

JULY 2019 Newsletter

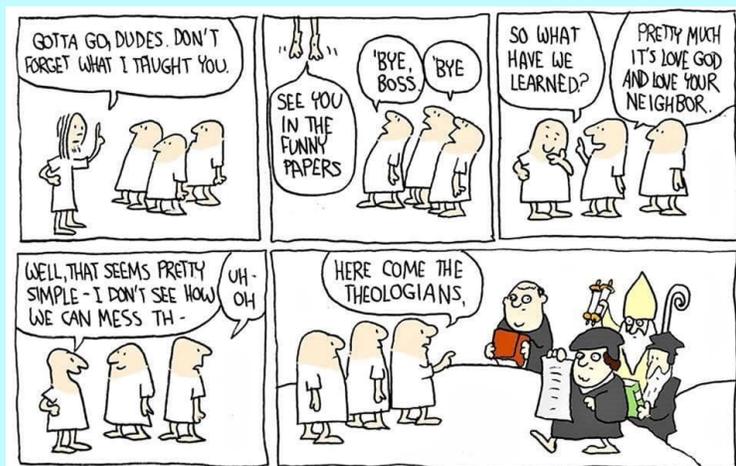
Oakhurst United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S PEN DID YOU KNOW?

By Pastor Tim



Heresies of the Early Church



Jesus was crucified, died, and resurrected somewhere between 30 and 35 AD, and from shortly after his resurrection to the current day well-meaning (and sometimes not so well-meaning) believers have disagreed about just about everything related to our religion and how to carry out being the church. In his letter to Titus (1:10-16) Paul is writing to a co-worker in the ministry there who is having to deal with turmoil in the church. In his first letter to the Corinthians (1:10-17), and in his second letter to the Corinthians (11:1-5) it is the same thing. Keep in mind this within 30 years of the resurrection, while the original 12 apostles are still alive and the Bible is being written.

After the apostles are gone it only gets worse:

Marcion gathered a number of followers who rejected the Hebrew Bible and the God of Israel and accepted only the Gospel of Luke as legitimate. Docetism – a Gnostic heresy taught that Christ's body was not human but he was God pretending to be human. A third-century Bishop Arius taught that Jesus was not fully God. Montanism was another Gnostic heresy. They believed in salvation through gnosis, or knowledge, not through faith. They taught that Christ was a revealer of the hidden knowledge necessary for salvation. Pelagianism was started by another bishop of the church named Pelagius. He and his followers denied the doctrines of original sin and believed in innate human goodness and free will. Nestorianism is the only of the early heresies mentioned in the scriptures. They believed that since we are forgiven in Christ we can do whatever we want sexually and any other way.

Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor, tried to end the heresies and bring unity to the church. He assembled the first council of bishops in Nicea, and they drafted the Nicene Creed, which is in our hymnal and which addressed most of the early heresies and established Orthodoxy – standard set of beliefs for the whole church of Christ. Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, was the author of the creed. Unfortunately, the divisions have never stopped. The best analogy for the church is that of a tree. Christ and the twelve disciples represent the trunk, and the many divisions and denominations are the branches. Some are larger and some are small, but they keep on forming.

In His Grace, Pastor Tim

JULY CALENDAR

July 1 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

July 2 (TUESDAY)

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Worship Committee

July 3 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

July 4 (THURSDAY)

HOLIDAY—OFFICE CLOSED

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00pm Choir Practice

July 5 (FRIDAY)

July 6 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

July 7 (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

July 8 (MONDAY)

9:00am MUSIC AND DRAMA

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

July 9 (TUESDAY)

9:00am MUSIC AND DRAMA

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

July 10 (WEDNESDAY)

9:00am MUSIC AND DRAMA

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

July 11 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:00am MUSIC AND DRAMA

6:00pm Street Ministry
7:00pm Choir Practice

July 12 (FRIDAY)

9:00am MUSIC AND DRAMA

7:00pm MUSIC AND DRAMA

July 13 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

July 14 (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

July 15 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

July 16 (TUESDAY)

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

July 17 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

July 18 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00pm Choir Practice

July 19 (FRIDAY)

July 20 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

July 21 (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

July 22 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

July 23 (TUESDAY)

6:00pm Street Ministry
6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

July 24 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Street Ministry
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon

July 25 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00pm Choir Practice

July 26 (FRIDAY)

July 27 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

July 28 (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

July 29 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

July 30 (TUESDAY)

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

July 31 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon



Congregational Care Ministries

Where two or three are gathered together, there are disagreements. Yes, that's cynical take on one of Jesus most beloved quotations. Yet, the promise that He is with us in the midst of our gathering, especially when we disagree and have issues, can sustain us throughout the course of our lives. This month, Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, who I've gotten to know well through my work on Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Board of Directors, leads us through contemplating how to pray through family problems. Whether our family is big, small, or just the one we've made in life, problems frequently arise. Praying through these problems help us stay centered in the midst of the challenges that come our way.

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

FAMILY PROBLEMS

The Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Vice President for Seminary Advancement

In the opening verses of the novel *Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy writes, "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Whether he is accurate about happy families is unclear to me—but he is right that we should be careful not to generalize about families that are struggling.

Family problems emerge in many unique forms: financial stress, addiction, physical or mental illness, grief, job loss, divorce, relocation, adultery, and many, many more. And the truth is that even the healthiest transitions—ushered by the birth of a child, empty-nesting, aging parents, even retirement—can be stress-inducing.

Family life is complicated. We can find comfort in recognizing that this fact has been true from the beginning of time. From the beginning, Scripture is filled with examples of tension between spouses—Adam and Eve find themselves ashamed

before the Lord (Gen 3:7ff); Abraham and Sarah lose hope for having a child (Gen 16:1ff). Sibling rivalries and betrayals frequently appear—Cain murders his brother Abel (Gen 4:1ff); Joseph's jealous brothers sell him into slavery to the Egyptians (Gen 37:12ff). Children clash with their parents and in-laws—Jacob colludes with his mother to fool his father in order to gain the birthright (Gen 27:1ff); later, Jacob is fooled by his father-in-law into marrying Leah instead of Rachel (Gen 30:21ff). It does not magically improve in the new "household of God" instituted by Jesus; we see the same tensions, rivalries, and clashes among the "brothers and sisters" of Christ in his Church.

What can we do? First, it helps to acknowledge that family life has never been easy . . . though it is easy to despair or place blame. The truth is that all households struggle. We are tempted to see only joy and success in other people's homes, but the proverb is true: "Never compare our insides to other people's outsides." We have no idea what struggles people endure behind closed doors.

Second, it helps to identify the particular struggles that people are experiencing rather than generalizing. As those who come alongside individuals and families in their struggles, it is above our "pay grade" to offer diagnoses, but it can be reassuring to help people name their pain. It might be the feeling of having failed their children by divorcing, losing a mortgage, or not parenting well. It might be dread from no longer knowing what or whom to trust after

being cheated on by a spouse or a parent's relapsing into alcohol abuse. It might be the sense of isolation that comes when members of a family are fighting with each other.

It might be a perfect storm of a spouse's job loss, a child's diagnosis, and an aging parent's illness. Even when multiple stressors combine, naming the particular feelings and issues helps make a person or family feel slightly less global and cataclysmic about the struggles faced.

Third, it is crucial that people recognize they are not alone. Encouraging people to find help—in talking with you, discovering a 12-Step program or support group, or even volunteering with others—brings comfort in distress. In times of deep conflict within a family, a counselor can be especially helpful to move toward peace and possibly reconciliation as well.



Congregational Care Ministries

Continued

Above all, our faith reminds us that God is with us through it all: “Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age,” Jesus tells us (Matt 28:20). Paul confirms this statement when he writes, “I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:37-39).

What attitude of prayer is helpful? As the Psalms remind us, there are many attitudes of prayer that are appropriate, depending on the need: lament for one’s pain or grief; confession of one’s own failure or complicity; pleas for healing of body or mind, and the mending of broken relationships. Over time, the particular prayer needs will likely change. But we know that placing all our fears and worries, yearning and confession, at the throne of grace never ends. And who knows? Perhaps one day, a prayer of thanksgiving will be in order, too—thanksgiving for fences mended, feelings softened, and relationships restored.

The following prayer uses helpful language for praying with people facing family problems.

Gracious God, you know all too well what it is like for your family to face problems. You have seen your sons and daughters struggle with deep pain, fight with one another, fail to fulfill their promises, and even walk away from you. There is no struggle that you do not know intimately, and we are grateful for your care for us. We are bold to ask, then, Lord, for your presence with us. Forgive our own failures, and help us to forgive those who have failed us. Mend our brokenness, and heal those we love. Help us to receive the love that others offer and not to be ashamed of our need. And, above all, dearest Lord, help us to know deep in our hearts that we are not alone. All these things we pray in the name of our brother and savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Our congregants have requested that these people be lifted up in prayer, so please add them to your prayer list.

Behrooz and Denise Heshmatpour

Mary Kay Williams

Amy Wethington

Linda, Paul and Brian Bavaro and Melissa

Colette Box

Timmy Ehrlich

TIPS FOR HEALTHY PREVENTATIVE LIVING



Here are six areas to focus on for preventive whole-life healthy living.

1) Type 2 Diabetes

Adult-onset diabetes is a disease in which the body does not make enough insulin or does not use it effectively. Diabetes contributes to heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation. But even minor changes in physical activity, keeping weight under control, and eating healthy foods help or prevent or delay diabetes as we age.

2) Fitness

Fitness isn't just how many push-ups you can do, It's the whole package of physical activity, nutrition, hygiene, and rest. All of these together contribute to physical fitness as well as social fitness and emotional health.

3) Healthy Heart

Keep your heart healthy for a healthy life.

*Don't smoke.

*Exercise regularly

*Eat fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat meats and dairy.

*Maintain a healthy weight.

*Get regular screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes.

4) Nutrition

Eat more whole grains, fruits and vegetables, healthy fats, moderate amounts of meat and dairy, moderate amounts of protein. Eat less heavy fats, high-cholesterol food, high-sugar foods, highly processed foods, high-salt foods, and alcohol.

5) Obesity

Carrying too much weight is associated with cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, and various cancers. It's also preventable. People have different body types. If you are working on losing weight, avoid starving yourself. Exercise helps while also offering a sense of reward throughout the process. Find help and support. You don't have to go it alone.

6) Smoking Cessation

Smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer, heart attacks, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, vascular stenosis, emphysema, and birth defects. Second-hand smoke is harmful to non-smokers. Cigarettes are addictive and stopping is not easy, but many programs and communities offer support. Make a plan, including a list of reasons to quit, strategies for when you have cravings, and where to get support.

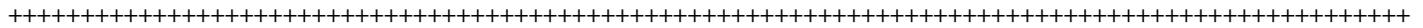
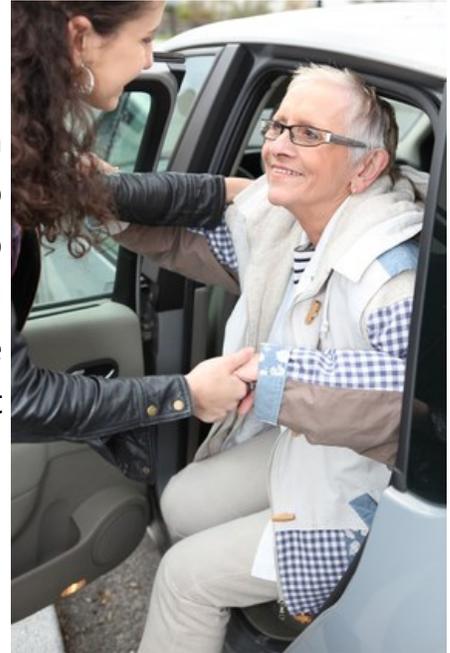
For more information and tips, see myhealthtennessee.com/preventive-care-2

Used with permission from Church Health Reader Spring 2019, Vol 9, Number 2, pg 23.

From our Health Nurse, Margaret Strickland

TRANSPORTATION

Our church is blessed to have members of our congregation who are led to assist those of us who are unable to drive to doctors, outpatient and hospital appointments or due to sedatives or anesthetic need to be driven to and collected from surgery. If you are needing this type of assistance please call the church office at 727-391-4769 and we will organize it for you.



LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

<p>SLAUGHTER PLUMBING 24 Hour Emergency Service 727-596-5663 12920 Walsingham Rd. • Largo, FL 33774</p> <p>LICENSED • BONDED SENIOR DISCOUNTS FREE ESTIMATES Lic. #C8501 • RF11067209</p>	<p>Realty Concepts of Pinellas <i>"The name friends pass along"</i> Lucy SCHEURINGER (727) 804-5104 www.lucysellshomes.com</p>	<p>WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES</p> <p>Join our team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Time Position with Benefits • Sales Experience Preferred • Paid Training • Overnight Travel Required • Expense Reimbursement <p>CONTACT US AT careers@4LPI.com www.4LPI.com/careers</p>
<p>HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY CALL NOW! 1-888-386-7928</p> <p>ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER HOME SECURITY TEAM</p>	<p>PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM \$29.95/MO BILLED QUARTERLY CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772 WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM</p>	<p>SPREAD THE WORD A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters</p> <p>SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS</p>
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Apportionments

Apportionment Categories and Current 2019 Status

The Total 2019 OUMC Apportionment amount due at the end of December = \$62,477.00

The current actual dollar amount of apportionments paid through May = \$23,650.92

Current % of apportionments paid through May, 2019 = 37.86% Paid (4 at 100% paid!)

\$3888.00 paid in May = \$3200 (Budget allotment) + \$688 (Individual giving)

The Categories of the **General Church Apportionments** funds:

World Service Fund – **Paid \$8283.92 of \$9978.00 83% Paid**

Episcopal Fund – **Paid 100% (\$2955.00)**

Interdenominational Fund - **Paid 100% (\$264.00) (Paid by Missions Committee)**

General Administration Fund – OWE \$1185.00

Ministerial Education Fund – OWE \$3370.00

Black College Fund - OWE \$1344.00

Africa University Fund –OWE \$301.00

Jurisdictional Administration Fund – OWE \$202.00

The Categories of the **Florida Conference and Gulf Central District Apportionments** funds:

Clergy Support – **Paid 100% (\$6682.00)**

Conf Services and Admin Fund – **Paid 100% (\$5466.00)**

GC District Work Fund – OWE \$9795.00

Conference Benevolences –OWE \$17,701.00

Equitable Compensation/Mission Support – OWE \$3,234.00

2014 – Paid 36%; 2015 – Paid 39%; 2016 – Paid 57%; 2017 – Paid 67%; 2018 – Paid 91.23%

Fund Raising for 2019: \$2375.75

Thank you for all of your apportionment donations for 2019. We have made good progress in 2019. Mark an envelope for APPORTIONMENT giving. Please join me in our responsibility to God to support all of our church's connectionalism. Amen.

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 with various church needs/projects. If you miss the Sunday sales, contact Emma Dobies, through the church office 727-391-4769.

PLEASE NOTE

Mister Car Wash is raising prices \$1 on both Full Service (to \$14) and Express (to \$7) with my next order. I have 27 Full Service left and 12 Express at the current prices of \$13 and \$6. Another order won't be placed until August. [Thanks to all of you who have purchased them as they have helped with many projects, most recently a new water fountain, the NOMADS' projects, etc.](#)

Emma Dobies, Chair, Trustees

EVANGELISM

Update of Pow Wow outreach

We received several names from our Pow Wow outreach, requesting to assist with our Street Ministry in serving/cooking for the Homeless. Our new Leader of this wonderful Ministry, Lisa Stiffler, has managed to get everyone placed into the program and they are all really enjoying being able to serve with our church. Here is a short testimonial from one of the new servers.

"I really wanted to be involved in the community. The street Ministry sounded like something I could do to give back to the people who need the most help in our community. Coming to a church to cook food and take it to them sounded like a great way to meet new people also. I was told that the "Communication in the van was a great way to get to know people and enjoy others as friends coming together to help others." That's exactly what it felt like. When we got to the shelter there were so many already waiting for food. It was hard not to feel a bit of their pain having to wait for others to eat anything. When we got done everyone seemed so grateful for us coming. It just reassured me how wonderful it is to help others."

[Praise God! For the wonderful blessings that this ministry brings.](#)

UMW — June 2019

UMW—Summer 2019



Ditty Bags for Adults

Many thanks for your support of Ditty Bags for Adults. As requested by UMCM Suncoast (United Methodist Cooperative Ministries), we provide toiletries, socks and combs and brushes for men and women at MY PLACE IN RECOVERY, in St. Petersburg. In June, Lynda Olsen and Lorraine Mayfield-Brown delivered these items to over 20 adults. As homeless individuals seek housing, they come to MPIR with little or no personal items. MPIR is primarily a housing first treatment model for voluntary and court-ordered participants. Their "Housing First" practice is not simple focused on housing but also on supporting recovery. For those with addiction chances, the goal is create access to harm reduction environments., such as abstinence only housing. Individual are provided with Bible study, physical and mental health services. MPIR goals are to enhance the well-being, mitigate the effects if mental health and addictions challenges and improve quality of life. Please visit their website: myplaceinrecovery.com to learn more about this important program. During the summer months, UMW will begin collecting ditty bags and items for migrant farm children.

Attend Mission u 2019

It's not too late to join us at the UMW Florida Conference for one of three studies:

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



Location: Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida.

Date: July 11- 14, 2019

Action Day at UMCM—August 3, 2019

Contact Lorraine or Del for this fun-filled service day.

UMW FELLOWSHIP

Returns September 4th at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Ms. Melissa Dohme Hill will address issues of Domestic Violence in our community. Enjoy our "Gathering Salad" and fresh daily bread.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

September 21, 2019, 8:30 –2:00pm in the Foundry, Oakhurst UMW is hosting the Gulf Central District Mission Study - Practicing Resurrection - Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship.



OUR MISSIONS



Cuba Trip!

Want to visit our sister church in Cuba? It is important to strengthen humanitarian ties especially in this time of travel restrictions. Our mission team from Oakhurst UMC travels under the “religious activities license” that enables travel to Cuba. People from Oakhurst who have been to Cuba testify that visiting our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ to provide supplies and encouragement (just like Paul did to the early churches) is important and uplifting for us and our sister church.

Oakhurst is planning to take a mission team there in the fall. There are two possible opportunities. The dates of the earlier trip is not firm yet, but will be the last week of September or the first week in October. Dawn Curtis will be a leader of this trip.

The second opportunity to visit our sister church in Cuba is traveling with the Methodists United in Prayer Team (Oakhurst UMC is a part of this group) October 31 to November 5.

The individual expenses for either trip will be approximately \$350 (for visas and airfare) plus room and food costs.

There has been a lot of media over the last few days over the travel restrictions for Cuba. U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor from Tampa said she encourages ‘churches, universities and arts organizations to continue to build ties between the American people and the Cuban people.’ Join the Oakhurst UMC mission team in our continued connection with our sister church in Colon, Cuba. If you are interested, or have any questions, contact Dawn Curtis or Gary Clairy. Applications are available in the church office.



Principal
M. Jane Lucas
8401 131st ST. N
SEMINOLE, FL 33776
PH. (727)-547-7536
FAX (727)-547-7503



May 24, 2019

Sr. Pastor Timothy Ehrlich
Oakhurst United Methodist Church,
13400 Park Blvd, Seminole 33776.

Dear Pastor Timothy Ehrlich and congregation:

On behalf of Seminole High School, its administration, teachers, staff and most importantly our students, we would like to thank you for your generous contribution for senior fees.

As all of us know, high school graduation is such a monumental moment and one that every student should experience. Increasingly, we are finding students that struggle to acquire the funds for graduation fees, cap and gown, tassel, diploma and so many other senior expenses that arise. The gift from your congregation made sure **NO** Seminole High School senior was denied this experience (regardless of circumstances).

Please share with your congregation that they have created life long memories, experiences and a positive start to so many young people's lives.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

M. Jane Lucas
Principal
Seminole High School / Pinellas County Schools
lucasm@pcsb.org
727-547-7536

William P. Scales
Senior Class Sponsor
Seminole High School / Pinellas County Schools
scalesw@pcsb.org

Gulf Central District
United Methodist Women
Ubuntu - Action Day
Saturday, August 3, 2019 - 9:00 - noon



UMCM Early Learning Center at
St. Mark's UMC
6801 38th Avenue North, St. Petersburg FL 33710
(727) 350-5896

Light refreshments will be available (coffee, water, tea, lemonade, muffins and fruit)

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Church / Unit _____

Select the activity you would like to help with:

- Make fleece blankets for Children (sit down job)
- Make hand towel bibs for Infants (sit down job)
- Organize educational materials in upstairs storage room

(If volunteering for bib activity, would you be able to bring a sewing machine?). YES. NO

(If volunteering for blanket activity, would you be able to bring a pair of sharp fabric scissors). YES. NO

IMPORTANT: Send registration to kathyrobertson.umw@gmail.com or by mail to P. O. Box 657, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688



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
JULY 11, AUGUST 8,
SEPTEMBER 12, OCTOBER 10
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 thrive with dementia as a community of caregivers.