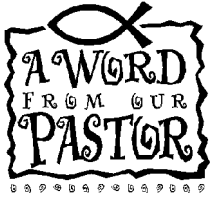


# THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
200 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> Street  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972-4174  
Phone (863) 763-4021  
www.fumcokee.com

JANUARY, 2018



Can you believe that 2018 is here, Happy New Year! Every New Year is an exciting time of new opportunities and challenges. I am so thankful for 2017 in spite of many challenges, especially with Joy's health. We made a move to the wonderful town of Okeechobee and into a brand new home. We have met a whole new congregation in a part of the state in which neither of us has ever lived and it has been great. 2018 will hopefully have neither health scares nor moves, but will be a time of settling in and getting to know you and the community better and vice-versa.

Joy and I have been overwhelmed by the cards, gifts and expressions of love that you have shown us this year and especially this Christmas season, thank you! I loved the card exchange in the Fellowship Hall. At \$.49 each, we have saved hundreds of dollars by giving and picking them up.

It is my hope that all of us will have a wonderful 2018, but I know there will be trials and tribulations that will come this year. We can wonder and worry about what may come or we can thank God for today and enjoy it to the fullest. Today is all that we have. Tomorrow may come, but I can't live a minute of tomorrow today. I believe in a variation of something I once heard, "90% of the things I worried about never happened and 90% of the troubles I have had, I never saw coming." Enjoy today, enjoy 2018 and give God thanks for all of your blessings!

Don

The Finance Committee thanks the congregation for your wonderful support during 2017. Thanks to a very special gift, we were able to pay 100% of our Conference Apportionments for 2017 and maintain a positive balance going into the new year. Thank you for your continued giving.



FROM PARISH NURSE DIANA SAUM, RN: Cold and Flu Quiz

1. Cold weather increases your risk of developing a cold or the flu  
 True     False
2. Flu season usually peaks in February  
 True     False
3. Antibacterial soaps are a good way to prevent cold and flu germs from spreading  
 True     False
4. A person can spread a cold or the flu even before they show symptoms  
 True     False
5. You should always stay home from work if you have cold  
 True     False

(Answers on next page)

**NANCY'S RETIREMENT PARTY** - We honored Nancy for her retirement on December 3, during the Christmas Dinner. Nancy was presented with flowers from her children and a nice monetary gift from the congregation. Best wishes to Nancy and Ed on her retirement!

**SECURITY TEAM** - The Security Team has begun reviewing our security issues. We have received information from the Conference, Homeland Security, and the City Police Dept. and have met with Sgt. Eddings of the City Police Dept. to make recommendations to the Church Council.



We have sold the old parsonage and received \$156,000 to apply to our loan for the new parsonage. Our balance is now \$75,000. Please continue to support the Parsonage Fund to help us pay off this loan.

A big thank you to Becky Barnhart, Totty Davis, Gail Minor and Toni Doyle for decorating the Sanctuary; and Cheri Watford and Robbin Dawson for decorating the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season. Thanks to Richard Kersey, Dowling and Cheri Watford and Jeanne Enfinger for cooking for the Christmas Dinner and to all those who volunteered to clean-up.



**COLD AND FLU QUIZ (Answers)**

1. True

Flu viruses survive best when humidity is lowest, which usually means winter. And cold viruses may multiply more efficiently when temperatures in nasal cavities (in mice, anyway, according to one 2015 study) go below 98.6 F

2. True

Most flu cases usually appear in February, and the season often extends well into March, according to the Centers for Disease Control Prevention

3. False

There's no evidence that antibacterial soaps work better than regular soap and water at preventing a cold or the flu. And overuse of these soaps may contribute to the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Our experts say, to be safe, you're better off sticking with regular soap and

water. For hand hygiene on the go, the CDC recommends sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol, such as Germ-X and Purell.

4. True

Most people are contagious for a day or so before their symptoms become apparent. The risk of spreading the disease tends to diminish along with the symptoms, though you can be contagious for more than a week. So it's important to practice scrupulous hygiene during the whole cold and flu season, not just when you're around someone who looks or sounds sick.

5. False

Staying home with a cold is a good idea if possible, but it's not as important as it is for the flu. For one thing, colds are less likely to trigger serious complications, so they don't require as many precautions. For another, colds usually aren't as severe, making it easier for you to maintain a normal schedule. The flu, on the other hand, is both more dangerous and more debilitating, which makes staying home essential for you – and those around you.



2<sup>nd</sup> - Sheila Brown

4<sup>th</sup> - Beth Lehman, Ronda Watt, Carley Ostavitz, Keith Poole

5<sup>th</sup> - Jordan Bolen

6<sup>th</sup> - Diane Thrift

8<sup>th</sup> - Taylor Rathbun

11<sup>th</sup> - Martha Watford

13<sup>th</sup> - Rosetta Gunsalus

16<sup>th</sup> - Alice Tyson

21<sup>st</sup> - Dowling Watford, Jr.

22<sup>nd</sup> - Kelsey Burnham, Ayden Wyatt, Diana Saum, Annarose Hill

23<sup>rd</sup> - Joe Wolf

24<sup>th</sup> - Joshua Rivera, Margaret C. Smith

25<sup>th</sup> - Richard Kersey

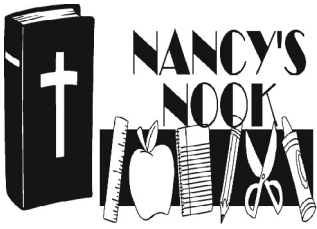
27<sup>th</sup> - Peregrino Ragamat, Bennett Yeilding

28<sup>th</sup> - Raye Marie Deusinger

29<sup>th</sup> - Millie Blesy

30<sup>th</sup> - Mariettes Sienes

If you birthday or anniversary is incorrect or has been omitted, please call the Church Office



## NANCY'S NOOK

I don't know about anyone else, but as retirement approaches during the Christmas time and I write this, I am wondering what kind of legacy I will leave. Of all the churches I have served in 37 years of ministry, this one has been the most comfortable. Partly because I was trusted enough to be able to freely use what God laid upon my heart to do, but mostly because of a loving, supporting congregation. Thank you.

God blessed me with a love for Him and for children. I guess you could call it a passion. Then He provided opportunities to serve Him and personally grow in a myriad of ways. When in 1995 my husband, Bill, survived a massive stroke, God provided interim positions which provided for us as well. Through those experiences, I learned how to serve, love and "pass the baton." After he passed, I wanted to get closer geographically to my youngest child who was going to college in North Carolina, because he was not doing well after his daddy's death. Almost out of the blue, I received the offer of a position less than an hour away from my son. While serving that church, I realized that I needed to get closer to my aging parents here. Our good God provided a ministry right here in the same town as they were living! Serving with Pastor Bruce, Robbin, Jim, Michelle and now Pastor Don and all of the volunteers is something I will treasure in my heart.

Partly because of the type of stroke Bill suffered and partly because of the unique challenges which arose in different interim positions where I was serving, I was able to become a student of the human brain, especially ones that had been injured. This helped me in N.C. with more than one situation. There will never be a computer to match the miracle of the human brain, how it functions and how it can "reroute" signals to

compensate for injury. I also became a student of how a child's spirituality develops...uniquely different than physical and mental development. If I were to outline all of the other "God-incidences" (I don't believe in coincidence) it would take many chapters and I would probably bore you! But there is no greater fulfillment than to know that you have been used by God!

You know what a bittersweet time this is for me. I don't like leaving "my" children when I have not had the opportunity to share with a new person all the unique, precious creatures they are. Perhaps this is just another test of my "letting go and letting God." The only thing I can do is lean into my faith, trust, be obedient and pray. God has blessed me with the perfect mate for this time. He has been patient, embraced my passion for our children and helped tremendously. Now it is time for us to concentrate on the love He has given us for each other. But it is with tears in my eyes that I finish this and say, "God be with us until we meet again."

In His love,

Nancy



The Global Life Committee's Giving Trees for January will be for CROS (Christians Reaching Out to Society) Ministries.

Items being asked for will be canned meats, canned fruit, canned or packaged soups, canned tomato sauce, dry rice, dry or canned beans, gently used clothing, baby diapers, adult diapers and travel items like shampoo, tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, razors or lotion. CROS Ministries is an interfaith ministry serving Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. CROS is 39 years old. They are part of our Atlantic Central District and Florida Conference.

