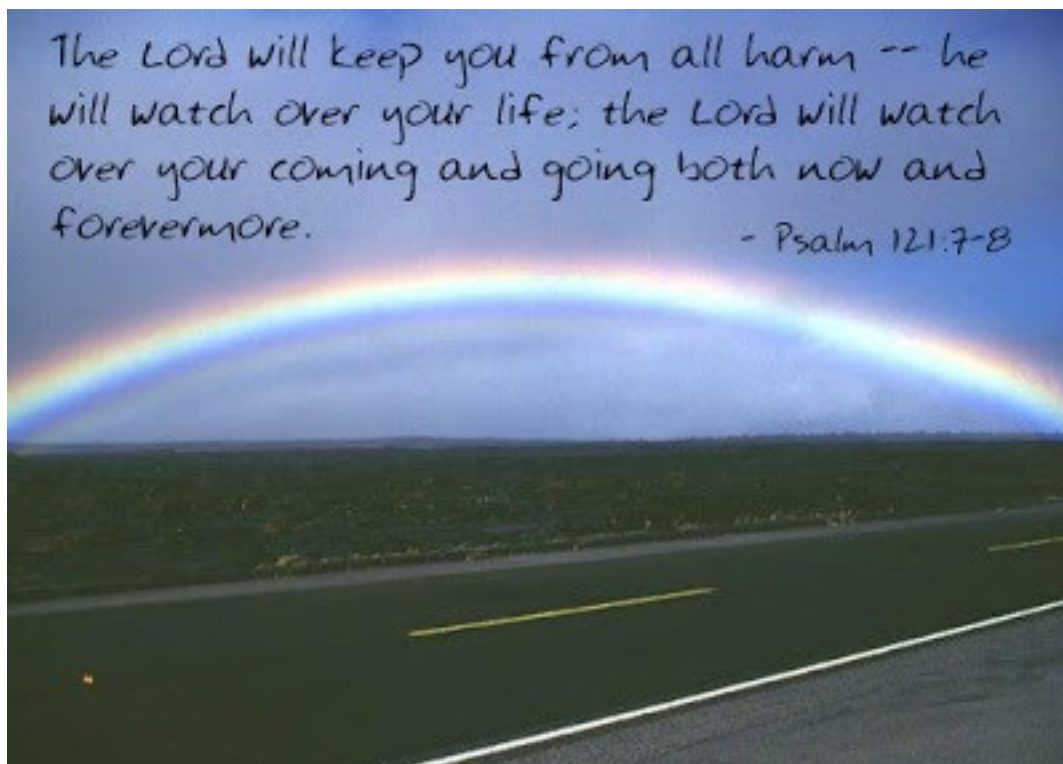


F.H. & L.

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

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LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LOVING LIFE

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

Dr. Tim Ehrlich, Co-Pastor
twehrlich@aol.com

Rev. Nathan Carlson, Co-Pastor
ncarlson@oakhurstumc.com

In His Words

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." —2 Corinthians 13:14

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all." —2 Thessalonians 3:16

If God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you." — Matthew 6:30



Spotlight

Back to School Backpacks: Provides new backpacks and school supplies to children through local schools

Blue Box: Collection of gently used clothing, blankets and bedding for distribution to those in need through our ministries (Homeless, Clothes for Kids, Cuba, etc.)

Hello to our Friends and Family,

I don't know about you, but my favorite bible verse changes regularly. I guess it just depends on where I am in my life and what God is trying to pound into my thick head. With these being my last few days working at Oakhurst UMC, I think the verse that speaks to me loudest is Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Verse 2 says, "a time to plant and a time to uproot." God planted me at Oakhurst 11 months ago and all of you have watered me and kept me growing every day. Talking and working with each of you has fed my soul in ways beyond counting. Now it is time to uproot and let God plant me where he wants me.

Oakhurst UMC is an amazing community. You are blessed with a congregation full of members willing to go the next mile to help others. This pandemic really brought that helping spirit to the forefront. There are members who are still willing to drive their neighbors to doctor visits, who shop for neighbors who aren't willing or able to leave their houses. When the Missions team had to stop cooking to feed the homeless, they set-up a table in front of the church where people could "Take what you need. Leave what you can." We have had drive-by birthday parties and even a drive-by adoption celebration.

Oakhurst is a vibrant community and your pastors and staff have a lot to do with that. Working with Pastor Tim and Pastor Nathan has been wonderful. Their care for the congregation and community is an example for us to follow. Listening to them talk about the times God has called them to action is inspiring. The staff, Stephanie, Jackie, Tammy, and John, are a dream team! I can't imagine doing this job without them.

Your new Office Manager is Lety Cruz. You are going to LOVE her! Our pastors and SPRC have found you the perfect person for this office and for helping take Oakhurst UMC into the future. I have no doubts all of you will welcome her with open arms!

Thank you for sharing your time and your lives with me. I will take all of you with me in my heart and my prayers. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26.

Love to all of You,
Lynda

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Linda Olsen keeps copies of this verse around her house and always has a copy with her when she is out. She also loves this truth from Dr. Seuss, “Those who matter don’t mind. Those who mind don’t matter.”

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“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.”

1 John 4:16

From Pastor Tim: God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

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Sharon Proehl says, "I have always loved children and Matthew 19:14 confirms that God does as well. When I was younger and working Sunday School with kids it always reinforced that what I liked to do was the right thing to do."

"but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:14

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"but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:14

“So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here.” 1 Peter 1:6

This is Billie Lee’s reminder that whatever happens, it is not going to last forever. I think of the JOY ahead, and it gets me through whatever I am depressed about, or going through at the time.

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One of Deb Blanchard's favorite verses is:

"⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Tips for Self-Care During COVID-19

Take 2

During times of change and uncertainty, it is ever more important to incorporate self-care and 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.

- ⇒ **Structure and Routines:** Having regular times for eating, going to bed and rising in the morning, exercising, and working or studying can help maintain a sense of normalcy.
- ⇒ **Practice Mindfulness:** Take breaks throughout the day, first thing in the morning or before bed to slow down and be present. The practice of pausing, breathing, and just being is essential to our well-being and mental health because it helps us reduce stress, worry less and it enhances feelings of resiliency.

More to come in the next issue!!

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From Pastor Nathan:

My favorite Bible Verse is the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:16-20. *¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

There are a lot of reasons why this is my favorite. It provides the missional impetus for the formation of the Christian church as well as delineating what our tasks and responsibilities are. It includes one of the most profound statements on Jesus' authority in the Christian scriptures that He then imparts to us.

It comforts the church in all ages (I am with you always), and lifts up the reality that all of the work of mission and ministry in which we engage is really Jesus engage in mission and ministry through us, and us on His behalf. We are never alone, never forgotten, always empowered, and sets the stage for who we are called to be.

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**MY FAVORITE
BIBLE
VERSES**

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2

My favorite scripture is Psalm 121 (KJV) - "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills...." When I was a youngster growing up on a Missouri farm I would frequently sit behind the barn on a concrete watering trough and gaze across a beautiful valley to the wooded hills beyond - actually I covered that terrain when I walked a mile to a country school.

When I was older and came upon Psalm 121 that scene came to mind and always brought a sense of peace. It just doesn't get any more nostalgic than that!

Contributed by Ann Steward

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Friendship

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an additional word related to friendship.

D	C	B	C	C	A	M	D	K	C	O	F	A	S	R
N	E	O	O	A	O	N	Y	O	I	R	G	S	D	Y
E	T	Y	N	E	E	M	M	T	I	N	E	I	H	L
I	A	F	F	L	V	R	P	E	I	N	S	T	M	L
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Y	S	G	O	O	D	T	I	M	E	S	R	U	I	O
S	C	H	U	M	H	O	N	E	S	T	Y	F	S	V
E	C	N	A	T	N	I	A	U	Q	C	A	U	E	A
Y	H	T	A	P	M	E	S	S	E	N	D	N	O	F

ACQUAINTANCE	COMPANION	HONESTY
AFFECTION	COMRADE	KINSHIP
AFFINITY	CONFIDE	LEND
ALLY	EMPATHY	LOYALTY
AMIGO	FAVOR	PAL
AMITY	FONDNESS	ROOMMATE
BOYFRIEND	FRIENDLINESS	SHARE
BUDDY	FUN	SUPPORTIVE
CHUM	GIRLFRIEND	SYMPATHY
CLOSENESS	GOOD TIMES	TRUST

Proverbs 16:31 (NLT)

**Gray hair is a crown of
Glory; it is gained by living
a Godly life.**

Provided by John Payne