



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon
August 2018
NEWSLETTER

PASTORS COMMENTS

I have been so blessed at our recent Tuesday night prayer meetings with communion, by the number who came to pray for the United Methodist Church before they went to different prayer meetings, bible studies and administrative meetings. We will continue this for a while as I spend more time with our administrative committees. I know this displaces a number of folks that would come to the Pastors Bible Study on Tuesday nights, but brother Steve, a retired minister, is doing an exceptional job providing study each Tuesday night. Our sister, Barbara Keller, also does an amazing job at our Tuesday morning bible study at 10:00 am. Moving our administrative meetings to Tuesday nights allows folks still in the work force to connect with us. Also, not making the hour late after the evening study, allows more time for all of us to enjoy our families.

We just started back our Wednesday night family service and for the next couple of months we are doing a bible study with our lay speakers and myself for the contemplative prayer. We will be working first through the book of Ruth.

We have new Directors for our Children's Ministry and for our Adam and Eve class as well. There are also a number of new adventures that will be before us as we head into the Fall. We praise the Lord for the wonderful love and faith and generosity of those called to Dunnellon First United Methodist. As we move forward to build the kingdom in everything we do, there is an excitement of spreading the gospel and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Don't miss any of the opportunities when fellowship and study and worship are offered. Blessings during this month of August.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Little by Little...it becomes a lot.

Your Building Committee has been conducting multiple meetings with the architects, engineers, environmental experts, and land surveyors in an effort to file a complete site plan of our 30-acre campus with the City of Dunnellon government. Our site plan will show the United Journey Center's (UJC's) footprint, travel ways, parking, drainage facilities, sewer lines, water lines, lighting and other structures that will be part of our development project for the foreseeable future, and beyond. This process has at least a 10 to 12-week timeline of work remaining before any final projected plans can be reviewed by the entire Building Committee.

We hope to have a site plan artist rendering available in our Narthex by late Fall for all of the congregation to see. It will hopefully have the site divided in a couple of phases so we all can see some of our projected future growth at First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon.

Once the plan has been approved by the city, then permits can begin to be applied for and church wide meetings will be called to let all of us know the next big steps in our expansion and growing the kingdom at our church. Stay tuned for more and please keep us in your prayers!

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. As always, we are looking for volunteers, if you'd like to give of your time to this worthy effort, please call Grace Burks.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS BOOK CLUB

This Book Club meets the 2nd Thursday @ Second Life Thrift Shop & 4th Thursday @ Dunnellon Eye Care every month from 10:30 - 11:30 am.

KINGDOM BUILDER INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

What's a Charitable Gift Annuity?

Did you know the American Council on Gift Annuities announced a new interest rate schedule effective July 1st. Rates will increase for people 70 and older, the age at which charitable gift annuity agreements are established. Higher interest rates mean higher payments to them for their gifts.

Here's how charitable gift annuities work. Donors make a gift to their church or other charities, while gaining income and tax benefits for themselves or their families. Through the gift annuities program administered by our Florida United Methodist Foundation, donors receive an annual rate of return and an immediate tax deduction for a portion of the gift. At the donor's death, the remaining value of the gift annuity is distributed to our church or designated charities.

For example, a couple that were transplants from Ohio and members of our Vero Beach UMC wondered what kind of legacy they could leave behind. They wanted to support their church after they're gone and put their gift in motion while they were still alive. A friend told them about the foundation and how they could help. Setting up two charitable gift annuities was their answer. It would give them regular income during their lifetimes, while the church gets the balance after they die. This service is available through the Foundation at little to no cost to the donors.

Charitable gift annuities can be written for one or two people. This couple chose to do two single life charitable gift annuities based on their ages. For example, a single 75-year-old would receive a fixed annuity payment of 6.2 percent of the value each year, guaranteed for life. An 80-year-old would receive 7.3 percent guaranteed for life. Joint, two-life charitable gift annuities are also available with rates quoted based on their ages.

Charitable gift annuities are a different kind of investment that allows you to not let your funds stagnate in a low interest savings account and also establishes a future gift investment in building the kingdom. You'll also have the peace of mind knowing you've set a future gift legacy in motion while continuing in worship at Dunnellon First United Methodist Church.

For additional charitable gift annuity information, please feel free to discuss in confidence with our Pastor, members of our KBIC committee or our District Stewardship Consultant, Tom Wilkinson, directly with the Florida United Methodist Foundation at (866) 363-9673 or by email to twilkinson@fumf.org.

MILITARY SERVICE BOARD

This board is in the hallway of Friendship Hall. It is available to display a picture of any service member so the congregation can keep them in their prayer while they serve our country. This includes all active duty service members as well as reservist. Reserves are routinely called up for deployment. They need our prayers as well. FUMC Dunnellon is a praying Church!!

MISSION COMMITTEE

Our Mission emphasis in August is Habitat for Humanity, please continue to support this worthy cause.

NEW MEMBERS

On June 3rd the New Member class had 10 in attendance. On Wednesday evening, July 18th, 8 people from the class, plus 2 people joining by transfer of membership, became members. As usual, all received a wooden cross in their new member packets. Next New Member class is scheduled for Sunday, August 26th.

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 to Malinda Claffey, our Church Administrator, 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.

SHEPHERD MINISTRY

As of this time we have 39 confirmed Shepherds covering 299 Lamb families. We still have 44 Lamb families who need a Shepherd. These numbers are constantly changing as we gain new Lamb families and, unfortunately, loose others. The networking seems 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 Adele Strausberger if you are interested. Blessings.

SECURITY TEAM

The security of our church grounds and all those attending our activities remains a high priority. There are various initiatives underway to improve our ability to protect both. We purchased two additional radios for our volunteers and 6 members recently completed First Aid/CPR/AED training. We are looking into other improvements such as getting 3 estimates for security fences around both preschool playgrounds, expansion of the church video monitoring system, purchase of lockout latches for the inner doors of the Sanctuary, and several members are in the process of signing up for their State of Florida Security Officer and Security Guard licenses. Security was provided all week for VBS by seven of our security team. Our fundraising efforts continue to help defray the cost of security to the church. Our Paul Saik concert was excellent and made \$800 profit. We have started the weekly dinners for the United Way Strong Families Program. This is a 15-week program and we are reimbursed a fixed amount per person that we feed.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We had an AMAZING time at VBS this year!! The theme was Rolling River Rampage. The beautifully decorated Sanctuary, Friendship Hall, Education Building, and Youth Building were filled with joyous sounds of kids! 107 kids registered for VBS and from all the smiles, laughs, and comments it was a roaring success. The coordinators, Malinda Claffey and Cindy Cooper extend a Tremendous THANK YOU to over 63 volunteers, including our Agape Safety Team members all who helped the kids feel like they were living the theme. We look forward to next year!