

# ***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**

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**Rev. Nathan W. Carlson, Senior Pastor**  
**[ncarlson@oakhurstumc.com](mailto:ncarlson@oakhurstumc.com)**

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

## Luther B. Brown

Luther B. Brown, 89, of Redington Shores FL died at home on August 3, 2021. The son of Luther L. Brown and Beulah H. Boyd of Brogue, PA he is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Patricia A. Wolf, children: Lisa Hatfield (Rob) of Normandy, TN; Paul Brown (Janet), Westminster MD; and Tim Brown (Justine), Rwanda, Africa. Grandchildren: Chad, Ross, Tyler and Piers Hatfield; Phillip and Stephanie Pate, Michael Brown; Albert and Viktor Brown. Two brothers, Royce Brown (Hazel) of Estero FL, and Glenn (Joyce), York PA and many nieces and nephews.

Luther graduated from Red Lion High School in 1952 and after serving three years in the US Army, he earned an electrical engineering degree from Penn State University. He went to work for Fincor in York, PA until 1968, and then he and his family moved to Glen Ellyn, IL where he worked for Koppers CO. In 1975, in a garage on South George Street in York, PA, he and a partner started Red Lion Controls. He travelled the world for RLC and continued travelling extensively after retirement with his wife, Pat, throughout the United States, Europe, and South America often cruising on boats.

He enjoyed playing golf and dancing with Pat. His love of travel continued when he began sailing the Sea Lion on the Chesapeake making three trips on the Inland Waterway to Florida. He was a member of Oakhurst United Methodist Church, Seminole FL.

Luther was known to all for his subtle humor and good nature. He worked hard and lead by example, building a strong foundation that keeps his family centered. His true love and devotion to his wife and family brought them endless joy, and his kindness and generosity will be greatly missed.

Burial will be at sea with a celebration of life service planned at a future date. Arrangements are being made by the Neptune Society of Palm Harbor, FL. The family wishes to thank the staff of Hospice for their exceptional care and service. Memorial contributions can be made to Suncoast Hospice Foundation, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd, Clearwater FL, 33760.



2016 Directory Picture  
of Luther and Pat

**Know, Live, and Speak the Truth. Be Brave**  
(Getting Goods and Cash to Cuba)

By Annette Clairry

Pastor Nathan asked us this week to Know, live and speak the truth. He noted this takes bravery. This applies to our Cuba ministry. We know our brothers and sisters in Cuba have great need. We can help. We know this to be true. But getting goods and cash to Cuba is not for the faint of heart. It is for the brave because it is hard.

It's been harder since COVID. We used to get provisions to Cuba personally - carrying it in our suitcases packed to 50 lbs. apiece. Oakhurst's congregation generously donated needed items and cash. Our mission envoy, surrounded by the hospitality of our Cuban brothers & sisters in Colon, enjoyed a week of evangelism and fellowship while delivering much needed supplies and cash. Our last Cuba mission trip was March 2020 - returning 2 days before the COVID travel lockdown/restrictions which remain in place today.



How do we get things to Cuba now? Honestly, it can change by the day. Our mission team looks to find the best way to send things daily. Why? Because the cost of sending aid is increasing and sending options change frequently. Directly mailing or shipping items from the US to Cuba is restricted to <\$200 value and limited to 22 lbs. Cuba General Customs can confiscate packages or send back to the sender. Regarding money - Cuba discontinued its national currency, the CUC, this summer. American money is the preferred currency to send. Wiring money to Cuba through U.S. banks is not allowed. Transaction fees charged by organizations we use to wire money, have increased tremendously.

We have received questions about how we send provisions to Cuba. Look for our next article for the details of how we are currently accomplishing the task.

Here is a message we received last week from Pastora Marlys Leyva from our sister church: "We are praying for our congregation (as) we have many (people) with COVID. We love you and ask for prayer for our congregation that the Lord heal. A big hug to all my brothers and sisters in Florida. May God bless you very much and grant you the requests of your heart."

Please pray for Cuba. Thank you.

If you want to learn more contact Gary Clairry ([gsclairry@gmail.com](mailto:gsclairry@gmail.com)), Dawn Curtis ([jump59@msn.com](mailto:jump59@msn.com))

Alison Lawrence has completed her studies and will receive her Master's Degree from the University of Central Florida in the field of Social Work. She took night classes online and still worked full time while studying. I am so proud of my daughter for her accomplishment. Nancy Lawrence



Alison Lawrence

# Giovanni Arroyo Named General Secretary of Religion and Race

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, an ordained elder and member of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, has been elected as the General Secretary (chief executive) for The United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race, effective August 31, 2021.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, president of the Commission's board of directors, made the announcement July 6.

"The board cannot wait to see how God is going to use the tremendous gifts God has given Dr. Arroyo as he takes the lead chair of the agency. His experience, talent, and lifelong commitment to the work of dismantling racism is invaluable at this critical juncture in the life of the church and the world," the bishop said.



**Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo**

With his election, the Rev. Dr. Arroyo will be the first-ever Latinx person to head a denomination-wide agency. "I am humbled, honored and excited for the opportunity to lead The General Commission on Religion and Race in its ongoing innovative work," said Arroyo. *"Le doy gracias a Dios por los líderes que han sido parte de mi formación para que hoy puede dirigir GCORR hacia la próxima etapa del trabajo de justicia racial alrededor del mundo. Les pido sus oraciones para que Dios sea manifestado en todo lo que hagamos."*

*(English translation: "I give thanks to God for the leaders that have been part of my formation so that today I can lead GCORR to its next phase of racial justice work globally. I ask for your prayers so God can be manifested in all that we do.")*

The Rev. Dr. Arroyo has worked for the Commission as Team Leader for Monitoring and Advocacy, and since 2013 as Team Leader for Program Ministries. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City, he started professional ministry in 2001 as pastor of Iglesia Metodista Unida El Camino and served as one of three chaplains caring for families, victims, and survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. He was at Bellevue Hospital where 287 survivors received medical care following the attack, and also comforted family members at the city morgue.



The Rev. Dr. Arroyo previously served cross-racial/cross-cultural pastorates in both New York and Baltimore-Washington conferences, while also leading Religion and Race and Hispanic-Latinx ministries. Before becoming ordained, he was a researcher at The City College of New York in language acquisition and experimental psychology. He did further research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute on exposure to violence and child abuse and at the National Development and Research Institute with young adult drug users. He also served as adjunct faculty, teaching English as a second language and world religions.

Deaconess M. Garlinda Burton, who has been serving as interim executive during the GCORR board search process, also applauded Dr. Arroyo's election.

"Giovanni is one of the most potent United Methodist voices for racial justice, not just for the church in the United States, but across our worldwide communion," Ms. Burton said. "To elect him Religion and Race's General Secretary in this moment gives me assurance that this Commission's work of helping build God's just and peaceable kin-dom will move to its next great level."

# Dear God, thank you for everything!

Back Packs—All Ready To Go! Thank you to all who donated their time and purchased supplies to make this happen. We even included a message from Oakhurst UMC.



## Don't Forget!

- ◇ Aug 21—Food Drive
- ◇ Aug 29—Children's Home Offering
- ◇ Sept 1—A Discussion With Pastor Nathan
- ◇ Sept 5—Flu Shots and Vaccinations
- ◇ Sept 19—Back to Church Sunday
- ◇ Oct 20—Baby Basics Luncheon and Silent Auction



# WEEKLY PUZZLE

## Back to School

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

BUS  
 TEACHER  
 SCHOOL  
 CRAYONS  
 PAPER  
 FUN  
 PLAYGROUND  
 BOOKBAG  
 PENCIL  
 COMPUTER  
 LEARN  
 READ  
 WRITE





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