



# First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon

## APRIL 2021

### NEWSLETTER

#### FROM YOUR PASTOR

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As you are reading this, we are preparing for our wonderful Easter services. Holy Week is precious to us, with the beginning of worship from our Chancel Choir and their Palm Sunday Cantata. We offer Maundy Thursday and Good Friday communion services and a special thanks to the drama team with their leader Ray Horne and assistant Barbara Keller. We offer a special thanks to our Worship Committee as they plan out these services for Easter and make them all come together. Sunrise Service will be amazing with the refreshments and Easter egg hunt afterward, as well as the traditional Easter service. Praise God for this amazing season of the year!

For the month of April, we will resume our weekly activities schedule. I would definitely encourage you to consider attending one of the midweek Bible studies, the midweek worship service on Thursday afternoon, or Pastor Norberto's Spanish Bible Study on Sunday night. All of these opportunities draw us closer to the kingdom of God.

I'm continuing the weekly Monday morning text devotion from the Upper Room. If you would like to be added to our devotional text list, please contact our Church Office. Because it is in the text format you can reply with thoughts regarding the devotion.

We are excited to offer our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Retreat, which will be our first in-house men's retreat. We will be holding this the second weekend of April. We hope all of our men can join us. We are trusting this will be a great success and hope that the ladies will follow suit for a program of this type in the future.

Regarding our denomination and where it stands, there is an article below from Bob White that will give you an update. As Pastor we continue to focus on building the kingdom in everything that we do trusting that God will give direction as the General Conference struggles during the pandemic of when to meet.

We are once again hosting the Wesley Covenant Association simulcast. I strongly encourage you to consider joining us on May 1.

The first Sunday, May 2, you are invited to weekly memorize a Bible verse that starts with each letter of the alphabet. This will take us all the way to Reformation Sunday, October 31. The idea comes from Carol Stroup and I think it'll be a joy for our congregation heading into the summer months. Blessings on all of you and may the good Lord continue to wrap his loving arms around you and give you direction, peace, joy and fulfillment, in Jesus' name, amen.

#### AGAPE SAFETY TEAM by: Bud Bowley

We have been short-handed due to many of our team members deciding not to attend church during this pandemic. We hope they will be returning in the near future when they realize how safe it is at church. Please pray for their return.

I am sad to report that Jimmy Lofton, our most reliable team member, is on the injury list. Jimmy has had a series of operations which has him laid up and he has a long recovery time. Please pray for Jimmy.

The good news, we have two new team members. Josh Whitton and Stanley Spencer. Please welcome them. More good news is the Florida Congress is working on passing a bill that will allow churches with schools attached to have armed security without having to have a licensed security company. This will save us close to \$3,000 a year. The bill has passed in the House and has one more committee to go through in the Senate before it comes up for a vote.

We have a busy month coming up with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday along with the regular schedule. We are always looking for new team members. If you would like to join our team just ask any member or Pastor Eddie and we will get you set up.

#### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL by: Irene Brugh

Our teachers, Pat Robinson, Susan Rapp and myself continue to teach the children from the Bible the lessons to help them grow closer to God. Attendance continues to fluctuate, but we believe the families will start returning soon, and attendance will increase. Pray for our children and families as the world continues to be harsh and confusing.

#### FAMILY MINISTRIES by: Jennifer Nemetch

The Adam and Eve class, the youth, and the children have started Wednesday night classes at 6:00 pm. There is a light meal served at 5:30pm prior to starting class. We are following the food guidelines set by our Board of Directors. Masks are worn and we are social distancing. Please feel free to join us.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the breakfast after Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday. It is open to any children who would like to attend. We need candy donations. We have plenty of plastic eggs to fill. Please drop off any candy donations in the Narthex or the Church Office. Thank you

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

by: Irene Brugh

This group continues to meet every first and third Tuesday at 5 pm in the Chapel, led by Roger Blanton and me. You can be assured that what you say is held in confidence, as we do not speak of issues outside the class. At these meetings you will hear comforting words and receive encouragement.

We all have many questions about why and how to continue our lives after loss, so please come receive and give support for each other. God-bless you all.

## **LAY LEADER REPORT**

by: Irene Brugh

As the denomination continues to stall on the protocol, we must continue to be strong and stand for the truth of God's word. I am convinced that the Lord will lead us in the direction we should go. I trust that Pastor Eddie listens to God continually and will guide us as we continue, united in our beliefs that Scripture is the best, first place to turn. We are children of God, we have nothing to fear. Study the Word and be strong and courageous.

## **MISSION COMMITTEE**

by: Rick DuCharme

Throughout this Coronavirus pandemic the leaders of our various mission programs locally and abroad continue to cope in the best way possible. Your continuing support is particularly appreciated by those we touch through missions.

*Honduras:* Bob Wood Jr. reports the ministry is going very well. The local association of bilingual schools is trying to get government permission to reopen in person schools, but so far, the government has decreed that there will be no in person school opening until August 2022. The online bilingual school continues with 62 students enrolled. So as not to lose the school building, Bob is still renting the building and paying utilities. The teachers are continuing working through the online school. The food distribution is particularly important during this pandemic. Although the church is officially closed, Bob had worship service in his garage for 41 members on a recent Sunday.

*Cuba:* Pastor Yabay reported that his computer hard drive had died. We sent \$390 to a computer store in Cienfuegos for a replacement hard from the Cuba fund. Our sister church continues with services, vigils, visits to the elderly, leadership training and personal seminary training via internet for Pastor Yabay. Dunnellon FUMC youth Sunday School class has started a pen pal exchange with Pastor Yabay's daughters.

*Spanish Language Bible Study:* Pastor Norberto continues leading a Spanish language Bible study on Sundays in Friendship Hall. Please invite your Spanish-speaking friends and acquaintances to this growing outreach ministry. Business card-sized invitations are available at the welcome station in the Narthex for your distribution.

*Habitat:* Elizabeth Chryst reports that the #2 house build in Dunnellon is going well.

*Family Hope Resource & Pregnancy Center:* Beverly Snyder said the women are having a hard time financially. Donna Hagan will be making a presentation at our church in June.

*Michelle-O-Gram:* The Southeast Pro Rodeo May 8 brought in \$6,000. Kylie's hog raising event for the fair is estimated to have raised approximately \$14,000. The Bunco Babes fund-raising tournament is slated for October.

*Hernando Homeless Ministry:* Susie Phillips reported she and Mike had taken 8 bags of donated clothes to the Resource Center. She had bought 4 tents, 12 tarps, 3 coolers and 6 bottles of bug spray for connections. A "kit" consists of a tent, tarp, cooler, sleeping bag and bug spray and costs around \$50.

The 2021 Missions Brochure has been updated and is available in the narthex.

Thank you for continuing to support our Missions programs with your prayers and resources. Your checks can be made out to the church with designation in the memo line for a specific mission or Mission and Outreach and the Mission Committee will distribute those funds where most urgently needed.

## **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

by: Patti Pott

Greetings. Our prayer chain continues to grow. The Wall of Intercession does as well. Sadly, our Somebody Cares Prayer Box Ministry has not picked up to the degree it was before Covid. I am very thankful for our volunteers who faithfully check the boxes each week, even though it must be a bit discouraging they are not being used as much yet. We hope and pray it will pick back up soon.

I would like to remind everyone that we are all in the prayer ministry. When you pray for the prayer box ministry, the Wall of Intercession, the prayer quilts and the prayer/care bears, you are all taking part in our church's thriving prayer ministry. Thank you to everyone who supports all of these endeavors, and all ministries of the church and church staff, in prayer.

Please note that we are still having ongoing issues with our webmail. If you are not receiving the prayer chain, please email me at the church prayer email or the office email and let me know. I have another outgoing list I can add you to. The email for the prayer chain is [prayers@fumcdunnellon.org](mailto:prayers@fumcdunnellon.org) Even if you are not receiving the prayer chain, your email should come through. Blessings

## **PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY**

by: Charlotte Eberhard

Prayers and Squares members meet at Friendship Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 who 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 who have received a prayer quilt in the cabinet. Please write the name of the person in the notebook provided.

Following CDC guidelines due to the COVID-19 virus we ask that each person use the hand sanitizer provided in the Narthex before tying a knot and signing the card. Clean pens are available in a container by the prayer quilts. After using a pen, place it in the dirty basket at the Welcome Center to be sanitized. Prayer quilts will be sprayed with a disinfectant before taken down and placed in the blue bag for the recipient. All prayer quilts are machine washable and dryable. Please use the gentle cycle on your machine with cold water.

We would like to share this thank you note received from Barbara Uhlinger's cousin in Albany, NY. Her 16-month-old grandson had recently been hospitalized and diagnosed with Diabetes.

*"To the ladies of the Prayer Quilt Ministry, Our grandson, Luke Metro, and his family received your most loving and beautiful quilt. Its just so wonderful that we would benefit from such a loving gift from perfect strangers, It reminds us how very special our Lord's helpers are. This meant more than we can say. This quilt is so very special, (love the teddy bears!!). It certainly stole our hearts. We wish you all and your ministry much love and health in the wonderful work you do. With sincere and loving thanks, Mary and Mick Ochal."* She also sent a gift of \$20 to the ministry.

## **SCOUTS PROGRAM**

by: Ken Rowe

We have 10 Scouts who are working on various projects so they can attend summer camp. This year they will be attending camp here in the Florida area. Cost of the camp is \$400.00 per scout. If you would like to help them get to camp, please call me at (352)220-0256.

We are also in need of camping equipment. This includes tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, and utensils. Anyone who has such equipment and no need for it, call me at the above number. We are also looking for Dutch ovens.

## **SECOND LIFE THRIFT SHOP**

by: Dot Chadwick

*Second Life Thrift Shop Mission Statement: "Partnering with God, to help our neighbors get quality products at a reasonable price, and to generate revenue for First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon, for the purpose of sharing God's light and love with our community."*

Due to Covid, the Second Life Thrift Shop closed on December 16, 2020 and remained closed until February 15, 2021 at which time we reopened 3 days the first week from 10am-2pm. The following week we opened every day (Mon-Sat). It was decided that the Shop would adhere to the 10-2 hours for now.

The Thrift Shop lost two dedicated volunteers to Covid. Jeanne Ellis and Israel Garcia will be greatly missed by the Second Life Thrift Shop.

We hired a new cashier, Melanie Barker. She is very organized, cheerfully greets customers and has helped promote the Thrift Shop's "online" accounts (Facebook, etc) taking pictures of things and letting folks know what's happening at the Thrift Shop (like our Shop special sales). The Shop has been quite busy, especially when the winter clothes went on sale. Lots of happy customers!!!!

Our Administrative Leaders of the Thrift Shop, Diane Takahashi and Cathy Bashore continue to work diligently to build our staff of volunteers and keep the schedule filled for each week in order to serve our customers. Volunteers are stepping up so we can stay open Monday-Saturday, from 10-2.

### **ITEMS THAT WE COULD USE YOUR HELP WITH:**

1. Remind everyone that has donations to PLEASE call (352) 322-0873 and make an appointment. This allows our volunteers to know when and what is coming in and helps make us so much more efficient. Donation appointments are working out extremely well.
2. The Thrift Shop needs a closed in trailer 12-14 feet in length and preferably 6 foot tall (makes it easier to load and unload furniture). If anyone has one they would like to donate, please call the Thrift Shop.

## **SEWING FOR SOULS**

by: Jolynn Peart

March mission was Easter blankets and bunny rabbit rattles for Newborns in Need in Tampa.

We also started pillowcase dresses for Rick Ducharme to take to Cuba. Sherri Woodstuff and our group are sending 40 + dresses.

Friday we started making happy fun flannel pillowcases for a mission called Ryan's Cases for Smiles.

Soon our winter residents will be leaving and very missed. Mary and Hans are from Maine and have been with us since inception of Sewing for Souls. This year Judy joined us and I hope she will return again. I want to sincerely thank all of the people who donate and the volunteers that make Sewing for Souls so rewarding.

We are always looking for mission needs. If you know of one, please call the Church Office.

Blessings from the Volunteers Sewing for Souls, *Creating Gods Kingdom One Stitch at a Time.*

## **TRANSITION TASK FORCE**

by: Bob White

Good news, the WCA Transitional Leadership Council announced the New Traditional Denomination's Name, LOGO and Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. See more at <https://wesleyancovenant.org/2021/02/26/the-global-methodist-church> Also, a timeline for officially establishing the new denomination and a convening conference were given. These plans were based on the [Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation](#) being approved at GC2021. The WCA will establish the Global Methodist Church after the Protocol is passed or immediately if support for the Protocol wanes. GC 2021 was postponed until 2022 and The United Methodist Council of Bishops has canceled its call for a special virtual General Conference on May 8 this year. We have been praying that the Protocol would be included in that virtual conference agenda.

**What now?** FUMC Dunnellon Leadership must look at alternatives to waiting for 2022 GC. Support for the Protocol seems to be holding strong, but no passage till GC2022. Our Transition Team will review alternatives for disaffiliation and maintain close ties with the WCA as we move forward. The work we are doing will not be wasted regardless of the path we take to disaffiliation.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 1 April, where we will review existing methods to disaffiliate within the current UM Discipline and make a recommendation on the best course of action. **What can you do?** Stay informed on what's going on. I gave my first informational presentation to the Naomi Circle on 5 March and have another scheduled for the Virginia Circle on 1 April. If your group would like to schedule something let me know. The Global Gathering of the WCA fifth global gathering "GO GLOBAL" <https://wesleyancovenant.org/goglobal/> will be simulcast in Friendship Hall on 1 May. See me or send me an Email to [bobwhite01@hotmail.com](mailto:bobwhite01@hotmail.com) if you have questions about how to register. Continue to pray for your church leadership, the WCA, the Transitional Leadership Council, the new Global Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church Leadership for discernment and guidance. Further information will be provided in subsequent Newsletters as well.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

by: Jan Rowe

The United Methodist Women (UMW) are working very hard trying to redo the schedule for the year in spite of the virus. Sorry to say, we have cancelled our Annual Celebrate Women Luncheon and in place of it, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May we will be recognizing the outstanding woman of the year at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, you are invited to join us for a Roundtable Workshop. This workshop is for ALL women of the church, and all UMW Circle members. Join us for coffee and a discussion of the FUMC Dunnellon UMW Unit. We will be discussing the various projects ahead of us (volunteers always needed) and hearing from several women regarding what difference becoming a UMW circle member has made in their life. Bring a friend.

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDRENS MINISTRY**

by: Ashley & Jon Perry

Wednesday night kids are going great! We average between 10-15 kids. We've been doing a video series called "what's in the Bible? By Buck Denver" - it's from the same producers as veggie tales and the kids love it. Since time change, we spend the first 15 minutes or so enjoying outside by exercising or stretching or going on a prayer walk.

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

by: Cory Stroup

The Worship Committee has met several times since our last report and has planned the services for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

The Chancel Choir will present its Palm Sunday cantata at the 11:00 service.

The Maundy Thursday worship service will be at 7:00PM and this year, the service will be centered around a drama depicting the Last Supper. The entire congregation will participate in both communion and the Seder meal.

The Good Friday service will be at 12 Noon and will be a repeat of the drama, with communion and the Seder meal.

Easter Sunrise Service will be at 7:00AM and will be held outdoors, weather permitting. It will be a full service with members of the Worship Team leading the music. We will not have communion at the Easter services this year, as we will have celebrated it during Holy Week.

Following the Sunrise Service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and there will be refreshments prepared by Bud Bowley.

There will NOT be a 9:00 service on Easter, and the Traditional service will begin at **10:30**, instead of 11:00. Our Worship Team is growing and continues to lead us with powerful music. Finally, there will be a Men's Retreat on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **YOUTH GROUP** by: Bill & Becky Parry; Josh & Laura Whitten

The Youth Group has been consistently growing since coming back together in January. Some of the activities that they have been involved in include, painting the front entryway, both bathrooms, and the lounge area in the youth building. As soon as we were given permission to paint, the kids were asked if they would like to help, and every hand went up. Several of the kids spent two – three days of their school break making the area into an inviting place to gather. For many this was a first-time experience, but they all did a great job. Though there is still work to be done, the ideas for decorating the walls have been very inspirational and really shows the depth of where the kids are in their faith journey.

In regards to faith journeys, at least 10 of our youth will be attending Warren Willis Youth Camp this summer. They will be going as a group during the week of June 21-26<sup>th</sup>. Paperwork was filled out this past week and one of the questions that they worked on was “why do you want to attend camp?”. Though the answers were varied, it was evident that all were planning on having a great time. When the kids get back, we are hoping for some wonderful stories that can be shared with the church family.

## **MISCELLANEOUS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE**

As of Monday, April 8, our Church Office hours will go back to pre-pandemic schedule, open Monday-Thursday from 9am-3pm.

Please remember to update the Church Office with any informational changes, such as address and phone number changes. Also, as more and more of our church groups resume meeting schedules, please remember to send your attendance numbers and all calendar changes into the Church Office for all events and functions.

If you have any questions, please contact Malinda or Deb in the Church Office. Blessings!