The Happening

November 2026

Mission of the Month

India Sister Church











What a privilege it is for Miracle Ministries to be in partnership with The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center! We are grateful to be selected as the November Mission of the Month and for the continued support that helps us share God's love and hope with communities in need.

Headquartered in Kadali on the southeast coast of India, Miracle Ministries serves the community through a variety of ministries focused on faith, education, compassion, and practical support. Miracle Church welcomes approximately 300 people in worship, providing a place for fellowship, spiritual growth, and connection.

A special part of our ministry is the Miracle Children's Home, established in 2001 to provide care and hope to children facing poverty and hardship. The home currently serves 30 children, offering them support and the opportunity for a brighter future. Miracle Ministries also operates Esther's School for Children with Special Needs, extending care and educational opportunities to children with unique needs.

Education and empowerment are also central to our work. Through PNG Computer Institute, young people receive computer education to help prepare them for future opportunities. Dorca's Sewing Institute equips women with sewing skills, creating opportunities for learning and greater independence. In addition, through our partnership with the Global Water Consortium, Living Waters helps provide safe drinking water to the community. Miracle Ministries also supports relief efforts and church construction, having built four churches with the help of Sun City Center United Methodist Church.

We are deeply thankful for this partnership and for the generosity of SCCUMC's congregation. Your support helps sustain these ministries and extend their reach to children, families, and communities in India. Together, we are sharing God's love in practical and meaningful ways, bringing hope where it is needed most.

A Word From Our Pastor - Dr. Cynthia Weems

Dear Friends,

This month I have the joy of traveling to Miami to return to one of my prior congregations. First United Methodist Church of Miami is celebrating its 130th anniversary and I have been asked to preach at the anniversary worship service. It will be a special time of remembering for me (I served the church when they celebrated their 115th anniversary) as well as looking ahead into their future.

Coincidentally, I was also recently invited to send a video message to another previous congregation who was celebrating its 150th anniversary in October. This is one of the churches I served in Kansas before moving to Florida twenty years ago. Both of these anniversaries gave me pause. Each celebration gives me time to reflect on my thirty years of ministry and the important ways each congregation impacted my ministry and the pastor that I am today. Also, it caused me to rejoice anew at my ministry with you, your history and the ministry we are beginning together. Our church will celebrate 50 years of ministry in 2030. The history of this congregation is rooted in the history of Sun City Center and its growth. It is such a joy to be your pastor and to consider the uniqueness of our church's story and what still lies ahead in all of the chapters to come.

I invite you to pray with me this month for churches throughout the world who are celebrating milestone anniversaries. Let us pray that God continue to bless their ministries of worship, teaching, mercy and outreach in their communities.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cynthia

Welcome New Staff



I'm Jill Wright, and I'm delighted to be the Online Shepherd. This new position was created so that those who are worshipping online are cared for and not forgotten. We recognize our online worshipers each Sunday during worship, and we pray for their prayer requests each week, but often there is no follow-up for them to feel seen. I am hoping to change that.

As I get acclimated, I will be in regular contact with online worshipers either by phone, email, or in-person visits each week. I know that some of our online worshipers are regular attendees, but do not always register their attendance. We can't know if you are attending unless you register, so please take care to fill out the form.

I am a retired UMC pastor from the Indiana Conference. I was an online worshiper for a time while I was caring for my husband, who passed away recently. I am now worshipping regularly in person, but I have a heart and a call to serve those who are unable to worship in person, or simply prefer to worship online.

I am looking forward to this new role and being visible to our online community. I am always available through my email at jill@sccumc.com or at the church number 813-634-2539.

NEW MEMBER FELLOWSHIP

Find Out More About Our Church!

TUESDAY NOV. 10

4:00PM

Life Enrichment Center (LEC)

Zoom 7:00PM

Newcomers and those interested in church membership are invited to meet the Pastors and learn about United Methodism, and serving opportunities.

New members will be welcomed during all three services on Sunday, November 15th.

*If you are unable to attend in person and would still like to join the church, or need a Zoom invite please call the church office at 813-634-2539 or email Aisling Turner at aturner@sccumc.com

Becoming a Debt-Free Church

Each Gift Spreads the Light.

Our Debt-Free Church campaign could not be going better! We paid off the mortgage in June and celebrated the mortgage burning in September. Congratulations!

Many of us still have outstanding pledges to the campaign and those funds will go to support our Future Building Improvement Fund as we seek to maintain and beautify our campus. Thank you for your continued generosity and fulfillment of your pledges to the campaign. Here is where we currently stand:
2026 Total pledges/gifts: $1,169,984
Total received to date: $1,064,845 or 91%
2027 Total pledges: $211,673

Total Debt-Free Campaign: $1,381,657!

Thank you for your faithfulness!
Linda Whitt & Rea Cantwell, Debt-Free co-chairs



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

On October 18 & 25 we focused our worship services on the theme of financial stewardship. We heard testimonies from church members, examined our anticipated budget for 2027 and received powerful messages about the biblical understanding of stewardship.

Thank you to all who submitted a pledge on Consecration Sunday, October 25. We will be receiving pledges throughout the month of November and online at lovethelight.org/pledge. Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to the needs of our church household.

With gratitude,
Mike Schoonover, Stewardship chairperson

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle is a long-standing group of ladies meeting for friendship, faith and generosity. Our motto is: "Loving God and loving each other." At each meeting there is a devotion and a speaker to tell us of their mission and the difference it makes in our community and world-wide. Some of the ministries we have been blessed to donate to are:

Mary Petro
Lord's Lighthouse
Debt Free Campaign
Inspira
Birthday bags for Inspira
High School Graduates
Back-to-School supplies / lunch boxes
Food Bank
Watoto
Cuba for Women's hygiene products
Supplying the food bank with cereal

As the holidays approach, we will be making contributions to the many needs in our community. The Friendship Circle's goal is to contribute to those in need and make a difference in their lives.

The Friendship Circle meets October – May, the first Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in Room 19. The next meeting will be held on November 2, 2026. Janine Hulland and Adrienne Lisko will speak about all the opportunities available to serve our church and community.

Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to Him. Hebrews 13:16



Volunteers Needed!

Make a difference with every ring.

It is that time of year again, and we are looking for volunteers to ring the bell for The Salvation Army at the Sun City Center Publix. You will stand beside the iconic Salvation Army Christmas Kettle and receive donations from passers-by. You ring the bell to remind people of those in need at Christmas in our community.
Bell ringing will start the day after Thanksgiving, November 27th, and continue through Christmas Eve, Monday through Saturday from 10AM-6PM.
All volunteers will be scheduled for 2 hour shifts.
Sign up Sunday mornings on the Church Patio.
For more information or questions please contact Karen Ransbury at 440-781-0887 or Gene Valcke at 562-879-5095

WORSHIP ARTS Jeff Jordan

The last day of October, the one we most often think of as Halloween, and the first day of November, when the church celebrates the saints of the faith, create a thought-provoking weekend this year!

October 31st, 1517, is the date that Martin Luther famously 'nailed' his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, protesting many of the practices of the Catholic Church of that time. It is considered the beginning of the Protestant movement. While the UMC is, in some ways, connected to that act, it differs significantly because of the work of John and Charles Wesley. I found the following article on the ResourceUMC website helpful in understanding this "reformation of the Reformation" and what it means for the day that follows Reformation Day – All Saints Day.

From the article *The Reformation and the Wesleys: A complex relationship*

The Wesleys... had a complex relationship to the theologies of the Reformation. On one hand, they were firm heirs of the Reformation. The Wesleys shared the Reformation's commitment to Scripture and to the priesthood of all believers. John Wesley's famous Aldersgate experience of the warm heart happened as he heard Martin Luther's "Preface to the Epistle to the Romans" being read. Shortly after this experience, he spent several years working with the Moravians, a movement closely linked to the Lutheran reformation. Likewise, the early Methodist movement grew in close connection with the evangelical revival in England that the Calvinists dominated. Lastly, consider John's high praise for Luther's insight on the centrality of justification by grace through faith, which is the theological cornerstone of the Reformation. About Luther, he declares, "Who has written more ably than Martin Luther on justification by faith alone?" On the other hand, the Wesleys and the Methodist movement embodied a kind of counter-Reformation or, perhaps more charitably, a reformation of the Reformation. If at its theological core the Reformation was about reasserting or clarifying the centrality of justification by faith alone, we might say that Wesley and the Methodists embodied a challenge, a corrective. It was John's contention that the Reformation, while rightly lifting up justification by grace, erred by downplaying or ignoring ***sanctification, that is God's gift of healing sinners by making SAINTS who lived holy lives*** *[my emphasis]. It was as if the Reformation had forgotten that God's gift of salvation includes both pardon and healing/making holy. The Wesleys were convinced that God raised up the people called Methodists to remind the church of the whole Christ — the Christ who both pardons and heals.*

United Methodists don't worship or pray to saints, but they do believe that every faithful follower of Christ, dead or alive, to be a "saint", and this follows from Wesley's emphasis on "sanctification" as suggested above. So, on the first Sunday of November, All Saints Sunday, each year we celebrate the saints that have gone on before us in the previous year. But I think it's just as important to recognize the many wonderful, living Saints among us. I could start a list of those that are a part of our church family, but it would go on for pages and pages. Please know that your sanctification is recognized and appreciated more than you can ever imagine!

By the way, the five core tenets of the Protestant Reformation are Sola Scriptura [scripture alone], Sola Fide [faith alone], Sola Gratia [grace alone], Solus Christus [Christ is the only mediator between God and man], and...

...Soli Deo Gloria [all should be done for the glory of God alone!]

Janine's Volunteer Junction

Greetings all, from Janine's Volunteer Junction! Why do we serve? Do our actions reflect Jesus' love when we are serving others? Has serving in your volunteer role enhanced your spiritual journey? These questions were reflected on in the recent volunteer training held in October. In conclusion, we were encouraged to use our spiritual gifts and talents to serve and to serve with love. Sincere thanks to all who attended. Additional classes will be offered in January 2027!

Shifting gears, I am pleased to report our Annual Health and Wellness Day was a huge success! We had a great turnout with about 150 people taking advantage of initial healthcare screenings, flu shots and educational information offered that day. Additionally, there were about 75 more people on campus between volunteers and the healthcare personnel. Our church campus was buzzing with activity. I want to thank all our healthcare partners: Alzheimer's Association, BayCare Community Health, Gannon University, Hillsborough Co Dept of Public Health, Moffitt, and Sertoma Hearing. Without them, these important free-of-charge services would not have been offered to those attending on that day. And THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS! You all showed up with smiles on your faces to ensure people felt welcomed and knew where to go.

The season is upon us! We are busy planning for our Thanksgiving service and Thanksgiving meal. And then, it will be Madrigal and Christmas services. So much activity and a wonderful opportunity to share and grow in our faith. Please consider offering to volunteer during this magical time.

Joyfully Serving Together,
Janine





Friday, November 13 | 6:00 PM

Runt (2020) is a heartwarming family adventure about Annie, a clever and determined young girl, and her lovable stray dog, Runt. When drought and financial hardship threaten her family's farm, Annie comes up with an ambitious plan to save their home by entering Runt in a prestigious dog agility competition in London. There's just one catch: Runt only follows her commands when no one else is watching! With the help of her quirky family and a few unexpected friends, Annie and Runt face challenges, outsmart their rivals, and discover the power of perseverance, teamwork, and community. This charming story is filled with humor, adventure, and a reminder that even the smallest underdog can accomplish extraordinary things.

This is a free event for our community and church.
We gladly accept donations for light refreshments.
Doors open at 5:30PM



Thursday, November 19 | 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 November 15.

Residing Hope

November brings us five Sundays, and our fifth Sunday giving is always dedicated to Residing Hope. Residing Hope provides care for abused, abandoned, neglected, or dependent children. SCCUMC proudly stands as one of the largest supporters of this ministry. The strong backing from our church allows them to sustain their mission as a significant Christian outreach devoted to the well-being of children, youth, and their families. Thank you for your generous gifts to this vital ministry.

Center 4Life Learning Classes & Trips

Come Learn and Be Entertained!!

The 2026 Fall Semester is Underway

Registration remains open for these classes:

- Easy Steps to Secure Financial Future: November 10 & 17 | 1:00-3:00PM
- Smartphone Picture - How to Take, Store & Share: December 4 | 10:00-11:30AM
- Streaming Movies, TV & Music: December 11 | 10:00-11:30AM



The Cottage, Early Bird Dinner Theater
November 19, 2026



Visit Tarpon Springs
February 17, 2027



H.M.S. Pinafore, Sarasota Opera House
February 24, 2027



Columbia Restaurant, Ybor City Bus Tour
March 9, 2027



The Psychic, Early Bird Dinner Theater
March 18, 2027

For class descriptions/instructors' bios and trip flyers, visit the website or Center office.

Make your class and trip reservations on the Center 4Life Learning website: www.lovethelight.org/4lifelearing 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.

Join us for

THANKS GIVING

Worship + Meal

November 26th

10:00AM

You are warmly invited to our Thanksgiving worship service. Jeff Jordan, Minister of Music, will be preaching. Following the service, please join us for a Thanksgiving feast. Our Thanksgiving feast will be served between 11AM-1PM.

FREE tickets for the meal will be available at the church office starting November 8th. We have a limited number of 200 tickets available. A ticket is necessary for the meal and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of 4 tickets per person. To ensure everyone enjoys the celebration, please remember to bring your ticket with you for the meal. Donations will gladly be accepted.

We look forward to celebrating with you and giving thanks for the abundance in our lives. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact our church office.

Adrienne's Avenue -Adrienne Lisko

Welcome! Here's your monthly stop for opportunities to be a part of an Event Team, and to read about Family Ministry updates.
Firstly, I would like to thank you for making me feel so welcome. I am excited and honored to serve as your new Director of Family & Event Ministries and look forward to building meaningful connections, strong event teams, and new opportunities for families.



About "EVENT TEAMS"
Perhaps you are asking yourself: why is Adrienne focused on calling us a TEAM when we volunteer?
Well, I like to think of event volunteers as TEAMS, because ministry is most meaningful when we serve together, each bringing our unique gifts to create something greater than any of us could do alone.
Being a part of a TEAM means sharing the joy of serving together!

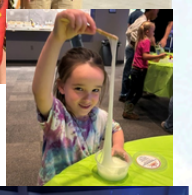


UNDER CONSTRUCTION-EVENT TEAMS BEING BUILT NOW:
Madrigal Dinner Friday 12/4/26 and the week leading up to it.
Looking for Food Preppers, Table and Chair Set Up and Break Down Crew, Table Decorators, Servers, Bussers, Beverage Pourers, Clean Up Crew, Door and Room Hosts.
Want to be a part of this event team? Send an email to: Adrienne@sccumc.com

***Women's Brunch*:** Want to help rebuild this monthly event with Adrienne?
Some of you helped in the past, so let me know if you are interested in helping to bring this back! (Why should the men be the only ones to get a monthly meal and fellowship?!)
New Team Members are also welcome!
Send an email to: Adrienne@sccumc.com

Our ***Thanksgiving Dinner Team*** has been built and is 68 members strong! We had a Team Kick-Off meeting on October 29th and are excited to bring you something a little different this year!
Stay tuned for more details. Tickets will be available beginning the 2nd Sunday in November!







FAMILY FOCUS:
Our 2026 Family Slime Night was a SUCCESS! We welcomed 34 families and 104 total guests who not only made glow-in-the-dark slime from scratch, but also enjoyed crafting activities, games such as Foosball, Air Hockey and Ping Pong, (not to mention the Granny Pants Game, which was a hoot!), and devoured hot dogs and other goodies. We could NOT have accomplished this without the hard work of our Slime Night TEAM, so THANK YOU to ALL who made the night incredibly special for our guests. Feel like you missed out? Not to worry- this event is annual, so you will have chances every year to participate and join in the fun!

What else is coming for our local children and families? Over the next several weeks, I'll be reaching out and listening to families in our community, learning and exploring opportunities to build a vibrant K-5 Family Ministry.Watch this space for updates as plans begin to take shape!

Do you have ideas? Want to help? Send an email to: Adrienne@sccumc.com
May we continue to grow in faith, serve with joy, and share Christ's love with those around us.

SCCUMC Safety and Security - Building a Safer Church Community

Earlier this year, The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center took an important step in caring for our congregation by forming a nine-member Security Committee. This committee has been hard at work completing a comprehensive security self-assessment and putting in place a formal Emergency Management Procedure to guide our response to a wide range of situations. In May, many of you participated in active shooter training, reflecting our commitment to being thoroughly prepared to protect our church family.
Building on that foundation, we are now actively forming the SCCUMC Safety Team — a select group of 50 to 75 trained congregation members who are "ready, willing, and able" to serve as a first-response resource during non-threatening emergencies. Soon, awareness training will be offered first for staff and ushers, followed by a larger informational session open to all who are interested in participating.
If you have a heart for serving others and would like to learn more about our efforts to enhance security and safety at our Church, please contact Bob Bartosh at security@sccumc.com or Jeff Jordan at jeff@sccumc.com.

‘Break Away’ with Breakaway -Renee Tisdale

As I mentioned last month, we traveled back in time and celebrated the 60s and 70s, and like most things we do in Breakaway, we had a lot of fun doing it! We had lots of visitors stop by to experience a little peace, love and happiness. Then we took that joy and spread it around the campus by sharing the disco balls that we made!

We have lots of fun activities planned for the upcoming holidays, including our annual Thanksgiving celebration with our caregivers. This year will include a literal fashion show, because our first one last year was so much fun!

Currently, Breakaway meets on Monday and Wednesday, with 17 registered participants whom we lovingly call our friends. For those who may not know, Breakaway is a respite ministry that provides care and companionship for people living with Alzheimer’s and other dementia-related conditions, while giving their caregivers some much-needed time to recharge. For four hours a day, two days a week, our friends enjoy fun, fellowship, and meaningful activities while their caregivers have a chance to run errands, enjoy a lunch date, or simply spend some quiet time at home. That time away can make such a difference!

Because we maintain a rather extensive waiting list, we are dreaming of opening a third day in January, on Thursdays, but we need your help to make it happen! We’re looking for 12-15 people who can commit to volunteering from 9:30AM-2:00PM and are ready to experience all the love and joy that is Breakaway!

If one-on-one volunteering isn’t for you, we have other ways you can help! We also need people willing to provide lunch for 30-40 people on both Wednesdays and Thursdays. And if cooking isn’t for you, we love to have you share your talents with us! On Monday, Wednesday, or potentially Thursday. Musicians are always welcome, as we end each day with music. If you’d like to lead a sing-a-long, there’s a piano ready and waiting for you! Are you crafty, or maybe an artist who would enjoy leading an activity? We would love to have you share your gifts with our friends!

If any of this sounds good, please contact me. You’re welcome to stop by Creason Hall any day we’re in session to check us out. You can also find us online at our Breakaway Respite Ministry page on Facebook.








New Awning!

Have you had a chance to check out our new church awning? Located between Creason Hall and the back of the Life Enrichment Center (LEC), this new addition provides a covered walkway to help our members and visitors safely navigate campus on those rainy, stormy Florida days. It’s a simple but meaningful improvement that makes getting around campus a little easier and more comfortable. Next time you’re on campus, take a look!





Help Us Deck the Halls!

The Christmas season is almost here, and we need a few extra hands to help make our church merry and bright! From twinkling lights to festive decorations, it takes a team to transform our campus into a beautiful celebration of the season.

Join us on Friday, November 27 (the day after Thanksgiving) as we deck the halls and prepare our church for Christmas! Whether you have a knack for decorating or simply enjoy lending a helping hand, we’d love to have you be part of the fun.

Interested in joining the decorating team?
Contact Adrienne Lisko at adrienne@sccumc.com.