

The generosity of the SCCUMC Mission of the Month makes possible the provision of caring, Christian volunteers who help with community projects, His Helpers, church maintenance, disaster response (DRT), and recycling. In the past year, the VRT has performed church maintenance activities including trimming trees and bushes; landscaping and gardening; interior and exterior painting; installation and painting of parking signs and concrete parking blocks; power washing exterior areas, including patios, walls, sidewalks, and chairs; cleaning up chalk murals; repairing tables; building storage and recycling areas; and setup and cleanup for numerous church events. This has included helping with Vacation Bible School, Anchor House, and Residing Hope. Many of these VRT activities have saved SCCUMC money because outside vendors did not have to be hired.

[illegible]

VRT's recycling efforts help prevent thousands of pounds of metal, cans, and appliances from ending up in landfills.

If you are interested in becoming an active member of our VRT, please consider attending our monthly meeting or registering for our VRT email database at <http://eepurl.com/gew3MD>. Our next meeting will be October 21, 2026, in Room 19 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Meeting times are the third Wednesday of each month.

Pastor's Corner - Travis Taylor

I have two tattoos.

I got my first tattoo during a season I left church ministry. I had always wanted one and in my new position as a family consultant, tattoos were a great way to connect with my clients. Being a case worker working for a Christian non-profit, it was natural for my court-ordered clients to perceive me as being strait-laced, prudish, and uninformed about their world. I thought a tattoo was a visible way to immediately challenge this prejudice.

As the best tattoos are intended to tell a story, my first tattoo represents my family. On my right forearm is a Tree of Life, bearing roots as well as branches and four green leaves, the four leaves representing my four children. My second tattoo tells a different story. On my right bicep and shoulder is a personally sketched image of a broken down and crumbling church. Someone once told me it looked haunted... but therein lies the story I believe people need to hear and Christians need to remember.

For many, the Church is a scary place full of scary people. How many times have we heard the clichés about the Church being stuck-up, judgmental, or full of self-righteous fanatics? And if that is who we are and how the world perceives us, then Jesus is correct in calling such people “whitewashed tombs!” Who would want to come near to such a place or to such people? Again, God’s word stands true in that the natural man is *already* afraid of coming to the light for “fear his deeds might be exposed.” How sad it would be to find the courage to come near only to have your fears realized and presumptions affirmed, that this was a place you did not belong?

The Light of the Church is not the perfection found within, but the forgiveness found through the blood of Jesus by which streams of grace and mercy flow, and through people who bear His Name and have love for each other. People who welcome lost travelers to join them beside the fire and find a home beneath the shelter of the cross.



Janine's Volunteer Junction with Janine Hulland

Greetings from Janine's "Volunteer Junction". Wow! Another month has come and gone. It went especially fast for me as I was getting up to speed in my new role. I often hear comments from the community about how much the UMC of SCC offers to the community. It makes me proud. Christian love is spread in many ways and forms. I see that from each of you every day as you serve and give your gifts and talents. Galatians 5:13 *"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*

On October 1st and 4th, we will be offering Volunteer training reflecting on why we serve and what it means to serve. The training will last for about 1 to 1 ½ hours. (So, we, will get you home in time to see the Bucs kick off.) Please contact the office to register for one of these two sessions.

The Big Red Bus will be on our church campus, Sunday, October 4th, from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. All donors will receive a \$20 eGift card, a cancer awareness T-shirt and a wellness check.

Our church is hosting its 19th annual Alzheimer's Walk on Saturday, October 10th. There will be many participants and interested partners here. If you are not walking, please stop by anyway and join us that morning for this day of remembrance and hope. Sponsor tables open at 8:30 am and opening ceremonies for the Walk begin at 9:00 am.

We will be hosting a Book Drive for the entire month of October to support Inspira, one of our church ministries. The books are for neurodivergent children who would greatly benefit from reading books together with an adult and from the relationships developed. Diane Cantwell is leading the Book Drive. Information on our book drive is in the Sanctuary and LEC lobbies. If you interested in volunteering for Inspira, please reach out to janine@sccumc.com.

Our Tag Along Tutoring program is seeking volunteers to spend time with kindergarten and first grade students. The commitment is one to two hours per week. A training session, offered by Jan Caruthers, will provide you with helpful skills and tutoring materials. Jan's curriculum offers students with needs an opportunity to better succeed in the classroom. Marianne Drake is assisting Jan with the implementation of this program. For more information, please reach out to Pastor Travis or Janine Hulland.

My next newsletter will begin to talk about Christmas! Yes, Christmas! More to come in November.

As you see from Weekly Happenings and Sunday Morning announcements, our church is buzzing with activity. There are many opportunities to serve. Please reach out to me at janine@sccumc.com to discuss ways you can spread kindness and Christian love.

Joyfully Serving Together,
Janine Hulland, Director of Engagement

NOW

IS OUR MOMENT.



Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope. Now is the time for action.

Help us keep the momentum going in your community at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.

Walk to End Alzheimer's – SouthShore, FL

October 10th

8:30am – Visit Sponsor Tables

9:00am – Opening Ceremony

United Methodist Church SCC

1971 Haverford Ave, Sun City Center, FL 33573

REGISTER YOUR TEAM!

alz.org/SouthShoreWalk



Edward Jones

2026 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR

**WALK TO END
ALZHEIMER'S**
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

**Friday Night at the Movies
Presents:**

Bring a Friend,
Make a Friend,
Everything is Better
with Sprinkles

**ICE
Cream**

Social

PARTY

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 9**

5:00 pm

In the LEC Lobby



**Friday Night
at the Movies** October 9 | 6:00PM



GROW: Set in Mugford, the “pumpkin capital of the world,” the story follows Charlie Little, a spirited girl who hopes to win the town’s annual pumpkin-growing contest to fund a trip to find her mother in Hollywood. With the unique ability to communicate with plants, Charlie grows a giant pumpkin named Peter while facing quirky rivals, sabotage, and a genetically engineered super-pumpkin. Along the way, Charlie and her tough Aunt Dinah form an unexpected bond and discover that home may be closer than they think.

This is a free event for our community and church.
Donations are gladly accepted for light refreshments.
Doors open at 5:30PM.

Annual Charge Conference

Thursday, October 15

2:30 p.m. in the LEC

All are invited to attend the church’s annual meeting where new leaders are approved and ministries of the church are lifted up. The Charge Conference is open to all, however only full members of UMC Sun City Center will be able to vote on voting matters.



Thursday, October 15 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. Enjoy a hearty meal and engaging conversations, all in the spirit of fellowship. It’s a fantastic opportunity to meet like-minded individuals in a relaxed and friendly environment, united by faith. Come hungry and leave inspired! We can’t wait to see you there, and may God bless our gathering!

Men’s Breakfast is the third Thursday of each Month.
Cost is \$10.00. Sign up by October 11.

Stewardship Corner



IMPACT: Growing in Faithfulness

*Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.*
Psalm 37:3

When I think about our church I think about the love, encouragement, and generosity that make this congregation so special. Together, we make a difference in one another’s lives and in the lives of people throughout our community.
We are growing in faithfulness.

On **Sundays October 18 & 25** we will focus on the theme of financial stewardship by receiving financial updates, anticipating next year’s budget and hearing messages on what the Bible says about giving. All of this is meant to help us grow in faithfulness.

Be on the lookout for a pledge packet in your mailboxes this month and plan to bring your pledge card to worship on **Consecration Sunday, October 25**, or any Sunday thereafter.

With gratitude,
Mike Schoonover, Stewardship chairperson

WORSHIP ARTS

- Jeff Jordan

Thanks to everyone who participated in and attended our special **9/11 25 Years Later: Remembering, Healing, and Hope** on Friday, September 11th. Many folks from the community have thanked our church for helping the South Shore community remember, heal, and hope for a brighter and safer future. As happy as I was with the service as a whole, I believe we gave short shrift to the last of these – HOPE! Part of that problem was because I just plain forgot to share something during the last portion of the service. To explain...

You may have noticed that we had several 9/11-related paintings displayed in the lobby and on the platform that evening. I had featured one by our own extremely talented visual artist, Larry Schafer, up on the platform next to the handbell loft. Here it is:



Larry shared with me that this was his much-beloved painting of an old bell that stood on his grandfather's farm. He remembers it being used to call their family together, much like the bells in a church steeple call God's people to gather, and like the 'broken' bell that sits in Philadelphia symbolizes the gathering together, the unity enjoyed by

the people of a truly free country.

And this bell reminded me of the days, weeks, and months that followed the tragic events of 9/11/2001 when this country, OUR country, the UNITED States of America came together, found profound strength and stood powerfully united through the grief, the pain, and the uncertainty of that time. And to what institution did people flock in the aftermath? Their houses of worship. They knew, as we know today, that it was only in God that they would find refuge, healing, peace, hope.

My prayer, the one that I mistakenly omitted that evening, is that we again see the need for unity; unity in our church, our community and in our country. Jesus' command was a simple and a simply profound one – Love One Another as I have loved you. May that 'ring' true today again!

Soli Deo Gloria

Break Away with 'Breakaway'

- Renee Tisdale

We've done it again; we've had another wonderful month in Breakaway! We began the month with the director missing in action, but thanks to the amazing volunteers of our Breakaway family, the group had a fantastic day without me! Get-well cards were made for Pastor Debbie, and good times were had using rhythm sticks and pool noodles to play along with their sing-along.

Because fall is officially here, we had to get started on our fall decorations and have created some cute pumpkins that will be available for sale in *Breakaway Creations*. Our store will also be featuring some new pocket hugs. All items sold are either completely created by or assembled by our participants and volunteers!

Our community service projects included packing up toothpaste and toothbrushes for the next shipment to Cuba, decorating bags for the food pantry, bagging dog food for Mary Petro, assembling treat bags for an upcoming training session, and assembling the flowers to be used in the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 10.

We recognized World Gratitude Day by being grateful for being together and creating gratitude flowers. Some of the flowers went home with our participants, while others are now adorning the glass doors in Creason. Check them out if you get the chance!

We're traveling back in time and celebrating the '60s and '70s soon, and before we know it, we'll be celebrating Halloween! We have several different projects scheduled, and we have plans for having fun doing all of it!

If you've been considering volunteering, please give us a thought! You can check out the Breakaway Respite Ministry Facebook page or stop by and visit us in person.

We require about 20–25 volunteers each day to ensure we keep our friends living with dementia safe, provide them with a sense of purpose, help them feel loved, and allow them to experience all the joy that is Breakaway.

If one-on-one volunteering is not for you, there are many other ways you can help. For example, if you like to cook, we need desserts for 40–45 people every Monday and Wednesday, as well as lunches every Wednesday. Are you a musician? We end every day with music and love having live performances!

There are many ways to serve and make a real difference in the lives of others. Please let me know if you're interested.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

A refresher for all volunteers
— new and experienced!



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 1
11:00 AM

OR



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4
2:00 PM



Sign up in the church office

Serve Together
Make a Difference

the Light changes everything



Center
4Life
LEARNING

ENRICH YOUR LIFE THIS FALL!

2026 FALL SEMESTER BEGINS THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5.

On September 24, Center 4Life Learning with The Pelican Players Community Theater will host registration day and comedy production *Love Or Best Offer* in the Life Enrichment Center (LEC).

TWO SHOWS:
1:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.



FALL CLASS REGISTRATION

1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
in the LEC Lobby.



ART:

Beginning Paper Quilling; Adventure in Crafting;
Make Your Mark – Doodling; Modern Dot Art



DISCUSSION:

Chautauqua XIII; Artificial Intelligence - Revisited



FINANCE:

Investment, Estate, and Tax Planning;
What Would Happen If You Got Hit By A Bus?



HEALTH:

End-Of-Life Planning for You and Your Family;
Enriching Relationships Through Self-Discovery;
Plant-Powered Living: A Holistic Approach to
Vibrant Health; Therapeutic Writing Can Enhance
12-Step Recovery



HISTORY:

The Amazing Adames; High Altitude Reconnaissance
During the Cold War



LANGUAGE:

Sign Language; Beginners Conversational Spanish
Level I, Level II, Level III



LIVE THEATER:

Fun With Improv



TECHNOLOGY:

Smartphone Pictures – How to Take, Store, and Share;
Streaming Movies, TV, Music

LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE! HOP ON THE BUS!!

OCT 1	Mt Dora, explore the sweet town, shopping and lunch on your own
NOV 19	The Cottage, Early Bird Dinner Theater
DEC 9	Anastasia, Manatee Performing Arts Center
JAN 7	Starlite Luncheon Cruise, South Pasadena
JAN 21	Come From Away, Manatee Performing Arts Center
FEB 17	Tarpon Springs
FEB 24	H.M.S. Pinafore, Sarasota Opera House
MAR 9	Columbia Restaurant, Ybor City Bus Tour
MAR 18	The Psychic, Early Bird Dinner Theater
APR 22	Guys and Dolls, Manatee Performing Arts Center

Make your class, September 24 show, and trip reservations on the Center 4Life Learning website:

www.lovetheLight.org/4lifelearning

or at the Center's office on the United Methodist Church of SCC campus.

☎ 813-634-8607

✉ center4life@sccumc.com

Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



FAMILY SLIME NIGHT

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18 | **4PM - 6PM**

Doey
Gooey
Messy
Fun

Enjoy snacks, time with family and new friends, and a slime-tastic evening of activities!

 **UMC of Sun City Center**
1971 Haverford Ave
SCC FL 33573

 **813-634-2539**

 **lovethelight.org**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO RSVP

This evening is specially organized for parents and children aged 12 and under. All necessary supplies will be provided, and light refreshments will be available.

