



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon

December 2017
NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS FROM PASTOR EDDIE

The last week of February we are putting together our own “Men's Retreat”, more information to follow in January. The next two Sundays we will be collecting an offering for our staff for Christmas.

ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is up! Take an angel. Buy the gift card on the angel. Return the angel to the church by December 17, 2017 with the angel attached to the gift card. These angels are for local children who are less fortunate and won't have any Christmas gifts without us. Thanks!

Any questions contact Jennifer Nemetch 352-216-8574

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

The diabetic support group meets every second Wednesday of the month at 4pm in the Stephen ministry room located in the education building. Marilyn Holsipple assists with dietary and nutrition concerns. Linda Topper and Liz Martynowski discuss concerns with medical aspects of this disease. All are welcome whether you have diabetes or are a caregiver to someone with diabetes

FUMC DUNNELLON FACEBOOK PAGE

Committee Chair's we need your help! We would like pictures of our church's activities so the pictures can be posted to our Facebook page and also our website. If you are the Chair of a Committee, we are asking that you or someone designated from that group take pictures of the activity and email the pictures to Rachelle, our Media Tech at rachelle@fumcdunnellon.org.

HARMONY PRESCHOOL by: Linda Jones, Board Chair

Facts about Harmony Preschool: The Director of the school is Amy Simpson. The Assistant Director is Crystal Bass. We have 8 teachers, 52 students, ages 1 yr. to 5 yrs. old. We have one VPK class with 16 students.

The most recent fundraising endeavor was Spirit Day at Bubba Q's. They donated 20% of each tab purchased by anyone who told them they were with Harmony. We received \$220.00, which sounds minimal, but that shows the church supported the cause for over \$1,000.00. Thank You church!

On November 5th we had a Craft/Sale Day. We made over \$600. Thanks to all who participated and supported us. Our fund-raisers supplement the salaries, curriculum, supplies and miscellaneous spending. We try to get donations from businesses when we can.

We sponsor The Children's Area at Boomtown days. We were in charge of the Community Easter Egg Hunt at our church. We had the Children's Area after the Christmas Parade. This year we are participating in the Annie Johnson Christmas Program.

The school would like to offer an after-school program, starting in January. Because of parents working long hours, this program is much needed. We have the space and teachers to begin this program in January. This program will also supplement our expenses. We are waiting on different approvals before we can bring it to our Board of Trustees. The curriculum for this program is exciting. We hope to work the children into church activities such as Forget-Me-Nots, Wednesday Night dinner preparations, plus other life-application lessons: cooking, painting, sports etc. We have applied for a grant to help with this program.

We would like to start a volunteer program with the church to bring the church & school closer. There is so much talent & knowledge in our church from which we could benefit. There are so many volunteer opportunities with the school as you can see from above. We have a very active “Moms Group” who are so willing to help the teachers do whatever they need. Please contact a Harmony Preschool Board Member if you are interested in volunteering.

Board Members: Linda Jones, Gloria Couch, Jane Bowley, Charles Stephens, Barbara Surian, Rebecca Henderson, Cindy Cooper, and Malinda Claffey.

KINGDOM BUILDER INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

We have completed the planned giving brochure, thanks to members of the KBIC committee, and especially Malinda's assistance. Copies are available at this time upon request for those wishing to read about various planned giving options. Stay tuned as more information will be coming in the New Year. The KBIC received approval from the Finance Committee for a request, that in the future, non-designated gifts to Dunnellon FUMC General Fund, subject to Finance Committee approval, be invested in a separate investment account by the KBIC with continuing review, to maximize investment returns for our church.

The 7-week Legacy Journey course will be presented in Friendship Hall on Sunday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. commencing January 7th. Rick DuCharme will be facilitating the study. He encourages all members to consider participating in this series. The cost is \$109 per family, and includes the completion of a Florida-legal will. The web link for on-line enrollment will be placed on the church website in the near future.

<http://www.daveramsey.com/legacy/classes/1050856>

MISSION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Cuba Sister Church: Pastor Yabay will be holding a summer camp for 100 children from his district. This will be held at the new church under construction which is 2/3 completed. Pastor Yabay and his family traveled to their home town, Pinar del Rio, a 5-hour bus ride recently. Pastor Yabay's wife, Gexika is scheduled to give birth to their second daughter this week.

We are currently collecting over-the-counter medications to take to Cuba February 7.

Family Hope Pregnancy Center: Thanked us for \$1,372.73 from the baby bottle campaign.

Habitat for Humanity: Elizabeth reported a second homeowner has been identified for a new Habitat home. Regis Woods is a paraplegic-Olympian.

Happy Feet: Tom Tarkenton reported that 129 pairs of shoes have been given so far, this year. Citrus Springs, Hernando, Romeo and Dunnellon are the schools included. Also, 125 children are being fed by backpacks on the weekend.

Heifer International: Carol Stroup made the Heifer Mission Moment presentation November 26 at all three services. Donation boxes are available on the Narthex table.

Hernando Homeless Ministry: Susie and Mike Phillips met with Ginger from the resource center in Hernando. They needed new tents. She and Mike bought 4 three-man and 2 four-man tents, 14 sleeping bags and tarps. The "J" dollar collection provides sufficient funds for this mission.

Honduras: Bob Wood sent a letter updating us on the progress of the school and telling us how grateful he is for the truck. He is carrying 17 children to school in the pickup truck every day. His report is posted on the Missions Bulletin Board in Friendship Hall. His daughter Emily needs \$2,200 to register for next semester at Asbury. Her major is Missions. Last week, we were able to send \$1,000 to Asbury toward Emily's tuition.

Michelle-O-Gram: Sherry reported fundraising has been great. She needs more administrative help. She has 40 "thank you" letters to do.

United Methodist Children's Home: A letter was received requesting donations of gift cards for the children at Christmas. They would like to be able to give each child gift cards totaling \$150. The fifth Sunday collection from October will be sent for the Christmas gift.

2018 Mission Brochure: Please send updates for our mission articles to Malinda. Mission booklets will be distributed in late January.

NEW MEMBERS

Most recently Pastor Eddie, myself and my co-chair, Adele Strasburger, had new member classes on the first two Sundays of November. Twelve people attended; 7 of these will be joining the church on Wednesday, December 6th and the other 5 plans to join on Sunday, December 10th. This is our third new member class since I became chairperson in February, bringing our total new members since then to 30.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas full of God's love, Crystal Goins

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 months of August and September. 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

SHEPERDS MINISTRY

As most of you all know, Dot Chadwick has given up her role as leader of the Shepherd Ministry. I, Adele Strasburger, along with my assistant, Crystal Goins, have taken on this Ministry. We are, at this time, trying to update all of the information to see how many actual Shepherds that we have and how many members and regular attendees that we have. Our goal is to see that everyone has a Shepherd to pray for them. I have been trying to contact each Shepherd to get their list of Lambs updated and to see if anyone would take any more Lambs. This has been and continues to be a long process. We have over 100 Lambs who do not have a Shepherd. We are asking anyone who is interested to fill out a card and put in the Shepherd's basket in the Narthex. There is an explanatory letter by the basket. We hope to have a network in our church so that each and every one will have someone to pray for them.

We plan on having another meeting after the first of the year so that all of our Shepherds can get together and meet one another—a time to ask questions/give ideas and offer support. We would then like to meet every 2 months just to keep everyone updated.

This is not a time consuming, costly ministry. It is just taking the time to think of those around you, praying for them; remembering them on special days like birthdays and holidays by sending a card/texting/emailing/calling; and, most importantly, showing God's love for them. The greatest gift that we can give is to show how much the Lord loves us by our loving those around us. Blessings, Adele and Crystal

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Dear Congregation and Friends, thank you for your overwhelming contributions to and support for the UMW Flea Market and Bake Sale. We, the UMW, thank God for you, for the JOY you brought to us through your generous donations of merchandise and baked goods, through powerful prayers, hard work, time given to set up and positive thinking. Each of you contributed to our success of raising \$5000 for missions! You are a blessing to us as we listen and tend to God's call to always minister to the needy, the distressed and those suffering from injustices. Again, thank you ALL for your continued support and enthusiastic response to our events and activities.

In Christian Love, United Methodist Women

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pet Blessing - December 16th 10:30 am Second Life Thrift Shop

Christmas Cantata - December 17th 8:00am & 11:00am Services Sanctuary

Breakfast by Boy Scouts - December 17th 8:30am -11:30am Friendship Hall

Sunday Morning Services December 24th - 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24th 6:00pm Sanctuary

Children's Ministry - Are playing Four Square on Wednesday's through December

Dave Ramsey Legacy Journey - January 7th 3:30pm - 5:30pm for 7 weeks Friendship Hall