

News, Views and Gospel Truths

East Naples United Methodist Church March/April 2021

NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Pen



In the Day of My Calamity

They crucified my Lord, An' He nevuh said a mumbalin word,
They crucified my Lord, An' He nevuh said a mumbalin word,
Not a word, not a word, not a word.

I was overwhelmed with a sense of numbness as I turned the pages of this book. My heart cried out for Sylvia Likens. It was unbelievable to me that this young, sixteen-year-old girl was destined, it seemed, to fall by the hands of a sadistic and twisted woman by the name of Gertrude Baniszewski. At one point in my reading, so overcome with tears and heartbreak, I had to put the book down.

“Why did she not, along with her sister Jenny, make way for an escape,” I asked myself. With the one, futile exception Sylvia remained in this “house of dread” and passively accepted, with moans, groans, grunts, physical and sexual abuse. Even when Paula, of all people, took her to the back door and encouraged her to “Get out for your own safety... she stayed” and such a decision to remain in the Baniszewski home would lead to her continued torture, abuse, and ultimate demise.

Time and again, she suffered abuse at the hands of Gertrude and others in a most sadistic manner. She was paddled, slammed in the mouth, clubbed, yanked, knocked, slugged, banged, flipped, slapped, kicked, stomped and clawed, scalded, punched, sexually abused, shoved, clobbered and burned, starved, whacked, tattooed, smashed, knocked, and stepped on like a dog (Isa. 52:13-53:12). Sylvia was degraded, dehumanized, humiliated, and mocked by a company of children who had become mobilized to carry out the death wish plans of a sick and sadistic thirty-seven year old woman, named Gertrude. Through all of this, perhaps, Sylvia cried out, “Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me” (Psa. 25:19) and “they confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the LORD was my support” (Psa. 18:18).

Pastor's Pen (continued)

In John Dean's *House of Evil: The Indiana Torture Slaying* violence filled every corner and crevice (Gen. 6:11, 13). Sylvia, who "never asserted herself" against the jealous Gertrude, never, it would appear, shouted "violence and destruction" (Job 19:7; Jer. 20:8); for her midnight groans and sighs for relief were unanswered (Mk. 15:34). In this house of violence we find the willful violation and mistreatment of the other and, as such, an attack on the beauty of human bodies in community one with another. Additionally, this assault on the fabric of community is wedded to an affront against God, the God of community who gives life to all. And when a life is abused by the wicked (Job 15:20, 34; 18:5; 20:5), it cries out beneath a canopy of a thousand and one midnights unto its Maker (Psa. 140:4), the One who is just and hears those who sing the blues. This God comes to the abused and "**brings them up out**" of the tomb of oppression (Exod. 2:23-24; 3:7-8; Mk. 16:3-4, 6) because the forces of evil and death do not have the final word over our lives but, rather, the God of resurrection power in Jesus Christ.

He Lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

along life's narrow way.

By Pastor Dwayne Craig



Holy Week A Time of Family Devotion

We would like to encourage the congregation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. during Holy Week (March 29 - April 3) to:

- **Be in Prayer throughout the week and lift up the church community (i.e., possible denomination split), FLUMC, ENUMC staff and membership, ministry leaders, sick and shut-in, homeless, Spanish-speaking worship service, and the community at large.**
- **Read Scripture and meditate upon the following texts:**
 - Monday – Isaiah 42:1-9; John 12:1-11**
 - Tuesday – Isaiah 49:1-7; John 12:20-36**
 - Wednesday – Isaiah 40:4-9; John 13:21-32**
 - Thursday – Exodus 12; John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (Holy Thursday)**
 - Friday – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18:1-19:42 (Good Friday)**
 - Saturday – Job 14:1-14; John 19:38-42**
- **Listen to Billie Holiday's song Strange Fruit and reflect on the cross of Jesus Christ.**
- **Have Silent Meditation (Psalm 46:10) - Henri Nouwen reminds us that "Silence is an indispensable discipline in the spiritual life."**

March Mission Project

Matthew 25:35-40

“ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, ... 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ”

Lenten Path Food Drive – JOIN US IN COLLECTING JOYFUL FOODS FOR THE HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK! You may also donate cash that will be donated to Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Kris Clemmensen 513-720-8741 or Mary Ann Palmer 239-238-8180 will be happy to pick up food donations from your

Day 1—Ash Wednesday—Pancake Mix

Day 2—Syrup

Day 3—Bag of Rice

Day 4—Can of Beans

1st Sunday of Lent

Day 5—Cake Mix

Day 6—Frosting for Cake Mix

Day 7—Box of Dry Milk Day 8—

Breakfast Bars

Day 9—Jar of Jelly

Day 10—Candy that won't melt (lollipops, smarties, etc.)

2nd Sunday of Lent—February 28th (Bring your bag to Church)

Day 11—Popcorn

Day 12—Can of Chicken

Day 13—Pasta

Day 14—Jar of Pasta Sauce

Day 15—Bread/Muffin Mix

Day 16—Snack Food

3rd Sunday of Lent—March 7th (Bring your bag to Church)

Day 17—Can of Soup

Day 18—Can of Nuts

Day 19—Can of Tuna

Day 20—Can of Beans

Day 21—Brownie Mix

Day 22— Breakfast Bars

4th Sunday of Lent—March 14th (Bring your bag to Church)

Day 23—Pancake Mix

Day 24—Syrup

Day 25—Can of Tuna

Day 26—Bread/Muffin Mix

Day 27—Brownie Mix

Day 28—Jar of Jelly

5th Sunday of Lent—March 21th (Bring your bag to Church)

Day 29—Jar of Pasta Sauce

Day 30—Pasta

Day 31—Bag of

Rice Day 32—

Cooking oil

Day 33—Can of Beans

Day 34—Candy that won't melt

PALM SUNDAY—March 28TH (Bring your bag to Church)

Day 35—Snack food

Day 36—Cake Mix

Day 37—Frosting for Cake Mix

Day 38—Box of dry milk—Maundy Thursday

Day 39— Popcorn—Good Friday

Day 40 —Jar of jelly—Holy Sat-

urday **EASTER—HE HAS RISEN!**

BRING YOUR BAG TO CHURCH— CELEBRATE!!



THANK YOU FOR ALL THE DONATIONS THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT IN SO FAR. WE DELIVERED 483 LBS. OF FOOD TO HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK ON MARCH 1 AND WE HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED ABOUT THAT SAME AMOUNT AGAIN! THANK YOU, THANK YOU & THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.



MISSIONS

April Mission Project

Drive Thru Dinner #3 – Our next Drive Thru Dinner will be April 14 and will serve the families of our New Horizons Middle/High School program. We have served 260 meals to over 44 different families at our dinners in January and February. We could not have done this without our 20+ volunteers and the prayers and financial support of all of you! Please continue to pray for this project as we consider expanding to serve more families in our community. Your prayers and financial support make this outreach possible. Each meal served cost \$10. Please consider sponsoring a meal or maybe meals for a family of four.



May Mission Project –

We will be collecting books and educational resources for the children to have over the summer so they can continue working on their skills. Look for more information coming.

We have mission project ideas for the summer months but will put out more information as we see what COVID restrictions still exist and how we can best serve our community and world in a safe way during this time. Again, thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of the Mission Program at ENUMC.

UPDATE

Fill the Table Update for the Florida United Methodist Conference – Update

From July - December 2020, 476 churches and ministries had collected food and money to provide 2,934,806 meals. That was updated after January to 3,803,170. These are amazing numbers! Thank you for your support of this project!



Family Ministries

Dear Friends,

As we continue in this season of Lent, I would like to encourage us to keep making space to listen to God's voice by meditating on Scripture. What need could you be facing today? What does God say about it in His word? For the past several days, I have been meditating on the last verse of the Book of Matthew in which Jesus said "...I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20, NIV). As I think about and ponder this passage, I am strengthened and encouraged to remember that the Great I Am is with me (and with you) every single second of our day.

Our Encounter Youth Ministry will have its first *Open Mic* night this Sunday, March 28 from 5:30 to 6:30pm and we will be discussing the topic of bullying. *Open Mic* is a new gathering we are incorporating in order to provide a space where our young people can discuss topics of relevance to them, from a Christian perspective. This gathering will take place each fourth Sunday, while regular youth nights will continue each first and third Sundays.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministries.

Pastor Edwin

Having trouble getting a COVID19 vaccine appointment?

Try calling (239) 252-8201. Some of our church members have had success calling this number and scheduling an appointment.

TLC in the Spotlight



Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future." -Maria Montessori

My name is Ms. Yosi and I am the teacher for our three-year-old class. I have been working with children since the age of 16 and at The Learning Center for 3 years. Once I graduated from high school, I had clarity on what I wanted to do, work with kids.

One of the things I enjoy about working with children is the many things you can learn, from their uniqueness and innocence to their kindness and unconditional love they express each day.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

My daily prayer is that my class can see God's love through me and within each other, that they may know that we are a family in Christ and no matter what, we will always be there for one another. It is a beautiful feeling to see my little friends help each other succeed, reminding their friends about the rules, what is right and wrong, applying their knowledge at home, on the playground, within their conversations and even by praying for one another. Kids hold the future in their hands, and I am beyond blessed to be able to help shape a little of that future in my classroom.


Each day brings something new to learn and we learn by having fun, exploring beyond our four walls, and believing that not even the sky is the limit!

I cannot put in words how rewarding it is to work with children; their joy, their energy, and their ability to always put a smile on my face suddenly makes my job feel like a wonderland. I plan on working with children for a very long time and I am currently working on furthering my education.

Our class enjoys receiving letters in the "mail" so feel free to send a card or letters to the 3-year-old classroom at: ENUMC Learning Center Preschool, 2701 Airport Road S, Naples, Florida 34112

Kind Regards,
Ms. Yosi

MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Momberg Lowell	1-Mar		Robinson Jacklyn (Jackie)	4-Apr
Berg Nicole	3-Mar		Williams Amber (Amber)	4-Apr
Lehman Henry (Hank)	5-Mar		Poff Danielle	5-Apr
Bush Harriet	6-Mar		Simera Ben-Oni (Ben)	6-Apr
Snell Joyce	6-Mar		Williams Clarice	6-Apr
Klement Daniel (Dan)	7-Mar		Beebe Bradley H. (Brad)	9-Apr
Kenzie Keith	13-Mar		Johnson Kathy A.	9-Apr
Young Barbara	13-Mar		Williams Mark	10-Apr
Greenleaf Cynthia	14-Mar		Barger Deloris J. (Jean)	11-Apr
Wilson Richard	15-Mar		Sleezer Rhonda	12-Apr
Armenteros Lazaro J.	16-Mar		Antoine Lincy R.	13-Apr
Garcia Mayelyn U.	17-Mar		Micieli Al	13-Apr
Hawkins Elsie	17-Mar		Poorman Patricia A. (Pat)	14-Apr
Torres Andres	18-Mar		Hennink Jacqueline	16-Apr
Shields Earl	19-Mar		Milliren Thomas (Tom)	17-Apr
Beaumont Sandra (Sandy)	20-Mar		Derf Jayne	18-Apr
Yeager Linda	21-Mar		Hargie Nancy	20-Apr
Haney Lois L.	22-Mar		Clemmensen Graeme R.	21-Apr
Garofano Ernest (Ernie)	23-Mar		Clemmensen Kristin A. (Kris)	22-Apr
Hunter Betty	23-Mar		Loewel Barbara (Barb)	24-Apr
Searfoss Warren	23-Mar		McElroy Carol	24-Apr
Richiez Veronica	25-Mar		Wilson Ruth R.	26-Apr
Nelson Doug	31-Mar		White Glenda	27-Apr
Powell Carol	1-Apr		Moxam Howard O.	30-Apr
McIntyre Amy C.	3-Apr			
Poorman Duane H.	3-Apr			
Ferrell Ann R.	4-Apr			
Poff Mallory R. (Mall)	4-Apr			

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29—April 3 Holy Week Devotion

We would like to encourage the congregation to have devotion between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14th

Our next Mission's Drive Thru Dinner will be April 14 and will serve the families of our New Horizons Middle/High School program



Mission Opportunities

We are currently looking for people who might be interested in leading the Dress A Girl sewing project when it resumes in the future.

We are looking for people who have a heart and passion

for working with the homeless who might help us create and lead an outreach to the homeless in our area. This could be a monthly or quarterly program on our church property that might provide needed items and fellowship time.

We are looking for people who have experience or a passion for working with a Jail Ministry. This could include connecting with those recently released from jail or those currently in jail.

If you feel that any of the above opportunities fit your passions, please contact Kris Clemmensen – kriscllem@comcast.net or 239-331-4889.

Proverbs 22:17

“A merry heart does good like medicine”

We have mission project ideas for the summer months but will put out more information as we see what COVID restrictions still exist and how we can best serve our community and world in a safe way during this time. Again, thank you for your ongoing prayers and support

Youth in Motion



This month's youth spotlight is Amber Williams. Amber has been a member of the ENUMC Encounter Youth Group for the past 5 years. She is an active member of the youth band, where she plays the ukulele and keyboard.

Amber has attended Warren Willis United Methodist Camp, the Connect Retreat, and Christian music concerts featuring Toby Mac, Jeremy Camp, and MercyMe. She went through confirmation classes, along with other youth, and was confirmed in March of 2019.

Amber attends our weekly church service regularly with her mom, Jaime Williams. She enjoys spending time with her parents and younger brother Zachary.

Like many of our youth, we have had the pleasure of seeing her grow up at East Naples. She performed in church musicals, numerous Christmas services, and she sang with the Children's Choir. Amber actively volunteers at church events such as the Back-to-School Bash, youth car wash, and the Easter Party. at Mason Classical Academy. Her favorite subject is Art, she has taken multiple college-level classes, and she has studied Latin.

Her favorite pastimes include expressing herself through art and participating in outdoor activities. She stays busy playing the piano and ukulele.

Amber we are so proud of you! God loves you and so does your church family.

CLT

From the Church Leadership Team's
Facilitator

As we are entering the springtime, there is good news about the availability of the Covid 19 vaccine. I am sure there are those lucky members and attendees who have received either their first or even the second vaccination. Good for you.

Unfortunately, I believe there are many over 65, and of course, those who are not yet qualified to receive a vaccine who have not received a vaccination. Perhaps by the time next month rolls around, most of us would have received our injections. It won't be until later in the spring or early summer when vaccinations will be available to everyone who wants one.

However, this brings us to a dilemma.

Some might think that the idea of getting vaccinated opens the door to no longer following CDC and Florida Conference guidelines and recommendations on how to continue with our services and treating others in protecting ourselves from the possibility of catching the virus. There might be some who feel completely protected once they have been vaccinated. This idea is not what has been offered by both the scientists, the CDC and the Conference.

Until the recommendation comes from them, our Church shall follow the present requirements of wearing a mask, washing hands frequently, and observing social distancing.

Women's Month

Frances Willard was born September 28, 1839, in Churchville, NY, and graduated from North Western Female College in [Evanston](#), Illinois, in



1859. Frances Elizabeth Caroline Willard was an American educator, reformer, and founder of the [World Woman's Christian Temperance Union](#) (1883). An

excellent speaker, a successful lobbyist, and an expert in pressure politics; she was a leader of the National Prohibition Party.

She taught school for several years before becoming president of the new Evanston College for Ladies, a Methodist institution closely associated with [Northwestern University](#) in 1871. When the Evanston College for Ladies was absorbed by Northwestern in 1873, Willard became dean of women and professor of English and art and later resigned in 1874 after she had conflicts with the university's president, Charles H. Fowler, to whom she had been engaged in 1861.

A group of Chicago women invited Willard to become president of their [temperance](#) organization. The Temperance movement was a movement dedicated to promoting moderation and, more often, complete abstinence in the use of intoxicating liquor which was introduced by several churches as an abstinence pledge. The Temperance Movement grew under the influence of churches which led to over 6,000 temperance societies. Willard went from president of a local temperance organization to corresponding secretary of the National [Woman's Christian Temperance Union](#) (WCTU), to the head of the national WCTU's publications committee, to president of the Chicago WCTU, to president of Illinois WCTU, and finally president of national WCTU. Under her leadership, she was able to mount several campaigns both in public education and politics. Over the years Willard wrote frequently for periodicals and WCTU publications. Her autobiography, *Glimpses of Fifty Years*, was published in 1889. She died February 18, 1898, in New York, N.Y. In 1905 a marble statue of her by [Helen Farnsworth Mears](#) became one of Illinois's two submissions to Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol depicting Frances Willard as the American educator, temperance reformer, and women's suffragist. The Statue is in the United States Capitol's National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.