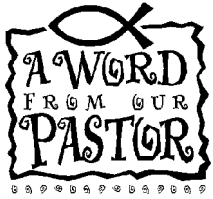


THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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FEBRUARY, 2019



We are winding down our study of *A Disciple's Path* and I want to thank everyone for being with us through this journey. We are all on that path even when we don't realize it. So much these days I find myself on the highway more than on paths and byways. We want to hurry up and get to our destination rather than enjoying the journey. My last trip on the turnpike in Orlando felt like it might be my last trip anywhere. There was a close call as traffic came to an abrupt stop. Had I not been hurrying along like everyone else, things would not have been as close as they were, but it was a reminder that even on highways, I need to slow down and enjoy the journey. I look forward to Heaven, but I love life and want to live as long and as well as I can on this side

During the study, we have been looking at our membership vows to support the United Methodist Church with our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. During the study, I have recommitted myself to these vows and my additional vows of ordination. I have been praying for our church here in Okeechobee and the United Methodist Church as a whole. This month, our denomination meets in a called session of the General Conference to debate matters of human sexuality and the churches stand. None of us know what that session will decide, but I am praying for God's will to be done. In one way, we will all be affected by that Conference and in another, none of us will be affected. We might find ourselves in a denomination with which we disagree. I already am. For many years, I have had disagreements with decisions by the General Conference, the

Florida Conference and sometimes even the local churches that I have served. The United Methodist Church is huge and we do not all agree on everything even in our own households. It is in this second way that none of us may be affected because nothing the General Conference decides will change anything here in Okeechobee. There is a good chance that the General Conference will decide not to do anything and maintain the status quo. Since I do not know and because I have no vote, I will pray, wait and pray. I will stay on the path and look for God to guide me and to lead us into the future.

Of one thing I am certain; I want us to hang together as a congregation. We have history with one another and we are family. This is your church and I will serve it for a season, but in 10 years at the longest, I will be retiring and this will still be your church. Let us do all we can to strengthen our church in the bonds of love through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Blessings,

Pastor Don

VALENTINE DINNER

Friday, February 15 - 6:00 p.m.

Menu: Frenched Pork Chop w/glaze,
Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll, Dessert

Cost: \$15.00 Per Person

Hosts: United Methodist Men

Nursery Available

Proceeds to benefit Youth Mission Trip



VALENTINE COOKIES/GIFTS FOR SHUT-INS will be delivered beginning Wednesday, February 13. Donations of homemade cookies are requested to be brought to the Fellowship Hall by 1:30 p.m. on that day. Give your suggestions of any shut-ins who should be included to Cynthia Yoder or Opal Wolff. Volunteers are also needed to visit the shut-ins.

The United Methodist Men are considering a project to replace the hymnals and will discuss at their February meeting. The men cooked for the fund-raising breakfast for Henderson Settlement and will sponsor the Valentine Dinner on February 15. The guest speaker/program for the next UMM meeting on February 18 will be Dr. Joseph Noel with the Okeechobee School District.



SECURITY TEAM: The Security Team still needs additional volunteers to help monitor the front doors and Fellowship Hall during all services. Please see Dowling Watford or call the Church Office to volunteer. The team continues to meet and will have first aid and AED training at their next meeting on February 12.



Since "A Disciple's Path" will meet on the day and time the Circles usually meet in February, there will be no regular Circle meetings in February. All Circle members are invited to attend the Executive Committee meeting on Monday, February 4 at 5:45 p.m. to be aware of UMW business and participate in planning.



THE "FLU": The immune system often gets weaker with age, especially older than 65. The strain the flu puts on older lungs makes them more susceptible to pneumonia. Between 70-90% of flu related deaths and 50-70% of flu related hospitalizations occur among older adults. The fix: Get the flu vaccine every year, avoid people who are sick and wash your hands frequently. If you get the flu, contact your doctor early to ask about anti-viral treatment. Potentially dangerous flu symptoms, such as shortness of breath, pressure in the chest, sudden dizziness, confusion, vomiting and high fever, should prompt a trip to the emergency room

(Taken from CR-On Health2/19)



- 2nd - Melanie Rathbun, Don Hanna
- 4th - Joseph Hall, Brooke Ragamat
- 6th - Tammy Bean
- 7th - M/M Steve Rathbun
- 13th - Rebecca Wyatt
- 14th - James Marquis, M/M George Carpenter, Pat Wemmer, M/M Vance Shirley
- 15th - Elaine Keller, Hannah Rucks-Zaoui
- 17th - Kerry Simmons
- 18th - Angela Mintz, Tommy Raulerson
- 19th - Ruth Yeilding, Betty Clement, Josiah Harris
- 20th - Pat Tenniswood
- 21st - Jessica Suit
- 23rd - Tammy Rhodes, M/M Keith Poole
- 24th - Justin Murphy, M/M Walter Taylor
- 25th - M/M George Cooper
- 26th - Louise Head
- 27th - Dorothy Richardson
- 28th - Alice Steiner, Karyne Brass

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