



Mission of the Month

Mary Petro: Food and Medicine Fund

In 2005, Mary Petro made arrangements for her estate to assist individuals living in Sun City Center with essential needs such as food and medicine.

Fund Overview

The Mary Petro Food and Medicine Fund is managed by the South Shore Council of Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and administered by the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center. For over thirteen years, this fund has been dedicated to supporting residents of Sun City Center and Kings Point.

Our Mission

Our mission is to offer temporary assistance to residents facing urgent needs for food and/or medicine.

Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals earning \$25,000 or less per year, or couples with an income of \$30,000 or less, are eligible.
- Applicants must be permanent residents of Sun City Center or Kings Point.
- Applications are assessed annually, and all information is kept confidential.

How to Apply

The Mary Petro Fund Office is located at the Sun City United Methodist Church, 1971 Haverford Avenue, Sun City Center, FL 33573, in Room 12. You can reach us at 813-634-8306. The office hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Applications can be:

- Picked up at the Mary Petro Fund Office
- Collected from the church office
- Mailed to any interested individuals

Community support enables us to address a wide range of needs for our vulnerable neighbors. Thank you for your ongoing support of this remarkable ministry and for all that you do to assist others.

Pastor's Corner – Travis Taylor

Paul's and Timothy's Relational Discipleship in the Body of Christ

It has often been said that Christianity isn't a *religion* as much as it is a *relationship*. While I have mixed feelings about such a statement, I can certainly see the point trying to be made. The idea that Christianity is more about our relationship with Jesus than it is about following a long list of dos and don'ts. Like marriage... while there are certainly rules to be followed if the marriage is to survive, the quality of the marriage really hinges on the caliber of the relationship. On the willingness of the couple to be honest, intimate, and vulnerable with each other... to teach and to be taught.

In the same vein, the Church is also called to a certain level of intimacy and vulnerability in its relationships. The apostle Paul tells the church in Ephesus, "...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord." -Ephesians 2:19-21

Like a large family with fathers and mothers, patriarchs and matriarchs, the Church, rooted in Christ, is joined together by faith and submission. A willingness to teach and be taught. The apostle Paul thought of Timothy as his own son. He shared his heart with Timothy, taught, and trained him up in the ways of the Lord by the power of the gospel, and Timothy *let* him.

The Church needs fathers and mothers who joyfully pour themselves sacrificially into relationships to keep their family strong!

This month, I'd like to challenge us all to consider: "Who's my Paul?" And "Who's my Timothy?" "Who am I listening to and learning from?" And "Who am I spending time with and pouring into?"

Such mentorship is essential if we are to grow strong leaders and equip the next generation of the Church.

New Member Fellowship

September 16th at 4:00PM

in the Life Enrichment Center (LEC)

All are invited who are new to the church or have interest in joining the church in membership. We are excited to welcome you and look forward to sharing this journey with you. This will be a time to meet and hear from Pastor Cynthia

and lay members as well as learn about opportunities to serve in our church and about the foundational principles of United Methodism. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and deepen your understanding of our mission and vision. Remember, the church is not just a building, but a family of believers coming together to support one another and grow in faith. We hope you will join us and become a part of our vibrant and caring congregation. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you every step of the way.

If you wish to become a member of the church, we will be welcoming new members during all three services on Sunday, September 21st.

If you are interested in joining but unable to attend the New Member Fellowship with Pastor Cynthia, please contact Aisling Turner at aturner@secumc.com.



CENTER 4LIFE LEARNING

Step out, get inspired, have fun, be entertained! There is a wide variety of classes and day trips that will liven up your life.

**2025 Fall Semester
Begins October 6th**

Registration is Open

Register Online, Visit the Office, or
See Sue on the Patio

**Monday - Friday
8:30AM - 12:30PM
813-634-8607**

www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning

CLASSES AVAILABLE:

ART

- Beginning Calligraphy
- Modern Dot Art
- Intermediate Quilling

FINANCE

- Investment, Estate, and Tax Planning

HEALTH

- End-of-Life Planning for You and Your Family
- Plant-Powered Living: A Holistic Approach to Vibrant Health
- Therapeutic Writing for People in 12 Step Recovery

TECHNOLOGY

- Android Smartphones & Tablets

HISTORY

- Beginning Genealogy
- Film History of American War Movies
- The Constitutional Convention of 1787

LANGUAGE

- Sign Language
- Beginners Conversational Spanish: Level II

DISCUSSION

- Artificial Intelligence
- Chautauqua XI
- Rock, Reason & Resolution: Philosophy You Already Know
- UFOs
- Understanding Modern Art
- What in the World?

Center 4Life Learning's upcoming trips and tours!



Holly Dolly, Musical Comedy
Manatee Performing Arts Center

October 23, 2025

SunKicks, Lunch and Christmas
Show Suncoast Broadway Dinner
Theater



Once Upon a Mattress, Musical,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

January 22, 2026

StarLite Sapphire Luncheon Cruise,
South Pasadena

February 12, 2026



The Cemetery Club, Dramatic Comedy,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

February 25, 2026

Bright Star, musical Production,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

March 5, 2026



Miss Saigon: Lunch and Musical,
Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater

March 21, 2026

And Then There Were None, Classic
Mystery Drama, Manatee Performing
Arts Center

April 15, 2026



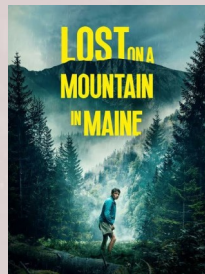
**Reservations Fill Up Fast –
Register Today!**

Contact the Center 4Life Learning office at
813-634-8607

email at center4life@sccumc.com,
or visit our website at www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning

Friday *Night* at the Movies

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 6:00PM



Lost on a Mountain in Maine is the true story of Donn Fendler, the boy who, in the summer of 1939 at the age of 12, got separated from his hiking partners and became lost on Katahdin with no supplies. No one ever found a body, because Fendler eventually stumbled out of the woods into a hunting camp — dehydrated, covered in bug bites and 16 pounds lighter — but otherwise remarkably OK.

The story captured the attention of the entire nation — his rescue made the front page of *The New York Times*. This movie is a thrilling, engaging and moving depiction of Fendler's experience.

This is a free event for our community and church.
Doors open at 5:30PM.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 8:00AM

Please plan to join this month's Men's Breakfast. It'll be a good time with good guys, so don't be afraid to bring a buddy with you. Whether you're a regular attendee or a first-timer, this event promises a warm welcome and lots of laughter. So mark your calendars, and don't miss out on this chance to connect and recharge. We can't wait to see you there!

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month.
Cost is \$10.00. Please sign up by September 14th.

'Break Away' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

It's known to the folks of Breakaway that we'll try anything at least once, within reason. Sometimes the craft or activity is a flop, but other times we have such success that we must repeat! For example, we recently had our third annual country and western day, but this time we included dodgeball with a 5 ½' beachball! The day was a success but unfortunately not dodgeball! The ball itself was fun to play with, and we will again, just in a different way!



Another repeat activity was creating artwork using rolled-up crepe paper. Our "quilt" took over four days to create, rolling all the balls wasn't the most exciting time, but we had fun fellowshiping over the process and the quilt turned out awesome! Next time you're in Creason be sure to check it out!



Something we do every single day is play volleyball after lunch, without fail a couple of folks begin creating our court by setting up the net, the chairs, pulling out the pool noodles and the best part, a bunch of balloons! The game is fun for most everyone, but for our friends living with dementia like other exercises, it's a good activity to help keep some connections intact in the brain.



Another daily activity is dancing. I cannot remember a day that was not ended with at least a little dancing, whether it be to live entertainment or our own soundtracks, we love to dance, a favorite is to have a "train" song where almost everyone joins in the fun!

A first for us was observing National Elvis Week and it was a success. We shared some Elvis trivia and puzzles, and a couple of our friends shared their personal stories of meeting Elvis. We of course listened to our favorite songs and danced, even though Elvis, unfortunately, was not in the building.



We painted canvas tote bags for the first time with mixed results, but we had enough positive ones that we'll be doing it again. It's even been suggested that we try to sell the bags in *Breakaway*

Creations so keep your eye out! Speaking of *Breakaway Creations*, have you visited our store yet? We have an assortment of items all made or assembled by participants and volunteers such as pens, keychains, plant stakes, bottle lights and more. We're located in the LEC Lobby right outside of the bookstore. We will soon be offering a few Halloween, Fall and Christmas themed items - so be on the lookout!



Instead of meal kits for Mary Petro, we spent some time bagging up cat food for their clients. We also assembled some pens that we're donating to the Campaign Against Human Trafficking. We love being able to do for others! If you have an organization that we might be able to assist with let me know.

Our latest first-time activity was our literal fashion show! Linda Whitt served as our Emcee and about a dozen models made up of volunteers and church staff showed off their home-made outfits that kept with the literal theme, for example, the 14K necklace was literally 14 carrots wrapped around Ann's neck, Karen's T-shirt was literally covered in tea bags, Pastor Debbie's plunging neckline was a necklace of plungers! You get the picture right?! We had so much fun and will be taking the show on the road and doing it again in Breakaway for sure!



Thank God It's Variety (T.G.I.V.) - Larry Hirschak

Summer has nearly passed and we are anxious to get back into a very busy and exciting concert series season! September kicks things off with three events.

On September 19th, we will once again have Billy "Elvis" Lindsey performing for an Alzheimer's Benefit concert. Billy has been graciously presenting a concert at a very reasonable cost to allow for most of the proceeds to go to this much needed cause. Lindsey has been giving "Elvis" tribute concerts for years and is the winner of numerous awards for his "ELVIS" act. Lindsey has performed in many venues, including cruise ships, and has travelled extensively with his act. He is the past winner of "The ELVIS Extravaganza" Contest at the Florida State Fair, Best Look-A-Like, and Fan Favorite. If you love that great music from the past or have ever been a fan of Elvis and his music, you won't want to miss this great concert!

On September 21st, we will be presenting another recital in the Rasmussen Artist Series. This recital will feature our own Teodora Mitze-Cîrciumaru and Brent Douglas. They will be doing an organ/piano and four-hand/four-feet organ program that is exceptional!! Brent is an accomplished and passionate conductor, remarkable pianist, harpsichordist, and organist with an extensive background in symphonic, operatic, and choral genres. His illustrious career has taken him across the United States and overseas showcasing his musical prowess with The Florida Orchestra, St. Pete Baroque, The Springfield Symphony in Missouri, the Venice Symphony, The Sarasota Orchestra, the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra London Classical Players, and the Berlin Sinfonietta. As an opera pianist and vocal coach, he has formed partnerships with acclaimed organizations including St. Petersburg Opera, Opera Tampa, the Springfield Regional Opera in Missouri, and the Savannah Voice Festival in Georgia.

On September 26th, America's Funniest Comedy Magician, Dewayne Hill will be here to dazzle the audience with a night of comedy and magic. Voted America's No.1 Funniest Comedy Magician, Dewayne Hill has been performing magic for over 20 years. Born in Brooklyn, NY and growing up in Charleston, WV, Dewayne got interested in magic from a substitute teacher that did a card trick. After six months of practicing, he started performing in his community and had his first official gig at a church. This caught the attention of a local TV producer. Dewayne's TV appearance landed him a frontpage newspaper article. That ignited a flood of performances that would eventually lead to paying and funding Dewayne's college. In 2020, while the world was shut down because of COVID, Dewayne expanded his reach to acting coaches and screenwriters to develop a screenplay called "The Discernment". In 2021 the project was funded and filming was underway. The film has since won several awards and was selected in 11 different film festivals all over the world and will be airing on several streaming platforms this year. In 2007, Dewayne set a world record by performing the most card tricks in 60 minutes. We will have both adult and youth tickets for this event.

Thank you for supporting this special outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center!! -Larry

Missions Team Update - Tony Petree

Your Mission Team thanks each one of you for your generous "Second Mile Giving" towards our Missions of the Month. Your donations have and will continue to help those in need all around us. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and commitment to making a difference. Your contributions have had a significant impact, supporting various initiatives and bringing hope to countless individuals.

Year-to-date total receipt for second mile giving is \$36,317, your donations have supported the following missions:

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|---|----------|
| • January: Campaign Against Human Trafficking | \$3,831 |
| • February: Residing Hope (includes 5th Sunday donations) | \$14,541 |
| • March: Under the Cross Youth | \$3,912 |
| • April: Breakaway Respite Ministry | \$5,074 |
| • May: Friendship Circle | \$4,273 |
| • June: Cuba Sister Church | \$4,686 |

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for
and assurance for what we do not see.*

Hebrews 11:1



-Jef Jordan

In August, the Chancel Choir and the handbell ensembles [Bellissima, Jubellation, and Glory Ringers] were back in rehearsal and worship. Once again, I'd like to invite you to consider joining one of our many ensembles... it's never too late to make good music for our great Lord! Reading music or prior musical experience is NOT required, and I can promise you LOTS of fun! Please also know that it's not too late to join one of the community choral groups that make their home at our church. Both the Men's and the Women's Choruses start their season this month. Please give me a call or just come by to check us out!

OK, enough 'sales' talk. What I wanted to focus on in this month's Newsletter is an amazing birthday gift I received in August from my very good friend and 'right hand' woman – Jennilyn Crawford! With your help, she put together two beautiful scrapbooks of photos and birthday messages. Over eighty of you gave Jennilyn pics, special scripture passages, and beautiful well wishes. First, VERY SPECIAL THANKS to all who took the time to share with Jennilyn. Lisa and I read through them all and we were both in tears!! Here are a few examples:

Wishing you a year filled with harmony and beauty! [Carolyn McClelland]

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.
[Psalm 100]*

When I grow up, I wanna be just like you! [Steve Maddox]

Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary, praise Him in His mighty heaven! [Psalm 150]

Jeff, you are a musical unicorn galloping through our sanctuary leaving trails of harmony, laughter, and probably glitter! [The Wolfs]

Once you really get to know who you are, one understands why it is hard to say NO. [The Flecks]

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name! [Psalm 92]

How do you know when you're getting older? When the candles cost more than the cake! [Teo]

Then you walked through the door with a giant pair of pants and asked Tiffani and me (who started the job 3 minutes ago) to each get in a leg and hop down the hallway. [Di di Schmidt]

Sing to the Lord, all the earth... For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. [1 Chronicles 16]

You are not ever allowed to retire! (The O'Connors)

I can do all things through Him who gives me strength! [Philippians 4]

You always said, "This week we are singing/playing my favorite song", and the next week you would say it all over again! [Mary Bushong]

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. [Psalm 95]

You've pushed me (even without knowing it!). [Vetzaida Sanchez]

Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. [Ephesians 3]

Finally, THANK YOU, Jennilyn for your special friendship and for ALL that you do for our staff and our church family. You're the best!

Blessings, church family, and as always, *Soli Deo Gloria*

Jeff

Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

“Let September remind you that slowing down is not the same as stopping.” – Unknown

Welcome to September! September already, and only three more months until Christmas! But who's watching the calendar that closely?

It seems like I was just getting ready for the Community Back-to-School event at the end of July, and the next thing I knew we were in August...and now here we are already in September. Where did the time go?

As you probably noticed, I did not write an article for the August newsletter as I was enjoying time away with family in Seattle. So, this month, I wanted to share a few highlights from our 3rd Annual Community Back-to-School event. And what an event it was! We had parents and students lined up at 7:30AM ready to get through our doors - our event did not start until 10:00AM! What an incredible turnout we had this year!



This year we had over 1200 people on our church campus for this wonderful event that you and our community participated in. Because of your donations - monetary, school supplies and the donation of your time - is how we were able to pull off another successful event. I am pleased to share with you that we, as a community, served over 600 students this year with supplies, school physicals offered by BayCare Kids, eye examinations by Preserve Vision, dental exams and fluoride treatments by Mission Smiles. Over thirty-five students received physicals, over seventeen of those students received vaccines, and eighty-four students received eye exams. Mission Smiles stayed quite busy with completing over 300 dental checks and one hundred ninety-nine fluoride treatments!

In addition to school supplies, medical exams and screenings, students received books from Kiwanis, and Feeding Tampa Bay provided fresh produce for families. A Big Thank You to our community volunteers from BayCare, HCA SouthShore Hospital, Gannon University, Kings Point Pickleball Club, The Rotary Club of Sun City Center, the Lions Club, Edward Jones, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Calvary Lutheran Church, The Beth Israel Jewish Congregation, Nearly New and so many others. And thank you to *you*,

our wonderful congregation, who always answer the call. Without your support and all of our volunteers, this annual event could not happen, so thank you for your continued support.



As we enter into this new month, here are a few highlights of things on the horizon:

We are beginning work on our “Bare Necessities for All” Ministry project to support our underserved and vulnerable populations, such as low-income seniors, veterans and school-age children and youth by providing healthy food, clothing, and hygiene products. Funds are being used to provide basic day-to-day necessities to individuals and families who have challenges navigating everyday life in the local area of Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Riverview, Ruskin, Sun City Center, and Wimauma. Stay tuned to see how our church continues affecting lives in our local community.

Join us for Movie Night on September 12th at 6:00pm in the Life Enrichment Center (L.E.C.) when we will be showing “Lost on a Mountain in Maine”, a true story of a young boy's survival in the wilderness after becoming trapped on a treacherous mountain with a fast-moving storm approaching. Come join us for a great movie. Refreshments are provided for a donation to support this wonderful community event.

On Saturday, September 27th, we will host a health clinic with BayCare Community Health from 10:00AM until 2:00PM in the LEC Lobby. Screenings will include A1C, Glucose, and Blood Pressure screenings in addition to Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer FLU vaccines at the same time, stay tuned on that. This event is open to the community, so come and get screened and bring a friend along.

Thank you for your help and volunteer work you do to help through our different ministries and missions. **WE** could not do what we do in our community and abroad without your help and financial support. Thank you for answering God's call to love each other fully.

Much Love and Many Blessings to each of You! Victoria