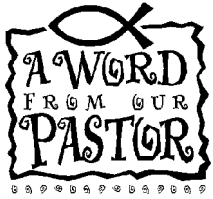


# THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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APRIL, 2018



**Hallelujah, He is Risen!**

We get to celebrate the greatest day in the history of the world on April 1<sup>st</sup> and soon thereafter, say goodbye to many of our winter congregation! Years ago, one of my very best friends was appointed to a church further south than either of us had ever served. He had about 100 people on his first Sunday, but things generally grew. September was showing definite improvement and October was better. By November they were bursting at the seams and added a service. I can still remember his excitement when Palm Sunday was literally overflowing and he personally added chairs down every aisle for Easter. It was a later Easter and you already know how it turned out. In great disappointment, he preached his Easter message to two nearly empty services, or so it felt. By summer, he was back to about 100 people. I know it's coming, or to put it another way, I know that many are leaving. By the first Sunday in March, people were already saying goodbye for the season. Jim keeps reminding me, fearful that I will be devastated when each service is half full.

But we are the church of Jesus wherever we go and I am excited to Celebrate the Resurrection, even if I am saying a lot of goodbyes at the same time. It has been a great first season here in Okeechobee and we will keep being the church for the congregation and the community that is here year round.

At Christmas and Easter, we will see people who may not come at any other time of year. This is

a good thing, not that they come so infrequently, but that people are open to invitation for that one Sunday more than almost any other. All of us need to be praying for people that we can invite this Easter. We also need to be praying for those who come on their own. Jesus died for the lost. We were all there and we who have been found need to open our arms in love to those who are seeking. I don't know if we will need extra chairs this year, but IF everyone invited three people and if just one in ten came, we would struggle to get everyone inside.

As we prepare to celebrate the greatest day in all of creation, may we be ready to welcome all our family and friends and neighbors to this great church!

Blessings,

Pastor Don



**ATTENTION WOMEN:** Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- April 3, 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee
- April 3, 7:00 p.m. - Esther Circle
- April 11, 1:30 p.m. - Ruth Circle
- April 19, 1:30 p.m. - Lydia Circle



We are asking the church to help support the expenses for our youth's mission trip to Brunswick, GA, July 7-15. The goal is \$2,500. This year we will be doing various mission activities. Help us help others in Jesus' name this summer. Thank you for your support.

Beginning, May 6 we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. and all Sunday School classes will begin at 8:30 a.m.



**SECURITY TEAM:** The Security Team recommendations were approved by the Church Council. The Trustees have already begun making some adjustments to the facilities and the Security Team will begin implementing some procedures and training soon. The next Security Team meeting will be April 9.



The UMM thank everyone who attended the chicken dinner in March. Even with other events and lunches on the same day,

we made about \$1,900. The UMM voted to donate \$100 to Henderson Settlement as they have had a decrease in donations during this time of year. The UMM will also help with the spaghetti dinner fundraiser on April 7, for the End the Hunger project at OHS.

With your generous support, we have been able to maintain a good balance. We have paid 2/3 of our insurance to date and about 39% of our Conference apportionments. We have been paying only interest on our parsonage loan, but will begin regular loan payments this month. Thank you for your continued support!



- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Judy Mattern
- 5<sup>th</sup> - William Gillette
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Priscilla Rhodes
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Doc Thrift, Judy McCutchan
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Elsie Close, Ethan Kersey
- 12<sup>th</sup> - M/M Aubrey Burnham
- 13<sup>th</sup> - M/M Clifford Matson
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Lauren Raulerson
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Caitlyn Gaucin, Kendall Harrison
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Chad Clark
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Shaina Ragamat, Tom Yackamouih
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Janice Mohr
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ray Fuller, Ruth Watford, Elwin Kessler
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Nicole Lynch
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Clifford Matson
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Evelyn Cherry
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Jackie Flood
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Ernestine Robertson, Carolyn Sweatt, Judy Simpson, Martha Gillette
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Chelsea Walker

The Community Life Committee is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner (prepared by the UMM).



All proceeds are to benefit the student led End the Hunger project at OHS. This program feeds children at risk of hunger each weekend. Tickets are \$10.00 and the meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Dine-in or carry-out.

