

# **F.H. & L.**

**Faith, Hope and Love, and the Greatest of These is Love**

**A Mini-Newsletter From Your Family at Oakhurst United Methodist Church**



## **OAKHURST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

13400 Park Blvd., Seminole, FL 33776  
[www.oakhurstumc.com](http://www.oakhurstumc.com)

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LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LOVING LIFE

**Our Mission is to make disciples, nurture disciples,  
and spread the Kingdom of Christ.**

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.....  
Hello to our Friends and Family,

Did you know that every time you make a decision you exercise free will? That is a concept that many of us don't think about very often. We just decide to do something, or not do something, and move on. We tend to forget that free will is one of the gifts God has given us. He created us so that we could choose to believe in him.... Or not believe in him. We get to choose whether or not we want to follow in Jesus footsteps. We get to accept or reject the assistance the Holy spirit gives us.

There is a lot of discussion about whether or not free will exists. As a Christian it can get a little confusing. How can we have free will if God already knows the decision we are going to make? To get a little (a lot) deeper, how did Judas have free will to turn in Jesus if it is something that had to be done to lead to Jesus' crucifixion?

Let's start with the fact that God is omniscient (all knowing) and omnipresent (he is everywhere). God has no timeline. He knows the past, present and future. God gave us free will to make our own decisions, but he knows what decisions we will make. He even knows whether we will waffle in our decisions. In the case of Judas, God gave Judas the ability to make his own decision. God also knew the decision Judas would make. Judas was free to change his decision, but he did not.

We all exercise our free will when we glorify God or when we ask God for something. God tells us "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (Revelation 3:20) It is our decision to, first, hear His voice and, second, to open the door. It does not matter that God knows what we will choose, it only matters that we choose.

As you exercise your free will today and every day, choose to hear His voice and choose to open the door to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The decision is always yours.

In His Joy,  
Your Pastors and Staff

## In His Words

◇ **Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.**

**John 7:17**

◇ **But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the lord. Joshua 24:15**

◇ **In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.**

**Proverbs 16:9**



## Spotlight

**Cuba:** Provide financial, provisions and spiritual support to our sister church in Colon, Cuba. Two mission trips per year

**Pack a Sack:** Provide take home food for hungry elementary aged children on weekends. Provide supplemental food for children in the High School. This project is ramping up now. Food and monetary donations are welcome and needed.



# WANTED

Volunteers to help with Street Ministry as we move into Phase 2.

We have openings for

Cooks

Drivers

Cake Bakers

We work in small teams and will follow all COVID-19 guidelines. Your health and the health of those we feed are at the top of our priorities.

Cooks and Drivers please contact Mary at [mchamp1469@aol.com](mailto:mchamp1469@aol.com) or Lin at [rjohnson6944@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rjohnson6944@tampabay.rr.com)

Cake Bakers please contact Sandy and Bill at [wfussner1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wfussner1@tampabay.rr.com)

## Tips for Self-Care During COVID-19

During times of change and uncertainty, it is ever more important to incorporate self-care as a structure into your schedule. And while your typical self-care routine may no longer be available, there are ways to stay healthy and remain connected. Every day take a moment (or more) to take care of yourself.

- ⇒ **Exercise:** Exercising increases energy levels, improves happiness and doesn't have to take place in a gym. Take a virtual workout class at home or spend some time outdoors walking or biking.
- ⇒ **Eat Healthy:** The foods we choose to nourish our bodies and the way we enjoy them can have a tremendous impact on our mental and physical health. Be purposeful when restocking on groceries and pick up foods that boost your mood such as oatmeal, nuts and even dark chocolate.

**More to come in the next issue!!**

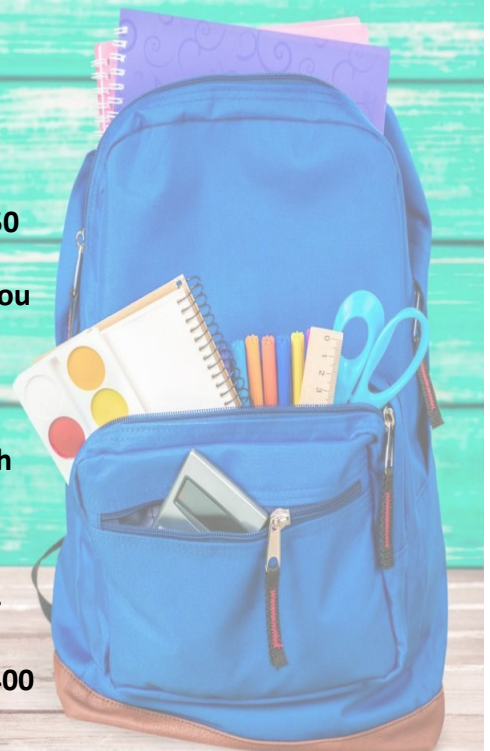
May God give you...  
For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer.



## Back to school Backpacks

**We do not know what will happen with back to school this year, but children will still need school supplies. Missions pre-ordered 150 backpacks with school supplies to distribute to our local schools. If you would like to help a child, each backpack filled with supplies cost**

**\$9.50 We will give packs to local children who are identified through guidance counselors and teachers. Consider funding school supplies with a donation through [Oakhurst UMC.com](http://OakhurstUMC.com) and mark your contributions "backpacks." Checks can be mailed to the Church at 13400 Park Blvd, Seminole 33776.**





Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save  
I who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord

If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart

written by Anna Larua Page/Daniel L Schutte

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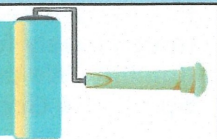


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# RIDDLE ME THIS?

1. I'm always on the dinner table, but you don't get to eat me. What am I?
2. What's bright orange with green on top and sounds like a parrot?
3. There's a one-story house where everything is yellow. The walls are yellow. The doors are yellow. Even all the furniture is yellow. The house has yellow beds and yellow couches. What color are the stairs?
4. What's really easy to get into, and hard to get out of?
5. What word contains 26 letters, but only has three syllables?
6. What can you hear, but not see or touch, even though you control it?
7. A girl fell off a 20-foot ladder. She wasn't hurt. Why?
8. What has lots of eyes, but can't see?
9. I am often following you and copying your every move. Yet you can never touch me or catch me. What am I?
10. Grandpa went out for a walk and it started to rain. He didn't bring an umbrella or a hat. His clothes got soaked, but not a hair on his head was wet. How is this possible?
11. What has hands, but can't clap?
12. I add lots of flavor and have many layers, but if you get too close I'll make you cry. What am I?
13. What has legs but doesn't walk?
14. You see me once in June, twice in November, but not at all in May. What am I?
15. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?
16. I run along your property and all around the backyard, yet I never move. What am I?
17. I have to be opened, but I don't have a lid or a key to get in. What am I?
18. Which is heavier: a ton of bricks or a ton of feathers?
19. Tom's father has three sons; Jim, John, and what's the third one's name?
20. What can you catch, but not throw?
21. What kind of cup doesn't hold water?
22. I am always in front of you and never behind you. What am I?
23. What kind of band never plays music?
24. Which month of the year has 28 days?
25. I have many teeth but I cannot bite. What am I?

**Answers:** 1 Plates and silverware; 2 A carrot; 3 There aren't any stairs – it's a one-story house; 4 Trouble; 5 Alphabet; 6 Your voice; 7 She fell off the bottom step; 8 A potato; 9 A shadow; 10 Grandpa was bald; 11 A clock; 12 An onion; 13 A table; 14 The letter "e"; 15 A promise; 16 A fence; 17 An egg; 18 Neither; they both weigh the same; 19 Tom; 20 A cold; 21 Cupcake or hiccup; 22 Your future; 23 A rubber band; 24 All of them; 25 A comb