

THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 NW 2ND Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972-4174
Phone (863) 763-4021
www.fmc.org

DECEMBER, 2023



*Our Christmas Eve Candlelight
Services will be held at
5:00 and 7:00 p.m.*

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: The Christmas Card exchange box will be located in the Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE BRING CARDS TO SHARE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ATTENDING REGULARLY.** Please sort your outgoing cards alphabetically when placing them in the box. **EVERYONE**, please check the box for cards addressed to you and your family. Any cards not claimed by Sunday, January 7 will be donated to a charitable organization.



At the November UMM meeting, Mark Mayers from Real Life Children's Ranch presented a program on the Ranch and the work they do for children. Two houseparents and their children attended and presented a song lead by Miss Joy (Joy Hanna is their PE teacher at school). We thank everyone who supported our Chick-fil-A fundraiser and hope to have them back in December. The UMM will begin meeting quarterly starting with the January 15 meeting.



We thank the congregation for your continued support and will finish the year with a positive balance. Our final disaffiliation amount to the Conference will be \$113,086. We are very grateful to those who have donated to this fund and remind everyone that funds can still be donated to help offset additional cost that will be incurred (signs, incorporation costs, checks, stationery, etc.) Our 2024 budget has been approved and the total budget is \$316,201. This is a \$109,672 decrease from 2023 due to lower expenses and lower apportionments.

- 2nd - Gil Culbreth, Hazel Murphy
- 3rd - Judy Mix, Janice Spyker
- 4th - Nicolas Suarez
- 5th - Kim Mucherino
- 6th - Anne Young
- 7th - Sandy Watford, M/M Larry White
- 8th - Coleen Clark
- 12th - Dana Straight, Preston Hall
- 14th - Janet McKinley
- 15th - Darrell Enfinger
- 17th - Jennifer Gagliano, Sue Miller
- 21st - M/M Bennett Yeilding
- 22nd - Georgia Gerren
- 23rd - Ed Fletcher
- 26th - M/M Joe Ostavitz
- 29th - Jim Barnhart, Helen Brumitt
- 30th - Dave Buddenhagen, Kathryn VanBeek, Joe Suarez
- 31st - Peggy Lampi



PUMPKIN PATCH: The Pumpkin Patch was another success this year, with a profit of \$7,000. This will go into the general fund, and if not needed by the end of the year, will be transferred to the Capital Reserve account. Thanks again to everyone who helped with the Pumpkin Patch.



On Sunday, December 3, following the worship service there will be a covered dish *Ugly Christmas Sweater Luncheon* in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring your favorite vegetable, salad, side dish or dessert and plan to join us for great food and fellowship.

If you would like to give a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a friend or loved one, please fill out the following information and return it to the Church Office. Cost of the flowers is \$10.00. Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 10 or until our order limit has been met, whichever comes first. Payment must accompany order. (Limit 2)

In honor of _____

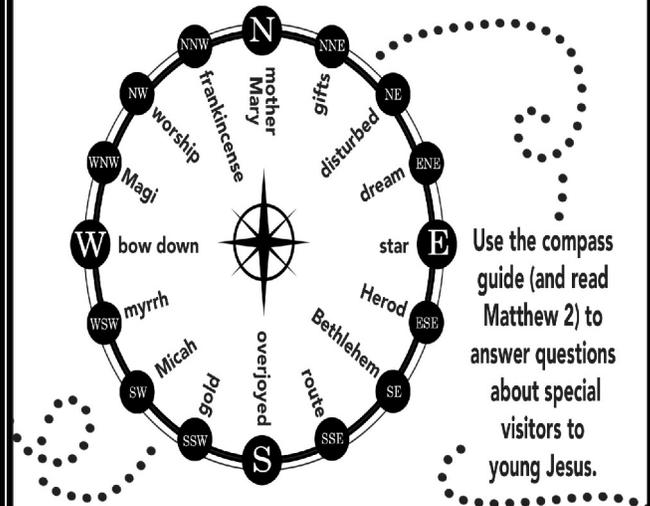
In memory of _____

Given by _____

_____ # of plants

_____ Leave plant _____ Take plant

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

- Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
- How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
- Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense; myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route