



Quarterly News

October, November, December 2021

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A Message from Pastor Doug

Greetings to the faithful in Christ,

In April, I began encouraging discipleship behaviors. Since April we have spent a month on each of six habits found in a disciple: prayer, scripture, meditation, fasting, worship, and witness. How well have you been doing these things? I noticed these practices have some alignment with church membership vows and the marriage covenant. Each person who has joined the church did so by affirming they would support this church by their: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Each person married in the church made a vow to live together in holy marriage, to love, to comfort, to honor, to keep in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others be faithful as long as you

live. They also promised to have and hold, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness, in health, to love and cherish, until death. Imagine what it would be like if your participation in the church reflected some of the characteristics of the marriage covenant.

How might your participation in the life of the church be different? Your participation in the church would not be limited to coming when everything was fine or when everything was going the way you like it. Your membership vows would be framed in love and honor. You would exercise those vows in sickness and health and forsaking all else be eternally faithful. Here you would continue to live life in the community even through epidemics (when personally safe) and you would forsake everything (sports, dance, sleeping in, personal preference et.al.) that gets in the way of your full participation. Nothing would distract you from your prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness, and worship. Hopefully, as we move toward control of the Covid-19 virus, many more of you will be returning to church. I want you to know, your church has not changed. We are still concerned with issues of justice and mercy. We still support important and needed services in our community. We remain a church on mission to love, grow, and serve. We remain a church that understands the importance of an invitation and in connecting with others. We believe in personal and corporate transformation. We believe what results from this is demonstrated by serving others. What has changed is the time for and style of worship service. I need to thank everyone for your willingness to compromise in this season of Covid. Hopefully, soon we will be bursting out the doors and will need to reinstate two services. Until that time, quit asking "When?" and start asking, "What can I do differently?"

Pastor Doug

Family Game Night—Bringing Fun to Family Time by Kathy Gordon

Family Game Night was a great success, thanks to Workson, his team, and volunteers! 73 people played 12 kinds of fun games. Race to 100 was the favorite part of the night, although many raved about the amazing food from the taco truck, Mi Cabana. (Made possible by Wendi Skinner—Thanks, Wendi!) After the games (and food) they sang, announced upcoming events like the car wash, Warren Willis Retreat, and the next lock-in. The Jamison family swept the family category, and Nate Billiott was the Star Youth of the night.



Boy Scout Troop 812 by Kathy Gordon

Our chartered boy scout troop hasn't slowed down this year, with four scouts earning their Eagle rank, with two more Eagle Scouts to come. In January 13, Luke Schincariol earned his Eagle rank with his project of three benches along the Florida Trail that runs through Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Gunnar Gabrielson earned his Eagle rank on February 24 for leading renovations of the historic Banner Lake Cemetery on SE Florida Avenue, Hobe Sound. On March

19, Rhett Krueberg's project in Riverbend Park on West Indiantown Road, Jupiter, was to build benches and bat houses. Ian Wood is awaiting the Board of Review's decision regarding his project with the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast. Ian's project involved proper storage for tools and crates. The latest project by Ben Coburn is for a fence and storage area for our church, in the southwest area of our property. Once his project is fully funded and licensed,

you can expect to see the Boy Scouts building on the west side of



Scan for Go Fund Me

our church. If you want to know more, just ask Jesse Young, our troop liaison. To show your support, contact Chuck Barrowclough, their Eagle Coordinator if you want to donate your time and skills, or you can donate your treasures by scanning this QR code for Ben's Go Fund Me account.

Join the Mighty Fighting Soldiers of UMC Choir by Elliott, Choir Director, and Barbara, Accompanist

Hip, hip, hooray, there's no time to delay. Choir is back, and ready to rock. Come on out and join us now for a time to shout and a time to sing. If you have a voice, if you have a song, sing to the Lord with all your heart. Rejoice and be glad that you found your voice and join the mighty fighting soldiers of the UMC Choir. We are looking for those individuals who want to serve and worship the Lord through music.

brand new season in 2021-2022 where we can fellowship, love one another, and sing with purpose. **WE WANT YOU!!** If you're interested, just show up on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 6 PM in the Sanctuary. Our vision is to have a men's quartet, a lady's ensemble, a hymn choir, and people who have special talents to sing solo or play an instrument. We will only meet 30 minutes to begin. Please reach out to us on Sunday



mornings with questions.

Remember, the holidays are right around the corner, and we are looking for singers and musicians for our Holiday Extravaganza so get ready to sing and lift your voice during the month of December.

Barbara & Elliott's Top Ten Reasons to Sing

1. The Bible tells us to sing.
2. Psalms are the word of God.
3. Psalms are the songs Jesus sang.
4. Songs teach us about God
5. Singing unifies our church families.
6. Singing connects us emotionally.
7. We should make a "joyful noise unto the Lord."
8. We should bless God's name when we sing.
9. Song inspires worship
10. Singing draws people together.

*Shout for joy to the Lord,
all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with
gladness; come before
him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is
God. It is he who made
us, and we are his;
we are his people,
the sheep of his pasture.*

(Psalm 100 NIV)



11/13 & 14, Fellowship Hall Shoppers Paradise Holiday Fair, offering fantastic deals on gently used holiday items. Donations are being accepted now. If you want to share your holiday spirit, volunteer positions are also available.

Pastor Bible Study Agenda

Tuesdays 10 AM & 7 PM, workroom & online

10/5/2021	Let's Try to Get Along	Matthew 13:53-17:27
10/12/2021	Childish Behavior	Matthew 18:1-35
10/19/2021	Open	
10/26/2021	From Galilee with Love	Matthew 19:1-20:28
11/2/2021	Things Kings Do Part 1	Matthew 20:29-22:14
11/9/2021	Things Kings Do Part 2	Matthew 22:15-23:39
11/16/2021	Things Kings Do Part 3	Matthew 24:1-25:46
11/23/2021	What My King Did	Matthew 26:1-28:20
11/30/2021	Advent Study	
12/7/2021	Advent Study	
12/14/2021	Advent Study	
12/21/2021	Advent Study	
12/28/2021	Off Day	

Ministry Interest Survey by Don Brown (Available at the Welcome Desk or in the office.)

Which of these ministry areas do you have time and skills to help support?

- CARING** – Helping others who may need meals, transportation, help with phone calls.
- MISSION** – Support organizations in our community or other places using your time, or through donations.
- HOSPITALITY** – Help to make those who come on our campus feel a special welcome, greeting, directions, refreshments.
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – Participate in community organizations which work to make our community a joyful place.
- WORSHIP** – Help to support the activities in our worship services, music, drama, ushering, and preparing Communion.
- ADULT GROUPS** – Provide leadership in an adult Bible class or study group.
- TECHNOLOGY** – Help to maintain and expand our technologies, audio, video, computer, and networks.
- CHILDREN** – Assist in our Children's Ministry, as a leader or a helper.
- YOUTH** – Assist in our Youth ministry, as a leader or a helper.
- SHOPPERS PARADISE** – Assist in the operation of our Shopper's Paradise Thrift Store.

You can also list your own ministry interest, if it isn't listed above. There are many ways to serve, to get involved, and to grow in your relationship with God by serving others. Feel free to contact the office at 772-546-3303, submit your survey on the Church Center App, or look deeper into the many ministries of our church at <https://fumchs.churchcenter.com/groups/caring>.



Blessing Bags Wish List

- ◊ Gallon Ziploc Bags
- ◊ Band-aids
- ◊ Wipes
- ◊ Hand Sanitizer
- ◊ Wash Cloth
- ◊ Toothpaste
- ◊ Toothbrush
- ◊ Floss
- ◊ Small Bar Soap
- ◊ Shampoo
- ◊ Deodorant
- ◊ Brush/Comb/Hair Bands
- ◊ Chapstick
- ◊ socks
- ◊ Gift Card \$5
- ◊ NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Family Promise Wish List

- ◊ Gas Gift Cards
 - ◊ Winn Dixie Gift Cards
 - ◊ Local restaurant Gift Cards
- Feel free to drop off donations at the church office.*

Carol Werner Prayer Shawl Ministry Wish List

- ◊ Medium or Large Gift Bags
 - ◊ Tissue Wrapping Paper
- Donations can be dropped off at the church office.*

Shoppers Paradise Thrift Shop Wish List

- ◊ Gently Used Clothing
 - ◊ Gently Used Household Items
 - ◊ Good Condition Furniture
- Drop off Tue/Thu/Fri/Sat from 10 AM to 1 PM or in the blue bin 24 hours.*

Habitat for Humanity by Kathy Gordon

18 cookie-cutter homes are scheduled to be built in December 2021, beginning with 1 to 2 homes at a time off Pettway Street in Hobe Sound. Homes are built with green products, but not certified due to cost. The first 6 families are approved, and willing to put in their own 300 sweat hours, alongside volunteers from the 800 total Habitat for Humanity volunteers who caravan around the US to help. There is a savings of \$25,000 to 35,000 because of these dedicated volunteers, “building community through faith.” All materials are donated.

The Pettway Hobe Sound development follows the 40 houses built in Carlin Park, in

Indiantown, completed December 2020. Did you know that the average rent in Martin County is \$2,800? There were over 100 applicants for these 18 homes. There are 150 Habitat homes built in Martin County.

Habitat for Humanity gets their ideas from their Faith Relations Board. Elevate Hope and other organizations partner with Habitat for Humanity, as well.

All future homeowners go through a grueling application process. The first time funding is through the county, with no federal funding. Erica Parker, the first homeowner off Pettway, took 9 years to finally qualify, and will live there with her son and daughter.



Lion of Judah Academy of Tanzania by Kathy Gordon

Hart and Lynn Inlow returned from their latest trip to Tanzania, with stories of success and inspiration. The newest additions are the medical dispensary and two dental rooms, both run by the Lion of Judah Academy staff. This summer, a basic dental training for 9 dental technicians was completed, and certified by the Tanzanian Government, making availa-

ble basic dental care for students, staff, and the surrounding community possible.

The school has grown from 10 students in a borrowed room in 2001 to 900 students in 2021, with the highest standards and student success rates in Tanzania.

Samuel Mnyeti is a prime example of a success story for the boarding school. He currently is completing his

residency at a major hospital in Tanzania, after graduating in 2016 from Lion of Judah Academy, and then attending medical school. Thanks to Hart and Lynn, and everyone who make this mission a success for the children and Tanzania.



The Sunday Two-Service Conundrum Editorial by Kathy Gordon

Last July 2021, staff asked for your preferences to the time and the style of Sunday services. Did you know that only 18 paper surveys were turned in, and 51 surveys were completed online, totaling only 69 surveys submitted? As we have almost 500 members for our church, and just as many friends (those who have attended and shared their contact information with us), that is about a 7% response rate.

Here are the results for service type preference: 27 blended, 8 contemporary, and 32 traditional. Traditional parts of our blended service primarily begin a half of an hour through Sunday's

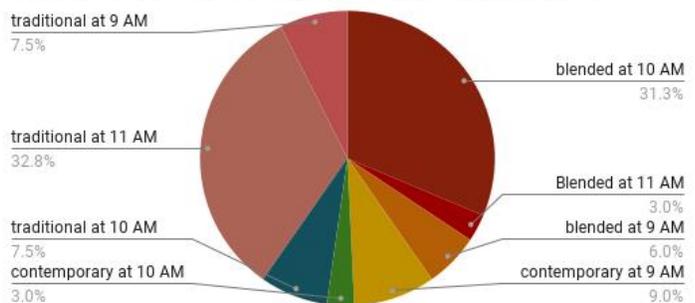
service. Flexibility and understanding have been extended to those who need to get up during service, allowing for alternate seating or movement in the Sanctuary. Some people arrive quietly around 10:30 AM during the first traditional hymn, because of service style preferences, sitting when everyone else sits down again, without much fuss.

The July survey also asked for a preferred time of 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, or 11 AM. The 10:00

AM start time was the most popular, with 28 votes, with 24 for 11:00 AM, and 16 who liked 9:00 AM, and 1 person who indicated no preference for time, as they would attend Sunday service no matter what time it was offered. Below is a graph matching times and style preferences:

(continued on page 7)

Combination Service Style and Time Preferences



The Sunday Two-Service Conundrum, *(continued from page 6)*

So, if traditional happens again at 11 AM, and the second-most preferred service style, blended, is at 10 AM, how will the blended service finish in time for traditional? There is no easy answer, but to say, “we can only do our best.” Whatever happens when it comes time to expand to two Sunday services, the change will be an adjustment for everyone, just as covid has initiated change. And if we can get enough to serve for 2 services, when we consistently are looking for enough people to serve for the one service, how can two services be served without support? There are staff eager to serve for two services, but the video can't be managed by the same person doing the audio, and the visuals, and leading the singing, and playing an instrument (oh, wait, Don Brown does that!) so worship services need more people to serve in order to support two services.

It is hard to resist smiling when someone is smiling at you. The Worship Team probably needs 4 Ushers, 4 Greeters, 1 Welcome Desk, 1 Audio Tech, 1 Visual Tech, 1 Video Tech, 3 to 6 singers, 1 to 4 musicians, 1 Acolyte, 1 Facebook/Online, 3 to serve coffee, 1 Sunday school teacher, and 1 Pastor

to support Sunday service. The invitation is open for people to serve. Now, except for a few Worship Team positions that are filled by staff, double your numbers for the second service too.

Since about 100 people attend Sunday service in the Sanctuary as of September 2021, with about 20 of them on the Worship Team. Let's say that we break that down to two services, then that would make about 30 people in the pews aside from everyone else serving. Since we have a capacity of more than 350 people in the pews prior to covid, we might be overdoing the social distancing if there are only 30 people in the pews. It is reminiscent of the time when the church doors opened again after the covid shutdown, and the pews were eerily empty. It was hard to tell if most were not singing for fear of covid, or was it because our masks muffled our “joyful noise”, or was it because we were so separated, and so far apart we couldn't hear each other.

So many have said that they want to move on from all of this covid stuff and get back to normal. The new normal is just never going to be like it was before. As a church, we've grown and

stretched in new ways, despite covid, especially through technology that has helped us to be more flexible, available, and adaptable. So how do we solve this two-service controversy which seems to be the dominating question as more and more gradually return to in-person Sunday service? Is it really just about the want to have what we had before, denying the reality of what we have learned and adapted to, since covid began? Is it our determination to avoid our feelings of uneasiness with change, grasping at the ghosts of comforts and predictability of the past. And then there's the tougher question of “Who's ready to double our in-person attendance, and double our servers needed for two successfully run Sunday services?” It might just be time to ask a friend to church again. It might also be time to find more ways to serve others.

Ask at the Welcome Desk on Sundays, contact the office at 772-546-3303, or email Kathy Gordon at kgordon@fumchs.org. Everyone has time, talent or treasures to share!



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We are a gathering place on fire with the joy of Christ's Spirit.



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Rev. Dr. Doug McClain's Sunday Sermon Plans

The Upside-Down Kingdom: Shocking Reversals Lead to True Discipleship

10/3/2021	Where the Children Are Blessed	Mark 10:2-16
10/10/2021	Where the Last Are First	Mark 10:17-31
10/17/2021	Where the Least Are the Greatest	Mark 10:35-45
10/24/2021	Where the Blind Can See	Mark 10:46-52

Gifts of Love: We Give to God from the Heart, not from Obligation

10/31/2021	The Greatest Commandment	Mark 12:28-34
11/7/2021	All Saints Sunday—The Greatest Gift	Mark 12:38-44
11/14/2021	First UMCHS Is a Community of Love	Hebrews 10:11-25
11/21/2021	Reign of Christ Sunday—The King of Love	Revelations 1:4b-8

Living "In Between": We wait in the liminal state between Christ's first and second comings

11/28/2021	First Sunday of Advent—Looking for the Fig Tree	Luke 21:25-36
12/5/2021	Repent and Follow	Luke 3:1-6
12/12/2021	What Should We Do?	Luke 3:7-18
12/19/2021	Can They Hear Us Singing?	Luke 1:39-55
12/24/2021	Christmas Eve—Salvation from the Margins	Luke 2:1-20
12/26/2021	The Sound of Silence	Luke 2:39-52