

The Happening

SEPTEMBER 2023

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia. Dementia is not a specific disease. Our annual report reveals the burden of Alzheimer's and dementia on individuals, caregivers, government and the nation's health care system. It's an overall term that describes a group of symptoms. Researchers believe there is not a single cause of Alzheimer's disease. It likely develops from multiple factors such as genetics, lifestyle and environment. The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. We work on a national and local level to provide care and support for all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias. As the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research, the Association is committed to advancing vital research toward methods of treatment, prevention and ultimately, a cure. The Association is the leading voice for Alzheimer's disease advocacy, fighting for critical Alzheimer's research and care initiatives at the state and federal level.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

We will host the 17th annual Walk to End Alzheimer's here on Saturday, October 14th at 9:00am. It began right here at our church, and we continue to be the anchor for this event. We provide the venue, volunteers, sound system, and the financial support to ensure its success. This is proof of our commitment to this important cause! The Walk is held in over 600 communities, and is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. If you would like to participate, you can join the Methodists on the Move team at <https://act.alz.org/southshorefl>. Donate to the September Mission of the Month, attend, or simply pray for a successful day. If you have any questions about the Walk, you can contact Victoria Sorensen at church or Connie Lesko at (813) 927-1147.

Scripture of the Month

*"Seek the
Kingdom of
God above all
else, and live
righteously,
and he will
give you
everything you
need."*

Matthew 6:33



DONATE BLOOD

**Sun City Center United
Methodist Church**
Sunday, September 3
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

*Fact: The average human heart pumps
2000 gallons of blood each day.*

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please
visit oneblood.org/donate-now and
use **sponsor code 15721**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information
please visit oneblood.org/details.



oneblood
Share your power.



Bishop Berlin Letter Lahaina Wildfire Relief

Dear Friends in The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church,

Members of The Florida Conference understand the long-term consequences of a natural disaster. When we read about the fires that ravaged the historic town of Lahaina, Hawaii, we knew that the loss of life, property and historical treasures was devastating. The lethal combination of hurricane-force winds and parched landscapes resulted in one of the most catastrophic wildfires

the U.S. has ever witnessed. The entirety of Lahaina was consumed, and the surrounding region was impacted. As a result, thousands now grapple with displacement and homelessness, and the fire left a wake of grief due to the loss of life.

I have asked Bishop Escobedo-Frank of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference to determine how we can best assist both immediate and long-term needs. She suggests we give to the Cal-Pac fund, so the money we collect and send will be used for the needs of the community and local United Methodist churches. You can give today through The Florida Conference <https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/CalPacUMCDisasterReliefDonations>.

In the mosaic of faith communities that span the globe, The United Methodist Church stands out with a distinct feature: the power of connection. This isn't just a word we use; it's a principle that deeply roots our mission and spirit. The United Methodist connection is a vivid testament to the belief that when we unite in purpose and heart, we can amplify the reach and depth of our service.

It's often in the harshest of times, when clouds of uncertainty hang heavy, that the strength of our connection shines the brightest. It's more than an organizational plan; it's a living, breathing network of believers bound by a shared mission and a commitment to bear each other's burdens.

In The Florida Conference, we understand that being a part of this connection means that we are never truly alone. United Methodist generosity shows up in a variety of ways when it is most needed. Our joys are magnified, our sorrows shared, and our needs addressed, not by an impersonal system, but by a church that believes in uplifting each member. It is our time to uplift the people of Lahaina and surrounding areas.

Friends, we know the need is great. May we approach God and each other with a heart full of generosity, especially during times of crisis, trusting always in His abundant provision.

For more information watch this week's video from our Conference Disaster Response Coordinator Trish Warren.

Charge Conference

Sunday, October 8, 2023

The annual Charge Conference for the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2023. It will be held at the St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. The Charge Conference is open to anyone who wants to attend; however, only elected officials can vote. The Charge Conference will be followed by a social hour at 3:00 p.m.

Date: Sunday, October 8, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: St. Andrews United Methodist Church

3315 S Bryan Rd, Brandon, FL 33511

Friday Night at the Movies Presents:

Featured Movie: *Faith's Song*

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

ICE Cream

Social PARTY

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH

4:30PM



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 10:30AM

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

Guest Speaker: Karen Fortin

"Dead Men Do Tell Tales: Reconstructing Life in a Community Using Death Certificates"

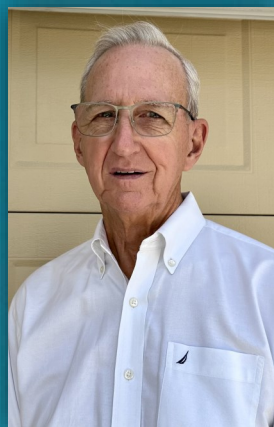
The cost is \$18.00 per person for the meal and the presentations. For reservations and meal choice contact Vicki at 360-608-1647. Make your check payable to SBGS, and mail it to South Bay Genealogical Society, PO Box 5202, Sun City Center, FL 33571

***Your check must be received by
September 7th.***

These meetings take place every third Tuesday from September through May. The topics always vary, but they all deal with history and genealogy, including methods, research techniques, where to find information, how to organize your data and how to use genealogical computer programs.

Meet Our Leadership

Rea Cantwell - Chair of SPRT



Rea Cantwell serves as the dedicated Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Team. In this position, he devotes countless hours to supporting and encouraging our pastors and staff.

Rea and his wife, Diane, grew up in Northeast Ohio near Cleveland. They lived in Strongsville, a suburb of 50,000

people. He was an educator and school administrator for 35 years. Following retirement from the school system, he served as a private consultant for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for 10 years. Rea and Diane bought their home in Kings Point in 2005 and then "snow-birded" for 10 years before their permanent move in 2015.

The Cantwells are blessed with two sons who currently live in Tampa and Orlando. They have two beautiful granddaughters in Orlando, and a gifted grandson in St. Augustine.

Choosing their church home at SCCUMC was easy. They had always been United Methodists and had been very active in their UMC up North. They were married in Good Shepherd Church, and both of their sons were raised there. Their deep affection for Methodism led them to SCCUMC.

When asked of interests and hobbies, Rea stated, "I am a diehard baseball fan of the Cleveland Indians, now the Guardians. Here in Sun City Center, I have become quite active with the local Rotary Club, serving as president in 2019 and again this year."

Rea believes the role of the SPRT Chair is to provide support for all paid employees of the church as they fulfill their various responsibilities. SPRT works to create realistic job descriptions and appraisals, as well as assisting in interviews and selecting prospective new employees. Rarely, SPRT must assist the pastors in replacing employees who have not met our expectations.

Rea believes in vision. "My vision for our church is that we can and will become a beacon of Christ's love for all people; a place where everyone feels comfortable and is encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Healing From Loss is a Journey: *Everyone Experiences Grief Differently*

Offering help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, GriefShare is a weekly support group where you'll find a warm, caring environment. There's no "right way" to grieve.

Feeling angry or full of regret? Are you depressed and wondering how to heal? Do you walk around in a mental fog? All this is normal. While your grief journey is unique, you'll find many grieving people are facing the same struggles, and others who've gone before you can help.

Grief cannot be rushed. You may wish you could bypass the difficult emotions or push down the pain. Or maybe others are pressuring you to "get up and move on." But healing from grief and loss requires you to go through your grief.

Finding support is crucial. Grief is a journey that shouldn't be traveled alone. You may feel like no one understands and be tempted to isolate, but as counselor David Bueno Martin says, "Healing happens in the context of finding others who can help you." A GriefShare group is a safe place to find support.

This program uses biblical concepts for healing from your grief through group discussion, video seminars, and personal workbooks. We will host a 13-week GriefShare program starting Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30PM in Room 30 in the Sanctuary Building. Register by calling 813-634-2539 or emailing joelle@sccumc.com. A \$20 donation for materials is requested, waivers are freely available.

*"Caregiving often
calls us to lean into
love we didn't know
was possible."*

-Tia Walker



Caregivers Support Group

All are
welcome. We
are here to
help. For
questions
please contact
Sharon Carson
at 706-897-9770

Every
Other
Tuesday
2pm



2024 Room Reservations Needed

It is that time of year again. We are in the process of updating our church's 2024 calendar. As you are well aware, our church is busy!! We often say 'things will settle down after Christmas... after Easter.. when the snowbirds go up north... when school is out for the summer...' Well that just doesn't prove true around here, AND THANK GOD FOR THAT!



If your ministry is currently meeting on campus be sure to fill out an updated room reservation form by October 1st, 2023. Forms are available in the front office and need to be turned into either Aisling Turner or Victoria Sorensen.

UTC Youth Happenings

(Under the Cross) - *Bill Turner*

Our Under The Cross (UTC) Youth are meeting again after our summer break, and we are in full swing!! On Monday evenings at 6pm, our youth enjoy a wonderful dinner prepared by Chef Joe, our kitchen staff, and volunteers. After food and fellowship, we have our weekly lesson and small group discussion. The last activity we have is a game or some time to catch up on school or real-life topics. If you have or know of any youth between 6th and 12th grade, please encourage them to join us. We are currently in the middle of an 8-week new-to-us series titled (*Forensic Faith*) by J. Warner Wallace.

Recently, some of our youth assisted in making the Back 2 School Fair a success!! It was amazing to see the smiling faces of so many children and parents from 8 different local schools!! Personally, I would like to send out a huge shout-out to Victoria Sorensen for pulling all of this together, FANTASTIC JOB!!

Recently, we were informed of a contribution that will be presented to us in the very near future thanks to Ray Bibisi and the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge. This will help fund the cost of the meals that we feed our youth each week. Thank you to everyone involved that helped make this happen.

As most of you know, after our youth returned home from Warren Willis Camp, we had 6 members age out of our program. As sad as we all are to see them graduate from our program, I am very pleased to announce that they, along with Maria & Will Leasure as facilitators, have formed a young adult ministry, called Unified Through Christ (did you catch those initials, UTC??!!), right here in our church. Lessons are being led by Keilah Ramirez, one of our young adults that graduated from our youth program in June.

We are excited to see what the upcoming school year brings and are actively discussing fundraisers and team building activities that we can do this year.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a volunteer for the youth program in any capacity. We are currently looking for leaders of lessons, leaders of games and van drivers and monitors. It is imperative that we have enough volunteers to ensure that this ministry is successful and to ensure that our youth and children have a way to make it to church on Sunday and Monday for worship and fellowship. If you feel led to serve, please reach out to me via email at bturner@sccumc.com or by calling the church office at (813) 634-2539 ext. 1003.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of our youth program. We love you all.

Bill Turner - UTC Youth Director

From the Ledger

In July we received \$233,966 in income to offset \$180,325 in expenses. This leaves \$53,641 in income higher than expenses. Thankfully, there continues to be no large non-recurring maintenance events. Year to date we received \$1,377,552 versus anticipated receipts of \$1,687,087 or a shortfall to the budget of \$309,535. The total income last July was \$1,418,169, \$40,167 higher than this year.

Overall, our year-to-date operating shortfall is \$137,475. We anticipated in our planning that we would break even for the year.

Many thanks and blessings to those of you who are able and have stepped up their giving. However, as you can see from the above operating results, we are still operating at a deficit and continuing to diminish our meager savings.

Our current Mortgage Balance is \$1,690,344.10.

We thank you for your continued financial support of your church. Together, we will continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through our service to the communities that surround us and beyond.

Monday Nights

Join us for Dinner
5:45PM
Purchase Your
Ticket Today!



Dinner
\$10



Sign Up in
the Office!!



More
Than
A
Meal

Study Classes
Available

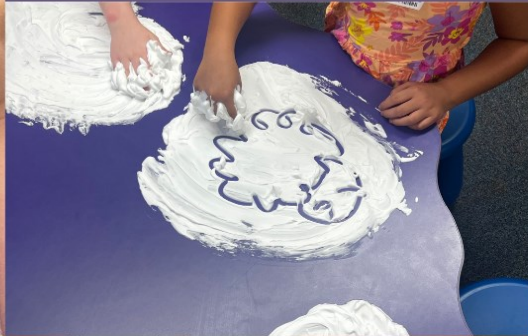
(4:30-5:30)
Afternoon Study Group
"Reckless Love"
Led by: Pastor Debbie

(6:30-7:30)
"Practical Christianity"
Study of the Book of
James
Led by: Pastor Richard

Returning Sept. 11th

Children's Ministry News

September 2023



Sundays have been FUN days all summer long. In May we moved Monday Night Kid's Club to Sunday Mornings. Our new Kid's Club offering is a child friendly worship service, a Sunday school lesson, & lunch followed by fun games and fellowship. If you're interested in hanging with the coolest little people in South Shore, sign up today!

kidmin@sccumc.com

Volunteers need to pass a background check for safety

The Young Author Society

AN AFTERSCHOOL CLUB FOR
BUDDING AUTHORS,
JOURNALISTS & POETS;
OPEN TO 3RD-8TH GRADERS
TUESDAYS 5:00PM-7:00PM
SPACES ARE LIMITED
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



ARE YOU A "LIFE SAVER" ?

Our children's ministry needs Sunday school teachers 9:30am-12pm. Kid's Club needs mentors Sundays 12-2pm. Y.A.S. needs mentors Tuesdays 5-7pm. We need year round VBS planning support. Join our Grant team to help us fund ministry endeavors.

Youth may be eligible to do volunteer hours **

BE THE
REASON A
CHILD SMILES
THIS WEEK!

'BREAKAWAY' with Breakaway - Larry Schafer

TACOS, TATTOOS, AND TISDALE

FIRST AND FOREMOST... BREAKAWAY, WAS ONE OF LAST MONTH'S "MISSIONS OF THE MONTH," THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT. YOU MAKE BREAKAWAY HAPPEN.

Tisdale is Renee's last name, and she is the director of our church's Breakaway Respite Ministry. This newsletter is about her (even though she fiercely protested) and the new adventures that are occurring in Breakaway.

Renee is a hugger, and it doesn't matter if you are a long-time friend or are being introduced for the first time. Accompanying that hug will be laughter. Renee seems to always be laughing, but don't think that she is never serious or sincere. Renee is very serious about seeing that those with dementia who come to Breakaway and their caregivers get the best possible love and care.

Renee uses two arms to give a hug, but she has two more. She needs four arms to juggle all the balls in the air at Breakaway: volunteers, those with Dementia, caregivers, and programing. As with all volunteer efforts and ministries, these elements are always in a state of flux with last-minute, on-the-run decision making. Renee is a master juggler.

Renee is a fire ball. She is in constant motion. She is the spark that ignites Breakaway and it's her energy that moves Breakaway forward. Renee is fun, funny and a bit Kooki-Crazy at times. Behind all that explosion is a big and caring heart. She cries when our friends have to leave us. She cries over the hardship of our volunteers and caregivers — we are one big family. I've seen her fail to choke back tears while she was watching a volunteer slow dancing with a friend (a person with dementia).

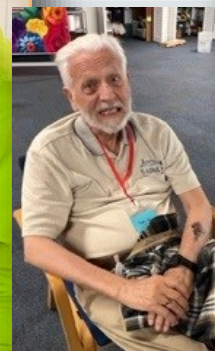
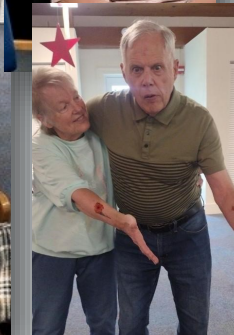
The soft side of Renee is balanced by her assertiveness. She asserts herself when she sees that friends are not receiving the care they deserve. As she will tell us, a friend is never to be left alone at a table. There will be no gossip. She will hoot and holler to say "thank you" to people who come to entertain us. Don't sit and chat with our friends; engage them. Friends come first. Friends are not patients or clients. They are friends. Schafer, play safer at the Tunnel of Love!

So, what's with the Tacos and Tattoos alteration? I did mention the Kooki-Crazy side of Renee. Tattoos for old people????? We volunteers and friends are all.... OLD! Yep! So, Renee orders fake tattoos for everyone!

Some of us volunteers were a little skeptical — What will our friends think? What will the caretakers think? Will the tattoos make a mess and come off easily? Worry. Worry. Worry. Renee charges ahead by inviting the caretakers (and church staff) to join us on the wild side as we became a rowdy bunch of painted people ... laughing people To fulfill the alteration, Renee gets Joe, the church's chef, to ditch his planned meal, and put together a taco lunch, which everyone enjoyed. (More taco lunches please!!!) By the way, Jeff, Pastor Josh, Pastor Debbie, Bill, Aisling and Teodora, all staff members, left smiling and proudly showing their tats.

A new venture for Breakaway is creating and selling items made by Breakaway volunteers and friends. Our first adventure involved having our friends drop different colored alcohol inks on paper and tiles. The images are beautiful. From these creations we have sold and continue to sell greeting cards (available at the Pages of Life Bookstore in the LEC Lobby) and decorative tiles and coasters. The funds from all sales are used to support Breakaway. We will continue with projects like these because they engage our friends. Our friends may be losing their memories and skills, but they retain their desire to be useful and helpful. Also, by bringing in funds through Breakaway we offset some of our operational expenses and relieve some of the strain on the church budget.

A parting prayer — *God, please help us to continue to make new memories for our friends who are losing not only their memories, but their skills, identity, friends, and family.*



Center 4Life Learning

Back to School

2023 Fall Semester Begins

October 3rd

REGISTER NOW

CLASSES AVAILABLE

- A.I. & You, Going Forward Together
- Android Smartphones & Tablet Workshop
- Are Social Security and Medicaid Headed for Fiscal Cliff?
- Be Prepared for Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Tropical Storms
- Befriending the Ending: Introduction to Advance Care Planning
- Beginning Genealogy
- Beginning Reading
- Chautauqua VII
- Chinese Brush Christmas Painting
- Chinese Brush/Sumi-E Painting
- Conversational Spanish, Beginners
- Cut the Cord
- History as Performance Art: Civil War
- Introduction to Modern Calligraphy
- Introduction to Modern Quilting
- Investment, Estate, and Tax Planning
- Managing Life Transition & Estate Planning
- News & Views
- Philosophy's Greatest Hits
- Sign Language
- The Art of Story Telling
- The Ten Essential Hugs of Life
- Travel Presentations by Kai Rambow
- United States History
- Watercolor Painting
- Wellness Topics
- What Would Happen if You Got Hit by a Bus?

Classes have limited space and fill up quickly!!

Purchase yours today!

www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning.com

Center 4Life Learning

Upcoming Trips

Life is an Adventure. Hop on the Bus.

Ringling Museum

September 14th, 2023

Travel to Sarasota and enjoy a visit to the Ringling Museum. Followed by lunch on your own at Der Dutchman.



Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater

October 26th, 2023

Tony Award winning comedy musical, Tootsie is a must-see for everyone.

Mahaffey Matinee, Hollywood's Golden Age

November 11th, 2023

Enjoy Raymond James Pops Saturday Matinee featuring Hollywood classics that never grow old.



A Tuna Christmas

December 14th, 2023

Hilarious quick-change comedy and dinner on your own at Der Dutchman.

Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet

December 28th, 2023

Be transported by the magic of jaw-dropping acrobatics, larger-than-life puppets and stunning hand-crafted sets and costumes.



StarLite Sapphire Evening Dinner

Cruise January 4th, 2024

Wonderful dinner cruise with live entertainment. Cruise the smooth waters of Pinellas County.

Early Bird Dinner Theater

February 8th, 2024

One Slight Hitch is more than just another comedy! Buffet dinner included.



Trip flyers are available on the Center 4Life Learning website, the church Sanctuary lobby and the Center 4Life Learning office.

Register on the Center 4Life learning website at www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning or at the Center 4Life office, Monday - Friday: 8:30AM - 12:30PM.

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

Summer is nearly over, the children are back to school and the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda are back to present a wonderful concert on Friday, September 15th at 7:00PM.

It has been several years since they were here, and we are excited to have them back to bless us with their outstanding talents! There will be no admission tickets, but there will be a free will offering taken at the concert that will all go to the work of the Watoto ministry helping orphaned and vulnerable children to be placed in loving families, and in assisting and empowering women to be mothers and leaders that God has called them to be. Please tell all your friends and neighbors about this special concert!!

Then on September 29th, "The King Is Back", or rather at least a really great impersonator of Elvis, named Billy Lindsey. This will be a benefit concert for the fight against Alzheimer's Disease. My mother died with this disease, so it is quite personal to me. Please come as well to support this excellent benefit event! Tickets are on sale in the Pages of Life Bookstore, the Church Office and also online at www.sccumc.com

As we approach the Fall, you won't want to miss out on the fine lineup of artists we have in place!! Pick up a trifold in the church or keep checking the Events tab on the church website.

Blessings,

Larry



EMPOW *Her* Women's Study Group

Weekly Thursday
Starting September 14th
6:30PM

Overwhelmed with your busy schedule and need help finding time to spend with God? Ladies, we are excited to announce a new study group, led by Maria Leasure our Contemporary Worship Leader.

This group is a place for 'busy' women to find support, encouragement, and tips for growing in faith. Every morning we wake with a battle for our attention from our day's agenda and time in the Word. Women are Busy! And every stage has its own kind of busy. Together we will find confidence in God and His plans for our lives.

This will be a time for women to come together in a supportive community where joys and sorrows are shared, we'll give and get encouragement, counsel and pray with and for one another. With God for us we are able to *Empower* each other.

Returning Sept. 19th

REGISTER
NOW



THE
TOT
SPOT

FREE

Designed to meet the needs of toddlers 18-36 mos

Tot Spot is a collaborative sing and play class, as well as caregiver social group which meets Tuesdays 9:30AM-11:00AM.

Space is limited & registration is required.

For more information please contact
sharon@sccumc.com

Friday *Night* at the Movies

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 6:00PM



A girl's faith is tested after her parents are killed in a car crash, and she is forced to move in with relatives who are non-believers. She wants to worship God through her singing, though she faces ridicule and challenges to her piety at home and school. But there is one boy who seems to recognize her greatness.

This month's Friday Night at the Movies will start with our first ever Ice Cream Social. Bring a friend and enjoy all the yumminess - trust us - everything is better with sprinkles! This is a free event. Scooping starts at 4:30PM

FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION

September 14, 2023
11AM - 1PM

Calling all First Responders!!

UMCSCC would like to THANK YOU for always answering the Call for our Community! Please stop by our church Thursday, September 14 between the hours of 11AM and 1PM to receive a boxed lunch from us.



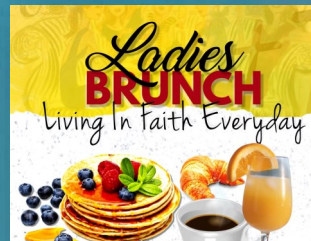
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST AT 8:00AM

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:

Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Gravy,
Biscuits, Belgian Waffles, Hickory
Smoked Bacon & Pork Sausage Links

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up in the office by September 17th.



WEDNESDAY,
SEPT. 28TH AT
10:00AM

Get out your grass skirts and leis and join us for a Polynesian adventure! This month will have a Polynesian theme, complete with a local ukelele ensemble and a tropical menu.

This Month's Menu:

Polynesian Banana Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs
Tropical Fruit Salad
Pork Sausage

Living In Faith Everyday, Ladies' Brunch is the fourth Wednesday of each month. Cost is \$10.00.

Sign up in the office by September 24th



WORSHIP

-Jeff Jordan

Well, we almost made it through another long, hot summer! Yes, we've got a month or so of warmer temps in front of us, but the toughest part is behind us, PTL. In fact, we'll soon be welcoming back our 'snow birds' – YAY!

For me, September marks the beginning of the season in 'full swing' with all our ensembles rehearsing/performing and community ensembles starting to prepare holiday concerts... this promises to be a very busy season! Preparations have been completed (I pray!) for the Advent and Christmas seasons here at church, and now it's time to prepare our voices, our instruments and our hearts!

At the beginning of August, all our traditional musical ensembles began to rehearse again. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING OR PLAYING BELLS THIS WOULD BE A GREAT TIME TO CHECK US OUT! Chancel Choir meets on Thursday afternoons @ 1PM (later in the day by appointment as well) and, if you are interested in ringing handbells, please call Nancy Harris @ (813) 787-0190. We are also the home to both the SCC Women's Chorus (under my direction with Teo on the keys) and the SCC Men's Chorus (same director with Carolin Printy on the keys). If you are interested in auditioning for either of these ensembles, please call Jeff @ (813) 260-0153 ASAP as both groups begin rehearsing in the first week of September!

I'd like to take this opportunity to share a couple of personal items about Teo and Yours Truly. Teo, Levi and 'the little one' have settled into their new home in Riverview, and they are VERY happy to have their own place. Also, Teo's parents will be making an extended visit (from Romania) at the end of the month. On MY 'home front' I'm pleased to share that, as of this writing, Kai has been at a full time job for an entire week (the UPS store in Ruskin). This news is pretty close to miraculous given the journey he's been on. Thanks for your continued prayers for him. Finally, I've been praying about pursuing another form of ministry. I covet your prayers for discernment and God's direction in the coming weeks and months (and "no", I'm not going anywhere!).

And as OL sez – LET'S BE THE CHURCH!

Soli Deo Gloria



Creating Moments That Matter

With passion, practical wisdom, humor and a good set of tools, we will learn how to create moments that matter along the caregiving journey. Join us as we explore how to let go, accept, fear less and love more.

**Saturday,
September 23
10AM**



**Featured Author:
Jolene Brackey**

**Free Seminar.
Lunch will be
provided. RSVP
required at
800-272-3900**



Vivacious Ministries

with Victoria Sorensen

Hello Everyone! Welcome to September!

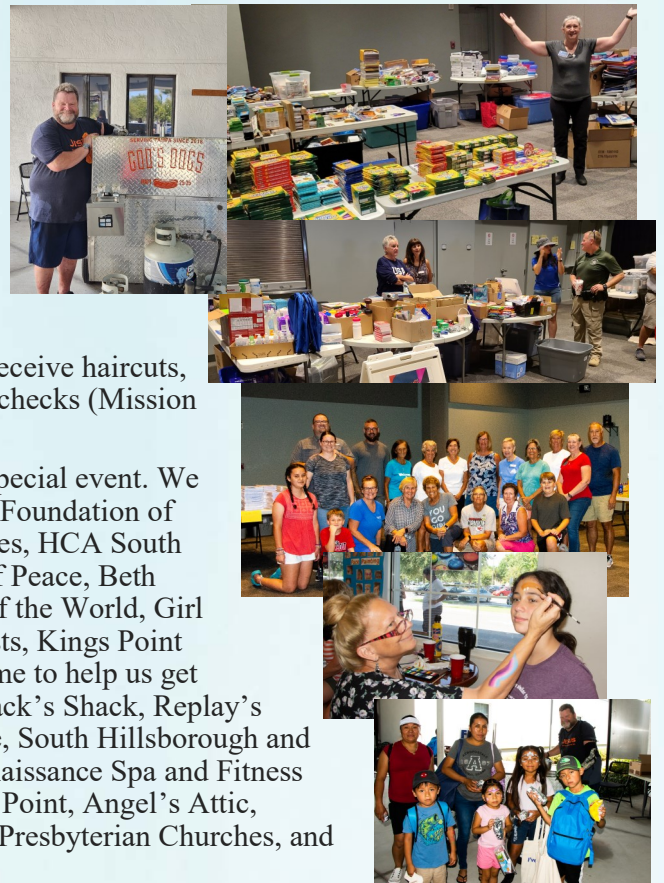
The Community Back-to-School Fair held on our church campus on Saturday, August 5th, 2023, was a tremendous success! Our campus was filled with students, teachers, school social workers and even a few of the school principals. After months of planning and visiting local community leaders, businesses, and medical professionals, our fair was able to offer each student and their families the opportunity to receive haircuts, hearing tests (Sertoma Hearing), eye tests (Preserve Vision), and dental checks (Mission Smiles) without cost to the families.

We asked for a "Village" to come together and they did to make this a special event. We had volunteers from the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay South Shore, the Kings Point Pickleball Club, Valencia Lakes, HCA South Shore Hospital, BayCare, St Joseph's Hospital South, Calvary, Prince of Peace, Beth Israel Jewish Congregation, St Andrew Presbyterian, UMCSCC, Girls of the World, Girl Scouts, God's Dogs, Interfaith Social Action Council of SCC, hair stylists, Kings Point Sportsman Club, and so many more who were willing to give of their time to help us get everyone ready for school. I would be remiss if I did not also mention Jack's Shack, Replay's Family Sports Grill, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay South Shore, South Hillsborough and South Shore Chambers of Commerce, CC's Café, Southshore Falls, Renaissance Spa and Fitness Center, HCA South Shore Hospital, Freedom Plaza, Sun Towers, Kings Point, Angel's Attic, Calvary, Prince of Peace, Beth Israel Jewish Congregation, St Andrews Presbyterian Churches, and many, many more locations who collected school supplies for us.

At the end of the day, we served over 200 families, some of which had 3 or more (up to 9 children) get ready for school, with supplies, new shoes, Bombas Socks, backpacks, lunch boxes, pantry food, etc. The remainder of the school supplies were distributed to Sumner High, Shields Middle, Cypress Creek, Reddick, Ruskin, Thompson, and Wimauma Elementary Schools in addition to the Boys and Girls Club. We are already starting to plan our 2nd Annual Community Back-to-School Fair for next year and several who partnered with us this year have signed up again! What a Blessing!!

As always, Thank You for what you do to support the Ministries of the Church and the local community! I look forward to seeing you around campus and on the Patio on Sunday mornings!

Much Love and Blessings to All! Victoria



DO YOU...
... Play guitar,
drums or keys?
... Want to learn
how to run a sound
board, operate
video cameras or
display text &
images for the
congregation?

**THEN WE
WANT YOU!**

Please talk to
Jeff Jordan (Music) or
Bill Turner (AVL)



**WEEKLY WEDNESDAY
11:00AM in Room 30**

We extend a personal invitation to all men to join our weekly Men's Bible Study. This is a time of fellowship, fun and learning. We will grow together through the sharing and understanding of God's word.