



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon
FEBRUARY 2021
NEWSLETTER

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's hard to imagine that we're already now a month removed from Christmas and from 2020.

We have had so many of our loved ones go on to heaven in the January; we are holding memorial services in February for them: Saturday, February 6th is Patty Roberts memorial and Jeanie Ellis' memorial is going to be February 13th. Others will be offered a time for memorial as well. In our Christian faith we know that our love ones, even though we grieve them deeply, are in the presence of Christ through their faith in the Lord.

We plan on continuing our weekly worship schedule as has been for a number of months. The 8:00 service will continue to be a liturgical communion service for 30 to 35 minutes each week and the 9:00 and 11:00 service will continue at their times. These services will also continue to be offered online.

We are excited this new year to have our new Hispanic Bible study to add to our other two wonderful studies for your growth and encouragement. We will also continue our midweek worship service on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 and do encourage those of you that can to be with us as we continue to study the Holy Spirit.

Ash Wednesday is February 17th and our plan from the worship committee is to offer two services for those that would like the imposition of ashes at 5:00 and 7:00. There has always been a meal in honor of Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras from the scouts with pancakes that night. This tradition goes back to England as the folks' in years gone by, on the day before Ash Wednesday would clear the house of all the lard and make potato pancakes. There was much fasting and seeking the Lord during the 40 days of Lent but that last big meal and gatherings that day were very special. We are going to continue to honor that with a takeout pancake supper to support our scouts. You can order those meals the first couple of Sundays of February. Valentine's Day on February 14 happens to be a Sunday and that's also National Scout Sunday and so our scouts will help lead the 9:00 service that morning.

We are very thankful that we have a new worship team that leads the 9:00 service and they are practicing on Tuesday evenings and our deepest appreciation goes out to Lori and Andy for putting this together for us.

We are seven months from our general conference and the promise this year is that it will take place even if it has to be virtual. The number one vote of that conference will be regarding the protocol which is the plan that we have talked about this last year where by churches, if they would choose, can leave the denomination with their property and form a new Methodist, Wesleyan, traditional movement. Our transition task force continues to work behind the scenes in preparation for our Church to make that decision. Any new information is lifted up in the mid-week Thursday afternoon service.

I do want to remind you that the second Tuesday of every month at 1:00 in the sanctuary, we have formed a group called communion stewards and we are more than glad to bring communion to your house and either leave it there or serve it to you. We hope to continue this even after the pandemic when people that go into surgery and then to rehab can have someone to bring the sacrament to them if they would like. If you would like to be a part of this team, please come to one of these meetings. May the Lord bless you now and know that God is always with us.

I continue to believe that God has a plan for this nation. This has been one of the most difficult years in a long, long time for us as a denomination and as a community of faith and as Americans. But what we have seen time and time again in the Scriptures as well as in life itself is that God can lift up out of the ashes his amazing grace. May the good Lord wrap his loving arms around you, in Jesus name, amen.

TRANSITION TASK FORCE by: Bob White

The Transition Task Force continues working to prepare our church to join a newly formed traditional Methodist denomination. Our third meeting is scheduled for 1 February. Task leaders will report progress and develop a timeline of events leading to disaffiliation and attendance at the New Denomination's Convening Conference in early 2022.

Our current plan is based on the [Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation](#) being approved at GC2021, but will also be useful if we are forced to exit under the current Discipline. One of the questions I hear most often is “We haven’t heard much about the Protocol recently; is it still on track?” Traditional church leaders have been around the church long enough to know there is nothing certain about General Conference until the General Conference acts. This is as it should be. However, we believe the diverse members of the Protocol team and their mediator have proposed a true compromise and set forth an enviable example for an amicable end to a long and difficult dispute. We trust the Protocol will be adopted and so we will continue to plan accordingly, looking forward and not backward, and we trust others will do the same. With the continued uncertainty of delegates from around the world being able to attend GC 2021 there are several options being developed, one way or another, GC2021 will happen.

Our first informational presentation will be given to the Naomi Circle on 5 March. If your organization would like to schedule a similar event, please let me know. Further information will be provided in subsequent Newsletters as well.

LAY LEADER REPORT by: Irene Brugh

Our Church attendance appears very good, but we are so sad to have had so many of our members go on to be with the Lord. When a family grieves, our whole congregation grieves. Please keep them in prayer and support, and encourage them. Just a reminder, we have a Grief Support Group that meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:00 in the Chapel; consider attending. We follow the safety guidelines at these meetings.

I encourage all Church members to continue your giving as we encounter financial challenges in 2021. Be sure to continue to support the “J” Dollars for the homeless.

Please pick up one of the schedules that we now have available in the Narthex each Sunday. There are many opportunities to join the groups that meet during the week and volunteer for many activities.

We are developing a new Volunteer Worship team for the 9:00 service. I enjoyed their music this past week and look forward to new and exciting music. Please support them as they learn the songs and to work together.

We intend not only to survive this year, but thrive! To learn more about the transition coming later this year, all are encouraged to attend the mid-week service on Thursdays at 3:00pm.

Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors that our church is open for worship and are following all precautions for the health and safety of all who attend. Be sure to invite others who cannot be with us in person to watch the Services on line; they will be blessed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: renieb46@gmail.com or 352-464-3133.
Irene Brugh, Lay Leader FUMC

MISSION COMMITTEE by: Rick DuCharme

The Corona Virus pandemic not only affects us here at Dunnellon FUMC, but it also affects our many and various mission programs as well. Your continuing support of these mission programs is appreciated more than ever by those we touch through missions.

Honduras: Bob Wood Jr. reports that generally the mission is going well. A used car engine was installed in his car and it is running well. On-line school has 62 enrolled compared to 125 last year, because of no kindergarten this year some families went north and for others classes are too hard on line. Food distribution is going well. Since the floods there have been curfews. Starting December 15, they have had church (attendance 38) and Bible study. The public hospital is used for Corona Virus only. Other health issues are treated at private hospitals.

Cuba: Pastor Yabay has been appointed to continue serving as Pastor for another year. Yabay’s scheduled training at the Methodist seminary in Havana has been changed to virtual training, as the Corona Virus has worsened in Cuba. Our sister church has started a new member class and 10 new members will soon be baptized. The church is refining children’s Sunday School classes as more children are joining. New church leaders are being trained locally and at the District church. The church is flourishing.

Spanish Language Bible Study: Pastor Norberto has started a Spanish Language Bible study on Sundays at 7 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Please invite your Spanish-speaking friends and acquaintances to this growing outreach ministry. Business card-sized invitations will be available at the welcome station in the Narthex for your distribution.

Habitat: Elizabeth Chryst reported that the Habitat home in Dunnellon for Diane (works at Dollar General) was blessed Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The second home, next door on George Street, had the wall raising for Mrs. Glover who is raising her two grandchildren.

Family Hope Resource & Pregnancy Center: Beverly Snyder reports a total of \$1,391 was given through the Baby Bottle Program. Thank you.

Michelle-O-Gram: The Bunco Babes fund-raising tournament is slated for February.

Hernando Homeless Ministry: Susie Phillips reports the mission has had a surge of homeless people. Because of a recent generous donation to this mission, Susie and Mike purchased and delivered 5 tents, 5 tarps, 5 sleeping bags, 9 large cans of pasta sauce, 7 family size cans of chicken noodle soup.

Happy Feet: Tom Tarkenton reported 126 pairs of shoes and socks have been bought and distributed in the past year. Also, the backpack Food-4-Kids ministry is not operating now due to Covid. However, 90 Winn Dixie gift cards were distributed to the schools for the parents of needy children to purchase food.

Heifer: Carol Stroup reported 59 Heifer boxes were given out and 36 were returned. A total of \$612.10 was received in the Heifer banks. Other donations through checks brought the combined total to \$981.10.

The 2021 Missions Brochure has been updated and will be 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.

AGAPE SAFETY TEAM by: Bud Bowley

At this time the Agape Safety team is working with a skeleton crew due to the Corona Virus. Many of our team members have decided not to attend church functions until they feel it is safe to return. One item we are working on at this time is moving forward towards a key fob entry system for all buildings. We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the team call Bud Bowley @ 386-983-0058 or ask one of the team members or Pastor Eddie. Be Safe and God Bless.

SECOND LIFE THRIFT SHOP by: Dot Chadwick

The Second Life Thrift Shop closed on December 16th and currently remains closed until we feel it is safe to reopen for both our volunteers and customers.

We have interviewed and are in the process of hiring to fill our second cashier position. While closed, the Administrative leaders and some wonderful hardworking “elves” have industriously cleaned and reorganized the shop for a more open look and they have done an outstanding job!

We are currently not accepting any donations as our backroom and storage are full. When we do reopen we will be taking donations by APPOINTMENT ONLY so if you have donations when we reopen, PLEASE CALL THE SHOP (352) 322-0873, to make an appointment. We will be still be requiring masks in order to keep everyone safe and look forward to when we can reopen and welcome one and all.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE by: Cory Stroup

The Worship Committee met twice in the past few months and made plans for the Christmas Eve services. Because of the current restrictions on attendance, we offered two services. The first at 5:00PM and the second at 7:00PM. There was additional seating available with streaming video and audio in Friendship Hall for those wishing to maintain more distance. We will also offer two services on Ash Wednesday evening, both at the same times as the Christmas Eve Services. The Boy Scouts will do their traditional potato pancake “breakfast” between services and it will be for takeout only.

The committee also was informed of the 9:00 Praise Team changes and has noted that the team is being reorganized and will now be known as the “Worship Team” as this title is more correct for what it does.

Beginning in Lent, Pastor Eddie will introduce a new way of doing weekly Bible verses, with each one starting with a letter of the alphabet. He feels that this may be an easier way of remembering the verses.

Lori has reported that currently there are four singers in the youth choir and they are recruiting more kids. Parents are asked to contact Lori if their kids wish to join.

June is preparing the Chancel Choir for the Palm Sunday Cantata. She also recruiting more choir members.

SEWING FOR SOULS by: Jolynn Peart

Hi we did not have very many weeks with the holidays but we were able to make Christmas blankets, smocks and hats that went to Newborns in need chapters.

Sherri Woodstuff made little girls Christmas dresses with matching dresses for a baby. I wrapped them in a blanket and sent to Bob Wood. I'm sad to say they did not make it on the boat for Christmas.

We are currently working on Easter blankets and bunnys by request.

I'm elated to say we have additional volunteers. Mary and Hauns returned from Maine and Judy a friend of Karen's is also joining us. Building Gods Kingdom one stitch at a time. We also want to thank Johnny Jones and any volunteers for the restroom in KFC bldg.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL by: Irene Brugh

Our attendance for 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. continues to vary, but we are looking forward to attendance increasing as Covid 19 continues to come under control.

The 9:00 has many new and fun crafts and teachings using the new flannel board. This is becoming increasingly popular, so bring your children, grandchildren, little relatives or neighbors for lots of fun. We also will be having some new games for Children to learn the books of the bible and scripture.

The 11:00 Children's church has some movies and additional games and lessons which require participation and competition.

Parents are encouraged to visit and give suggestions as well as volunteer as helpers. We are always looking for ideas and help.

We are asking to hear from parents of Youth for setting up a new Sunday School for the Youth. We need to know the best time for the class for most participation... 9:00 or 11:00. Please respond to myself or the office as to time and names of those Youth interested. Thank you, and God Bless.

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 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.

In 2020 we presented 50 prayer quilts and received many thank you notes. We would like to share this note from Dianne Errett Jackson, Richard Errett's sister who is going through treatment for cancer.

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I received my prayer quilt at a very low point when my cancer had spread to the lungs and I had increased pain. I was so touched that total strangers were submitting prayer to the Father on my behalf it made me cry.

I opened my self to His healing knowing I had prayer warriors in my behalf. No matter what happens I am a child of God adopted through the blood of Jesus and I'll be fine.

The prayer quilt and the reminders of all the prayers has helped remind me of those promises and it gives me strength. It just felt like a hug from heaven.

Thank you, Dianne Errett Jackson"

NEW MEMBERS by: Crystal Goins

We had new member classes in December and early January for all who were interested in joining our church. The January class also included time for Q &A about committees and ministries in our church. Eight people joined in

December. We expect to have 9 more joining on February 14, plus 2 who will not be available on the 14th, they will be recognized on date yet to be determined. Blessings

FAMILY MINISTRIES by: Jennifer Nemetch

Adam and Eve class, the youth group, and the classes for young children have started back up at 6:00 pm on Wednesday night. Currently there is no dinner. We are adhering to the social distancing guidelines and wearing masks. If you would like to come, please join us on Wednesday night.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN by: Jan Rowe

The United Methodist Women (UMW) has jumped out of the box and doing things differently this year. Our Annual Ladies Tea will be virtual on YouTube because of the Pandemic. So on Sunday, February 14th at 3 pm, tune in on YouTube. Each lady will receive a package with butterflies, cookie, tea bag and instructions to meet us at 3 pm. so we can have our cup of tea together. Also look for new happenings for our Celebrate Women luncheon in the near future.

The UMW are offering an opportunity to purchase RADA knives and kitchen products during February. Look for the catalogs at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. The proceeds provide money for scholarships and other projects.

There are 3 different circles that meet the first week of the month, morning circle, Naomi, meets at 9:30 on the first Wednesday, the Virginia Circle meets at noon on the first Thursday and the Ruth Circle meets in the evening on the first Monday. Our theme for this year is "Bring a Friend". The Circles are spirit filled, fun filled and support many charities, locally and worldwide.

Hope to see you at one of our meetings. If you have any questions, please call Jan Rowe, President. UMW at 352-212-0603

MISCELLANEOUS

The Office is accepting donations of unused birthday cards and blank greeting cards. Thank You!