

# *The* Happening

APRIL 2024

## Missions of the Month

### *Breakaway Respite Ministry*

Breakaway Respite Ministry is a ministry of love offering purpose, fellowship, and joy to those people in our community who are living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. We meet from 10am-2pm on Mondays and Wednesdays in Creason Hall. Care partners drop their person off so they may get a brief break, or respite from their everyday duties.

Thank you for your generous donations, all monies received will be put towards needed supplies and towards scholarships for those who need them. Please check us out on Facebook or in person! We are always looking for new volunteers!

### *Friendship Circle*

The Friendship Circle has been an organization of the church for many years. By holding bake sales and offering collected at the meetings, we've contributed to local and international needs.

Some of the contributions have been made to Matthew 25 Food Bank, Diapers, Operation Smiles, Ukraine, UTC Graduation Students, School Supplies, India, Good Samaritan Services and many more! Also, we supply teacher baskets to show our appreciation of their dedication to the students.

The Friendship Circle meets the first Monday of the month from October through June at 1:00 p.m. in Room 19 with a program of interest to our church and community. Come join us!

*Our mission statement:*

*"Loving God and loving each other."*



## Scripture of the Month

*"He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."*

Matthew 28:6-7

# Celebrate the *Easter* Season With Us

24  
MAR

Palm Sunday  
Easter Cantata during  
our Traditional Services.  
| 8:30 & 11AM

28  
MAR

Maundy Thursday  
| 7:00PM

29  
MAR

Good Friday  
| 7:00PM

## *Easter Worship*

6:30AM - Sunrise

8:30AM & 11:00AM - Traditional

9:45AM - Contemporary



United Methodist  
Church of SCC

1971 Haverford Ave. SCC, FL 33573



[www.sccumc.com](http://www.sccumc.com)



813-634-2539



## 'Breakaway' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

Several weeks ago, for the first time since having to close for Covid, Breakaway had to close unexpectedly. Instead of closing for a pandemic, however, we were invited to St Andrew's Methodist Church in Brandon for a volunteer training opportunity with Daphne Johnston, CEO of Respite for All Foundation and from whom we have learned to do what we do at Breakaway.

I was initially worried about closing as we are, for some of our care partners the only break they get from their 24/7 duties. I also didn't know how much interest there would be from our volunteers. Why do I worry? We had 100 percent support of our care partners, and 28 of 32 volunteers attended the training! To say I am overwhelmed is an understatement. Many of the volunteers took time away from their other ministries, jobs, or their bible studies to travel to Brandon during rush hour for four hours of training, this shows a level of commitment from them that I thank God for every day!

Why St Andrew's you're wondering? Because they recently opened their respite named Vitality! They are offering a respite on Tuesdays from 10:00AM-2:00PM. If you know of someone living and caring for someone with dementia in the Brandon area, please let them know about this program!

We also needed to close the first week of February so that several of us could attend the Respite for All conference in Montgomery Alabama. Once again, we had the full support of our care partners and we joined about 180 clergy, respite directors, and volunteers from 21 different respites across the United States. We learned from Bishop Lawson Byron the importance of being willing to stretch ourselves in our service to God, we cannot always rely on the familiar and even if it's painful, we need to stretch to meet the needs of our friends and care partners. Breakaway embodies this daily; nothing is guaranteed and with a disease like dementia we all need to be as flexible and willing to stretch ourselves.

Dr. Elizibeth "Like" Lokon presented her program Opening Minds through Art (OMA) where they match students from Miami University with residents of dementia care facilities. Together minds are opened, and relationships are formed through painting, sculpture, and other visual art projects. A grant was presented to Respite for All to fund OMA training for at least 40 people from various respite programs. This is a great opportunity and I'm so excited that Breakaway has been chosen as one of the recipients! A couple of us will be traveling back to Montgomery in September to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Being able to meet and fellowship with other directors and volunteers is the biggest benefit of the conference. Ideas for everything from art projects, devotions, games, and other activities are shared, along with best practices with our friends and care partners. Next year the conference will be held in Birmingham and our goal is to have as many volunteers as possible attend.

Snowbird season is upon us and we're going to be losing a few volunteers soon, please consider visiting Breakaway during one of our sessions (Monday or Wednesday, 10am-2pm) and see if you might consider joining us so that we may continue to serve God through this amazing ministry!

## Meet Your Leadership



**Paul Crosby**  
*Staff Parish Relations  
Committee Chairperson*

Please welcome Paul Crosby as your Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. The role of Staff Parish Relations Committees is to confer with pastors and staff on matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry; relationships with the congregation; and to interpret the nature and function of ministry.

Paul grew up in Ruskin before moving to Raleigh, NC where he worked for several telecommunication firms before returning "home" in 2009. He has two sons: Wesley, an independent insurance agent, and Andrew, a detective for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department. You may see him out and about with his 6-year-old German shepherd, Hero. He currently owns D3 Automotive in Ruskin.

Paul joined UMC in 2009 where he met the ever-welcoming Jeff Jordan. The second encounter was with Mike Whitt who put him to work in AVLK where he serves today.

Paul states, "The SPRC is always busy. We are currently updating the Employee Handbook, and we are very excited about our future vision as Pastor Cynthia Weems joins our church family in July."



**TUESDAY, APRIL 16th  
10:30AM**

Beginning at 10:30AM there is an optional Round Table Discussion followed by a sit down luncheon at noon.

**Guest Speaker: Debbie Smyth**

**“Befuddled by the Records”**

The cost is \$18.00 per person for the meal and the presentations. For reservations and meal choice contact Vicki at 360-608-1647. Make your check payable to SBGS, and mail it to South Bay Genealogical Society, PO Box 5202, Sun City Center, FL 33571

**Your check must be received by  
April 4th, 2024**

*Please allow 4-5 days for mailing.  
Late reservations cannot be accepted.*

## Update from the Disaster Response Team (DRT)

The Disaster Response Team (DRT) of Sun City Center is a group of caring, friendly, talented Christian volunteers from our church and surrounding areas. The DRT also assists others within our local community and church with minor repairs and maintenance. We need people with many different skills on our team. Besides workers with tool skills, we always need cooks, organizers, administrators, and people to lend a caring Christian presence.

Shout out of thanks to those DRT members who assisted in painting the LEC, trimmed trees and cleaned up debris around the church!

Reminder that His Helpers are looking for home projects. Sign up is in the church office.

**The next meeting will be  
April 15 at 2:30 in room 19.**

If you are interested in becoming an active member of our DRT, please register on our DRT email database at <http://eepurl.com/gew3MD>



**Center 4Life Learning**  
*Come Learn and Be Entertained*

### SPRING CLASSES AVAILABLE:

#### **Storytelling Is An Art Form**

Instructor: Jean Garner  
Friday Afternoons  
April 26th - May 31st

#### **Watercolor Painting**

Instructor: Harv Berman  
Friday Mornings  
March 3rd - May 31st

**Get ready for some epic adventures  
with Center 4Life Learning's  
upcoming trips and tours!**

**Kiss Me Kate, Manatee Performing  
Arts Center, Bradenton**

*April 25, 2024 (Register by March 27th)*



**Starlite Sapphire  
Luncheon Cruise, South Pasadena**  
*May 23, 2024*

**Rays vs. Yankees Baseball Game,  
Traopicana Field, St. Petersburg**  
*July 11, 2024*



**Tarpon Springs tour of St. Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral and  
exploring the Sponge Dock**  
*July 23, 2024*

**Guided Tours of the Image Museum  
and the Museum of Fine Arts, Lunch  
at the Hangar, St. Petersburg**  
*August 20, 2024*



**Register for Classes and Trips Today!**

Contact the Center 4Life Learning office at  
813-634-8607, email at [center4life@sccumc.com](mailto:center4life@sccumc.com),  
or visit our website at [www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning](http://www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning)



Thomas said to him, “**My Lord and my God!**” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:28-29

This is the scripture that follows Thomas’ seeing [and feeling] for himself that Jesus really was raised from the dead! Why do I quote these at the start of this month’s newsletter? Pastor Charlie has given me the opportunity to preach on the first Sunday of April, and I’ll be focusing on the “Hero of the Faith” we know as the apostle Thomas. More of that on the 7th, but first, let’s take a quick look at the whirlwind of events that we called “March”!

Last month felt very much like the season of Advent around here – super duper busy, and it was all contained in just 31 days - ten concerts, six of which were under my direction, five special worship services in addition to our regular Sunday services and LOTS of rehearsal, therefore... and I’ve loved every minute of it. Thanks to everyone who supported our community ensemble concerts, and a BIG THANKS to all the servant ministers, from vocalists and instrumentalists to the AVL folks back in the booth, for all your hard work, for your dedication to your church family, and for your love of Jesus!

Now on to April in what I like to call this ‘year-round’ church. Again, please don’t miss church services on the 7<sup>th</sup> – the preacher will be lookin’ for you! Next, our handbell ensembles, under the direction of Jeff, Nancy, and Holly, have been rehearsing for a joint concert to be performed on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. The concert will also include two pieces by Larry on bell tree. Starting on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10AM and two Wednesday mornings thereafter, we are rehearsing for the *Yom HaShoah* Holocaust Remembrance Service on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. All singers are invited to be a part of the choir for this very special service. Finally, there will be an AVL upgrade in both the sanctuary and the LEC during the last two weeks of the month, so we will be scrambling to get everything back up and running in late April and early May. Please be patient with us during this challenging time!

Once again, I love this church and this wonderfully supportive family of faith. Thank you for your never-ending love and encouragement!

*Soli Deo Gloria*

## Tot Spot - Sharon Bennyhoff

Every Tuesday morning, a special event called Tot Spot brings joy to the young minds of South Shore. This engaging program introduces children to the wonders of the world and the beauty of the Earth. Exploring the theme of farms, we've discovered horses, cows, and vegetables so far, with more discoveries to come. Throughout this month, we've enjoyed dancing to music, engaging in art and science activities, and playing games together.

A friendly reminder to our congregation: our nursery welcomes children aged 3 months to 5 years during the 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services.



## From the Ledger - Bill Turner

Greetings church family!!

In February, we received \$155,133 in income to offset \$140,044 in expenses. This leaves us with **\$15,089** in income over expenses. Our income year-to-date is \$341,878 and our expenses year-to-date are \$352,458. This leaves us with **\$10,580** in expenses over income through February.

Our current mortgage balance is \$1,596,580 as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Kindly engage in prayerful consideration of your stewardship decisions and their implications for the future of our church. Each member holds a significant role in ensuring the financial stability of our church, and your involvement is crucial for our collective success.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your stewardship, faithfulness, and loyalty to this church and any ministries that you are involved in.

## Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

What is the old saying...” April Showers bring May Flowers”? It feels like it was just March and the beginning of the Lenten Season and yet, here we are in the month of April!

While we have only had a few showers, Spring has definitely arrived on the campus and so have some new faces. We are so fortunate to have Ezekiel Johnson as our new Children and Youth Ministry Director who arrived last month and is already making a difference in the lives of our children and youth. If you have not had a chance to visit with him, I would encourage you to do so and hear all the plans he has for the Kids Club and Under the Cross ministries.

As the month of March brought us Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services, in addition to the completion of Soul Café, and the Third Day Lenten study, I continue to teach about Holy Moments, and the Wesley Classes continue into the month of April. It is so exciting to watch and help all of you grow in your faith journeys and flourish in God’s love and presence.

April continues to be a month of growth for all of us as continuing ministries and new things continue on the campus. Our G.I.F.T. Christian singles group continues to grow and flourish together as new friends come together to celebrate life to its fullest. If you are looking for a Christian singles group, consider joining us on the third Thursday of the Month at 3:00pm in Room 30. Our Friday Night at the Movies will be nothing less than fun this month as we host another Ice Cream Social to say goodbye to our seasonal residents, also known as our Snowbird Community. So come join us for ice cream, and the movie Uncle Nino. The door opens at 5:00pm on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to invite you to join us on the church campus for our Health and Wellness Day on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. I have been working with the Moffitt Cancer Center office of Community Outreach, HCA South Shore Hospital, Gannon University, and other community organizations to provide you and the community with an opportunity to hear four wonderful speakers. We will host this event from 10am until 2pm, offering four lectures presented by local medical professionals. I am delighted to announce we have the

privilege of having Dr. Martine Exterman, from the Moffitt Cancer Center as our keynote speaker in addition to Dr. Jenna Kazil, a General Vascular Surgeon, and Dr. Jeffrey Mino, a Colorectal Surgeon, and Lacosta Carrell, the Stroke and Sepsis Coordinator from the HCA South Shore Hospital. We will offer screening opportunities provided by the Moffitt 3D Mammography Mobile, Moffitt Head and Neck Cancer, Sertoma Hearing, in addition to Gannon University providing blood pressure checks, balance testing, and grip strength screening, and other local agencies such as the SCC Emergency Squad, Bay Area Legal Services, Suncoast Community Health, the Social Security Office, Hillsborough Tax Collector Office in addition to others joining us. I look forward to seeing you at this Health Ministry event!

As we continue to lean forward this year, with other planned activities and events, I so appreciate all of you who faithfully participate in the ministries of the church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness as you grow deeper in your commitment to the will and grace of God.

My heart fills with gratitude, as you continue to commit and support the ministries of the church. Your commitment to your church, its ministries and your community continues to make a difference in the lives of everyone you serve and creates “Holy Moments” as you open yourself to God, make yourself available by setting aside your personal preferences and self-interest for one moment to do what God is calling you to do.

As each day passes, I continue to be touched by your continued support to combat food insecurity in our community through your generous donations to our Food Pantry, your generous financial donations to our Mission and Ministries of the Month second mile giving, and your continued giving of your time to support the church and those most in need our community.

In closing, thank you for all you do to grow the kingdom of God.



**Friday Night at the Movies  
Presents:**

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

**ICE  
Cream**

**Social  
PARTY**

**FRIDAY  
APRIL 12TH  
5:00PM**



## **Friday** *Night* **at the Movies** **FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH AT 6:00PM**

### **UNCLE NINO**



The moment Uncle Nino steps off the plane on American soil, in this family tale, you know you're in for culture clash. But just how different are Americans and Italians? Charming moments in Uncle Nino--some comical, some tragic--answer this question. The tranquil Italian countryside that Uncle Nino leaves to visit his nephew, Robert Micelli, make the Micelli

family's Glenview, Illinois home look like a deadbeat, suburban nightmare. In this tale, Robert's wife, Marie, misses her career-obsessed husband and struggles to communicate with their teenage son, Bobby (who wants to play in a rock band, and daughter, Gina, who longs for a puppy. One can instantly sense a craving for excitement in this bland household. When Nino arrives, fresh flowers appear in vases, the wine flows, and pizza parties start. Sure, Nino is a caricature, but he's there to make one stop and smell the roses, literally (he's a gardening fan).

This is a free event for our community and church.  
Light refreshments are available.



**THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 8:00AM**

Join us for Men's Breakfast led by Pastor Josh. Come be encouraged and challenged through God's word and enjoy a delicious meal together! This is a great opportunity for getting to know other men from your church family. We are always happy to welcome new faces and voices to this group!

### **This Month's Menu:**

**Southern Sweet Pancakes, Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal, Scrambled Eggs, Pepper Crusted Bacon, Pork Sausage Links, Breakfast Potatoes**

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up in the office by



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH AT 10:00AM**

Fashion on the Go is our theme for the April Women's Brunch. Join us for a delightful, and entertaining fashion show. We will see models sharing their fashions from the Nearly New shop as they take us on journeys to include one-tank trips, Center 4Life Learning day trips, and favorite cruises!

### **This Month's Menu:**

**"Salad Bar"**

**Mixed Greens, Egg Salad, Chicken Salad, Fruit Salad, & Mini Croissants**

Ladies Brunch will be the third Wednesday this month. Cost is \$10.00.

Sign up in the office by April 14th .