



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon
February 2020
NEWSLETTER

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ, it's hard to believe that February is already upon us. We have some wonderful events taking place in this month and I would like to share them with you for your thoughts and your prayers.

We will be praying for Israel and Joanne Garcia as they go to visit our sister church in Cuba from our mission committee.

On Scout Sunday, February 9, our new scoutmaster, Sam Rankin, will share the pulpit with me at all three services

That afternoon we are hoping to have representatives from the Florida chapter of the Wesley Covenant Association to be with us to talk to our church and answer any questions about the continual movement forward and the global Methodist church.

On the second Wednesday night, February 12th, we will have a young lady from Harmony who has been working with our children and her home church to do a talent show.

On the third Sunday we are going to hear about our newest Eagle Scout project. Scot Andrew will share a few words about the renovating and improving of our prayer garden.

The last Sunday of the month is Transfiguration Sunday and we will be preparing for Ash Wednesday, February 26. It has been our tradition for the scouts to prepare pancakes which is a symbol for Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. Some of the ash we will be using that night will be from the prayer concerns that have been placed on our new wall of the intercession. We burn the prayer cards that we received throughout the year for our Ash on that holy day.

Recently, I have been meeting and praying with our Certified Lay Ministers and our retired ministers. We have decided that starting in February, instead of following the Lectionary for the Sunday morning Bible teaching, we are going to spend three Sundays preaching from the Old Testament: Samuel the last judge of Israel and then the first two kings, Saul and David. In this day and age so many people have not heard some of the Old Testament stories and we are hoping to spend some time this year digging into these amazing characters and how they influence us today. We need our congregation to be praying about this so that we can all hear the Holy Spirit at the same time

Blessings in this marvelous month and do not forget it is the month that we celebrate Valentines and we hope that you have an amazing month experiencing the love of Jesus Christ. Blessings

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ALEX KOZLOV by Ingrid Ellis, as posted on Facebook

During the service for Alex today I kept thinking of these words. Christ Like & Christ's Light. I came home & wrote this, which I sent it to Pastor before posting.

This young man & his family are amazing & have had a huge impact on our Community. This week has shown that Christ's Light: All my life I have attended church, a lot of different denominations. Every church talks about Faith, Living a Christ-like life & Christ's Light. Today I witnessed what this truly means from the life of Alex Kozlov & his family. It does not mean a perfect life.

This young man affected so many people, other teens, team mates, teachers, friends & family. Not by being perfect, but by being authentic. He had a smile, a hug & help for everyone. His hugs were a warm embrace of unconditional love, even if he didn't know you.

To see a church filled with people of all ages. People were not only standing in the church, but overflowing in the Narthex with people standing to remember & celebrate his life. Our large Altar area was filled with young

people who sang their favorite song of his, God's Not Dead. There are several things we can take from all of this.

The first is Live your life with Love & Light. Say hi to people, give a hug to someone, you never know who might need it or how much it will mean to them.

If you say you are a Christian, show other's what that means. We may not be perfect but we can be loving & accepting. Never be ashamed of your faith or of being embarrassed. Embrace life & celebrate it. So, when our time comes, there are people who will not just grieve for us, but will celebrate every day they had us in their life & say that they will hold every memory of us dear to their hearts. There are people out there who are great people we just need to mentor them, show them love and let them know that it's ok to not be perfect, just be your authentic self. May God Bring even more blessings to our community & those that knew Alex because of the faith he had, his family and the light of Christ & Love that he showed to everyone through his smiles & his hugs.

AGAPE SECURITY TEAM by Bud Bowley

Recently we have had two more members complete the training for a State of Florida Security Officers license. This brings us to a total of 8 licensed by the State of Florida. We have 4 more preparing to take the training. We are still working on finding a way we can get CCTV throughout the campus, but most importantly in the Sanctuary and Narthex.

With the addition of Steve Willis on the team as our legal advisor we are very close to completing our LLC and an agreement with the church for Security coverage.

Hopefully we will be completing these items soon. Thank you for your support.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS by Linda Jones

Wednesday Night Children's Program: On Christmas Eve, the kiddos had a great performance singing an upbeat song at the church service. Since then we have 10 -20 kids each Wednesday night. Ms. Emily had to leave us. Thankfully, Ms. Crystal from Harmony has taken her place. She is responsible for the crafts each Wed. night and they correspond with Pastor Eddie's story. Also, Miss Alicia is our other helper and she is leading our first annual talent show. It will be performed on February 22nd, during the meal at the Wednesday night dinner.

Harmony Preschool: We want to thank you for painting the hall in the education building, it looks great! Currently we have all teachers certified with their 40-hour training, there are three teachers with CDA certification, two just a few weeks away from certification, and three teacher enrolling. Mrs. Alex finished her director credential certification. We are encouraging all of our teachers to go as far as they can through the TEACH scholarship program. We have a current enrollment of 67 students. We have started enrollment for the 2020-2021 VPK program and expect full enrollment by mid-February. Harmony received 100% in our annual DCF inspection in October 2019. Our next inspection will be sometime in February. We appreciate all the support from the FUMC family. Crystal Bass, Director

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL by Irene Brugh

9:30 continues to grow we have sometimes 17 to 22 children. We are running out of room to accommodate our children. We especially need teachers for both 9:30 and 11:00 as we sometimes only have one teacher. Praying for volunteers.

FORGET-ME-NOT MINISTRY by Grace Burks

Forget Not...that the Lord loves you.

Forget Not...the difference between good and foolish sacrifices.

Forget Not...to be patient with yourself.

Forget Not...to be happy now.

Forget Not...the "why" of the Gospel.

The Forget Me Nots is a ministry that truly does not FORGET! We are in the fellowship hall every Tuesday from 12:30 -4:30 to have fun, fellowship and give respite care to our beloved "Pals". Any caregiver can rest assured that we will give your loved one special care and attention so that you can have 4 hours to rest and

recuperate.

Also, anyone who is lonely, it is a good period of fun and social time. If you have any questions, please contact me r_burks@bellsouth.net or the office.

HERNANDO HOMELESS MINISTRY by Susie and Mike Phillips

Once again Mike and I want to say Thank You for your prayers and continued support for the Hernando Homeless through your donation of “J” dollars.

We appreciate all the volunteers who give of their time to shop and take the food down every Friday. The sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center are for the next six months and only two Fridays are left open.

The Thrift Shop still sets aside duffle bags for us to take to Hernando. Our church family come through all the time with clothes, blankets, O-T-C medicines and hygiene products. So much appreciated that the homeless are on your mind and in your hearts.

During the cold weather Connections stays open into the evening until the buses come by to pick up the ones that want to go to the Salvation Army shelter.

Wednesday, we carried O-T-C medicines down to the nurses and I had a chance to speak to Nikki, who runs Connections. I asked if there are any needs beyond the food each Friday. As a reminder to all – Connections has showers and a washer and dryer for the homeless to use

Nikki said they could use some KLEENEX because of all the colds going around. They could also use toilet tissue, paper towels, bath soap and clothes soap. I have purchased these items and Mike and I will be taking them down.

Last week Joann Garcia, who volunteers in the Food Pantry at the CCFRC, told me they need cans of spaghetti sauce. I purchased 48 cans and we took them on down to the Center. Happy Feet made another donation of shoes which were welcomed by the staff at CCFRC.

LAY LEADER by Irene Brugh

As Lay Leader. I am required to attend many of the regular committee meetings. So, to help me with this new position, I attended the SPRC training in Ocala on January 9. My intention is to attend as many training opportunities as I can. I am also looking for ways to communicate information to the congregation in ways that will reach as many as possible. If you have questions, please let me know, I will do my best to find answers, individually or in a group. You can reach me at renieb46@gmail.com. Continue to pray for our congregation and Pastor and all leaders. God Bless.

MISSION COMMITTEE by Rick DuCharme

Cuba Sister Church: You did it! The new church facility is completed. The first worship service was held on December 27th in the new church facility. Rick was able to attend along with Pastor Luis, Pastor Norberto and many of the local parishioners. The service was very uplifting and enjoyed by all in the beautiful church sanctuary. Pastor Yabay has proposed a plan to refurbish the home used as a temporary sanctuary beside the church into classrooms for the children. A new sound board, Spanish language Bibles, over-the-counter medications and construction funds are being sent with Israel and Joann Garcia February 6-13 as they travel to Cuba.

Honduras: Bob Wood, Jr. had a successful heart cath and had one stent placed on January 24th. He returned home to El Pino on Sunday the 26th and will soon be resuming normal duties. Bob thanks everyone for the prayers and financial support for this costly procedure.

Jesus Is: Ken Rowe learned that the food pantry was low at Jesus Is. Barb Keller’s Sunday School class and Tuesday morning Bible Study brought in supplies for the pantry as a service project. Cory and Carol Stroup and Ken and Jan Rowe delivered the food January 7 to a very grateful mission for our blessing them.

Heifer: Carol reported a total of \$1,574.24 from the boxes and other donations for Heifer. The total surpassed last year’s giving.

PECDA Kenya: The Missions Committee agreed to discontinue support of this Mission project. Bishop Wilson of Nairobi recently visited our Church. Rick asked him to visit with James Githukah to assess the program. After Bishop Wilson visited with James, it was decided that the program would cease operation.

ZOE Empowers: To continue with our missions to orphans in Kenya, Africa, Pastor Eddie recommended we consider the ZOE Empowers program. ZOE Empowers is recommended and covered by the Florida annual

conference. The Missions Committee reviewed material from ZOE (see the website: zoempowers.org) and voted to adopt ZOE as a mission of our church. Briefly, ZOE began in 2004 as a relief organization for orphans of AIDS victims in Zimbabwe, Africa, but has evolved since 2007 into an empowerment program that has empowered more than 100,000 African orphans to become self-supporting. Watch for information on ZOE Empowers on the Mission Bulletin Board.

PRAYER COMMITTEE by Patti Pott

Somebody Cares Prayer Box Ministry: Presently 28 prayer boxes out and one is being prepared to place. Boxes are available the last Sunday of every month to be checked out and placed.

Prayer Chain: We have 281 receiving the prayer chain. If you would like to be on the prayer chain please send your email address to prayers@fumcdunnellon.org. If you have signed up for the prayer chain and have not seen it in your inbox, please check your spam folder. If it is not there either, please inform me or someone in the office.

The Wall of Intercession is ready to be utilized for confidential prayer concerns. Please pick up a brochure next to the wall in the Narthex for an explanation of its purpose. If you have loved ones in the military and would like for their names to remain on the wall, please send their names to prayers@fumcdunnellon.org.

Thank you for your support and feedback. Our prayers are making a difference!

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY by Charlotte Eberhard

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.

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 the cabinet beside the coffee machine in Friendship Hall. Cards and bags are available to go with them. There is an updated list of church attendees whom have received a prayer quilt in the cabinet. Please write the name of the person in the notebook provided. We celebrated our 17th year as a ministry in this church in November and have averaged 100 prayer quilts a year, providing 1710 quilts to date.

We would like to share a thank you note recently received from Susie Mogdans, a neighbor of the Potts and Burkharts:

“Dear Prayer Warriors,

This note is terribly late in coming. For this, I apologize. In June of this year I had surgery for a tumor in my right lung. Two days later, I developed pneumonia, fever, and respiratory distress syndrome. I was placed on ECMO and induced in a coma for six weeks. On October 2, 2019, I was finally released from the hospital. I continued with rehab and am now able to walk, swallow, and can almost take a deep breath. It has been a long journey.

I would never have gotten this far without your prayers. I am so grateful to all of you for raising me up to our Lord. Every time I felt hopeful, I knew it was because someone was talking to God on my behalf. Every time I made a major step in my healing, I knew someone was praying.

My beautiful quilt you made for me was a life-saver. While in intensive Care, I was always freezing at night. When my husband, Peter, brought your quilt to me, there was never a night that it was not covering me with warmth and prayer.

May God bless you abundantly for all you have done for me and I know for so many others. I could never have come this far without the power of your love and prayer. Thank you. God bless, Susie Mogdans”

SECOND LIFE THRIFT SHOP by Dot Chadwick

If you haven't been in lately, the Second Life Thrift Shop has a “new look”. While the shop was closed for the Christmas Holidays, our new volunteer Administrative Leaders, with help from shop cashiers and other volunteers, reorganized the shop for a more “open look”. They are also tagging all merchandise using “colors”

to help with purging. The volunteers and customers feel it is easier to find things and there should no longer be a question on pricing.

We continue to be blessed with wonderful donations and can always use quality merchandise or furniture (we ask you call before bringing furniture as we are limited on floor and storage space).

Our security cameras and monitor were installed October 25-26th and are fully operational. Sgt Roberts of the Dunnellon Police Dept. came to the shop and gave all personnel attending a "shop safety class".

While we have wonderful volunteers at the Thrift Shop who faithfully volunteer their time each week, we still would love to have able-bodied men and women to apply and interview to add to our regular volunteer roster to help us bless our church and community.

SEWING FOR SOULS by Jolynn Peart

Sewing for Souls meet every Friday in Friendship Hall at 11:00 a.m. We are currently working on Fidget Quilts requested by Dot Chadwick for Alzheimer and Dementia patents in nursing homes. Our first group of quilts will go to Timber Ridge soon.

A big thank you to Sherri Woodstuff who made and donated 50 pillow case dresses for the children in Honduras, which Joann Wingo sent to Bob Wood last week.

A neighbor made me aware the Veterans pinning ceremony at Hospice of Marion County. They perform about 1,200 a year. Each veteran receives a pin and several flags. They also have volunteers making red, white, and blue quilts, but they never have quilts for each veteran to keep one. I met with the Director of Volunteer who liked our idea of making some quillows, quilts that fold into a pillow. We'll start this week.

STEPHEN MINISTRY by Irene Brugh

We continue to look for new applicants. We hope to have a class soon, but need at least 2 more applicants.

UGLY QUILTS by Jolynn Peart

Ugly quilts meet in the Friendship Hall every Friday at 9:00 a.m. We currently finish about two quilts a week for the homeless, which we take to Annie Johnson.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN by Sue Herrala

The last Sunday of 2019, the leaders were installed. The new membership booklets are in the narthex.

The spaghetti dinner was a success and we thank all who helped with it. Money was given to Pastor's discretionary and the rest will help with our events and missions.

The annual Ladies Tea will be February 13th. The theme is HEART TO HEART. Our speaker is Kathy Belcher, ARNP to focus on women's heart health. We are asking the ladies to wear a hat for the hat parade with prizes. We will collect white offering envelopes for Pastor's discretionary.

On March 21st from 9:30 to 12:30 we will have a mission study with three topics pertaining to health and will include lunch. The ladies may bring a gift bag for CASA (abuse center for women and children). More info will follow.