

# THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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MAY, 2018



The annual NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER service sponsored by the Okeechobee Ministerial Association will be held on Thursday, May 3 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on the SE side of the lawn behind the old courthouse.

The Kiwanis will be offering a free lunch. Bring a lawn chair and invite a friend!

We are asking the church to help support the expenses for our youth's mission trip to Brunswick, Georgia, 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.



**SECURITY TEAM:** Great progress has been made on safety and security regarding the church facilities. Many improvements have been made by the Trustees including - upgrades and signage for fire extinguishers; locking doors; lighting; ordering of an AED and radios for communication. Coleen Clark has also restocked the first-aid kit and added one to the Sanctuary. The Security Team will begin training soon on emergency procedures. Thanks to the Trustees and to Coleen.

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



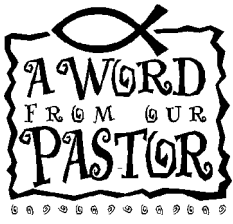
May 1, 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee  
May 1, 7:00 p.m. - Esther Circle  
May 6, 11:15 a.m. - Unit Meeting  
May 9, 1:30 p.m. - Ruth Circle  
May 17, 1:30 p.m. - Lydia Circle



The United Methodist Women invite the entire congregation to attend a gathering on Sunday, May 6 at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Donna Dean of Lighthouse Refuge will be the speaker. Lighthouse Refuge offers support for homeless and abused women. If you would like to join us for lunch and fellowship afterwards, please bring a covered dish to share.



Beginning, May 6 we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. and all Sunday School classes will begin at 8:45 a.m.



In May we have several special days that I would like to reflect upon. The first is Mother's Day. It was started by Anna Jarvis, a Methodist, and it has been an official holiday since

1914. All of us have grown up with this holiday, but I have learned that it is a mixed blessing. It is a reminder of our loss for those of us who have lost our mom's and a source of pain for those who have lost children. For some who have not had children, it can be uncomfortable or even painful. And for some, whose mothers were at best a poor example, it can revive hurt all over again. My stance is to thank God for all the women in our lives that have shown us love or exemplified love. I don't care who has had children, it is a day to celebrate women in our congregation. Some may opt to skip that Sunday and others will have their whole family with them. However you observe the day, at worship, I will do my best to make it a respectful time.

The next one, that almost always falls in May is Pentecost. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church! In many ways, Pentecost is as important as Easter, but I have never convinced many people of that "fact". Up until Pentecost, the entire ministry of Jesus had resulted in a dedicated, but cloistered 120 followers. The church increased that day by 2500% and in the days that followed almost tripled again. It makes my head hurt to imagine that kind of growth. Of course, most of it then dispersed around the Mediterranean and the Church was born. We are the great, great, great, great...grandchildren of those first believers. All too often we resemble the Church when it was 120 frightened followers rather than the transformed Pentecost believers. Pentecost is a reminder of who we are in Christ and for us to give thanks for all the generations that have gone before us!

Finally at the end of the month we celebrate Memorial Day. Memorial Day began more than 150 years ago to honor veterans who died in service of our country and today we honor not only those who died during their service, but who served and later died. It is a wonderful tradition,

but because it marks the unofficial beginning of summer it is often a small Sunday numerically. I am so thankful to be the son of a Veteran of WWII. My ancestors have fought since the Revolutionary War and I am so thankful for the freedom we have in our country.

I hope you have a wonderful month of May and may God bless all of our celebrations!

Pastor Don



- 1<sup>st</sup> - Martha Fuller
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Barbara Watford
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Aubrey Burnham
- 5<sup>th</sup> - M/M William L. Hendry
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Maryann Harris
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Wanda Burnham
- 9<sup>th</sup> - M/M Al Young
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Donna Lenfest
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Jerry O'Bannon
- 13<sup>th</sup> - M/M Brent Rucks, Anthony Metcalf
- 14<sup>th</sup> - M/M Rick Barnes
- 17<sup>th</sup> - James Tenniswood
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Randy Burnham, M/M Peregrino Ragamat
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Dion Raulerson, Donna Kersey
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Ellen Futrell
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Willard Suits
- 29<sup>th</sup> - M/M Gene Rhodes, Dennis Anderson, Shirley Matson
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Jake Streelman

*The Community and Global Life Committees would like to thank all of those who supported the End the Hunger Fundraiser. The United Methodist Men - YOU ROCK! Your spaghetti making skills rival the best Italian Grandmothers! Thank you for always jumping in and saying yes to our ideas and helping make the events so easy. Together we were able to send approximately \$3,325.00, from the dinner and private donations. We also provided them with \$250.00 in gift basket items for their Glow Run (April 27<sup>th</sup>). This church and our community continues to astonish me. We even sold the leftovers and were able to provide the youth with \$345.00 for their efforts and their mission trip.*

*Leah Suarez*