



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon

**APRIL 2017
NEWSLETTER**

SOFTBALL GAME

“No-Fooling” April 1st @ 4:00pm
Church Staff or their reserve VS. Church Softball team
At the Eugene Martin Field (near Front Porch)
Come to Play or to Cheer on those that are!!

“JR. BASKETBALL LEAGUE”

We are in the second half of our Wednesday night league.
All 4-10 year-olds are invited. 6:00pm – 7:00pm
April 5th – medals and trophies will be awarded.

UMW UPCOMING EVENTS

In the month of April the three circles of UMW will participate in the Prayer and Self Denial program presented at their respective meetings.

Harmony Preschool invited the community to an Easter Egg Hunt at FUMC on Saturday, April 15 at 2PM. UMW circles will provide 15 dozen cookies for the event.

The annual Celebrate Women Luncheon will be Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 11:30 in Friendship Hall. Tickets are \$8 and will be sold at the Welcome Center beginning April 23rd.

UMM

Richard Logan reported that He and Bobby Ruise as of 2/23 have picked 748 lbs of fruit and donated it to the First Step Food Bank of Ocala. Several bags of fruit were also delivered to other charities. Our treasurer has reported that the UMM in 2016 has donated \$800 to Honduras, \$900 to Cuba, and miscellaneous other missions including ramp building and tree removal \$600, and \$735 to the Boy Scouts.

UMM UPCOMING EVENTS

Easter sunrise service breakfast. 4/16

Men will host Weds night dinner. 4/19 and 4/26

Another Mystery Dinner Theater is in the works for sometime in the fall.

A BBQ Butt/Rib/Turkey fundraiser is also in the planning stages for sometime in the fall. This will be mainly a pre-order EVENT.

SOMEBODY CARES

We are in desperate need of additional volunteers for this crucial ministry! FUMCD is truly a Praying Church and this ministry is the cornerstone of this intersessory prayer effort. Please read the following description of our mission efforts and prayerfully considering becoming a volunteer Prayer Warrior.

The Somebody Cares prayer ministry has '19 little chapels' in 16 locations throughout Dunnellon. When a prayer request is placed in one of these little prayer boxes, it is picked up by volunteers weekly and brought to FUMC. The Somebody Cares prayer group meets weekly to pray for these requests and others requests including those mentioned



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by Pastor Eddie, those placed in the offering plates, phone requests to the office, and lists of world wide areas of conflict, wars and other disasters touching God's children.

We are asking those interested in this ministry of intercessory prayer to join us for one hour weekly for prayer on Wednesday, at 3:30 PM in the comfort room.

We are known as a praying church. Prayer is indeed a powerful weapon against this fallen world we live in. Please feel free to join us. Your participation will add power for the Kingdom of God and blessings for you and those for whom we pray. If you have questions or need more information, please call either Beverly Snyder at 465-9096 or Lorna Gillespie at 447-6143.

PRAYERS AND SQUARES

Prayers and Squares (Prayer Quilt Ministry) is an interfaith outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Unlike many other organizations that make quilts for charitable causes, the purpose of Prayers & Squares is not to make and distribute quilts, but to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Our motto is "It's not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers." There are now over 1,300 chapters around the world.

Our chapter is #98 and was started in November, 2002 by Pat Paradine. The chapter has distributed prayers in 1370 quilts since that beginning.

Everyone who ties a knot and says a prayer is a valuable part of this ministry. We wish to thank all of those whom have contributed fabric, thread and batting as well as financial support to this effort. Special thanks go to the following ladies for their sewing skills, time, and effort in the past year: Freddi Brown, Jean Brymer, Evelyn Clark, Kay Fanelli, Cindy Houle, Gerry King, Lois Joyce, Pat Judd, June Reed, Laura Rutkowski, Donna White, and Confetti Winslow.

We also want to thank the Country Quilters, (the quilt group which meets at Friendship Hall on Mondays), for the 25 quilt tops and completed quilts donated to us in February and March.

Prayers and Squares members meet at Friendship Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month 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. The ministry prefers that one first obtain permission from the person to be prayed for. We maintain a list of names of those for whom prayer quilts have been made.

This ministry has been a joy to all those doing the sewing, tying the knots, and praying. We have received hundreds of thank you notes from the recipients of these quilts, stating they can feel the love and prayers said for them as they wrap the quilt around them.

Thank you all for your continuing support for this ministry. As Pat Paradine used to say, "We are a praying church and prayer works". For additional information or to join our group call Charlotte Eberhard, Chairperson 352-465-7330.

PECDA

PECDA-Kenya: James Githukah has purchased four, 13,000 liter (3,434.24 gallon) water tanks, with the funds we sent last month. Concrete mounting platforms will be constructed to mount the tanks about four feet about the ground. James has sufficient funds to complete the installation.

CUBA

Cuba Sister Church - Cieneguita: Pastor Yabay has completed his second semester at the seminary in Havana. He is currently working on finishing up the detached bathroom facility. Next weekend (3/11/17), he will receive the keys to



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the house recently purchased beside the church. Although the contract has been signed and property paid for, the actual legal paperwork will take about two months to complete.

Also from Cuba, Pastor Norberto Gutierrez of Abreus, Rick and John's recent host in Cuba, will be visiting Dunnellon March 15th for a week. He will be staying with the DuCharme's. Norberto and Rick spoke at the UMW Latin American Studies program on Saturday March 18.

RURAL MISSION

Rural Mission: So far six Dunnellon FUMC members are planning to participate in the April 22-29 mission trip.

HONDURAS

Pastor Bob Wood Jr. is covering from the recent flooding. Our church was able to send \$3,000 to help with flood damage recovery.

SECURITY

Established back in November 2016. It is a team of 15-20 men & women volunteers lead by Lee Whitston and John Taylor which could include current and retired law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical professionals, military veterans and volunteers who have a heart to serve and protect our Church, our Pastor, our children, and fellow congregants. Our goal is not only security but safety during medical emergencies, fires, or natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes etc. A team member is identifiable by his or her red badge. Recently the Church purchased ten radios to provide instant communications between team members in the youth building, the preschool, the A/V desk, parking lots and the office.

We will be hosting a Church security and safety seminar presented by Strategos International, a nationally renowned leader in Church Security. The seminar will be on June 24, 2017. It is an all day seminar. More information and fliers will be available in the near future. The seminar is available to everyone. Our next meeting has not been scheduled. Bud Bowley

HERNANDO HOMELESS MINISTRY

We want to send a very warm thank you for all the support through your "J" dollars for this ministry. We are one of five churches that provide meals Monday through Friday. Connections (name of facility where they gather for meals) is not open on Saturday. Sunday they are open from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm and gather what is left over from the week to serve them lunch.

The "J" dollars go above and beyond the weekly support of the Friday meals. We are providing extra food to help with the Sunday meals. The ladies at Connections try to make sandwiches for the ones that have found work.

During the winter months if the temperatures really drop and folks stay in Connections waiting to be taken to a shelter for the night (instead of going back to their tents) they attempt to feed them another meal. These are some of the items Mike and I have been able to purchase for them through your generosity during January, February and March:

Milk - Butter - Salad Greens - Tomatoes - Salad Dressing - Corn - Green Beans - Peas - Fresh Fruit - Orange Juice - Canned Fruit - BBQ Sauce - Sandwich Meat - Sliced Cheese - Powdered Lemonade - Trays of Cookies - Frozen Food: Lasagna, Bryon's BBQ Pork, Macaroni & Cheese - Water - Jumbo Zip Lock Bags (used to keep personal papers together and dry)

Two families in our church have provided navel oranges and grapefruit they picked from trees in their yards. The Second Life Thrift Shop has provided, on numerous occasions, warm clothing and duffle bags. And thank you - thank you to all the volunteers for your time making this trip to Sam's to help feed the less fortunate. Blessings, Mike and Susie Phillips



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BUILDING COMMITTEE

A heartfelt and sincere “thank you” is being shouted from the four corners of our church campus from your building committee. This spring has been a busy one for our church as to our expansion project. Within the last six weeks, Pastor Eddie hosted a town hall style meeting in conjunction with the building committee where two plus hours were spent fielding questions about our church expansion project. Then a couple of weeks later, a church wide conference was held. This conference was presided over by our district Superintendent, June Edwards, as required in our *Book of Discipline*. By a vote of 94 to 17, you voted to allow us to continue building plans towards our church expansion. Finally, two weeks later, the building committee hosted a dinner/Gala where you were able to show your support monetarily for our church expansion. Our goal for that night was to meet and prayerfully exceed an individual pledge of \$50,000. That goal was exceeded and your support topped out at over \$60,000 for the expansion of our campus to include the United Journey Center building. Funding for the UJC is still coming in. Praise God and again “thank you” from each of your building committee members.

Now we begin the tedious work of designing the UJC to fit our church needs and the growth of our church. We need your prayers. We want to hear from you as to your ideas for the new building. The building committee’s display will return to the narthex where you can leave suggestions and ideas for the UJC. The display will allow you to see the latest news from the building committee, including our fundraising progress. Please continue to pray for our expansion as we take the next steps towards our goal of expanding our campus to be God’s light in our community.

Stay tuned and keep the faith, Elizabeth B. Chryst Chair-Building Committee