

PASTOR'S PEN DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, the Florida United Methodist Annual Conference sends out its clergy a self-assessment form. They want to know how we are doing in a wide range of areas, including physical, emotional, professional, and spiritual health. They ask, "Do you exercise? If so, how often?" I always answer 3 – 5 times a week, because I usually go to the gym three times a week and go for a long walk or run on the beach 1-2 times a week. They want to know: "Are you overweight? If so, by how many pounds?" I always put 3-5 pounds because I figure everyone can lose five pounds. I weighed 210-212 for about the last five years, and in general, I have maintained a high level of fitness. I see my personal fitness as part of the leadership role of a pastor – to set an example of good health in body, mind, spirit and emotions.

When I got out of the Marine Corps I was in excellent shape, and since then, I have kept up the three measurements they use to assess fitness: running and pull-ups and sit-ups. At first, I stayed in shape because I was in the reserves for three years, and I thought with the world the way it is, they could call me back any time so I wanted to stay in shape. Then fitness became a hobby and I loved it. It is a terrific feeling, which most people will probably never have, to get back from a seven mile run and realize you could easily have gone twice as far. Around about the time of my 40th birthday, I gave myself a present of fitness. Over a year of effort, I worked up to doing 42 pull-ups, a post-Marine Corps record for me (my Marine Corps record was 52).

Then nine years ago, everything changed: I suffered two ruptured disks in my back and suddenly, after running 5 or more miles 2-3 times a week for over 30 years, in a single day, my distance running days were at an end. Now, my back has healed and I can run a bit, but not like I used to, so I decided to concentrate my fitness efforts on things I could do - pull-ups and lifting weights. So, over the last nine years, I have been trying to beat my old post-Marine Corps record of 42. At times, I worked up into the 30s and upper 30s, and then, something would come up and I would be out of business. A year ago in May, I did 40 and then foolishly, lifting weights without a spotter, I dropped the bar on my chest and broke one rib and damaged or cracked its opposite. I was out of business for a month, but I was determined, and five months ago – in the middle of November, with video evidence to prove it, at age 61, I accomplished my goal – 43 chin-ups! Since then, I have been working on a new goal - bench pressing 225 pounds 25 times, and I have been making great progress towards that new goal.

It was against this backdrop that I went in for my annual check up on February 12th. The doctor showed me the results of my blood test and there was a giant red flag - my blood sugar. It was at 5 with 1-2 being normal and 6 being the line you cross into being a diabetic. The doctor showed

me that last year my blood sugar was at a 4. He said, "If you keep going at this same rate, by next year, you will be a diabetic." I was pretty shocked. I have bragged for years that I am on the "see food" diet – see food and eat it. I could eat whenever and whatever and how much ever I wanted, and the needle never seemed to move past 212. Now that was all about to change.

I asked the doctor what I needed to do. He said, "You need to lose weight." I asked how I should do that, he said "Eat less!" Great! So since then, coincidentally during Lent when I often give up all sweets anyway, I started dieting. In two months, I have lost 20 pounds and four inches off my waistline. I am planning to lose at least five more pounds, and then take a good long honest look in the mirror and see how I am doing. Honestly, I am disappointed in myself that I was in denial about my weight because I thought I was setting an excellent example in health, but I discovered I was fooling myself.

I mention all of this for several reasons: first, if I can be in denial about my health anyone can be. The warning signs were all there, but I ignored them, higher blood pressure, raised cholesterol and raised blood sugar. Second, I want to urge you to listen to your doctor and don't "blow it off" like I did - do what he or she tells you to do to be healthy. Third, I want to invite you to join me in losing weight if you need to. I have started used a calorie counting app to help me and it has been very helpful. It is free and it is called "Lose it!" It gives you a target to shoot for every day, in my case that is 1,250 calories, and it helps you count every calorie you put in, so you can see how you are doing and how many calories you have left for the day. If you start losing weight, because I inspired you to do so, please let me know. I will give a dollar per pound to the missions ministry, up to \$1,000 for the first 1,000 pounds that people lose this year. Let's be in this together, our efforts towards healthiness are pleasing to God.

In His Grace, Pastor Tim



MAY CALENDAR

May 1 (TUESDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
6:30pm Sea Band Practice
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Worship Committee

May 2 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am Bell Practice
8:30am UMW Unit Meeting
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12

May 3 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
3:00 pm Each One Teach One
7:00pm Choir Practice

May 4 (FRIDAY)

8:00am Suncoast Sandpipers
10:00am Thrift Store Open
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
5:30pm Bravo

May 5 (SATURDAY)

11:00am Bravo Dress Rehearsal
11:00am Talmadge/Golub Wedding
8:00pm AA Meeting

May 6 (SUNDAY)

COMMUNION
8:30am Awake Coffee
8:45am Awake Service
10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Children's Sunday School
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult Sunday School
4:00pm Confirmation Class
5:30pm High Spirit Youth

May 7 (MONDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
7:15pm Boy Scouts

May 8 (TUESDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
6:30pm Sea Band Practice
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Missions Meeting

May 9 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am ASG
10:00am Bell Practice
10:30am Mary/Martha Circle
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
5:00pm Tai Chi
6:00pm Brownies/Daisies
6:00pm SPRC Meeting
7:00pm Finance Meeting
8:00pm AA, Alanon
May 10 (THURSDAY)
8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
3:00pm Each One Teach One
6:00pm Bravo
6:00pm Street Ministry
7:00pm Choir Practice

May 11 (FRIDAY)

5:30pm-Youth Lock In @ Foundry
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
7:00pm Girl Scouts
May 12 (SATURDAY)
12:00am Youth Lock In @ Foundry

11:00am Bravo
8:00pm AA Meeting
May 13 (SUNDAY)
8:30am Awake Coffee
8:45am Awake Service
10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Children's Sunday School
10:00am Traditional Service
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult Sunday School
4:00pm Confirmation Class
5:30pm High Spirit Youth

May 14 (MONDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
7:00pm Trustees Meeting
7:15pm Boy Scouts
May 15 (TUESDAY)
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
6:30pm Sea Band Practice
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
May 16 (WEDNESDAY)
9:00am LIFT Graduation Setup
10:00am Bell Practice
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
8:00pm AA, Alanon
May 17 (THURSDAY)
8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
9:00am LIFT Graduation Rehearsal
11:00am LIFT Graduation Lunch
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
3:00pm Each One Teach One
6:00pm Bravo
7:00pm Choir Practice

May 18 (FRIDAY)

9:00am LIFT Graduation
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
5:30pm Bravo Show
May 19 (SATURDAY)
5:30pm Bravo Show
8:00pm AA Meeting
May 20 (SUNDAY)
8:30am Awake Coffee
8:45am Awake Service
10:00am Children's Sunday School
10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Traditional Service
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult Sunday School
4:00pm Confirmation Class
5:30pm High Spirit Youth

May 21 (MONDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
7:15pm Boy Scouts

May 22 (TUESDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
6:00pm Street Ministry
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
6:30pm Sea Band Practice
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Joy Circle

May 23 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am Bell Practice
10:00am UMW Leadership Team
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
6:00pm Street Ministry
8:00pm AA, Alanon

May 24 (THURSDAY)

LIFT LAST DAY CEREMONY/BRUNCH
8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
3:00pm Each One Teach One
7:00pm Choir Practice

May 25 (FRIDAY)

11:45am LIFT Class—Room 12
7:00pm Girl Scouts

May 26 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Meeting
May 27 (SUNDAY)
8:30am Awake Coffee
8:45am Awake Service
10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Children's Sunday School
10:00am Traditional Service
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult Sunday School
4:00pm Confirmation Class
5:30pm High Spirit Youth

May 28 (MONDAY)

1:00pm Prayer Meeting
7:15pm Boy Scouts

May 29 (TUESDAY)

6:00pm 5th Tuesday Street Ministry
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
6:30pm Sea Band Practice
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
May 30 (WEDNESDAY)
10:00am Bell Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon
May 31 (THURSDAY)
8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00pm Choir Practice



In Context – Follow Up

If you've been following along, we have covered the first two steps towards undertaking evangelism in context. First, identify your context. Second, examine the story (Jesus' story and your own) and look for possible connection points between your context and your story. Now we will get into some of the nitty gritty details about engaging in Evangelism.

First, I want to share with you the SECRET SAUCE of evangelism. Are you ready?

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

It's really not more difficult than that. Large, one time evangelistic gatherings occasionally have some success. Street preaching can sometimes reach some. Yet, time and time again the most proven form of evangelism is interpersonal, one to one, relationship based evangelism. I recently finished reading a book called T4T, a book all about personal evangelism and growing a group of believers around you. There aren't any great secrets contained within it except for this – building intentionally Christ centered relationships means being honest about who you are from the beginning. As one who follows Jesus, it is the expectation that Jesus is important to me and thus Jesus and Jesus' work in my life will come up in conversation.

For me, in an authentic way, I had many discussions with people I know leading up to Easter asking what their plans were, what spiritual practices they observed, and what Easter meant to them. All of this built up our relationship instead of jeopardizing it because they knew I cared about them and listened to their responses, and also because they knew who I am as a person and it was in character for me to talk about this.

So that's it, to engage in Evangelism: 1) know your context, 2) know your story, and 3) build intentionally Christ centered personal relationships. See you in the mission field!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Nathan, Assistant Pastor



Happenings

Youth group is getting ready to take a hiatus from our regular meeting schedule over the summer, but that doesn't mean there is nothing to do. Before we go, we will close out the year with our first lock in since I've been here. This will be a fun, rewarding, and hopefully memorable time spent having fun and growing deeper in our relationships with one another and with God. Over the summer we will be busy with Vacation Bible School, attending Youth Camp, and having some work days around the campus. Be on the lookout for fundraisers.

Youth will start up again in the middle of August with the new school year. If you have sons or daughters or grand children or neighbors' children who don't attend a youth group, or

attend somewhere else, we hope that you will get them involved in our summer activities and encourage them to try us out in the new year. We truly want to be a youth group on the grow that provides for the relational and spiritual needs of the youth in our congregation. In order to do this, we need to continue building our critical mass of youth! The more youth we have, the greater the experience for everyone and the more we can do.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank one of our Adult Sunday School classes that meets regularly for supporting the youth in providing and preparing dinner for us recently. This has been a huge blessing and is appreciated by youth and adults alike. THANK YOU to all those who have given and helped serve. I am also certain that as much as they love doing it, that they would appreciate all of the help and support they can get. You can contact Pastor Nathan or Billie Lee Norman for information about what happens in these ways. For all of this congregation's support this year in youth group, we say a big THANK YOU.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor

Congregational Care Ministries

The celebration of Pentecost and Confirmation that occurs in May speaks a word about life and what it means to be the body of Christ into our lives. When we stop to consider Pentecost as the day of active outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples who constituted the church and reflect upon the promise of God to remain with us and within us forever more, we know that all of our activity today is done in and through the power of Jesus Christ. More than that, each action we take extends the story of Jesus Christ into the world around us and embodies the person of Jesus for others.

When we balance this Holy Day with the confirmation, we remember what it means to extend, built, and constitute the Body of Christ. We are called to this sort of action that consistently and repeatedly confirms the faith in others brought about by the working of the Spirit upon them and our engagement with them in the activity of being the church. In its

truest sense, this is congregational care. The extending of the care to a congregation that speaks to faith nurturing in others. When our faith extends outward in visible signs and tangible actions to stoke the flames of faith in others, we experience the activity of congregational care. Whether this takes the form of answering questions about the faith, walking with someone through difficult times of doubt or trial, or providing a comforting presence and reassuring hand up when life knocks us over, congregational care engages in all of these ministries and more.

I invite you to consider how the Spirit of God at work within you is calling YOU to engage in congregational care this year. After praying through it, please contact myself or Stephanie Fergenbaum to share what you've discovered about yourself and how you might be able to actively participate in building up the Body of Christ here at Oakhurst UMC.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan, Assistant Pastor



MISSIONS

CUBA CONNECTION - The next trip, to our sister church in Colon, Cuba, will be offered this Fall - usually the first week of November. We are continuing to collect over-the-counter medications, baby clothes and underwear for men and women in the designated box outside Fellowship Hall. If you are interested, please complete an application that is available in the Church office.

FOOD PANTRY - The Letter Carriers Food drive will be held on May 12th. Our Interfaith Food Pantry at Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be the recipient of some of this food. If you would like to help unload the trucks at Aldersgate, you can participate for one hour or more on May 12th between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

PAC A SACK

Feed the Children - Oakhurst feeds 50+ needy children each week during the school year.

Please give food or money. Donations may be left in the marked box by fellowship hall.

Thank you for your generosity.

FRUIT CUPS

SMALL BOXES OF CEREAL

FRUIT SNACKS

FRUIT JUICE BOXES

VIENNA SAUSAGES

TUNA/CHICKEN/HAM SALAD WITH CRACKERS



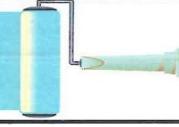
- Come join us for the May 2nd Fellowship with Margot McGorman's presentation on the PantiPlus, a sewing project for girls and widows empowerment in Malawi. Margot is a passionate seamstress who is addressing girls' empowerment with her sewing machine. Fellowship starts at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 2nd in Fellowship Hall. Light Lunch will be provided.
- Consider attending Mission u at Bethune Cookman University July 12-15. Mission studies address: "What about our Money?" and "Embracing Wholeness: Earth Perspective for Convenantal Living." Please contact Lorraine or other Leadership Team Members for details and registration.
- SAVE THE DATE! August 25th. Oakhurst has the privilege of hosting Gulf Central District Summer Fellowship, a fun Saturday activity which will address our health and self-care. We are planning the afternoon with healthy activities and Margaret's famous Greek Yogurt Parfaits!

THANK YOU TO OUR BULLETIN SPONSORS

New Owners - great rates.....give Greg a call!!!

Thank you to our bulletin sponsors. Our sponsors make it possible for Oakhurst to have the full color 11x17 bulletin each week for our services. **Your service** to our church is greatly appreciated. We ask you, as a member of Oakhurst, to please take your bulletin home and use the services provided by our sponsors. Tell them thank you for their sponsorship when visiting their stores or when you see them at church.

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

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Emergency Planning For Elders

In addition to the standard supplies of food, water, and first aid kits, if you have an elderly or disabled relative living with you or nearby, there are some additional precautions to consider when preparing for natural disasters and emergency situations.

Wheelchairs: If your parent is in a wheelchair or has mobility problems, plan for how he or she will evacuate. If you use a motorized wheelchair, have a manual wheelchair as a backup. (Note: Our church has two manual wheelchairs that can be borrowed in emergency situations.)

Durable medical equipment: Most emergency shelters do not have durable medical equipment. Make sure if your loved one is on oxygen, you have an adequate supply for at least a week. Also, all shelters do not take people with durable medical equipment. Know which shelter you will use and make sure they can accommodate durable medical equipment if you plan to use a shelter.

Blind or visually impaired: Keep an extra cane by the bed and attach a whistle to it. Remind your parent to exercise caution when moving, as paths may have become obstructed.

Hearing Impaired: Keep extra batteries for hearing aids with emergency supplies. Store hearing aids in a container attached to the senior's nightstand or bedpost, so they can be located quickly after a disaster.

--Have ID information on hand for the elderly person as well as copies of relevant emergency documents, evacuation plans, and emergency health information card.

--Talk to your doctor about stocking up on a week's supply of all prescription medication. If your pharmacy/insurance will allow you to get 10 days to two weeks, that will be better in case power is out for several days.

--Make sure elders know where the first aid kit and emergency supplies are located.

--Establish a communication plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another.

--If your relative has Alzheimer's or dementia, know that even cognitively impaired people oftentimes have an innate understanding that something is wrong. Remain calm during an emergency. Explain what is happening clearly and simply, but don't expect them to remember specific details. Validate their concerns, but provide clear direction without condescending or losing patience.

--If your elderly parent lives at home alone and receives assistance from a home health agency, find out how they respond to an emergency. Designate backup or alternative providers that you can contact in an emergency.

--If your relative lives in a nursing home or assisted living, check the facility's website for updates and an 800 number that are typically established for communication with families.

www.Agingcare.com

**Turn Up Your Speakers
Relax and Enjoy!!**

<http://www.andiesisle.com/thenatureofgod.html>
(click on above link)

TRUSTEES CORNER

CAR WASH TICKETS - About 30 Car Wash Coupons are still available. Car Washes purchased directly at Mr. Carwash have increased in price, so those being sold by the OUMC Trustees are less expensive. They will be sold during Coffee Fellowship.



TRUSTEES - We received many compliments from the NOMADS about our church, the congregation and volunteers who warmly welcomed them, prepared lunches, assisted them, etc. The NOMADS accomplished a great deal of work. Just look at the Sanctuary's double wooden doors that were taken down to the bare wood and refinished. They were in sad shape, but are absolutely beautiful now thanks to the talents, skills and NOMADS professional refinishing. Three classrooms, Narthex, several doors, Foundry railings scraped and painted, severe cracks in several walls repaired, gutters cleaned out, dead shrubs removed, hedges trimmed, debris removed, numerous repairs around the facility, ceiling tiles replaced, new vents installed and numerous other things were accomplished. We were so blessed to have seven NOMADS this year who were so enthusiastic, conscientious and very skilled and talented in so many ways. Thank you to all who contributed time and money to help the NOMADS accomplish so much this year. In addition to the NOMADS, several church members also dug trenches and laid additional drainage pipes in the playground.

VOLUNTEER - Volunteers are needed on a constant basis. There are so many things that need done around church, that one part-time maintenance employee cannot accomplish on his own, especially if one emergency repair happens. If we could get some help with dusting, vacuuming, general cleaning of the classrooms, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, sweeping the sidewalks, raking leaves, pulling weeds, trimming shrubs, picking up debris off the grounds, washing fingerprints off doors/windows, wiping down and reorganizing kitchen cabinets, etc., it would make such a big impact on our church appearance. The day and any amount of time you spend is up to you. Maybe a Sunday School class would like to volunteer once a week/once a month, or a couple friends come together and help. Every bit helps! Please contact the Trustees through the church office, if interested.

DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

I've never made a fortune, and it's probably too late now.

But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow

And as I go along life's way, reaping better than I sowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough

But I've got loving ones around me, that makes me rich enough.

I thank GOD for his Blessings, and the Mercies HE's bestowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong; my faith wore somewhat thin.

But all at once the dark clouds broke; the sun peeped through again.

So LORD, help me not to gripe about the tough rows I have hoed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If GOD gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.

I'll not ask for other blessings; I'm already Blessed enough.

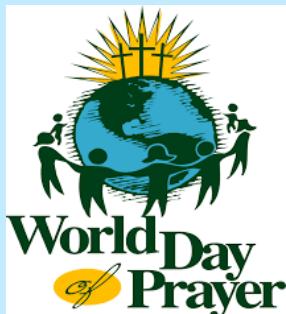
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.

I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save The Date

VBS IS JUNE 25-28! Registration will begin May 1st. Volunteers are NEEDED, so please pray about where God can use you this year to teach the next generation about His amazing love. See Steph in the church office about any questions. Again, this year, VBS will be FREE OF CHARGE!



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"Make every effort to keep the UNITY of the spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3)

Oakhurst UMC would like to take a group to the Pinellas County World Day of Prayer event on Thursday, May 3rd. This year we are praying, with many other churches, for UNITY. The event is from 7-8:30 p.m. at Spectrum Field in Clearwater. If you are interested, please call the church office at 727-391-4769. Transportation may be provided, if enough are interested.

Brunch

SPRING BRUNCH

Mark your calendar!!! On May 6th, after the 10 a.m. service, the church will have a covered dish brunch in the Foundry. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

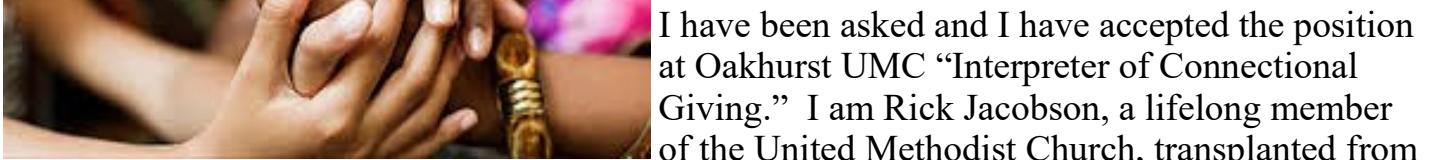
CAR MAGNETS

New car magnets are available for \$5. The magnets are round and have the church name and logo. Get your magnet from Steph or through the church office.



Connectional Giving

MAY 2018



I have been asked and I have accepted the position at Oakhurst UMC “Interpreter of Connectional Giving.” I am Rick Jacobson, a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, transplanted from the Virginia Conference, and I look forward to serving this church and the Florida Conference.

As a connected church in this Florida Conference, Oakhurst UMC has been asked to support our assigned financial commitment, that demonstrates the “United” capabilities of over 700 local churches working together to fund budgetary needs that are itemized in the Florida Conference budget.

We have been asked to fully fund, at 100%, all of the apportionment items that total \$54,919.00 for this fiscal year of January through December of 2018. Our apportionment giving over the last three years (2015, 2016, 2017) shows a positive improvement each year, in attempting to meet the 100% level of budgetary requests, and I am encouraged by that trend.

I ask you to pray about your individual ability to support this initiative of connectional giving called Apportionments. If you have made a financial pledge to our church, then it is possible that you are using an envelope supplied by the church for your tithes, gifts and offerings each week. On the back of the envelope are categories of financial needs for Oakhurst UMC, that include a line item for Apportionments. If you are so led to designate any of your current offering or an extra amount of giving for this line item, please itemize your gift to reflect your support for Apportionments. If you do not receive a pledge envelope, then you may pick up a pew envelope and write in your amount for Apportionments on the outside.

I will begin to share current progress with you through this newsletter. I will also be sharing with you, in more detail, an interpretation of the apportionment line items that need to be funded.

I praise God for our United Methodist connectionalism that is demonstrated in so many ways of service around the world through time, talents and financial support.

Acts 2:44 “And all of the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other.”

In His service, Rick Jacobson