



NEWS, VIEWS, & GOSPEL TRUTHS

East Naples United Methodist Church | January 2021

A Counter Culture People

Some people say, “I own this, and I own that,” or “I own this body, and no one has the right to tell me what to do with it.” People who think this way would benefit from standing in front of a mirror, exposing their midsection, noting their belly button, and asking, “Why is that there?” The answer is: “There was a day when one male sperm beat millions of others in a race for one female egg, and the end result produced me.” The One who devised the process still owns the end result – each one of us!

During this New Year, let us remember the staggering truth the Bible reveals: he had/has one of those marks on His midsection. Moreover, He never claimed to own anything and saw life as something on loan, to be given away to glorify His Father by serving others. When He washed His disciples’ feet, He demonstrated vividly the upside-down Kingdom He came to establish. And His Father said “Yes!” to that action in a powerful way!

The more I reflect on the post-modern happenings around us, the more I sense that **several** symbols are missing from our place of worship. Yes, we all love the cross – the standard fixture in most churches. But should we not also have a basin and a towel (John 13) on our altar or table, as a reminder of the counter-culture Jesus came to establish? Then we might better understand that the cross is not only the symbol of the world’s rejection of God’s counter-culture, but also the throne of the King of the eternal kingdom. The irony is that when people did their worst to Jesus, they provided Him the opportunity to do his best for them – to forgive them and capture their hearts.

In addition to the basin, towel, and cross, we need a symbol of the empty tomb. It would remind us that though the powers-that-be said “No!” to God’s kind of Messiah and Kingdom, the Father said “Yes!” He asks each us, “And just what are you going to do with Him now?” And lastly, we need a symbol of God’s inbreaking future. A symbol of “Christ’s-being-on-the-way” would remind us that God is in control of history, and that the “not-yet” will unfold according to His will.

We at ENUMC have a peculiar calling in that we exist to help people grapple with the context and message of the “Coming One.” We are here to worship, as a corporate body, the “Coming King” and launch out into the world to proclaim and live out the victory of the King as a counter-culture people. We are here to anticipate the coming of Christ and take the message of hope and salvation to all persons.

Pastor Dwayne Craig

Pastor Dwayne

MISSIONS



2020 UPDATE

What a different year! I would like to personally thank each and every one of you who has supported and prayed for the various outreach projects that we have had this year. So many obstacles were there but we still supported missionaries in the field, Cuba Sister Church, Gideons, Dress A Girl dresses sent to Nicaragua, shoes and socks to Palm Lake Mobile Home children, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, Florida United Methodist Children's Home, 40+ Christmas Gifts for New Horizons and Learning Center children and youth, UMCOR, Bibles for the Collier County Jail inmates, ECHO, school supplies for the New Horizons students, help for those in need in our congregation and community and many Fill The Table food drives and collections. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!!

Help us as we think outside the box as to how we might help feed the hungry in our community. The plan is to offer a take-out meal to the families and staff of our Learning Center on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. We will purchase ½ Chicken meals from Pollo Tropical Restaurant. We will add bottles of water, dessert and a family activity and family devotion. The meals will be distributed between 4:00-5:30pm as the parents are picking up their children from the Learning Center. They will be asked to make reservations for the meals they would like for their families. We hope that this activity may plant a seed for an ongoing feeding activity from our church. This first event will serve the Learning Center Families. We hope that we might expand in the future to include New Horizons families, Palm Lake Mobile Home Park families and eventually other groups in our community. Please pray for this new project and consider helping financially or with the planning and distribution of the meals.

2021 Mission Programs

As we continue to navigate COVID-19 and its impact on our community and world, our Mission projects this year may look a little different. We will have many more Fill The Table projects to help the Florida Initiative to provide 3 million meals to those who are hungry in our state. We will continue to support many of the projects we have in the past but things may look different or be done in a different way.

If you have a heart for mission and outreach and would like to become part of our committee, please contact Kris Clemmensen at kriscllem@comcast.net or 239-331-4889 or call the church office. We have six meetings a year.

Once again thank you for your continued prayers and support for mission and outreach in our community and the world.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

The new year is here and a new chapter in our journey has begun. We could all agree that 2020 has been a difficult year in many different ways. While we do not know what is ahead of us in 2021, we do know One Who knows the future. It would not be difficult for us to allow ourselves to be anxious about the future given the condition of our world. However, as the people of God, we are not alone, but are always in the company of the God of the universe.

A few reminders:

On January 6, 2021, we will be starting a new study of the Gospel of John, using the "Life Application Bible Studies." This study will feature a look at the entire Gospel of John with commentary and discussions oriented towards applying its message to our daily lives. The Zoom invitation is shared on our Midweek Blast each Wednesday at 3pm. If you do not receive our Midweek Blast, please call the church office to be added to the email list.

Our Encounter Youth ministry is meeting in-person every first and third Sunday of the month at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. We have a great time of fellowship, worship, and study. Students are welcome to bring their own snacks. Face coverings required and social distance is observed.

As we begin this new year, may we never forget that God is always with us and that He will never leave us. May we hear the words of the Savior over and over again:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27, NIV)

Happy New Year!
Pastor Edwin

TLC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hello and blessings to you all. My name is Yodaysys Corrales. My husband and I recently celebrated our 26th marriage anniversary. I have 2 children and three handsome grandchildren.

I studied at "Escuela Formadora de maestros" from which I graduated as an Early Elementary School teacher in 1993 and then I began working with children from 1st through 6th grade until 2006.

In 2007 we came to the United States and I continued working with children, preschool children. I am currently the 2-year-old teacher here at The Learning Center. It is a true blessing for me to interact and guide my classroom little by little and teach the children all about our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 10:14-16). I am extremely happy and joyful working with these little angels, and I am so humbled to notice their growth, development, and the difference of all that is being taught to them which I believe is the goal and objective for each teacher. I love the children in my class and my job. Besides teaching the children the basic knowledge for their age group I challenge myself to help them understand the importance of respect and love towards each other, that they may learn to share and socialize amongst themselves. Being a teacher requires effort, but it is wonderful and rewarding. God bless you greatly. Amen.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



Sunday, January 17, 2021

When you support Human Relations Day, your gift builds community leadership and resources. In Chicago, churches are in partnership to engage in community-based alternatives to juvenile incarceration. In the Philippines, organizations strengthen family resiliency to address substance abuse, particularly with those who are living in the Manila North Cemetery. In West Congo, United Methodist Churches are working with ecumenical partners to provide pastoral support and advocacy for children and youth who are in prison.

Buena Vista United Methodist Church's slogan is "Building beloved community."

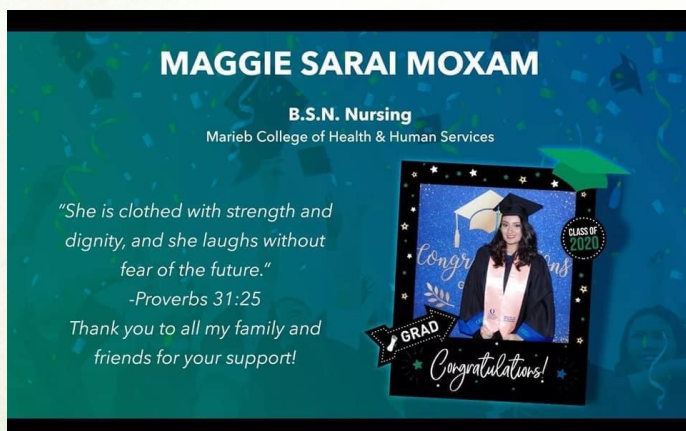
Among the programs of the Alameda, California, church is a partnership with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI) to engage in joint immigration advocacy. Members have co-sponsored "Know Your Rights" trainings, lobbied for human rights legislation and attended monthly protest vigils on behalf of incarcerated immigrants. Working with IM4HI and its East Bay affiliate enables the church to network and advocate with other congregations.

The church's immigration committee in 2016 began its accompaniment ministry and provided temporary housing to the Alva-Garcia family from Guatemala. That allowed the family to establish residency in Alameda and to welcome other family members entering the country seeking asylum.

Lynette Lee, chair of the Buena Vista Community Institute, and Alton Chinn, the immigration committee's new chair, want to increase participation and indigenous leadership in the ministry and do more to protect and support immigrants.

According to Chinn, "COVID-19 doesn't change our commitment to this ministry."

Please write your check to your local church with "HRD" on the memo line and place it in the offering. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive).



*Congratulations to Maggie Moxam
who graduated in December from
Florida Gulf Coast University.
She received her Bachelor's in Science of Nursing,
her dream since 8th grade.
We are so proud of you, Maggie.
Way to go!!*

BIRTHDAYS



Estrella Gonzalez	6-Jan	Brenda Shaw	19-Jan
Gordon Lewis	6-Jan	Bill Griffin	20-Jan
Lyle Sleezer	6-Jan	Emily Seager	21-Jan
Susan Boydston	7-Jan	Kyra Dillard	22-Jan
Dylan Clark	8-Jan	Sue Dossinger-Braden	23-Jan
Tyler Davis	10-Jan	Scot Shepard	23-Jan
Madi Delashmet	12-Jan	Corwin Biddle	24-Jan
Dixie Atwell	13-Jan	Kennedy Craig	25-Jan
Beryl Melucci	16-Jan	Don Murphy	26-Jan
Tammy Goodwill	18-Jan	Haley Ahlquist	27-Jan
Maggie Jones	19-Jan	John Edward Hennink	28-Jan
Odeisa Moya	19-Jan	Oscar Torres	28-Jan

*May God bless and keep you always,
May your wishes all come true,
May you always do for others
And let others do for you.
May you build a ladder to the stars
And climb on every rung,
May you stay forever young,*

Bob Dylan



The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Meet the Pastor

Thursdays and Fridays in
January.
Call the church office to
schedule.

Epiphany...

Manifestation of the
Light of God



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Weekly Worship Service and Bible Study Schedule
Come Join Us, We Look Forward to Welcoming You!

<i>Day & Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sunday		
9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary, Online
10:00 a.m.	Servicio en Español	Fellowship Hall
5:00- 6:00 p.m.	Youth Gathering	Gazebo
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Zoom
Monday		
10:00 a.m.	Joy Bible Study	Elsely Hall
Tuesday		
9:00 a.m.	Bargain Nook Open	Bargain Nook
Wednesday		
6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Bible Study	Zoom
7:30 p.m.	Estudio Biblico	Zoom
Thursday		
9:00 a.m.	Bargain Nook Open	Bargain Nook
7:30 p.m.	Grupos Pequeños	Elsely Hall