

THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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JANUARY, 2020



Happy New Year!

We are arriving at 2020 which seems almost impossible. In elementary school we were asked to imagine where we would be in the year 2000. We thought that was impossibly far away and yet here we are 20 years later than I could imagine. Time is moving and we are moving with it, ready or not! I don't know what 2020 will bring, but we will have political turmoil in Washington, primaries and an election this year. We will have rain, sunshine and a hurricane season. United Methodists will have General Conference in Minneapolis, May 5-15. My hope is that we can find common ground and move forward in making disciples. No matter what happens around us, we are the church here in Okeechobee. We are not all of the church, but we are called to share God's love every day in all we do. I pray that you will have a blessed new year full of the love and grace of God!

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>Becky</i>
<i>Sheila</i>	<i>Ramiro</i>	

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

January 6, 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee

January 6, 7:00 p.m. - Esther Circle

January 8, 1:30 p.m. - Ruth Circle

January 16, 1:30 p.m. - Lydia Circle



We finished the year with a positive balance, but as of the newsletter deadline we had not paid 100% of our

Conference apportionments. We have until January 11 to make 2019 payments, so we will update in next month's newsletter. This year will be even more challenging financially for us, as we just got notice from the Conference that our property insurance will increase 20-25%. Even with no salary increases for our staff and slightly lower apportionments, we will have to be very careful with our expenses to keep from running a deficit. Please continue your very generous support of your church!

The first meeting of the new year for the United Methodist Men's group will be on Monday, January 20. All men are invited to attend (member or non-member of the church). They meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a covered dish dinner and meeting. Please come enjoy the fellowship!





FROM PARISH NURSE DIANA SAUM, RN:

Your Aging Eyes - It's normal for most of us as we grow older to have small changes in our vision, such as difficulty seeing while driving at night, problems focusing close up on objects and an increased sensitivity to glare. These symptoms can also indicate a more serious problem. That is why it is important to get your eyes checked annually even if you are not having problems.

We do not have a cure for all eye problems, but eating a diet rich in leafy green vegetables and other foods high in antioxidants may help slow down degenerative and age related problems.

Many people have dry eyes. With dry eyes, your eyes can be red, itchy, sensitive to light, too sore to wear contact lenses or blurry vision. Dry eyes can be caused by medication, not blinking enough while reading, watching TV, doing computer work or by being exposed to dry air (lack of humidity, air conditioning). Treatments include over-the-counter artificial tears, closing the tear ducts to reduce tear loss and special contact lenses.

Next month's article: Glaucoma, macular degeneration

"A Disciple's Path" small group study will be offered January 5-February 23 on Sundays from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Room 24. The course examines what we commit to as disciples:



Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. All are welcome to join the class, whether new faith, exploring the Methodist Church or deepening your commitment to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." To register or for more information, contact Helen Brumitt (417-861-6731) or Victoria Vaughn (352-404-7426).

- 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
- 18th - M/M Wayne Felker
- 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



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



"Are Forever Stamps OK?"