



First United Methodist Church of Dunnellon
JUNE 2021
NEWSLETTER

FROM YOUR PASTOR

The month of June begins our summer months and we have plenty of activities for you to participate in and to definitely pray about.

We will be so blessed for months and years to come because Dr. Chic Shaver, who did a revival in our church 15 years ago, is going to be our preacher June 6 at the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock service. Because it is Communion Sunday, we will serve Communion early in the service so that the altar may be open for prayer for sanctification which is his topic for the day. Hope all will come or watch online.

We ask our Communion Stewards to meet the following day, on June 7 at 11 o'clock in the Sanctuary. If there is anyone in the congregation that would like to take communion to others, please join us.

June 8th is a very special meeting which requires prayer from all of our congregation. Those connected in leadership with the Wesley Covenant Association in the State of Florida will be meeting with the Bishop and his assistant as we look to the future of our church locally and globally. We will have our Annual Conference this year virtual, and it will be on June 11.

Our congregation will be thoroughly blessed on June 13 when the preacher for the day will be Mrs. Sherri Woodstuff. The 13th is my 40th wedding anniversary, Nancy, the girls, and I are going up to our old family house in the Panhandle for a few days.

We have 10 of our youth going to the Leesburg camp this year from June 21 through June 26. We have moved our time of baptism at the river to the middle part of July, so that if any of the young people have a tremendous experience at camp and want to be baptized, they may be able to do that.

I close my section of our newsletter by once again giving special thanks to God for being able to Pastor such an amazing group of people. Your ministries and leadership in so many areas continue to bless me and I know bless the heavenly 's. The Lord has brought us through the pandemic and we recently had a celebration and healing service for those that have gone on to the Lord during the pandemic. Special thanks to those that led that team.

I know the Lord will continue to bless, guide and lead and direct us through the summer months and going into the fall of this year. May the Holy Spirit continue to bring anointing and fulfillment of God 's revival in our hearts as we move forward continuing to stand on the holy word of God and being the men and women that God has called us to be. Blessings, blessings, blessings.

AGAPE SAFETY TEAM by: Bud Bowley

John Taylor has been elected President of Agape Safety Team and manager of Agape LLC. Ian Drillick is Vice President, and Bud Bowley is Secretary/Treasurer.

Jim Pott gave an introduction to "Bomb Threat Management" class to the Safety team, Pastor Eddie and the leaders of Harmony Preschool. There will be a committee formed to write a bomb threat policy which will be presented to the Trustees for approval. After approval, training classes will be planned.

The Florida Senate and House have passed bills to allow churches with schools on their property to have armed security. It has been sent to the Governor for signing. This bill will save Agape much money in licensing, training and insurance. PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO THE GOVERNOR ASKING THAT HE SIGN THIS BILL!

Speaking of training, Stanley Spencer has joined the Safety team and as a retired EMT he will head up our First Aid training.

We are still in need of volunteers to help in the safety of our church family. No prior experience is needed, just a will to help our church. Please contact the church office. Be Safe & God Bless.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL by: Irene Brugh

The 9:00 Sunday School Class continues to work through the creation story. Sam Rankin brought in one of his pet snakes for the children to see, and he gave them much information about snakes; they were fascinated. The attendance for this Class is steady, and we hope to see it increase.

Unfortunately, the 11:00 Children's Church class is not doing as well in attendance. With the relaxation of the mask requirement, we hope that to increase.

FAMILY MINISTRIES by: Jennifer Nemetch

We are having a one-day Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Registration begins at 8:30 am. The ages are K4 to 8th grade. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help, contact Jennifer Nemetch @ 352-216-8574.

HERNANDO HOMELESS MINISTRY by: Mike & Susie Phillips

Thank you, thank you so much to our church family for your prayers and generosity. Without these two precious gifts we could not help care for God's children.

During the 40 Days of Lent this year Barbara Keller offered up the beautiful idea, to her Sunday School and Bible Study classes, of setting aside a donation each day for the Homeless. The total collected was \$1,322.00! They called these donations – Acts of Mercy.

I contacted the CCFRC to find out what their present needs. Mike and I spent \$559.94 on tents, tarps, sleeping bags and bug repellent. We used \$320.00 for the May food that was delivered to Connections. Today I purchased four Publix gift cards for an additional \$320.00 for the June food. The balance of \$122.06 will be used to purchase paper towels, toilet tissue, shampoo, bath soap, and hygiene products for men and women.

One quick story: I was purchasing nine sleeping bags at the Walmart in Inverness and two gentlemen got in line behind me and said something about camping. I told him, no sir, our church is purchasing these for the Hernando Homeless. They said that is great and left their buggy and stepped out into the garden center. In just a few minutes they came back in and one of the men laid a \$20.00 bill on top of the sleeping bags and said to put it towards the purchase. I told him thank you and they got their buggy and left the area. Praise the Lord - The Acts of Mercy keep flowing!

With the gracious donations from the various bible study groups that support us with their “J” Dollars and individual donations we will have sufficient monies to see us through the summer months into the fall. Mike and I want to thank you again and may God bless each of every one of you.

LAY LEADER REPORT by: Irene Brugh

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, I know the UMC is going through some very trying times. I believe if we stay united in our belief in the Bible, and true to the current Discipline, we will come through this with our faith and congregation intact.

The Bible proves how radical God's and Jesus' love for us is, and I believe we are called to be radical in our love for our Lord. I think back to the time Moses led God's people out of slavery and oppression, and how they were trapped between the Egyptians and the sea. God said to stand still and see how He would save them. We must stand together, and like Moses step out in faith when the time is right; and see what God will do. I know He is watching all of us through these days and will protect and guide us.

I ask you all to pray for our Pastor and our congregation as well as the many churches and pastors that are being persecuted around the world because we still believe the teachings in THE BIBLE and follow the Discipline.

There are some individuals in leadership in the UMC Denomination who believe they have more authority over us than God. We answer to God only. I ask you all again to stand together united as one body, the body of Christ. In hope and in peace I send blessings to all.

MISSION COMMITTEE by: Rick DuCharme

The leaders of our local and foreign Missions programs are adapting to needs in light of the impact of the Coronavirus.

Honduras: Pastor Bob Wood, Jr. and his wife Rosa had been quite ill with Covid. Bob appreciates our prayers as Rosa is now much better, and Bob continues to improve. The teachers have stepped up to help with the food distribution program, feeding 68 families with a total of 241 people. Church services continue in Bob's front yard with about 75 attending. The on-line school has 62 students who are doing well with their studies. Public schools have been shut down and will continue to be shut down until 2022.

Cuba: Pastor Yabay reported two members accepted Christ and there was one baptism this month. Yabay is planning a marriage workshop this month. The church and the mission continue to focus on fasting and prayer, and

vigils on Fridays. Pastor Yabay continues with online seminary studies. In this rural area of Cuba, Covid is not too bad. However, food and over the counter medications are in short supply.

Hernando Homeless Connections: See Mike & Susie Phillips report above.

Sewing for Souls: Jolynn Peart's group has made 40 pillowcase dresses for Cuba. They will be stored until there is a way to take them to Pastor Yabay in Cuba.

Family Hope Resource and Pregnancy Center: Beverly Snyder reported that the Inglis Baptist Church held a luncheon and \$1,100 was raised for the Center. The Catholic Church also had a breakfast and raised money for the Center. Walter has a Bible study at the FHRPC for men and it is well attended. Dunnellon FUMC donated \$100 to the center this month.

Happy Feet: Tom Tarkenton reported 160 pairs of shoes have been given this school year. They hope to get Food 4 Kids program back up and running this coming school year. They have given food credit cards to the schools to distribute.

Habitat for Humanity: Elizabeth Chryst reported that on May 19th a new Habitat house located on George Street in Dunnellon Heights was blessed. Several church members attended the dedication and greeted the new home owner, a grandmother, and her two grandchildren.

Jesus Is Ministry: Ken Rowe reported that \$822 was sent to Jesus Is in May.

Thanks for continuing to support our Missions programs with your prayers and resources. Your check can be written to the church with designation in the memo line for a specific mission or "Missions and Outreach" and the Missions Committee will distribute those funds where most urgently needed.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY by: Patti Pott

Greetings! 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.

If you are not receiving the prayer chain, please email me at the church prayer email or the office email and let me know. The email for the prayer chain is prayers@fumcdunnellon.org Blessings!

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.

We would like to share this thank you note received from June Reed, a member of the church and of the Prayer Quilt Ministry:

“Dear church and members of the Prayer Quilt Ministry, Thank you doesn't seem sufficient for the beautiful prayer quilt I received from this group of dedicated women. The colors in the quilt are so pretty and the prayers have certainly been felt - why else would the broken wrist be pain free. Thank you again, Love and Blessings, June Reed. P.S. Please accept the enclosed \$20 to help further this wonderful ministry.”

SCOUTS PROGRAM by: Ken Rowe

Speaking for the Scouts who are going to summer camp, I would like to thank all those who so graciously donated. Currently, we have received \$1,500.00. Thanks to all who did donate for this cause, the young men and ladies thank you.

We are still seeking camping supplies. We are more than willing to come by and pick up your donations. Tents, sleeping bags, cooking utensils and Dutch ovens are seriously needed.

Thank you FUMC for doing all you do for our Scouts.....My God bless you all!

SECOND LIFE THRIFT SHOP by: Dot Chadwick

We thank the Lord we have been able to staff and keep our Thrift Shop open to serve our community. The donations and sales have been steady and the shop was able to Tithe again this month.

The Thrift Shop lost two dedicated volunteers to Covid, Jeanne Ellis and Israel Garcia. We were able to place leaves in the church Narthex in honor of their service with the Second Life Thrift Shop. We had the pleasure of hiring Israel's wife, Joanne Garcia, as our third part time cashier and she has and will continue to be a blessing to us.

Our customers continue to give us encouraging reviews and have had a number of them say how much they missed our shop when it was closed. One gentleman even told us how much he "depends on the Thrift Shop".

We have had a few new volunteers added to our roster and would like to have a few more...including men. Diane Takahashi and Cathy Bashore continue to work with our current staff of volunteers and keep the schedule filled.

We would like to remind everyone, again, that if you have donations, PLEASE call (352) 322-0873 and make an appointment. This allows our volunteers to know what we have coming in and can prepare for it.

SEWING FOR SOULS by: Jolynn Peart

May was an awesome month. Sewing for Souls is building Gods kingdom one stitch at time.

We started sewing for a mission called Ryan's Case for Smiles. The organization's volunteers make pillowcases using fun children prints in flannel and cotton. We delivered 40 with coloring books and a 4 pack of crayons last week. They currently deliver 1200 a month to 12 Florida hospitals. Due to the great need we had a member of my family's church in Dunedin donate 70, yes 70, yards of flannel and cotton to us to continue making the pillow cases.

We also continued to make blankets and burp cloths for Newborns in Need. I am pleased to have Pam volunteer to knit for the babies. She is making hats and booties.

We will continue sewing for both through the summer and we have volunteered to do something special for VBS program this year. We meet every Friday from 9-11 in the KFC portable, please join us. Blessings from all of the volunteers!

TRANSITION TASK FORCE by: Bob White

Our Transition Team has reviewed all known alternatives for disaffiliation including all the methods in the Discipline as amended by the 2019 General Conference. We also looked at becoming an independent (Non-Denominational) Church. This move to an independent church is not covered in the existing Discipline nor in the Protocol. Any move in this direction would have to be negotiated with the Florida Conference and, if approved, would be quite expensive and because of the trust clause, potentially the loss of or having to buy back our existing facilities. We have discounted this alternative as too expensive.

Our primary path to a new traditional expression of Methodism remains the denomination birthed by the WCA. Our group continues to maintain close ties with the WCA as we move forward. The Transitional Leadership team formed by the WCA has announced the Global Methodist Church as the new traditional expression of Methodism and will be our chosen path when it is legally formed. The WCA will birth the Global Methodist Church after the Protocol is passed in 2022 or immediately if support for the Protocol wanes.

We hosted the WCA Global Gathering simulcast on May 1st, with more than 40 people attending, 33 from our church and 7 from surrounding Methodist churches.

What can you do? Stay informed. I gave informational presentations to the Virginia Circle on April 1st and the United Methodist Men during their May Meeting. If your group would like to schedule something let me know.

Elizabeth Chyrst and I also visited Williston UMC and provided their traditional members an overview of the WCA efforts as well as our Transition Plans. Continue to pray for our church leadership, the WCA, the Transitional Leadership Council, the new Global Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church Leadership for discernment and guidance.

To help everyone better understand what the new Global Methodist Church will look like, I will be sending out a new weekly EMAIL. It will provide current information on the Mission, Vision, Structure and Doctrines as well as 4

answers to frequently asked questions. Look for these EMAILS titled “A NEW METHODIST MINUTE”, coming soon!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

by: Jan Rowe

Exciting news from UMW--we are sponsoring the first in-house **Women's Retreat** on **19th and 20th of November, 2021**, with three exciting speakers. More details to come, mark your calendar now.

The UMW Executive Board listened to your ideas at the Roundtable discussion and have tentative scheduled, a **Hymn Sing including an Ice Cream Social. September and a Christmas formal dinner scheduled in early December.** Already scheduled is our Flea Market on October 22nd and 23rd, please start saving your items for us. Just a note that this year we will not accepting clothes or sharp objects. If anyone has more ideas, please contact Jan at 352.212.0603.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

by: Roxanne Barnes, Acting Chairperson

Sunday services will continue at the established times (8:00 -9:00- 11:00). The family ministries services on Wednesday night for our children, youth and parents will continue through the month of June, but will close down for July and start back August 18 after school comes back into session. Our Thursday afternoon worship service will continue through the summer months. We will also continue the small groups through the month of June on Thursday afternoon.

Pastor Eddie announced our decision to require masks. Everyone is to be responsible and make their personal decision regarding wearing mask. Masks will continue to be available in the Narthex. Also, social distancing will continue with the roped off pews.

The **Youth Praise Team** has postponed practice until September. The **9:00am Worship Team** will continue weekly practice and we are thrilled to have two new singers and a guitar player. For the summer, the **11:00 Chancel Choir** will practice Sunday mornings at 10:30. If you'd like to sing in the choir, this is the perfect time to join --no robes and no midweek practice. See June Horne.

Tech Team Volunteers, anyone can join our tech team and learn how all our systems work. We will be happy to train you in the different phases of the systems we use. It takes 4 people to produce each service: Jobs: On screen media operation, Sound system operation, Video & live streaming operation, and Lighting operation. Please contact Andy at the Sound Booth.

Attention Congregation! Have you seen the *History Project* in development behind the Sanctuary? Check it out...and notice the big, beautiful, black hutch in the area. Our church is having a Silent Auction for it and using the proceeds toward our *History Project*. During the week you can stop by the office, fill out a bid form and drop it in the “Box” there. On Sunday’s, please fill out a form found on the Hutch then drop it in the Bid Box located at the Welcome Center. The auction will close on June 12th, the winner will be contacted by phone and announced on Sunday at church (June 13th). Please pass this info on to anyone you know that might be interested.

YOUTH GROUP

by: Bill & Becky Parry; Josh & Laura Whitten

Each week the Jr./Sr. High youth group has a round table discussion on a particular subject. After watching the Modern Parable version of “The Sower”, the discussion centered around prayer. The youth shared thoughts on what their prayer life was like and how it affected the rest of their life. They were given the challenge of praying for individuals on a regular basis for a week and then sharing if or how it made any difference in their relationship with that individual. Another area of conversation revolved around respect for others and listening without interruption.

Recently, on a Wednesday evening we had a short video clip on temptation. Lively discussion followed, with the youth openly sharing their thoughts and concerns on what temptation was for them. Scripture is always brought into the discussion and this particular time it was centered on Adam and Eve’s eating from the tree of knowledge and the blame that came from that. (Genesis 3:1-13) The conversation then led into thoughts on why we don’t always take personal accountability for the actions we do and how do we need to look for better ways of handling accountability and responsibility.

Lastly, camp is coming up for 10 of our youth. They will be leaving on Monday, June 21st and returning on June 26th. There is excitement in the air though there are also some changes that have been made at camp that are different from previous years. This is because of COVID -19. We will find out how the week went once the kids are back. As co-leaders, Josh and Laura Whitten and Bill and I are excited for them and cannot wait to hear of their experience. This will be the first year for some and a much-anticipated return for the others. What a fun way to learn about Jesus’ love for them!!