



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon

February 2018 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4th - **Harmony Preschool 1st Annual Bowl-athon**, at Parkview Lanes in Holder, Registration @ 12:30pm, Bowling from 1pm-3pm

February 14th - **Ash Wednesday Activities**, at 3:45 in our chapel we will offer a Linton Bible study led by Mr. Steve Schlei on the, Song of Songs, in our Bible. At 5:00 our scout troop will be serving us a pancake supper in honor of Shrove Tuesday which is a tradition throughout the Americas and European countries. All are invited at 6 PM for Ash Wednesday services. This begins the Lenten season. We will offer the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at 6 o'clock with a special prayer for our shepherds and a special blessing for a new Ministry of offering beautiful stuffed bears to those that could use a warm hug :-)

February 17th - **Second Life Thrift Shop** All invited @ 10:30 for a couple of Bullywink Bullfrog stories. We are hoping our Cub Scout troop will be there to sell cupcakes afterwards.

February 23rd – 25th **1st Annual FUMC Men's Retreat**, located at Warren W. Willis Camp. Information and the itinerary are at our Welcome Center in the Narthex. Sign-up deadline is February 14th. All men are welcome to attend, the cost is \$100 each.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

We were honored and pleased to host an Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 where attendance was tallied to be just shy of 100 attendees. That is triple our typical attendance! We were able to talk in detail about the 4 major options available to the Building Committee for the construction of the United Journey Center. They are as follows: (more details may be obtained from the church office)

- Option #1 Two story to include entire build out of 1st floor & unfinished rooms on 2nd floor
COST: \$2.8M (\$80 per sq ft)
- Option #2 Single story to include full build out of 1st floor
COST: \$2.3M (\$106 per sq ft)
- Option #3 Single story to include scaled back 1st floor with snack bar and a few mtg rooms
COST: \$1.9M (\$135 per sq ft)
- Option #4 Two story to include entire build out of 1st & 2nd floor
COST: \$3.275 (\$94 per sq ft)

(All options include a full regulation-sized gym)

After over 90 mins of Q & A at the meeting, your Building Committee was able to get a good representation the church's desires for the next steps. Those include contracting our architect to draw up specific plans, begin site work on our campus, and begin finalizing the necessary financial documents that will be needed for the ultimate church-wide vote required by the FLUMF to loan us such funds needed to build our UJC. Timetables were shared at the meeting that see a church-wide vote by early summer and a possible shovel in the ground to begin the site work by late Summer, 2018.

As a final surprise at the Administrative board meeting, the Building Committee was presented with another check from the Second Life Thrift Shop in the amount of \$5,000. Their support of the UJC has been such a blessing and I know it will continue to bless our church with operating funds for the UJC in the months and years to come. Thank you to all of the volunteers at our Second Life Thrift Shop.

More drawing and site details will be available soon in the narthex. In the meantime, please keep your church in your prayers. Thank you in advance for all your time, talent, support and prayers.

Keep the faith! Submitted by Elizabeth B. Chryst Chair-Building Committee

KINGDOM BUILDER INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Did you know? There is a tax advantage option that may be of interest to members who are 70 ½ and older required to take a “Required Minimum Distribution” (RMD) from their IRA/Retirement Account. It’s called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Below are listed the conditions and steps you might consider to reduce your taxable income from an RMD and benefit your favorite charitable organization.

IRA/Retirement Account - If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make gifts directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to FUMC Dunnellon without paying income tax on the withdrawal. Requirements include:

- You must be age 70 1/2 or older at the time the gift is made.
- You must request from the IRA plan custodian a direct transfer of funds to FUMC Dunnellon for the gift to be tax-free.
- Gifts can be used to satisfy your IRA required minimum distribution each year.
- Each person may give up to \$100,000 annually.
- Gifts can be designated for a specific FUMC Dunnellon project, ministry or mission, or where most needed. Funds held in 401 (k), 403 (b), SEP-IRA or SIMPLE IRA plans are not eligible, but may be rolled over into a Standard IRA and then used to make tax-free gifts to FUMC Dunnellon.

If you have further questions or want further information about giving through your IRA, please contact our gift planning KBIC team or the church office for confidential personal assistance. Please understand that the advice and assistance in specific cases may require the services of an attorney or other professional tax advisor. We do not render legal or tax advisory services.

Did you also know?

KBIC is looking for an amazing volunteer with experience in leading, planning, executing and evaluating major gift fundraising strategies for our church. If you sense God is leading you to help grow our church in these areas, please contact the church office at 352-489-4026 for a KBIC person on our committee that will share more about this exciting ministry goal.

MISSION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

PECDA-Kenya: Pecda/Kenya is our highlighted mission for February, the following was provided by our missionary James Githukah. Greetings in Jesus Mighty Name. I pray that I will heal completely and PECDA (Parenting Education and Child Development Aid) work can continue during this last mile of the way. PECDA has a strong foundation in several important areas.

Family - Our 55 target families are well structured Family unit. Mothers and children take responsibility at home and work in harmony. Since PECDA came in, families are clean and healthy. Living conditions are clean. They love Jesus and have testimony hence they love their children.



Food Distribution - Life is not easy but they have a living hope that food will be available from FUMC Dunnellon every mid-month.



Church - These families love Jesus and believe that their life changed when they knew Jesus. This is the main purpose for PECDA to uphold this partnership and fellowship all these years. We can see the fruit of God's word. Our hearts are his dwelling place even when the going might be very hard. They are actively involved in church activities.



Cleanness and Sanitation - The families are clean and sanitation around in their houses is clean. We thank God that they are how you see them now. They have come a long way to be what in terms of cleanliness and clothing.



PECDA/KENYA WATER PROJECT

Clean water - All our target families get clean drinking water free every day.



Water Sales - This is our most important project that is aimed at sustaining the livelihood of those families in the future.



Kindly pass our love and greetings to all our supporters. Your brother in Christ Jesus, James Githukah

NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Eddie, assisted by my co-chair, Adele Strasburger and myself, held the first new members class of 2018 on Wednesday evening, January 24th. We had 4 people in attendance, all of whom were eager to join, and who already

felt welcomed by our warm and loving church family. At the 6 p.m. service immediately following class, we had 5 people join the church, including our 4 current class members and a lady from a previous class. Submitted by Crystal Goin

SHEPERDS MINISTRY

According to our current member/regular attendee list, we have close to 200 families who do not have a Shepherd. However, in going over the list, Pastor found several families who are no longer members/attendees. He and Ms. Debbie are going to go over this list and update the information so that we actually know how many Lamb families we have. We definitely do need to keep this list up to date and encourage all to keep the office informed by using the form in the Sunday bulletin. After this is completed, we want to have a meeting of all Shepherds and those interested in the ministry to discuss the future of the Shepherd Ministry.

We have 23 active Shepherds; 5 new volunteers; 8 retiring Shepherds and 8 Shepherds we have not heard from as to if they are planning to continue. 19 of the current Shepherds have agreed to take a few more Lambs and new volunteers will cover around 50 Lambs. We definitely need more Shepherds!! Pastor has given me the names of some members as possibly willing to join this ministry. So, a letter will be sent to them explaining the ministry and inquiring if they would be so moved. This is not a difficult ministry. It is a "PRAYER" ministry, not a "DO FOR" ministry. The only requirement is that you will pray for your Lambs and remember them with a message or card every so often, just to stay in touch and say that they are cared for. The object of the ministry is to network--let everyone know that they are cared for--that they do have someone who is praying for them--that they are not alone.

There have been several concerns regarding "no response" from Lambs. The initial letter will now have a note asking the Lamb to please advise if they do not wish to have a Shepherd. Also, it would be a courtesy to respond to the Shepherd just to let the Shepherd know that they are aware that their Shepherd is available for any prayer concerns.

Although they are not expected to respond every time, they do need to let their Shepherd know of any prayer concerns, change of info, etc. The Shepherd can then inform the office. The office will also be given a list of Shepherds and their Lambs so that if they get any contact from the Lamb, they will be able to advise the Shepherd. Thus, our network will work efficiently.

Shepherds, as well as prayers, are indeed needed for this ministry. It is in the Lord's image that we are to reach out and care for His Lambs. Everyone needs prayer and the Lord will show us how to pray for those around us so that they may be comforted and led to find the answer to their needs. Blessings, Adele Strausberger

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is hosting a Networking event on Saturday, February 3rd. This will bring together Stephen Leaders and Pastors from several area Churches to exchange ideas, encourage each other and discuss the different ways of recruiting and training new Stephen Ministers. There will also be a speaker for a continuing education class.

We are still looking for members of our Church who may feel called to Stephen Ministry. There are applications at the Welcome Center. If you have questions, please contact Irene Brugh at 352-464-3133, Liz Martynowski at 352-697-0738 or the Church Office. Submitted by Irene Brugh.