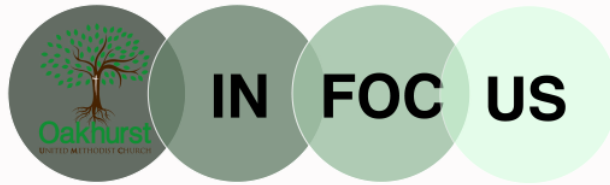


F.H. & L.

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



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**Our Mission is to make disciples, who make disciples,
who transform the World.**

FIRST TIME GUESTS: Text Hello to 727-732-3550 to receive info from Oakhurst UMC.

October 2021

Volume 40

NOT RECEIVING OUR CHURCH E-MAILS: TEAR AND DROP IN OFFERING

NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Friday, October 1st—Music In The Park

The Rolling Stones tribute last Friday night was really good. I estimated over 1,000 persons in attendance. Getting our church name into the community event (at the bottom of the banner over the stage).

Neil Diamond tribute this Friday night. Come out and join us. Rick Jacobson



Pecans for Sale—\$14 a Pound

UMW is collecting gently used items for their annual Thrift Sale.

Any Questions? Contact: Lorraine Mayfield-Brown



A Message From Lin Johnson...

It was so exciting and moving to see Deb Ralph's video interview with Pastor Nathan last Sunday... what a tribute to our faith and the calling one receives to serve others through missions.

Deb sold everything she owned in 2019 and moved to Kenya to assist in the building of a school for children with disabilities. While these children are not abandoned by their families, they are considered cursed by their culture... often hidden... leaving no chance for an education or becoming a functioning human being in the world. They are often left to begging in the streets to survive.

As you read Deb's letter you will see much has been done with very little to change the lives of these children through her efforts.

We hope you will find it in your hearts to donate to Deb's mission project with a generous spirit. In reward of your gifts of \$25 or more, we have hand made stone statues and beaded bracelets/ key chains from Kenya. Remember ...every gift large or small is appreciated.

Thank you for realizing Deb's continued efforts in this amazing opportunity for children that otherwise hold no hope...Be the miracle in their lives ❤️



KENYA UPDATE AUGUST 2021

To my lovely church family!

I greet you all in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ

I want to sincerely appreciate the moral, spiritual and financial support you have continuously accorded. It has meant a great deal to me and in fact has brought me through a difficult year dealing with sickness, anxiety, and physically adjusting to the food and sometimes harsh environment here. I thank God for you every day as between you and my Kenya church family I am truly blessed. Praise be to God I am doing well now and strong in the Lord.

I am delighted to report that the project at Tabata where we are building the school for children with disabilities is progressing well. When I first arrived in November 2019 there was a lot of work completed on the renovation of the existing buildings and the building of the washrooms addition with the donation we had sent over earlier. One of the first jobs I had to do was to get with the Synod office accounting clerk and sort out all the receipts and teach him how to manage the online accounting system that I had set up. Through working together, we were able to balance the accounts and upload all the receipts and that is something I monitor each week as we receive donations and buy materials and continue work. His accounting methods and knowledge have grown by being involved in this mission so God is always working in more ways than just the project. I have also been assisting other mission activities like planting new churches which has given me a lot of fulfillment. This is one of the things I really enjoy about being on mission doing Gods' work.

The project was held up a little this year as the Reverend heading our project team came down with Covid very severely and was in hospital on oxygen. It took about 6 weeks for him to be well enough to work, but we thank God that he has healed and is strong now.

To date we have completed all the renovations including the washroom additions and roof, all electrical work and fittings, all plumbing and fittings and drainage. We have installed a water tank and supporting tower and have connected to the local water supply, which originates from a river nearby. It was exciting last month to see the place really becoming useable, with toilets and showers and basins all in place and running water! We still have to do all the finishing work to the buildings which includes 2 dormitories, the 2 washroom areas and 3 classrooms. This includes, painting, tiling, additional concreting and leveling of floor spaces etc. After that we need to construct a temporary kitchen and store room which will be satisfactory for the opening of this Phase I of the project. Once this is complete then we will need to purchase all the supplies; beds and linens/pillows etc., desks and chairs, teacher's desks and chairs, educational materials. Once everything is almost complete we will then be inspected by the government to ensure we are certified. We are working on the registration of the school currently. As this is a church/government school we will receive teachers from the government for free and also as I understand some of the educational materials.

Our synod disability committee has a special needs teacher who will be assisting with the set-up of the actual curriculum and the process of assessment for the children that will be accepted at this school which is focused on physical disabilities. The long-term goal of the school is to not only educate but to teach life skills and crafts/trades that will allow the students to support their upkeep at school by selling the same and as they get older to be able to make their way in the community.

I am currently working on planning an educational community meeting, led by the area Chief to educate the surrounding villages on disability, to alleviate the problem of the old myths and beliefs that these children are a curse. To let them know what is available to them from the government (there is a countrywide register and financial help available including wheelchairs and crutches too) and where they can go for assistance, and of course, to let them know about the school. We will co-ordinate this with the area Chief, the government representative, the area Reverends and the Synod disability committee so that there will be great coverage of all aspects of life with disability and the acceptance and empowerment that needs to generate through the community.

Thank you all so much for being part of this Kingdom project through your prayers and donations. As you can see, we, as a church are achieving something wonderful here in this rural community, and I wish you were here to see the excitement and appreciation of the people who live in this area.

God bless you so much!!

Much love to everyone,

Deb (Kagwiria)
Meru County, Kenya

Weekly Puzzle

Autumn Sudoku Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the missing numbers (from 1 to 9) to solve the Sudoku puzzle. Each column, row and 3x3 subgrid **must** only contain each number once.

8				6		3	4	
9	2	4	5	3		6		7
7	3		4	2	1	8		9
	6	9	8				2	4
2		1	7	4		9		5
3		7	2	5	9		8	6
1	5		6		2			
6	9		3		4	5	7	1
4		3		9	5	2	6	8



Contact Us Via E-mail!

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Leticia (Lety) Cruz (officemgr@oakhurstumc.com)

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What's Happening at Oakhurst UMC:

- ◇ Oct—UMW World Thank Offering Month
- ◇ Oct 8/Oct 15—Music in the Park, a OUMC Sponsored Event
- ◇ Oct 17—Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- ◇ Oct 23/24—Fall and Christmas Bazaar
- ◇ Oct 29—Field of Screams at Seminole Rec Center
- ◇ Oct 31—Children's Home Sunday

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