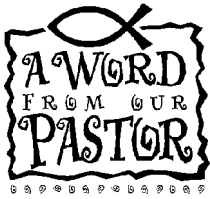


THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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JANUARY, 2019



Happy New Year!

Have you ever hoped you could build better habits?

Made resolutions that you did not keep? Well, it is my hope that we can all get 2019 off to a great start by doing a church-wide study together. We are going to use, Jim Harnish's, *A Disciple's Path* for the first 6 weeks of the year. There is a daily study guide and a number of small groups working on the study. I have that it takes 6 weeks to build a habit and I am hoping that all of us build better habits as we travel *A Disciple's Path*!

Join us at the level you like, but I am hoping that our new year will find us living faithfully for our Lord!

May you have a blessed 2019!

Pastor Don

We would like to thank the congregation for your generosity in support of our staff Christmas gift. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

<i>Pastor Don</i>	<i>Pastor Jim</i>	<i>Robbin</i>
<i>Michelle</i>	<i>Rebecca</i>	<i>Leah</i>
<i>Elaine</i>	<i>Becky</i>	<i>Sheila</i>
<i>Ruth</i>		

As of the newsletter deadline, it appears we will end the year with a slight carry-over, but it will be close. Unfortunately we did not meet our goal of paying 100% of our Conference Apportionments, but came close at about 80%. We did pay down our Parsonage mortgage to about \$45,000. The Finance Committee thanks you for your continued support of our church's finances!



Attention UMW Members:

"A Disciple's Path" is a 6 week church-wide study beginning the week of January 6 and continuing through the week of February 10. UMW members are encouraged to participate in this small group study. Three of the groups will meet on the day and time that Circles usually meet in January and February. All Circle members are invited to attend the Executive Committee meeting on the first Monday of January and February at 5:45 p.m. to be aware of UMW business and participate in planning. Also, Circles should plan to use the "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" program in March.

SECURITY TEAM: We need more members of the Security Team to adequately serve the church. You do not need to be armed, but just monitor doors or be willing to call 911 in the case of an emergency. A minimal amount of time is involved with training. Please contact Dowling Watford for information or call the Church Office to volunteer.

UMW is continuing the Days for Girls Project. Days for Girls has reached over 1,000,000 women and girls in 100+ countries with Feminine Hygiene Kits, each of which will last a girl or woman 2-3 years. This translates into over 115 million days of education and opportunity that would otherwise be lost without sustainable hygiene solutions. We will meet on Mondays, January 14 and 28 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Cynthia Yoder, Opal Wolff or Anna Lou Wilson if interested.



- 2nd - Sheila Brown
- 4th - Beth Lehman, Ronda Watt, Carley Ostavitz, Keith Poole
- 5th - Jordan Bolen
- 6th - Diane Thrift
- 8th - Taylor Rathbun
- 11th - Martha Watford
- 13th - Rosetta Gunsalus
- 16th - Alice Tyson
- 21st - Dowling Watford, Jr.
- 22nd - Kelsey Burnham, Ayden Wyatt, Diana Saum, Annarose Hill
- 23rd - Joe Wolf
- 24th - Joshua Rivera
- 25th - Richard Kersey
- 27th - Peregrino Ragamat, Bennett Yeilding
- 28th - Raye Marie Deusinger
- 29th - Millie Blesy
- 30th - Mariettes Sienes

GREAT NEWS! The following was part of Bishop Carter's Christmas Message:

I want to rejoice in two extraordinary movements of the Holy Spirit among us this Christmas.

First, thank you for your generous offering on behalf of our sisters and brothers in the Alabama-West Florida Conference who experienced the devastation of Hurricane Michael in the panhandle in September. We invited our churches to receive an offering for them. The people of First UMC in Ormond Beach challenged us with a \$500,000 matching gift. I am overjoyed to announce that you have contributed an additional \$887,383 toward the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Panhandle. This gift will be sent the first week of January 2019.

Second, I also want to share the good news that we have received approval for the establishment of a United Methodist Church in the Lowell Correctional Institution, located in the community of Reddick in the North Central District. Lowell houses more than 2300 women and is considered to be the largest female prison in the United States. I can envision the lives of women being blessed by the gifts of Christian fellowship and worship and the presence of a pastor who will be a sign of the Good Shepherd's love for them.

