



NEWS, VIEWS, & GOSPEL TRUTHS

EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AUGUST 2020



A SEASON OF INTROSPECTION

Are you going to come
out of 2020
Better or Bitter?

What kind of lemonade are you making out of the lemons of 2020? So many are cursing the events of 2020. Many think the year should be struck from the calendar. But still there are those who are embracing the quiet and the solitude for reflection, for healing and direction. What are you using this precious time for?



Go, my people, enter your
rooms and shut the
doors behind you;
hide yourselves for a little while
until His wrath has passed by.

Isaiah 26:20



EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2701 Airport Road South, Naples, Florida 34112-4817

Dear Members and Friends of East Naples United Methodist Church:

As you know, these are unique and troublesome times: for our church, community, country, and the world. No one could have predicted that we would be in the middle of a Covid-19 pandemic. The social isolation orders have changed the way we all worship this year. Many of these changes were required by both the State of Florida, as well as the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. The conference has some very specific guidelines about how we are allowed to worship. Only recently did the conference feel we could do in-person worship, and only with some very strict limitations on what we can do.

Back in March, the leadership team of the church met to discuss the impact of the temporary stop of in person worship, as well as Bible studies and youth gatherings. This was going to cause a huge financial strain on our church. At that time, the leadership made some very difficult decisions. Some of these decisions included:

- Freezing all spending on non-critical expenses
- Reducing cleaning costs while campus is closed
- Postponing maintenance on A/C units
- Renegotiating service agreements during the closure.

While many of these may have gone unnoticed, the Staff Parish Relations committee also found it necessary to make staffing changes during these difficult times. These changes included:

- Furloughing the Director of Children's Ministries
- Furloughing the Office Assistant
- Furloughing the Child Care positions
- Reducing compensation for special musical vocalists or accompanists
- Reduction in salary for some positions,
- And most recently, changing the Director of Music Ministries from full time to part time.

All of these staffing changes have helped reduce our largest expense, salaries. These were implemented to be a short-term solution to a serious cash flow situation. These changes will be reviewed as our situation improves and programs are added back into our ministries.

Our financial situation is not in a good position. We have reduced or eliminated a lot of our expenses, but despite these painful changes, we are still not covering our monthly expenses. For the first half of the year, we have a deficit of over \$35,000. Income for the first 6 months was only \$239,738. Our expenses were \$274,957. This does not include some very large obligations that we have deferred payments such as apportionments and some insurance premiums.

We, as a church, are trying to move forward. We need everyone's help. First and foremost, we need your prayers. Please pray for the staff, volunteers, and the United Methodist Church as a whole, to be strong and find ways to fulfill our Church Mission. Also, pray for those affected by the coronavirus and for scientists to develop a vaccine.

Second, we need your financial support. Just meeting our current expenses will not be enough to return to our previous staffing levels. Be thoughtful and generous about your giving to support ENUMC. Please give in person, via the online giving, or mail us your support.

Third, you can help us by joining our weekly service, and tell your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even strangers about our Sunday Service. We have implemented vigorous cleaning methods for the sanctuary, bathrooms and common areas. There is social distancing for sitting in the pews and temperature checks for everyone entering the building. For those who are not able to attend in person, we are streaming the service every Sunday. Check us out on FaceBook or our website.

Lastly, we need everyone to stay safe, make wise choices, and encourage others to do the same. Our in-person worship service will only improve if we can safely meet and return to our formal service. The Florida Conference will let us know when we can start having congregational singing, a choir, Children's Church, and Sunday school. The Florida Conference is watching the State's COVID-19 positive test numbers.

Sincerely,

Paul Clemmensen
Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Committee

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the ENUMC family! Kimberly and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you, for you have welcomed us with open arms and genuine fist bumps (smile).

Along with our beautiful, excitable, and active daughters, we look forward to a life of fellowship and joy divine with the entire East Naples community.

In the words of the nineteenth century hymn writer, Elisha A. Hoffman, we hope for a “sweet walk in this pilgrim way,” as God the Spirit leads us all through this unfortunate period of global and national turbulence.

It is my prayer that in this in-between time of

“much unrest” and our collective yearning for “a brand-new day,” we will trust in the One who leads us through the storms of social turmoil.

Again, we thank you all and we look forward to the day when we can gather around the table of our Lord and make a joyful noise unto the One who is to come.

Pastor Dwayne



Kimberly, Aaliyah, Kennedy, & Savannah Craig

Transformative Conversations

Henry Ossawa Tanner, the first African-American painter to gain international acclaim, depicts in the image, a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus.

Pastor Dwayne’s first sermon series was entitled, “Transformative Conversations,” and was undergirded by the scripture lessons found in John 3:1-17.

If you had the opportunity to sit with Jesus and have a conversation like Nicodemus did, what part of your life would that conversation transform? How has God’s love transformed your life?



Nicodemus and Jesus on a Rooftop by Henry Ossawa Tanner

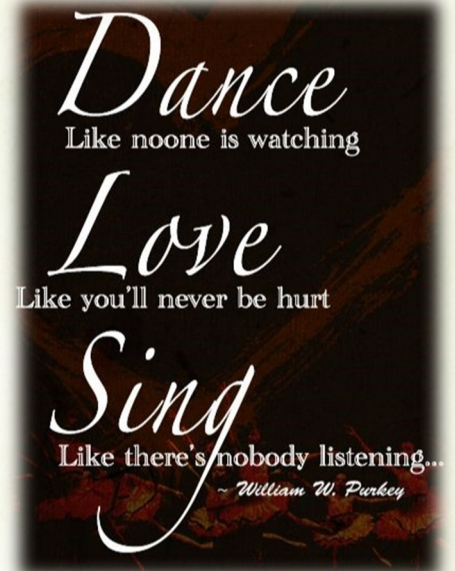
Notes from the Music Department

For those that have attended our services in person or watched online lately, there have been some notable changes. To worship together, a restriction on singing has been in place. It's hard to imagine a church service where congregants are asked not to sing, but it has become a necessary precaution to help contain the spread of COVID-19. On May 22, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted a warning on its website that deemed singing hazardous and recommended that congregations "consider suspending or at least decreasing use of choir/musical ensembles and congregant singing, chanting or reciting." Singing (and even loud talking) has been shown to increase the amount of aerosol a person emits. Aerosol particles are light enough to remain suspended in the air for hours at a time and can travel anywhere from three to twenty-seven feet from the "emitter." When those aerosol particles carry COVID-19, they pose a serious risk for anyone unlucky enough to breathe them in. Unfortunately, singers are therefore considered "super-spreaders."

This adherence to health guidelines is required for a safe return to houses of worship. Singing, in particular, presents a unique problem for meeting safety protocols, such as the 6-foot social distancing minimum. Anyone who has ever sung in a choir or attended a choir performance or a musical theater production or even sung themselves in the congregation can attest to a common fact about singing: sometimes there's spit — not intentionally — but spit (and aerosol particles) all the same when you sing. Those saliva droplets could not only potentially carry the coronavirus; they could also travel well beyond 6 feet.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cited a choral practice in Skagit County, Washington, on March 10 as an example of how the virus could spread quickly among singers. One member who showed symptoms of COVID-19, and later tested positive, attended the 2½-hour practice along with 60 other choir members. Within a week, there were 32 confirmed cases and 20 probable cases of COVID-19; three patients were hospitalized and two died. The CDC noted that in a "super-spreading" event such as this, "transmission was likely facilitated by close proximity (within 6 feet) during practice and augmented by the act of singing." Singers could fall into a CDC classification known as "super emitters" because they release more aerosol particles when singing.

Long story short, I am very sad this is happening, but we want to make everyone safe. Please remember, that not having congregational singing is definitely not ideal, but worshipping together demands our need to be safe. We will continue to have people singing solos and instrumental pieces, we just can't sing all together yet. I'd like to encourage you all to go to your computer, open up YouTube, and type in the search field — "hymns" and you find many videos of your favorite hymns. There's a saying — "sing like no one is listening" — sing those hymns you've been missing and sing praises unto the Lord!!! "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live" (Psalm 104:3).



Brent Nicholas
Music Director



Missions



Fill the Table is an initiative launched in July 2020 by The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Through a network of statewide partnerships and collaboration, our goal is to feed **3 million** Floridians by September 2021. **Join us as we #FillTheTable to fight food insecurity through a lens of justice and mercy. For more information check out www.fillthetableflorida.org.**

There is an abundance of food and resources to feed the mouths of every person in our communities and world. The resources, and the ability to distribute those resources, are available to us. In this season of COVID-19, rapid economic change, and physical distancing and isolation, many are experiencing hunger and poverty for the first time. With more than 700 churches in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and over 144,000 active disciples of Jesus, we can make a huge impact in providing food and reducing hunger. The need is great, and our vision is that every church in the Florida Conference would be involved.

There are nearly 3 million Florida residents who struggle with food insecurity – the lack of consistent access of affordable, healthy foods.

East Naples United Methodist Church currently collects food in our "Grocery Cart" that is donated to local food banks. We have had special food drives to fill bags of groceries and gift cards to distribute in our community and we have a small area with food on hand for hungry people who inquire at the church office.

Please help us continue this important work and if you have new ideas, contact Kris Clemmensen at kriscllem@comcast.net or 239-331-4889.

For financial contributions or grocery store gift cards \$2 = 1 meal

For food pantries 1.2 lbs. food = 1 meal

Medicines & Medical Equipment for Cuba

We will be accepting medicines and equipment for the shipment to Cuba until Sunday, August 16.

Medicines:

Children's cold and flu medicine
Children's vitamins (NO GUMMIES PLEASE)
Adult vitamins
Children's aspirin & ibuprofen
Adult aspirin & ibuprofen

Medicines for parasites

Medicines for scabies

Feminine hygiene products (pads)

Equipment:

Wheelchairs

Blood pressure monitor

Blood glucose monitor

Thermometers

Light weight blankets

Devilbiss suction unit (MUST BE NEW)

Kris Clemmensen

Missions Coordinator



And the second is
like unto it, Thou
shalt love thy
neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30

Family Ministries

Our Encounter Youth ministry continues to meet via Zoom every Sunday at 6:00 pm. For the past several weeks we have been discussing selected passages from the Book of Ephesians. We have been considering how God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings and made us alive in Christ. We have also discussed the way in which God expects us to live now that we are spiritually alive.



The Wednesday night Bible study via Zoom continues to be a source of connection and encouragement as we meet each week to study God's word. We have had friends join us not only from Florida, but also from Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. If you would like to see your brothers and sisters from church and enjoy a time in God's word, be sure to check the midweek blast for the Zoom invitation.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -Romans 15:13, NIV.

Pastor Edwin Richiez
Director of Family Ministries

Update and Thanks from Scholarship Students



"Hi ENUMC Family! Thank you so much for your continuous support of my college education and future. I am currently a sophomore at Elon University in North Carolina, I am studying engineering with an environmental concentration, and I am an Elon Honors Fellow. While COVID-19 brought a different end to my first year of college, the months before were filled with many memories and experiences. I am a member of the Fire of the Carolinas Marching Band, I played bass drum this year, and will be one of the drum majors for this upcoming fall season. In addition, I was a part of the Percussion Ensemble and Wind Ensemble, and I hope to continue those when I can over my next three years. In January, I had the chance to travel to Italy with 13 other Honors freshman for a travel seminar course. It was an amazing experience and I am so thankful I had the opportunity, especially because of the pandemic. At Elon, I am also involved with the Engineering Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Ukrik-Wesley, and I joined Kappa Delta Sorority in February. I have also found a local Methodist Church in Elon and have been attending every Sunday morning with some of my friends.

This summer, I just finished taking a summer course online and will be getting my wisdom teeth out in the next few weeks. I have been tuning into our Facebook/YouTube services with my family every week and I hope to connect with some of you before I go back to school the first week of August for band camp.

Once again, thank you ENUMC for your support, love and prayers. I miss you all so much and hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented time."

Mallory Poff

“Hello everyone! At the moment I'm almost about to enter my senior year at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. It's been a crazy journey filled with amazing opportunities and lessons.

Last fall, I was invited and inducted into the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society for my high grade point average in Social Work. It was such a shock to me when I got the email, but I'm extremely grateful. In the beginning of this year, I had the opportunity to go to Tallahassee for LEAD Advocacy Day. This event was for social work students across Florida to advocate for bills. It was my first time seeing the State Capitol and Supreme Court. I had such an amazing time exploring Tallahassee and speaking with our representatives. It was a little cold while we were there, so that part wasn't fun.

Most recently, an article I wrote for Her Campus UCF was nominated for a Her Campus award where I placed 3rd! I didn't know that my chapter had submitted my article until I heard the news.

Thank you for supporting me!”

Lincy Antoine



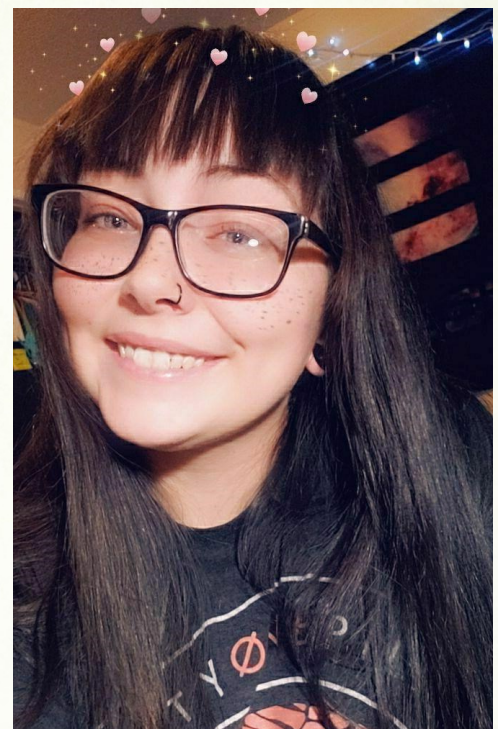
Marylyn graduated from Gulf Coast High School in May and was highlighted in our June 2020 newsletter. She lives in Orlando and is a student at Valencia College. She plans to graduate in 2024 and to start a career in Criminal Justice.

Marylyn Berg

Jenilyn attends Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida and she made the Dean's List for Spring 2020.

“I am now a member of SoCo Productions, the on-campus music club, that puts on shows and promotes new artists. I have also picked up a second major, so I am now a Criminology and Psychology major. This past school year, I have been working for the Children's Ministry at a church 5 minutes from the school and it has been a wonderful experience. I have also been working to get into the top 35% of my class so I can qualify for Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, in hopes of broadening my opportunities after graduation. I am super excited to start my Sophomore year at FSC in September and be reunited with my amazing friends.”

Jenilyn Tea



We Can Breathe!



Michele Micieli, TLC Director &
Cheryl David-Fordyce, Office Manager

Michele has health challenges that make wearing a mask difficult. Cheryl is claustrophobic and struggles with having a mask on for extended periods of time.

However, when it became necessary to implement a mask mandate for the office, Michele stepped up with a win/win solution. She purchased this inexpensive clear shield and was happy to comply with the regulations that are now common place not just in the office, but in our city.

As we all struggle with the new normal, creativity needs to collide with wisdom. The sacrifices we are all being called to make are uncomfortable; but what sacrifice isn't? An online dictionary defines the word as:

"An act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy."

A PSA asks the question: "Who are you socially distancing for?" In a broader sense, who are we making the sacrifices for. Some of us are enduring the discomfort for ourselves, others for spouse, parents, or even children.

So many pray for the end of COVID-19. The end can't come soon enough. To return to a time when we don't have to celebrate when we can snag a bottle or can of Lysol off a supermarket shelf. Or when we don't have to give baths and washes to our groceries. Or when we can freely partake in all activities, social and otherwise.

Indeed, let us pray for God's amazing grace and his mercy to bring long-term, permanent relief from this virus.

We Are Open!

The Re-Launch Taskforce continues to do all they can to ensure the safety of those who feel safe enough to worship in person.

Kudos to those who greet, direct, and lead congregants to their seats. Also, a big thank you goes out to those who clean up—regular, and deep cleaning, to ensure the sanctuary remains a safe space for all.

Remember, if it is unsafe for you to worship with us in person, the service is broadcast live via Facebook or on YouTube through the church's website, www.enaples.org.

Tell a friend or a loved one about our service. If you have missed any of the services, the videos are available on the website.

Let us continue to pray for an end to this pandemic and a safe return to some state of normalcy to our lives.

...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

August Birthdays

Tristan Ahlquist	2-Aug	Janice Johnson	9-Aug	Linda Bryden	19-Aug
Janice Carter	3-Aug	Ruby Kreager	9-Aug	Geisa Santana	19-Aug
Kris Chisholm	3-Aug	Wesley Bedell	11-Aug	Dianne Kenzie	20-Aug
Barbara McConnell	3-Aug	Crimine Walther	13-Aug	Richard Helseth	22-Aug
Richard Spieth	4-Aug	Nancy Wilson	13-Aug	JoAnn Richards	22-Aug
Dorothy Caracci	5-Aug	Sharon Roberts	14-Aug	Herb Rohr	23-Aug
Errol Denson	6-Aug	Don Tolj	14-Aug	Charlie Bush	24-Aug
Janice Wilson	6-Aug	Shelby Brandon	15-Aug	Judi Napier	24-Aug
Terry Beebe	7-Aug	David Napier	15-Aug	Brent Nicholas	24-Aug
Linda Williams	7-Aug	Terry Forshier	16-Aug	Jan Pautvein	24-Aug
Marge Wilson	7-Aug	John Jordan	16-Aug	Phyllis Simpson	26-Aug
Beth Brown	8-Aug	Fran Beaumont	18-Aug	Bill Hemelt	28-Aug
Carol Huber	8-Aug	Olga Gonzalez	18-Aug	Faustine Simmons	28-Aug
Marian Hardy	9-Aug	Jeanne Peters	18-Aug	John Nebus	31-Aug

Here Is A Wish

By Poet John McLeod

*Here is a wish that says:
Warm, happy hours be yours
Shadows are of passing note
But healing laughter cures.
Be, therefore, ever joyful, Friend,
And walk on gladsome feet
Towards tomorrow's brand new dawn
And promise sweet!*



ENUMC MILESTONES



Did You Know?

20 years ago the new Fellowship Hall was built, and Elsey Hall was remodeled to include three classrooms, an office, and the Bargain Nook.

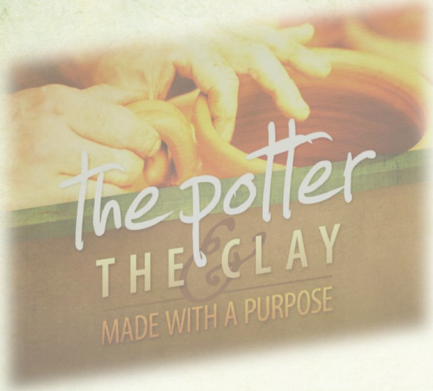
The Fellowship Hall has accommodated many church and community events over the years, tea parties, game nights, fashion shows, to name a few.

As our membership has transitioned in recent years, so too has the use of the facilities. But are we not still a community? Wouldn't you like to see a resurgence of member and community activities at ENUMC? Of course, this would be in a post-COVID-19 reality, but write to us and share your ideas and suggestions for how you would like to see the church's events space used.

What is Love?

Two ENUMC babes attending an event at the church years ago, show us what love is.





Dear God, Why Am I Here?

What unique problem was I created to solve? What solutions am I equipped to bring?

Am I a catalyst for change? What are the changes needed in my sphere of influence? What is the civil issue that bothers me the most? What is the pet peeve that makes me so passionately mad?

I know I have been blessed with gifts, talents, skills, and expertise that could all be used for a greater good—Your good—for the betterment of mankind, for the security of children, for the empowerment of women, or the uplifting of men.

What is it, Lord? Please show me.

Lead me to the door, to that place, to that space in your vast universe that has been waiting for me.

I want to wake up each day with a sense of purpose, looking forward to what I will give and not to what I will receive.

No longer can I sit here and be contented with me and mine.

There are people who need me. People who are waiting for the smorgasbord and value of my trials and triumphs, blended with the wealth of Your spiritual deposits in my life.

Indeed, I know that I was made for so much more. Now is the time.

Anoint me to go. Bless me out of this place of selfishness, and deliver me to a rewarding place of selflessness.

I am ready. I must go.

CDGOLD

Not Good Enough?

A drunk named Noah

An absconder named Jonah

A murderer named Moses

A virgin named Mary

A prostitute named Rahab

A drifter named Mary Magdalene

A trickster named Jacob

A hothead named Peter

A sex-addict named David

A persecutor named Paul

Still Think You're Not Good Enough?

Bargain Nook

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Did you know you could find these items at the Bargain Nook?

