: Rick DuCharme**

Emily Wood visited our church Saturday March 23 to videotape an interview with Pastor Eddie for the Sunday March 31 Mission Moment. Our mission emphasis for April is the Missionary Scholarship Fund. Emily, the daughter of our Honduras Missionary Bob Wood, is attending Asbury College. She needs approximately \$3,000 per semester for tuition support.

Emily told me that her father is healing slowly from the staph infection he contracted as a result of the cancer surgery on his arm. He is on his fourth series of antibiotics. Bob’s wife Rosa also needs our prayers for health issues.

The Rural Mission team is in Hollywood, SC to refurbish the home of a needy family there. Five from our church, Dottie Moberly, Sarah Rubush, Israel and Joann Garcia and I are joining five members of the New England team this year. Please pray for our safety and success with the construction project.

Marcia and Scott Skelton attended the March Missions Committee meeting and gave a report on their medical mission connections and their recent trip to Mexico.

From Cuba, Pastor Yabay reports that the church construction is progressing as planned, and the congregation of Cieneguita remembers our congregation in their prayers at each worship service.

From Kenya, James Githukah reports that the water distribution project is going well. Many of the PECDA families

have ailments related to dust storms. Please remember our PECDA families in your prayers. Thank you for all your heartfelt support of Missions of Dunnellon FUMC.

## **PARISH NURSE**

We are forming a health care committee to more fully identify and meet the health concerns and needs of our congregation. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry. A committee of five people is ideal. You do not need to be in health care to participate, although medical persons are needed as well. Please contact Elizabeth Martynowski at 352-697-0738 for further information.

A reminder that there is a support group for diabetics that meets the second Wednesday of every month at 4pm in the chapel. Marilyn Holsipple has been excellent in providing nutritional expertise and encouragement to those who attend. Please join us for information and support with managing this difficult disease. Blessings to all.

## **PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY - by: Charlotte Eberhard**

Prayers and Squares members meet at Friendship Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. This ministry celebrated 16 years of quilt making and providing prayer quilts for loved ones in November. We have given 1578 quilts in that length of time. Thanks to all the members of the prayer quilt ministry, the many donations of fabric and money, the support off our congregation, and all those praying for recipients, for keeping this ministry going. At the close of 2018 we had distributed a total of 1587 quilts, 119 in 2018. We started 2018 with \$1015 and received an additional \$409 in contributions. We had a total expenditure of \$895.71, \$ 371.40 of that amount going to the purchase of the blue bags with the Prayer Quilt insignia on it. We ended the year with \$572.85 in our account. We will need to order more of the blue bags for 2019. Thus, contributions to meet the needs of the coming year are greatly needed and appreciated. 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.

## **SEWING FOR SOULS**

During the month of March our sewing group donated 30 breast cancer chemo port pillows to Moffitt Cancer Center. We continued to make “walker bags”, which are being taken to Timber Ridge with a church member to give out on an as-needed basis. We have been asked to make covers for IV bags and have submitted a sample creation for approval. We have finished making each Harmony VPK student a backpack, which will be given with a new bible to them at graduation this May.

We are so excited to have so many projects and with all the material and sewing machine donations that our group has been blessed with, we have found ourselves in desperate need of additional storage space. Our Board of Trustees have approved space for us to put more cabinets, we just need donations to help fund this project. After your prayerful consideration, if you would like to donate to our ministry, please mark your donation “Sewing for Souls”.

## **YOUTH PROGRAM - by Debbie Wright**

The Youth Group has started off the year with a big bang. We now know summer youth camp cost will be \$420 per camper. The youth will be earning one point for every dollar that they need to go to camp. We are doing projects around the church and helping different groups with projects for donations to be made to the Youth Group Fund. We will be working in the Prayer Garden at the designated youth area that was picked years ago. We will be working on the parking stops in the parking lot. The youth have been working hard on cleaning and straightening up the youth building. Our goal is to be more unified as a group and with our church family. The youth are looking at dates for a Youth Sunday in the future. Please let us know if we can help you with projects around your home or areas in the church.

We appreciate all the support that has been shown to the youth program in the past. We are trusting the Lord for it to grow stronger in 2019.