

MARCH 2019 Newsletter

Oakhurst United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S PEN DID YOU KNOW?

By Pastor Tim



Spiritual growth is a serious subject so the idea that playing is important to your spiritual growth might seem the opposite of what you might think about spiritual growth, but for a number of reasons making time for play, making time regularly to engage in recreational activities, is essential to your spiritual growth. It is good for us spiritually because it is good for us mentally, physically and emotionally and these three factors (our mental, physical and emotional health) influence our spiritual health. Jesus said to his disciples; "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." What Jesus is talking about is both the innocent faith and openness of a child and also the playful spirit of a child.

The Book of Ecclesiastes has more to say about the importance of having fun than any other book in the Bible. The author, who is believed to be King Solomon, famously said, "I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun." George Bernard Shaw the Nobel Prize winning Irish playwright put it this way: "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." James A. Garfield, 20th president of the USA, wrote, "If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should never grow old" – it is play that keeps our hearts young.

Since being young at heart is important to our spirituality I put together a list of ideas I gathered from the internet for staying young at heart:

Ten Ideas For Keeping Your Heart Like a Child's

1. Jesus said if we don't receive the Kingdom of God like a child we will never enter it. Take some time to think about your attitude towards life and how open or closed your heart is. Ask God to help you have a childlike appreciation for life.

2. Go on an adventure, Travel. Never stop traveling. It is the key to a healthy mind, an open heart and makes up for all those years you went without travel to save money. Don't just sit around, find something fun that you normally wouldn't do like visit every Greek restaurant within 50 miles.

3. Stay informed. Stay current, keep up with current trends and news items. Listen to the radio stations you wouldn't normally, watch the news and read the papers. Use the Internet as an information tool. Buy new modern clothing.

4. Do things you would do if you were a kid: Go see a kid's movie; go to the aquarium, or a museum, or a nearby tourist attraction. If something looks interesting, take a break and go! Play a game you used to love or read a book you used to love.

5. Get excited over little things: take a walk through a park or at the beach or around the block and notice as many different things you can see, hear, smell and feel, and thank God for every different one.

6. Give yourself permission to be goofy: tell corny jokes, make a funny face, hum a song while you are standing on line in the grocery store. Don't be afraid to let your inner goofball out, Kids never worry if someone thinks they are weird, they just do what they want. So be as honest as a child, tell someone they are handsome or pretty or boring. If something gets you excited tell someone about it.

7. Do a hands-on art project. Finger paints, junk item sculpture, decoupage, color in a coloring book with crayons.

8. Have a childlike optimistic attitude about life: kids forget about whatever just went wrong, and don't worry about the future.

9. Go to a restaurant and order off the kids menu, or just order several deserts for dinner.

10. Keep exercising, it literally helps you stay young at heart. So put on some music and have your own dance party, and dance around like no one is watching.

In His Grace, Pastor Tim

MARCH CALENDAR

March 1 (FRIDAY)

8:30am Suncoast Sandpipers
10:00am Thrift Store Open
7:00pm Trivia Night

March 2 (SATURDAY)

11:00am Bravo
8:00pm AA Big Book Study

March 3 (SUNDAY)

COMMUNION

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

March 4 (MONDAY)

9:30am Craft Group
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

March 5 (TUESDAY)

3:00pm Bible Study-Matthew
5:00pm Pancake Supper
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Worship Committee

March 6 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am Bell Practice
12:30pm Ash Wednesday service
1:00pm VPK Music Class
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1246
6:30pm Bible Study-Disciple
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

March 7 (THURSDAY)

LIFT TALENT SHOW

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3:00pm Each One Teach One
4:00pm Lay Minister Class
7:00pm Choir Practice

March 8 (FRIDAY)

10:00am Thrift Store Open
7:00pm Girl Scouts 1223

SEMINOLE POW WOW

March 9 (SATURDAY)

SEMINOLE POW WOW

11:00am Bravo
8:00pm AA Big Book Study

March 10 (SUNDAY)

SEMINOLE POW WOW

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

March 11 (MONDAY)

LIFT BREAK

9:30am Craft Group
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1298
7:00pm Trustees Meeting
7:15pm Boy Scouts

March 12 (TUESDAY)

LIFT BREAK

3:00pm Bible Study-Matthew
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Missions Meeting

March 13 (WEDNESDAY)

LIFT BREAK

10:00am ASG Sewing
10:00am Bell Practice
10:30am Mary/Martha Circle
1:00pm VPK Music Class
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1246
6:30pm Bible Study-Disciple
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

March 14 (THURSDAY)

LIFT BREAK

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3:00pm Each One Teach One
4:00pm Lay Minister Class
6:00pm Street Ministry
7:00pm Choir Practice

March 15 (FRIDAY)

LIFT BREAK

10:00am Thrift Store Open

March 16 (SATURDAY)

11:00am Bravo
8:00pm AA Big Book Study

March 17 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

March 18 (MONDAY)

9:30am Craft Group
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1298
7:15pm Boy Scouts

March 19 (TUESDAY)

LIFT BOOK FAIR

3:00pm Bible Study-Matthew
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

March 20 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am Bell Practice
1:00pm VPK Music Class
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1246
6:30pm Bible Study-Disciple
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

March 21 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3:00pm Each One Teach One
4:00pm Lay Minister Class
7:00pm Choir Practice

March 22 (FRIDAY)

10:00am Thrift Store Open
7:00pm Girl Scouts 1223

March 23 (SATURDAY)

11:00am Bravo
7:00pm 60's Dance and Concert
8:00pm AA Big Book Study

March 24 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

March 25 (MONDAY)

9:30am Craft Group
1:00pm Prayer Meeting
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1298
7:15pm Boy Scouts

March 26 (TUESDAY)

3:00pm Bible Study-Matthew
6:00pm Street Ministry
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Joy Circle
7:00pm UMW Meeting

March 27 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am ASG Sewing
10:00am Bell Practice
10:00am UMW Leadership
1:00pm VPK Music Class
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1246
6:00pm Street Ministry
6:30pm Bible Study-Disciple
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

March 28 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3:00pm Each One Teach One
4:00pm Lay Minister Class
7:00pm Choir Practice

March 29 (FRIDAY)

10:00am Thrift Store open
7:00pm Suncoast Singers

March 30 (SATURDAY)

11:00AM Bravo
8:00pm AA Big Book Study

March 31 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS



Congregational Care Ministries

I have been working through a series on prayer in this space for almost a year now. You can go back and read our old newsletters to find the various topics covered in this space, or contact me if you would like to read them. I have been utilizing “guest” columnists who are a part of a prayer resource guide for pastors and leaders from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and adjusting it slightly so that it might be useful and meaningful if you find yourself in the situation described in that area. This month, I am choosing to not make such adjustments as the issue presented is Homelessness. Perhaps we have been, will be, or know someone who is homeless and so this prayer and topic speaks directly to us. However, I have in mind another purpose for this and that is to highlight the ministry our feeding program engages in on a monthly basis with the homeless or economically at risk population of St. Petersburg through St. Vincent De Paul Society. As you read through this, please consider asking yourself how you might enlarge your daily prayers to include this population and how God might be moving in your heart and life to help play a part in addressing this issue in our community.

As always, if you have any pastoral or counseling prayer needs, please contact me or the church office and I or one of our congregational care team members will be happy to reach out to you and walk alongside of you.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan, Associate Pastor

HOMELESSNESS

The Rev. Karen Rohrer, Director of the Church Planting Initiative

Caring for and walking with those whose needs we cannot fill is part of the call and regular work of the Christian and pastor. We confess a God who is with us despite and in the midst of suffering, so we cannot be afraid to name God’s presence even when things are beyond our power to repair. Homelessness—the systems that cause it, the stigma it carries, and the combination of societal and life events that allow it to happen—are typically beyond our capacity to solve in our role as friend or even pastor. This reality is not to discourage our effort or in any way to take less seriously the words in James 2, “If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and

eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (vv 15-17).

That said, these words, alongside our own tendency to live by shame rather than grace, have through time tempted Christians to fear and ignore people facing or experiencing homelessness—for we know, deep down somewhere, that a sister or a brother suffering in such a way is an indictment of the society we participate in and the comparative luxury in which we shelter ourselves.

Encountering those who are suffering for lack of material comforts is encountering our own privilege, and it is difficult. Not only that, but prayer in such a space is particularly difficult, because in prayer we are coming before the God of truth, and the truth is that we are not living in a just system.

The first question, then, is, “How can I pray in the midst of injustice?” or perhaps more accurately, “How can I pray honestly for my and our rescue from a culture of death, even as I, as a housed person, am on the winning side of that culture?” We can be tempted to think that praying about homelessness is about us praying for others; but our prayer must actually start with our own healing. And that prayer, more likely than not, starts with the silence of listening—for God and for the stories of those we journey alongside.

Many of us have never experienced the anxiety and trauma of being homeless or precariously housed. As with any difficult circumstance, the trauma of homelessness is layered. Socially, you (homeless persons) are viewed differently, avoided, ignored, and exiled from community life. Physically, you are vulnerable, not only to the elements but also to unhealthy food, unsanitary conditions, and the stealing from you of what little you have while you sleep. Emotionally, you are forced to contend with loss, hazards, and systems that are foreign to the majority of people who pass by you every day.

When working and praying with people in these vulnerable circumstances, know that they are the experts. Ask them what they would like to pray for. Take them seriously when they tell you. Listen to their stories and share stories of your own. Do not, as the victor in this culture of death, try to train or invite them to be more like you. Learn from them how to pray. After all, if we are praying the prayer Christ taught us to pray, it will be in the words of a man who had “nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58).



Congregational Care Ministries continued

The prayer below uses language that follows the guidance given here:

God who traveled in our behalf, be with your servant [name], who traveled in our behalf to join us here. Thank you for the love you have showed us in our time with [name], for we are always blessed when your beloved come to us. Holy Spirit, Hedge of Protection, Mother of Comfort, walk with [name], stand guard over her/him as she/he sleeps and bless her/his steps as she/he wakes to go where you call her/him. God, when hope is wearing thin, stand with her/him. Wherever she/he goes, stay with her/him, for we know that wherever she/he is, she/he will always be within the reach of your voice, your grace, and your love. And we pray that she/he might come back safely again to us when we meet again. Further, loving God, we pray for our world and our culture. We ask that you would continue to knit us into relationship with one another—that we might bear each other’s burdens, comfort each other’s sorrows, and celebrate each other’s joys. Jesus, we know that we are more whole when we stand with each other. Strengthen us to do just that when seasons are hard. We trust that we are Yours. May we practice the unity of sisterhood and brotherhood together all our lives long—in this place and beyond it. Amen.

For helpful resources on the topic of homelessness, see:

- » Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Matthew Desmond (Broadway Books, 2017); and
- » Nickle and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America, by Barbara Ehrenreich (Picador, 2011).

Online, see:

- » “Facts on Homelessness,”

<https://projecthome.org/about/facts-homelessness>

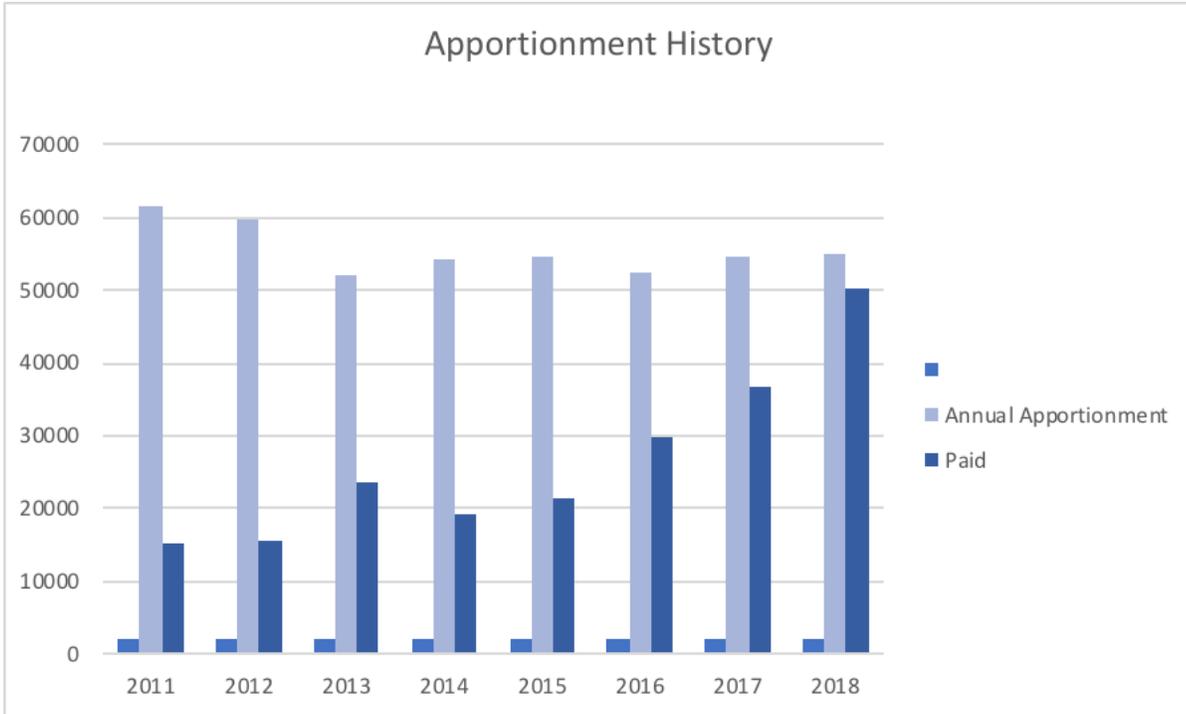
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Apportionments



Year	Annual Apportionment	Paid	% paid
2011	\$61,372.00	\$15,255.00	24.86
2012	\$59,727.00	\$15,719.00	26.32
2013	\$51,936.00	\$23,455.00	45.16
2014	\$54,373.00	\$19,324.00	35.54
2015	\$54,527.00	\$21,420.00	39.28
2016	\$52,490.00	\$29,803.00	56.78
2017	\$54,760.00	\$36,829.00	67.26
2018	\$54,919.00	\$50,100.00	91.23

The positive trend continues! Praise God for this improved level of apportionment giving in 2018. Thank you for so many personal donations made in 2018. There are many ministries and programs of the United Methodist Church that were benefited by our financial support.

The new apportionment level of requested giving for Oakhurst UMC in 2019 has been increased to \$62,477.00 and \$11,830 has been pledged through the Estimate of Giving campaign. Praise God for your awareness of the importance of our charge as being a connectional member of the United Methodist Church! Let us celebrate the 2018 amount of giving and continue to remain focused in 2019 on the opportunities!

TUESDAY, March 5th – SAVE THE DATE – SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER!!! 5:00 until 6:30 pm

walk in anytime; Donations only (for Apportionments)

Rick Jacobson, Interpreter of Connectional Giving

TRUSTEES



Car Wash Tickets

MR. CAR WASH TICKETS - will be sold outside Fellowship Hall (until we run out) each Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. service. "Express" (exterior wash only) \$6; "Full Service" (interior cleaning & exterior wash) \$13. These tickets can be used at any Mr. Car Wash in the US and do not expire. 50% of proceeds help OUMC Trustees w/various church needs/projects. If you miss the Sunday sales, contact Emma Dobies, through the church office 727-391-4769.



Happenings

Our youth group had a busy month. From spending time in a fundraiser at the SAGES play in our church to dinners to going out into the community, February was a great month for the youth. We thank all of those who came out to help us with the fundraiser, who contributed by baking or providing goodies, who purchased some sweet treats from us, and who contributed financially to the youth's fundraising mission. A special thanks goes out to Emma and Tony Dobies who worked long and thankless hours preparing for the play and then taking their time to help the youth have a successful dessert and drink sale during the actual production.

We want to make certain everyone in the congregation knows that adult volunteers beyond myself and Amanda are essential to helping to create the sort of environment that will enable a youth ministry to grow long term. While our actual growth in numbers among youth has been slow, our continued increase and interest from adult volunteers in coming alongside these youth has been essential to developing the sort of support and infrastructure that will be necessary for our congregation to Grow Younger in this area. A thanks goes out to Billie Lee Norman, Bill Stiffler, Deb Ralph, Stephanie Fergenbaum, Tony and Emma Dobies, Susan Good, Linda Johnson, and others who I may have forgotten who have given of their time over the past couple of years to work with the youth.

If you know of any youth who would benefit from monthly gatherings of fellowship, Christian learning and edification, and positive mentoring, please contact me and I would love to help them get plugged into what is going on in our congregation.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor



MISSIONS



KENYA MISSION

I returned February 1st from my third trip to Meru County, Kenya. It was a very positive trip with God's influence in all that happened. I was assisting Bruce Haselden from First UMC St. Petersburg with his study on maternal health in rural Kenya which led us to interview various doctors and head nurses of faith based, public and private clinics and hospitals. The conditions in the faith based and public hospitals were very primitive compared to what we are used to and they suffer from lack of funding, overcrowding, a shortage of blood reserves and lack of ambulances, to name but a few. It was heartbreaking to see but also an inspiration to see these doctors and nurses working long hours in harsh conditions and still smiling and happy, knowing they are making a difference.

I also returned to check on the Ruiga Girl's Boarding School and the water filter we had fitted there is working well and they have 3 new faucets available for the girls to use for the drinking water. Also they have grown significantly with 500 students now and are busy building new dormitories with funds provided by the parents. The new principal did let me know that the pads we have given to the girls helped them to stay in school and to get through their exams well. I visited the Ruiga Secondary School and they are so happy with the text books and sports equipment that Bruce was able to assist in delivering last August for us. This time we took them 2 basketballs donated by UMW and the whole school cheered when they saw them!

After much prayer and seeking God on how he wanted to continue this mission, I was led to a meeting with the Bishop of the Nkubu Synod of Methodist Church of Kenya (MCK) (presiding over Meru county and many others, he takes care of a very large area, similar to our D.S.). We discovered that God has placed similar callings on our hearts and with God's leading we have now partnered together to open a boarding school for disabled children, who suffer terribly there. The church had received 2 acres of land which they have now been able to survey and take ownership of, with Oakhurst support. They have allocated 1 acre for the school and there are already some buildings there that they will start work on to turn into dormitories for the children. The Bishop is a great leader and teacher, honest and direct and gets things done! God put this calling in my heart almost 2 years ago and I am excited now to work with the Bishop and MCK on this wonderful mission.

With His Grace, Deb Ralph



HEART BENEFITS FROM LOSING JUST FIVE PERCENT OF YOUR BODY WEIGHT



If you think you have to lose a lot of weight before you see any cardiovascular health benefits, a recent study may change your mind.

Research published in the journal of Cell Metabolism found that obese patients who lose five percent of their body weight experience noticeable reductions in their risks for diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and improvements in the metabolic function of their liver and their fat and muscle tissue. Obesity is the main risk factor for type 2 diabetes.

“Weight loss tends to improve my patients’ blood sugar levels, cholesterol levels, and blood pressure levels, which are all controllable risk factors for heart disease,” says Cleveland Clinic dietician Kate Patton, RD, with Preventive Cardiology. “Weight loss does tend to improve patients’ energy levels because they may be able to sleep better, have more motivation to exercise, and weighing less requires energy just to move.”

It’s important to keep in mind that five percent is just an initial goal for many people. If you are very overweight or obese, your long-term goals are going to be greater.

“I think for most obese or morbidly obese patients, five percent should be considered a short-term goal with some small benefit.” Patton says. “But to have the greatest impact on reducing the risk of chronic disease, greater weight loss is encouraged.”

However, approaching weight loss in smaller increments may have some psychological benefits.

“Small realistic goal setting is very appropriate and helps to keep patients motivated,” Patton says. “We want patients to achieve these small goals and feel good about it.”

Patton suggests a weight-loss target of a half-pound to one pound per week for women, and one to two pounds per week for men. These goals may vary depending on your starting weight and whether you plan to lose weight with diet alone or with a combination of diet and exercise.

“Depending on when a patient is coming back to see me next, whether it’s one month or three months, we set a goal weight for the next visit,” Patton explains.

Successful and sustained weight loss usually requires a different mindset about food and exercise.

“To keep weight off, the key is not thinking of weight maintenance as being on a ‘diet,’ but rather as a give and take,” Patton says. “it’s all about calories in versus calories out, therefore being mindful of what you put in your body and how many calories you burn on a daily basis. Hence, exercise is key.”

Patton says many individuals use exercise to help lose weight, but then don’t stay active once they’ve reached their target. This is how weight creeps back on.

Heart Advisor, The Cleveland Clinic, December 2016.

Submitted by Margaret Strickland, Parish Nurse



Cornerstone Wonderwalk 2019

Saturday, March 23 at 9am. Meet at Constitution Park at Redington Shores Beach, Gulf Blvd. and 183rd Ave. N. Come join us and pray for Cornerstone's children. Opening prayers at Constitution Park's shelter.

Free T-shirt for all who register and participate!

Register with various teams at Oakhurst UMW, call Margaret Strickland at phone 392-8428.

Go online to learn more; www.cornerstonefamilyministries.org

Next Unit Fellowship - New Time for March!

March 26, 2019 at 7pm in the Foundry, All are Welcome!!!

Come and hear about Oakhurst's sister church in Colon, Cuba. Annette Clair and others from our Mission team will provide updates and prayers of this church. We'll meet from 7:00—8:30pm!

SAVE the DATE - Spring and Easter Bazaar

April 13th and 14th in Fellowship Hall. Its not to early to prepare our hearts and home for Easter.



Save the Date for Mission u - July 11-14

Florida Conference UMW will host its annual Mission u at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida.

Three classes will be offered;

1. Practicing Resurrection: Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship (spiritual growth study)
2. Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission (Geographic study)
3. What About our Money? A Faith Response

You Choose One!

Registration Fees (Rooms and meals) \$200.00

Study Books \$10.00

Please contact Lorraine Mayfield-Brown at 727-415-9844 or Del Lawson at 530-414-4488 for more information.

Children's Ministry Matters



Recently I was helping Lorraine Mayfield-Brown move some tables for a UMW meeting. She invited me to their meeting that day as their focus for 2019 is on Children and Youth and Prayer. Oddly enough, just that morning I had received an email from a KidMin Leader, The Scripture Lady, who lives in California and visits Christian preschools and elementary schools in her area. She passed on these five prayers for all of us, whether we're currently active in children's ministry or not. Please add these to your prayer time!

God bless, Stephanie

Five Prayers for Children's Ministry in the Church and Christian Schools

Prayers for Children's Ministry #1: Pray for the churches who have no children.

Recently, a new phrase has popped up in Children's Ministry circles: "The children are not the future of the church, they are the church." Perhaps meaning that children should not be looked at as little people that we only invest our time of ministry in only for the future. We need to pour our gifts and talents into them now, knowing that it is in this present day that children are a vital part of every church.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please send a revival to all the churches around me and throughout the world who have little to no children running through their halls. Please move in the hearts of families to become a part of a church so that their children can grow in their relationship with You through the ministry of the church. Amen.

Prayers for Children's Ministry #2: Pray for Christian schools that are struggling to keep their doors open.

There are many Christian schools who have passionate hearts to give children a Christian education that includes a healthy dose of the gospel. We need to pray that God has mercy upon these schools who love Jesus and who love the kids that He loves.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please send a flood of children into the Christian schools who are willing and able to educate them according to your Word. Have mercy upon the schools who love you and are passionate about serving Your children. Help young parents see the need for training their children in Your ways and provide for them so that they can give their children a Christian education. Amen.

Prayers for Children's Ministry #3: Pray for the needs of each of the children you minister to.

If you are in children's ministry of any kind, you know that there are children who are experiencing trials that no child should ever have to face. As teachers in their lives, we have the great privilege to take these children to the throne of Jesus and plead on their behalf to the God of all comfort and help. May we be quick to pray for all the ones who "need lots of prayer."

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I want to lift up (place child's name here) to you. You know all that they are facing. You love them so much Jesus. You love them more than anyone ever will. Please let this child know your love. Let them know your comfort and provision. Keep them safe in your arms. And, Jesus, if there is anything you would like me to do beyond this prayer to help this child, please show me. Amen.

Prayers for Children's Ministry #4: Pray that children's ministries will be willing to put the time and effort into their programs so that children are drawn to you.

The work of the Children's Ministry Team is a difficult one. You must be willing to put in the hours needed to make your classroom a place where the kids want to return week after week. You must be willing to invest in resources that grow your ministry. And you must be willing to educate yourself in how to reach the kids God has placed within your care.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please give every children's worker a deep passion for ministering to the children you have brought to them. Give them the energy and strength they need to do their very best every time they are given the opportunity to share Your love and truth. Amen.

Prayers for Children's Ministry #5: Pray for children's ministers to effectively share the Word of God.

The Word of God is life-changing when heard and applied to every life. Please pray that those who work with children, be diligent in our study of God's Word so that we may effectively share it appropriately for each age

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help all those who work with children know how to teach and share your truths. Help them take time to continue to grow in Your Word on a daily basis so that they themselves are nourished to feed Your little lambs. Amen.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

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Tuesday, March 5, 2019

5-6:30 PM

No reservations needed!

Free: Donations are greatly appreciated. Accepted by cash or check made out to OUMC

Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Baked Apples, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Hot Tea, Water

Purpose:
Apportionments
Fundraising/Fellowship
event to give visibility to our
connectionalism with other
United Methodist Churches
and to share in our efforts to
support this initiative of
connectional giving



Oakhurst United Methodist Church

13400 Park Blvd, Seminole 33776

727-391-4769

www.oakhurstumc.com



MeaVita™

**MEA VITA - LIVING
ARTFULLY WITH
DEMENTIA**

**Join Dr. Cate
Dementia Coach**

for a unique solution-based dual support group
for both you and your loved one at Oakhurst United Methodist.

**SECOND THURSDAYS
MARCH 14, APRIL 11,
MAY 9, JUNE 13
10-11:30 AM**

Each caregiver session will include research-supported strategies; artistic application and a personalized plan. Meanwhile the care recipients will be creating and reminiscing with Memory Engagement.

Dr. Cate author, trainer, coach is hosting MEA VITA™ with her unique focus on instrumental support and memory engagement. Sponsored by Arden Courts

And Fusion Health Care, Memory Engagement Association — a grass-roots movement to