



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon
June 2019
NEWSLETTER

PASTORS COMMENTS

As we did last year, we will be taking a Wednesday Night Worship service break for the entire month of July and the first two Wednesday nights in August. We will start back August 21st with all activities in full swing.

- Annual Conference will be from June 5 through June 8 and we need your prayers. Elizabeth is running for general conference delegate for May 2020 and our hope is that she might make that position. She is our delegate this year to our Annual Conference and our assistant delegates are Roxanne Barnes, Sherri Woodstuff and Carrol Meredith. They all have voting rights with our Pastor.
- Our next Administrative Board meeting scheduled on June 25th will be cancelled. We will use that time to meet to share the experience we had at the Annual Conference in early June.
- VBS and Youth Camp are right around the corner. I think we have about 13 kids going to camp this year. They have been working very hard to earn their points to go.
- Our two retired ministers will be leading the sermon for July 7th. Our Pastor will be there to consecrate the elements for Holy Communion.
- We will continue the Tuesday Evening 5:30 PM prayer time with the pastor before the Bible study and extended prayer session each week. We encourage all to attend that can, especially the administrative committees that meet on those particular nights at 6 PM.
- Irene has the Wednesday night schedule for June that is different each week for the adult worship service.

PLAN B TASKFORCE - We continue to monitor the activities and decisions of various groups such as the Judicial Council, UMC Conferences, the Wesleyan Covenant Association and plans for GC2020. We also are following the actions of Traditional, Centrist and Liberal Churches as communications between these diverse groups foster an attempt to define a more compatible option for the future. As we go about these tasks, we will prayerfully lift up our UMC leaders so that they may discern God's will. Our Feedback Forum question got 87 responses. 95.3% want the church to continue its Traditional beliefs with 15 of those responses wanting to leave the UMC now while 4.7% would like a more Conservative or Centrist approach. We will keep the congregation informed by providing a report at the bimonthly Administrative Board Meeting, articles in the Newsletter and other methods as they are identified. The good news for our church is the Judicial Conference of the UMC has made it clear that all Churches can keep their property and assets if they decide to disaffiliate from the UMC. This is good news for both sides of the issue, if churches are uncomfortable with actions of other Churches, Jurisdictions or Conferences they may leave with all their property and assets. Some liberal groups are still rebelling against the results of GC2019! However, regardless of the final outcome of their efforts our Church will be able to continue our Traditional heritage.

HARMONY PRESCHOOL - Summer has officially begun at HPS! We have approximately 66 students enrolled and currently have eight teachers all-moving forward with their schooling with three of those teachers working towards their CDA. We are very excited to announce that our VPK program for the fall is already full and we have started a waiting list! During our summer program we are looking to offer a few classes and are hoping for a few volunteers to help teach these classes. These will be extracurricular activities to include sewing and arts and crafts. Please consider using your talents even one day a week to help teach and mentor a child this summer. In the meantime, over the summer you will see some renovations to our two outdoor playgrounds. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We hope summer at HPS is a real blast for the kids, teachers and volunteers.

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 continue to try and provide tent sets online from 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. 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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE – by: Rick DuCharme

Rural Mission Team: Our church received a thank you letter from Pastor Tracy Hugie of Grace Place Ministries and the Petersfield Community in South Carolina. He was very grateful for the Rural Mission Team and all the work that was accomplished during the week of March 30-April 6. He is very appreciative of the \$1,400 the team donated for further needed repairs of the Petersfield Community Center. He has invited the team back next year for more work in the community.

Cuba: Pastor Yabay reports good progress on the church construction. The impact of the dilemma in Venezuela has impacted life in Cuba. Gasoline, food and many items are being rationed as the Venezuelan aid to Cuba has dwindled.

Honduras: Bob Wood, Jr. prepared an excellent video showing the positive impact of the El Pino Bi-Lingual School operated by this mission. The video was shown at each service on April 28.

Kenya: James Githukah reported that the water sales project is going well providing clean drinking water for our PEDFA families and water sales profits for food for the neediest of the PECDA families. Grace Githukah is doing well following her cancer surgery and thanks everyone for the prayers for healing.

Homeless Ministry: With the leadership of Mike and Susie Phillips, our church continues to provide food, clothing, tents, over the counter medications and bicycles. Your "J" dollars are at work.

PARISH NURSE - There is a need for medical personnel to be available at all services on Sunday mornings to respond to any medical event. If you have medical training and are willing to be a part of the volunteers' force providing this service, please notify the church office or call Liz Martynowski. There will be a time scheduled for orientation to the AED and location of emergency supplies.

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. We have currently given 1638 quilts. 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. We were able to purchase another 150 of the blue bags for recipients of these quilts due to several contributions to this ministry in April and May. 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 would like to share this thank you note from Diana Chapman:

Dear Church Family & Prayer Quilt Ministry, I am so blessed to have a church family like Dunnellon First United Methodist Church. After 13 weeks of recovery from back surgery, I am without back pain and slowly gaining the strength back in my leg muscles. I want to express my appreciation and thankfulness for all your prayers, Pastor Eddie's hospital/rehab visits, Stephen Ministry and Shepard lovely card and the beautifully made prayer quilt made by the Prayer Quilt Ministry team. The Prayer Quilt now hangs on a wall in our bedroom as a warm and loving reminder of all those that added their knot in prayer for my healing after surgery. The prayer messages and signatures of members will always be attached to the back of the quilt as a reminder that God does answer prayers. The enclosed gift is for the benefit of the Prayer Quilt Ministry to enable them to continue this ministry of love and prayers for those in need of healing like I was. May God continue to bless the Prayer Quilt team and those this ministry continues to touch as an outreach from our church.

In Christ Love, Diana Chapman
Charlotte Eberhard, Chairperson

SHEPHERD MINISTRY - We were able to hold a meeting of all Shepherds last April. We sincerely appreciated all Shepherds who attended this meeting. We gained 3 new Shepherds and 11 of our Shepherds accepted new members to their flock. This covered 63 families in our church. This is truly a blessing. However, we have lost several Shepherds, increasing the need for more volunteers. As it stands right now, we still have about 30 families who need Shepherds and 9 families whose Shepherds are contemplating retirement. There was some discussion regarding giving this Ministry a rest, but general consensus was to continue. We discussed some of the issues Shepherds have and determined our main problem, lack of communication. Pastor and I hope to improve this by stressing communication among the Office, the Shepherds and the Flock. This is a worthwhile ministry and requires so little. It involves daily prayers and communication. It serves to keep our congregation aware of the needs of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. All we ask is that you pray daily and keep in contact by phone, text, e-mail, etc. and let the office know of any needs. In turn, we expect the Flock to keep their Shepherds aware of any needs and to take the time to communicate with their Shepherd. If you feel that you would like to participate in this Ministry, please advise the office or Adele Strasburger or Crystal Goins. We would be very happy to share the information on this Ministry. Blessings. Adele

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN – The UMW will give out Ruby Walker Scholarships the second Sunday in June at the 9:30 service. The seniors receiving the scholarships are Tyler Ferguson, Millie Nemetch and Callie Spurlock. Blessings and safe trip to all of you traveling this month. Sue Herrala

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – This year’s VBS theme is “AMPED: Live Fully Alive”. This bible school curriculum centers on faith and encourages hands-on learning & fun! AMPED VBS will help kids understand why God wants each of us to be Filled with Confidence! HE wants us to Live Fully Alive, because we can believe that what HE says is True!

We will be providing a week full of worship experience, including Music, Drama, Games, Crafts, and Snacks beginning on Monday, July, 8th. We are still in need of volunteers, as well as financial donations! If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 489-4026. If you would like to donate, please notate VBS on your donation.

YOUTH PROGRAM - by Debbie Wright

We have 15 youth going to camp the first week of July. They have been extremely active and participating in earning their points which is one point per dollar for camp each year with needing 420 points. They clean up every Wednesday night after dinner, wiping tables, sweeping the floor, helping in the kitchen, and putting the chairs up. They will be laying mulch and painting all the parking stops at the church within the next couple of weeks.

The entire Youth Group appreciates any donations made to their group, which helps them all get to go to camp together. The Youth Group will be presenting the Worship Service on June 12th, on Wednesday night. Everyone is invited to come see their creativity.

QUILTS OF VALOR PRESENTATION – For those who missed it, the Quilters of Oak Run presented a quilt of valor to three of our congregation on Sunday the 26th of May. These quilts were presented by our own Donna White, Pat Cicogna and Patty Schwartz representing their Quilt Club and the Quilts of Valor Foundation. These quilts are to honor and thank them for their service, offer comfort and remind them they are forever in our thoughts and prayers. Bob Burks (Marine Corps), Ray Horne (Air Force) and Pat Martin (Navy) were the honorees.

