

News, Views, & Gospel Truths

June 2020
East Naples United Methodist Church

A Farewell and New Season

Dear beautiful people,

Thank you for your many expressions of appreciation. Thank you for all the times we shared, and the work we accomplished in God's kingdom and for His glory. I'd like to leave you with the same parting words the apostle Paul gave the believers in Thessalonica.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

A new season for you begins in July. I'm thankful for the life of Pastor Dwayne and his family. Under his leadership, you will continue to flourish as you work to reach more people for Christ.

May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jacquie*



Jesus
is the Way,
the Truth,
& the Life.

Notes from the Music Department

The ENUMC music department had its first online zoom “practice” last month. We didn’t really “practice,” but had more of a social time to just reconnect. Not all were able to attend remotely, but those who did had a great time “seeing” one another again and catching up.

It has been quite isolating for us “very social musical folks.” Worship for our musicians has been quite difficult since this “new” way of online (only) worship. Such a huge part of the way we as musicians worship, is through us sharing the Word of God through music **together**.

Without the choir and bells presenting their musical offerings in worship, it feels like a huge part of our worship experience is lacking. It is so important for us not to feel that way.

Please keep the faith, as they say, as difficult as that may seem to do.

Hopefully, we will once again join together to sing God’s praises. Until then, please take care, continue to pray, and may God bless you all.

Brent Nicholas
Director of Music Ministries



Zoom Choir Practice - Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Socially Distant, but Connected by Love.
You are Loved and Missed.

ENUMC Staff



Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to a wonderful group of June-borns. May you each have a fantastic experience on your special day, and may the Lord's blessings overtake you in the coming year.

If Not For June

Lawrence S. Pertillar

*If not for June,
My memories of Winter in December...
With a wish to witness,
The freshness of Spring March would bring...
Would not still remain so vivid.
As if only yesterday visited.
If not for June.*

*If not for June,
My eyesight would not be teased...
By the freedom felt in Summer,
With hopes that linger of those things I could do,
Under clear skies showing bright Sun.
And seeing the fun shared by nearly everyone,
If not for June.*

*And if not for June, I would not be able to reminisce,
From so many experiences I could pick.
June seems to be the month I can do this.
With a thankfulness I am still in the midst,
Of a year that appears to have just begun.
With so much left to offer before it is done.
And for me this happens only when June comes.*

Christine Hoyt	2-Jun	Jenni Tea	15-Jun
Aggie Tappen	3-Jun	Nicole Daudert	16-Jun
Jacque Leveron	4-Jun	Carol Crislip	17-Jun
Houston Thompson	4-Jun	Mark Palmer	19-Jun
Rosie Hall	5-Jun	Walt Whitten	20-Jun
Carolyn Ivins	5-Jun	Joyce Wickelgren	21-Jun
Connie Landis	8-Jun	Ken Greenleaf	23-Jun
Josue Legra	9-Jun	Cathy Wilson	23-Jun
Henry Wilson	10-Jun	Rae Brown	25-Jun
June Collins	13-Jun	Jeannie Means	26-Jun
Kathy Luark	13-Jun	Charleigh Clemmensen	27-Jun
Kim Nicholas	13-Jun	Carol Peter	27-Jun
Jean Barrineau	14-Jun	Bette Knapp	28-Jun
Lori DeJarnette	14-Jun	Betsy Ramirez	28-Jun
Judy Smith	14-Jun	Beth Milliren	30-Jun
Hazel Garofano	15-Jun		

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

By Paul Clemmensen, SPRC Chair

I wanted to make sure that we are as open and communicative as we can about the Lay Leadership within our church. To that end, Beth Thompson has resigned from the head of SPRC. She has served us for a long time and will be a tough act to follow. She has successfully navigated us through several changes in staff, the most recent being changes in the Senior Pastor and our Accountant/Bookkeeper. I have agreed to step in and fill the position. This is going to be a challenging time for us, and it will most certainly continue long into 2021. With all of the staff changes, virtual worship, and socially distancing, we are all cautious of the next steps. But we have to move forward and prepare for the next chapter of ENUMC.

The SPRC is now a team of 5 people who are strong in their faith and share their love for ENUMC. Just as an introduction to our team, here is our roster:

- Paul Clemmensen – newly appointed chairperson
- Jaime Williams – returning member and Lay Leader of the church
- Carol Griffin – another returning member who is also a long time member of the Missions Team.
- Angela Shepard – new volunteer to our team, with a wealth of knowledge in business, finance, and HR.
- Howard Moxam – long time member of our church, and was on the CLT, but was willing to “Switch Teams” for the good of the church.

Please keep the SPRC Team in your prayers, as we all learn how best to serve our church.

There are several additional announcements related to the staff and the good of the church I want to outline as well.

- As you know, after 3 years Pastor Jacquie is moving on to a new church, and we will have a new senior pastor starting in July, Pastor Dwayne Craig. Move information on this significant change will be sent out separately.
- We have a new Accountant starting in the office on June 1st, Maria Varela. She has a strong background in accounting and was a teacher in the Collier County Schools.
- Since the campus is not yet open, we are asking **everyone who is not paid staff to stay out of the buildings**, especially the office areas. We are working diligently to make these areas safe and clean. Even volunteers with keys must stay out of the buildings until it is announced that it is safe to do so.

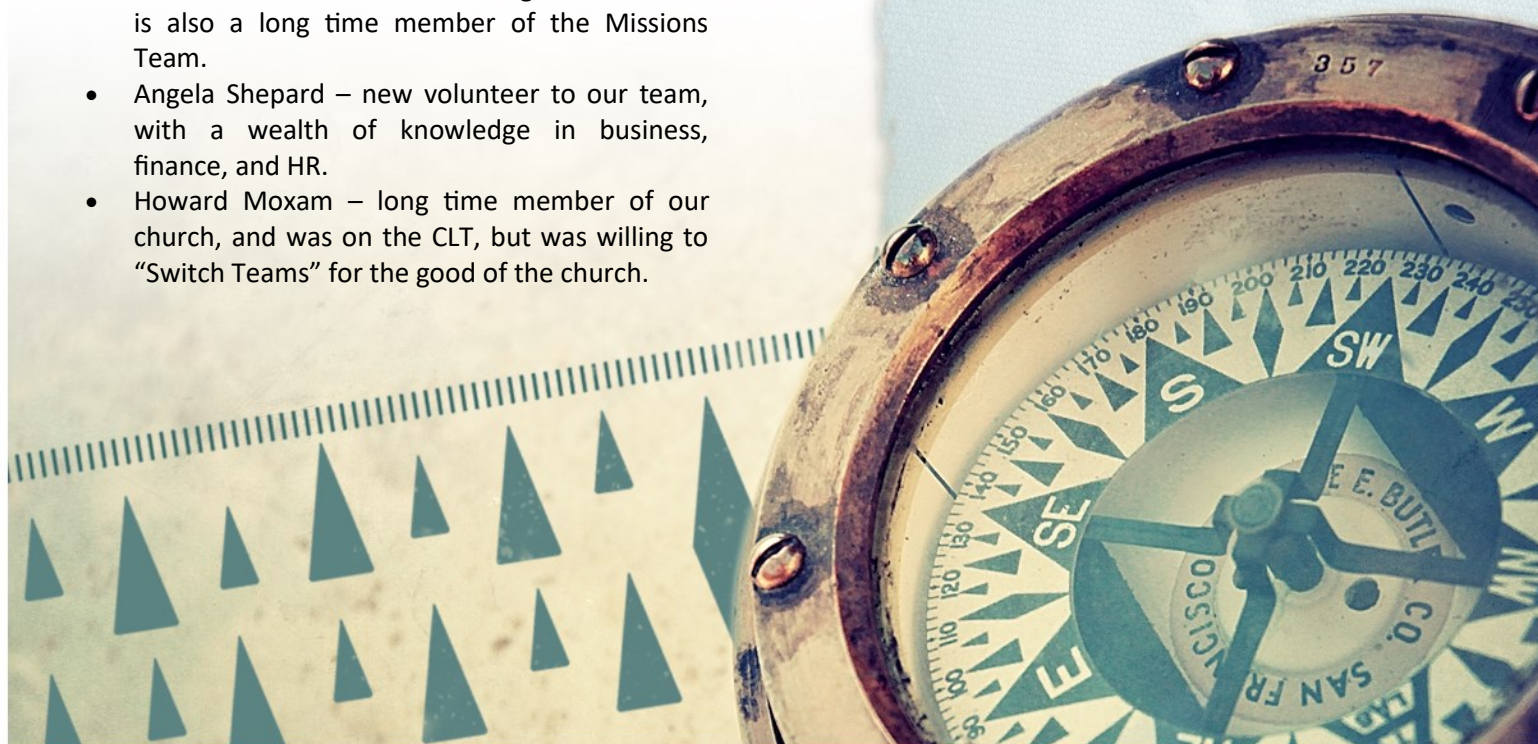
These are difficult times, but we believe that with God’s help, we will come through these times stronger than ever. Please keep our staff and lay leaders in your daily prayers.

Paul L. Clemmensen

SPRC Chairperson

239-331-4889 (Home)

PClemmensen@comcast.net



Introducing Pastor Dwayne Craig



Reverend Dwayne Craig is a native Floridian and an ordained elder of the Florida Annual Conference. He grew up in the Jacksonville area, graduated from Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona. Pastor Dwayne

holds graduate degrees from The Divinity School at Duke University, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University and, at present, is pursuing his Ph.D. degree in Systematic Theology, and African American Studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Pastor Dwayne is married to Kimberly; and has four daughters Naomi, Aaliyah, Kennedy, and Savannah.

The family will be moving back to Florida from Chicago, where Pastor Dwayne has been working on his doctorate, and serving Southlawn United Methodist Church.

Depending on the state's progress of containing the pandemic, Pastor Dwayne will be joining us on the first Sunday of July. Hopefully, the service will be in-person, but there is still a chance it may need to be done virtually.

Let us pray that God will guide the Craigs during this season of transition. May He grant them traveling mercies, His amazing grace for this new posting, and for His will to be done through their ministry.

New Bookkeeper, Maria Varela



Maria was born in Cuba and came to the United States at the age of six with her family. She is married and has two daughters.

Her faith and her family are the cornerstone of her life.

Maria has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration – Accounting from the University of Miami. She received her Masters in Education degree from Walden University.



Missions



There were 58 completed dresses ready to be sent. I reached out to Sarah with the Center for Development in Nicaragua to see if we could send dresses to be distributed at their health clinic and to other girls in need in their area.



Sarah was excited and said that they had an area in a shipping container being sent in May (originally) by a group called Peaceworks. I sorted, packaged, and boxed the dresses, and contacted Peaceworks to make sure that the shipping container was still heading out. *We have had this worldwide pandemic that has affected all travel and shipping.* The container has been delayed until October, but our dresses will be on it! Thank you to all who contribute and work to make these dresses for girls and young women around the world. We have previously sent dresses to Haiti and Cuba.

FOOD DRIVE & FESTIVAL OF HOPE HAVE ARRIVED!

We had worked and planned for our second Festival of Hope to take place on Sunday, March 15.



We were distributing shoes to almost 50 children and we would have snacks, games, and face painting. Then "Covid-19" arrived and our church and state shut down that weekend. We waited and worked on a revised plan. We still had shoes and socks for the children. Families all over are really suffering so we thought we would add food bags to our plan. We could not do a "shopping day" at Publix and we were not attending services at church and bringing in items for our "Food Cart."

Many were not even getting out to shop for themselves. We decided on a three-day Food Drive where food could be dropped off at church.

Thank you so much to those who dropped off food and to those who contributed financially to support this project. With the help of volunteers – Pat Poorman, Beth Thompson, Mary Ann Palmer, Carol McElroy, and Emily Seeger we collected, sorted and filled 50 bags of food. Pastor Edwin had worked with the manager at Palm Lake Mobile Home Park to make sure we had addresses for each child/family that needed shoes. On Tuesday evening, May 26, a small group headed to Palm Lake to drop the shoes and food bags on the doorstep of each family. What a blessing to be kind and help others! When there is such need in our community and world, it can be overwhelming and we think that we don't have the time, money, or ideas on how to help. Always remember that you only need to be kind and help one person to make a difference. **Sometimes a smile to someone who has been depressed, a small donation to a group helping fill needs and, a prayer for those struggling is all it takes to change the world!**



Kris Clemmensen,
Missions Coordinator

Family Ministries

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you and yours.

Philosopher and theologian, Søren Kierkegaard, once said "Life can only be understood backward, but it must be lived forward."

As we seek to live our lives forward, we might not know what the future holds. The pandemic has forced changes upon us on many levels. The degree to which things will be "normalized," and how quickly, has yet to be seen. Yet, in the midst of our changing circumstances, our Lord remains the same (Hebrews 13:8).

His love, care, and compassion for us never change.

May the Holy Spirit help us to simply keep our eyes on Jesus and receive His peace, strength, and grace to keep living out our faith.

"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).

*Warmly in Christ,
Pastor Edwin*



*Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are."*

Leeland

This and That



The Bargain Nook is planning to re-open its doors on June 16th.

Hours will still be 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The plan is to only allow 4 customers in the shop at one time. Anyone coming must wear a mask of their own. We will not supply them. Hands will be sprayed with sanitizer as customers come through the door.

Donations will be received at the back door as usual, but will not be brought in the shop until they are wiped down.

Needless to say, this is all going to be a challenge. Praying all will go well and allow us to continue to stay open.

God bless us all, and as always, your donations are welcomed.

Carol McElroy



ENUMC's 2020 Rocky Railway VBS Has Been Cancelled

Warren Willis' 2020 summer program
has been suspended

Stay Connected

- Visit our website
- Subscribe to the weekly newsletter
- Email or call the church office