

News, Views, & Gospel Truths

EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2020

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness” (Jeremiah 31:3)

Lent is a season for self-examination, repentance, fasting, and reconciliation. A time to ponder upon the divine love of God for us. It is God’s own voice that makes the offer of rescue. Even in the midst of the worse crisis, a turning towards God is always possible. God, through Jesus Christ, has shown us his unfailing love. All we have to do is accept it. His love will sustain and empower us.

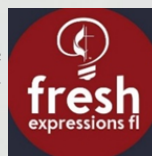
We are inviting you to join us in a fast every Wednesday during Lent, starting Wednesday, March 4, through Wednesday, April 8.

Pastor Jacquie

MISSION DEPARTMENT

Fresh Expressions exist to form faith communities that reach new people, in new places, in new ways.

Festival of Hope – This year’s event will take place on Sunday, March 15 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Palm Lake Mobile Home Park. We will have music, snacks & games, and new shoes for the children who live there (about 35 children). Please join us to fellowship, share, and evangelize with our neighbors.



Argentina Connection – On February 6th, our church hosted a luncheon for the Methodist Bishop of Argentina, Americo Jara Reyes, and his group. We enjoyed hearing from the Bishop about the long history of Methodist Church in Argentina. Our Pastor, Jacquie Leveron, is part of a group of women pastors from Florida who will be visiting Argentina at the end of March. Pastor Jacquie is looking for a used laptop computer in working order that she could take to Argentina to give to a school administrator. If you have an old working laptop, please contact the church office to arrange your donation. We can work with you to make sure all of your personal data is wiped from the computer before it is taken to Argentina.

Kris Clemmensens,
Mission Coordinator

Things To Note:

Sunday, March 8th
Clocks Change



Sunday, March 8th
3:00 p.m.
Last Concert
Bluegrass Gospel

Sunday, March 15th
4:30 p.m.
Festival of Hope
Palm Lake Mobile Home Park

Palm Sunday, April 5th
9:30 a.m.
Easter Cantata
“Love Divine”

Notes From the Music Department



Our ENUMC Concert Series presented another wonderful concert last month—*Totally Broadway* was just incredible! The singers gave us a great show! The house was packed; it was standing room only—really! We even had to seat people in the choir loft behind the performers! We had a record 563 in attendance and a record free-will offering! Thanks to everyone who came out to the concert and brought friends! THIS IS WHY WE HAVE A CONCERT SERIES, to bring people into our

church in hopes that they will come back and worship with us. If you were unable to attend, please check our website www.enaples.org – for a link to videos of the concert on YouTube.

Our next concert on the series is Bear Hill Bluegrass Gospel Band, on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The group hails from the mountains of West Virginia and specializes in bluegrass/bluegrass gospel. Bear Hill Bluegrass Band plays hard-driving, traditional, recognizable bluegrass. Their show is filled with comedy and has that “friendly down-home manner” on stage. The band interacts with the audience throughout the show with their music and humor. They were voted #1 bluegrass band in West Virginia two years in a row. This concert will be part traditional bluegrass, and the other half, bluegrass gospel!

Please remember why we have this series – as an outreach into our community to try and bring people into our church. We hope you will make every possible effort to bring someone with you to our last concert of the season.

On Palm Sunday, April 5th, the Chancel Choir (and some friends) will be presenting the Easter Cantata, “Love Divine,” by Joel Raney during our worship service. We hope you will be able to join us in worship as the choir presents this wonderful choral work with a small chamber orchestra telling the story about the final days of Jesus. We would also like to welcome Janiece Zahrt to the choir!

Brent Nicholas
Director, Music Ministries

ENUMC Corporate Fast
Every Wednesday Through The Season of Lent

Happy Birthday



To a most wonderful group of people.
May you have a fantastic 2020 birthday!

Virginia Nagy	1-Mar	Kathy Sullivan	10-Mar	Scott Tatem	19-Mar
Lowell Momberg	1-Mar	Barbara Young	13-Mar	Sandy Beaumont	20-Mar
Nicole Berg	3-Mar	Keith Kenzie	13-Mar	Linda Yeager	21-Mar
Henry Lehman	5-Mar	Cynthia Greenleaf	14-Mar	Lois Haney	22-Mar
Harriet Bush	6-Mar	Richard Wilson	15-Mar	Ernest Garofano	23-Mar
Joyce Snell	6-Mar	Elsie Hawkins	17-Mar	Warren Searfoss	23-Mar
Daniel Klement	7-Mar	Mayelyn Garcia	17-Mar	Betty Hunter	23-Mar
Fran Lewis	8-Mar	Andres Torres	18-Mar	Veronica Richiez	25-Mar
Mary Beth Rabe	8-Mar	Earl Shields	19-Mar	Doug Nelson	31-Mar

Bargain Nook

Easter is just around the corner and we have many items available for sale. We always have unusual items available that won't be found in other places.

Please stop by and get those special things for those Easter baskets. Don't have a basket? You can get that, too. Need a new Easter outfit? You can get that, too.

We are in need of donations of the usual items, linens, kitchen items, and jewelry.

Sales have been low; however, we are still hoping to finish the season strong. Thanks to all our volunteers.

Carol



CUBA NOW

A conversation by
Dan Christopherson about
society, religion, and
current life in Cuba.

Sunday, March 29th,
3:00 p.m., ENUMC Chapel

Family Ministries

The Lenten season is here and what a great opportunity to draw close to the Lord. There are so many noises, concerns, and obligations in this life that if we are not careful, we will put our relationship with the Lord “on the back burner.” It is easy for some of us to sacrifice our devotional or quiet time because we are almost consumed with the affairs of this life. And while we must certainly do all we can to fulfill our responsibilities, I believe we must be careful to also keep a rhythm in which we make time to pursue our relationship with God.

In explaining the Parable of the Sower to His disciples, Jesus said: “The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22, NIV). Are the worries of this life choking the word of God and making it unfruitful in our lives? This Lenten Season, I would like to encourage you as I encourage myself, to keep a rhythm of engaging in our responsibilities and also resting in God’s presence. I believe this will help us walk in the purpose and joy of the Lord as we face life with faith, hope, and the strength that can only come from Him.

Pastor Edwin,
Director, Family Ministries

Thank You, ENUMC

The ENUMC staff were grateful for the love offering taken up on Staff Appreciation Sunday. However, we were most blessed by the outpouring of sentiments from those of you who took the time to write to us, collectively and individually. Of those addressed to us as a team, this one spoke to the core of who we are and how we function. Thank you, Jackie.

“Dear Staff,

First, I was going to write individual notes to each of you to commend what you do for our church. But then, I realized we aren’t fragmented but instead work as a whole. So, each of you is a blood vessel leading to the heart which is ENUMC. All of you work together and without one of you, our heart wouldn’t effectively work. So, thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you each do, the things we see and the many things we don’t see or may not even know about. Each of you is a special blessing and I thank God for you!!

Jackie Robinson”

The Church Leadership Team



**Those photographed from left to right:
Scot Shepard, Jeff Ahlquist, Jaime Williams, Duane Poorman,
Joan Hemlet, Fran Beaumont, Michael Poff, and Tom McElroy**

Our Team consists of Fran Beaumont, Linda Williams, Beth Thompson, Duane Poorman, Michael Poff, Jaime Williams, Jeff Ahlquist, Joan Hemelt, Howard Moxam, Jerry Nailor, Scot Shepard, Tom McElroy and of course, our wonderful Pastor Jacquie. Please give thanks and praise to this wonderful team. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about the Church, please contact one of the above.

Thank you to all the members that have utilized the new way of making contributions through VANCO. This process, linked to our website, has made it easier for you to make your monthly contributions to the Church.

Roof repairs on the Fellowship Hall have been completed, along with the installation of new carpet. Other needed repairs have been made from the damage received from Hurricane Irma. New air conditioning units have been installed to replace those that were 18 years old. Enjoy the cool!

Due to continued increases in just about everything that makes this church run, we had to increase our 2020 budget to approximately \$50,000 this year. As you can well imagine, getting our monthly costs down is extremely difficult and we really appreciate your help with costs. Your support and understanding along with your increased contributions are really appreciated.

Please enjoy all the special happenings at your church. Join in, and bless all who attend East Naples United Methodist Church.

Yours in Christ,
Tom McElroy



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Learning Center Happenings



We are happy to announce that we currently have 77 children in our preschool and a waitlist for all classes. God is good! The Learning Center has already started enrollment for the new 2020/2021 school year. The Learning Center offers FREE VPK Program for all children who turn 4 years of age by September 1st. Space for FREE VPK is limited. The Learning Center Preschool is open year-round serving children in our community from ages 1-4. Each week at The Learning Center, children are taught a new Bible lesson and verse, weekly themes, their colors, shapes, letters, math, science, character development, music class, chapel, and much more. During the week we have weekly readers from the church family come in and read to the children for about 20 minutes. If you are interested in reading to the children, please call the preschool office to see what days are available. Do you know a family member, friend, or business associate looking for high-quality child care? Then The Learning Center Preschool is for them. Please have them give the preschool office a call to set up a tour. As always, we thank you for your prayers, support, and referrals.

Michele Micieli
Director
The Learning Center Preschool, 239-775-0745

Young Adult Spotlight



Hi Everyone, I'm Lizzy and a current student at Florida Southwestern State College, formally known as Edison. By the end of this summer, I will have earned my associate degree after meeting all requirements for the general arts degree and nursing prerequisite courses. In the fall, I plan to focus on studying for the TEASE test, a requirement before applying to the nursing program which includes all the subject areas. Once having earned a good enough score on it, I will then apply for the spring semester of nursing.

Aside from being a student, I have the blessing of teaching future generations right here at the ENUMC Learning Center. I'm employed as a VPK Assistant Teacher and have the grand opportunity to help these precious 4 and 5-year-olds become more confident in their comprehension abilities and motor skills. It's so rewarding and exciting seeing them excel in something that's easily overlooked, such as cutting perfectly on the dotted lines. It's a moment of great achievement and fulfillment for the students knowing they could do it on their own successfully.

Back in September, Michele, the Director of The Learning Center, asked me to take over Chapel Mondays and be the one to actively teach all of the students about the Lord. At first, I was nervous about it because I feared I'd make a mistake and say something inaccurate, but since then the Lord has been helping and guiding me with the right words to aid in their understanding of God's powerful love and commandments. It's been a true blessing being trusted to instill a passion for Christ in their hearts from a young age. Hearing them reply knowingly to questions about the Lord is the best reward ever because I know they're wanting to know more of Him. This opportunity has also been a great way for me to overcome my fear of public speaking and to also serve the Lord in His house. Being around children all day has motivated me to specialize in pediatrics so that I may continue to help them. I'd like to thank you all for the continued prayers and support for us college students!

Kind regards, Lizzy