



# *The* Happening

MARCH 2024

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### *Under the Cross (UTC) Youth*

We are immensely grateful for your generous support of our youth ministry. Your contributions have been instrumental in making 2024 a year filled with numerous blessings as we eagerly anticipate the amazing plans that God has in store for us.

As our surrounding communities continue to grow, so does our ability to spread the message of God's love. Our youth ministry, Under the Cross (UTC) Youth, serves as a safe haven for the young members of our community to strengthen their faith.

Every Sunday morning and Monday evening, our youth gather to enjoy a nourishing meal before diving into a Bible lesson, engaging in group discussions, playing games, and fostering fellowship. These activities not only deepen their understanding of the Bible but also lay a strong foundation of faith. In addition, we organize various outings and fundraisers to promote participation and cultivate a sense of unity among our youth. Through the dedication of our volunteers, our youth are enveloped in the warmth of God's love.

A highly anticipated event for our youth each year is the summer camp held at Warren Willis United Methodist Camp in the Leesburg area. The excitement builds as they eagerly ask, "What week are we going to camp this year?" and "When is camp this year?" The transformative experience at camp leaves our youth inspired and invigorated in their spiritual journey, forming lasting bonds. Your unwavering support is crucial in making all of these uplifting experiences possible.

We humbly urge you to consider contributing to our March Mission of the Month, supporting this meaningful ministry and helping us extend God's love to even more individuals. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering with our youth, please reach out to Aisling Turner at [aturner@scumc.com](mailto:aturner@scumc.com) or call the church office at (813) 634-2539. Your involvement can make a profound difference in the lives of our youth and the community at large. Thank you once again for your continuous support and belief in our mission.

## Scripture of the Month

*"If you declare  
with your mouth,  
'Jesus is Lord,' and  
believe in your  
heart that God  
raised him from  
the dead, you will  
be saved."*

Romans 10:9





# DONATE BLOOD

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

All donors will receive\*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **St. Patrick's Day T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

*Fact: Approximately 62% of the population is eligible to donate blood.*



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

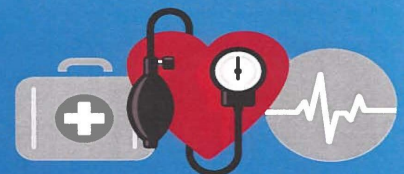
Donors  
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



**ID REQUIRED**

\*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit [oneblood.org/details](http://oneblood.org/details).

**oneblood**  
Share your power.

# 'Breakaway' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

If you're familiar with Breakaway, then you'll know that we attempt to maintain a positive and joyful atmosphere throughout the day. Aside from our devotion in the morning, we try to keep topics around the table light, we break away from serious issues for a while. This atmosphere that we strive for isn't always easy. As we sing, dance, play volleyball, create art, and share meals together we are witnessing the decline of our beloved friends. It can be sudden or gradual, but it's happening, and it's painful. Some of us have spent years together and now our friends require more than we and their caregivers can provide and when they move into a memory care facility, we grieve.

The absolute joy we experience throughout the day, and the profound grief we feel when we lose someone can be overwhelming. Before our friends arrive, aside from sharing the day's plan, we lift our friends, their families, and ourselves in prayer. Even on our saddest days, for me it's a beautiful feeling, sharing tears and hugs because I know God hears us and will heal us and bring us peace. I don't believe any of us expect God to miraculously deliver this peace, so we do what we can to help ourselves. We try to celebrate the life of our missing friends rather than dwell on our loss.

We all know the final outcome for each one of our friends. As devastating as the death of a loved one can be, some of us find great comfort in knowing that our friends who've passed away are now whole again, no longer living with dementia, living in Heaven, and experiencing more peace, love, and joy that they ever experienced on earth, even with us at Breakaway!

## THANK YOU!!

We send a huge THANK YOU to Community Foundation Tampa Bay, for providing us with a generous grant made possible by the generosity of Robert H. Mohr, Esq. Breakaway has been able to keep tuition at the same low cost for the past five years due to donations such as this! Thank you also to Martha Fleck and Thrivent for their donation, I do believe the new parachute is a hit!

Summer is fast approaching and with it the loss of several volunteers for the season, please consider volunteering and experience our joy firsthand! We are in Creason Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00AM-2:00PM. If you have any question you can email me at [breakawaymin@scumc.com](mailto:breakawaymin@scumc.com) or call at 813-634-2539 ext. 1011.



**TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH**  
**10:30AM**

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

**Guest Speaker: Shelly Bishop**  
**"The Case of the Missing Will"**

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  
March 7th, 2024***

## Meet Your Leadership



Meet Linda Whitt, Chair of the Administrative Council. Linda and her husband Mike moved to Sun City Center in 2000, and have been members of UMCSCC for 23 years. Linda has served in various leadership positions and is best known for her organizational skills. She currently

rings hand bells with Bellissima and plays synthesizer with our Praise Team, Broken Together.

Mike and Linda hail from the Bluegrass State of Kentucky and are avid Kentucky Wildcat basketball fans. Linda attended Morehead State University where she received degrees in English, Education and Guidance and Counseling. Her joy was working with middle school students for 30 years.

Linda leads the Administrative Council toward vision and outreach. She believes our church is moving forward as God's blessings continue.

*"Our church changes lives every day due to the leadership of our pastors, staff and incredible volunteers. Greater things are yet to come as we work together to accomplish God's vision for UMCSCC."*



## 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*



**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*



**Trips Sell Out Fast! Sign Up 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)

## Come Learn and Be Entertained Class Registration Open



### Be Scam Aware

**March 20th, 2024  
90-Minute Class**

*Instructors:*

*Phil Sorrentino & Bob Dealmeida*

You can register for this class online or in the Center 4Life Learning Office. Sign up Today. Space is Limited.

## The 'Happening' with UTC Youth

Last month was busy, eventful, and impactful. We completed our study by Frances Chan titled, "Prayer" and developed a deeper understanding for the significance of connecting with our Heavenly Father. We learned to have a relationship with Him we must first speak to Him, and we do that through prayer. We had a blast at our annual Superbowl party! This year was unique as we had three groups of fans: supporters of the San Francisco 49ers, Kansas City Chiefs, and the 'Swifties' rooting for Taylor Swift. We also gathered to celebrate Shrove Tuesday with our church family, enjoying a delicious pancake dinner and a wonderful concert by our Praise Team, Broken Together. We thank everyone who joined us on this night as the funds raised have gone to supporting our Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries. God continues to work wonders in the lives of our UTC Youth.

We will start a new study this month titled, "Truth and Love:" *Have you ever had to choose between truth and love? Sometimes, the truth can feel harsh and unloving, but can we really love someone without telling them the truth? It isn't unusual to wrestle with balancing what is right with what we feel, but what if we didn't have to choose between truth and love? Marquise Cox will show us how to speak the truth in love, wrestle with doubts, talk about Jesus with people who disagree with us, and share our faith. You don't have to choose between being loving or truthful—in Christ, we can do both.*

I expect this study will be one that is relevant in our UTC Youths' lives, equipping them with the necessary tools to embrace their faith and share it with courage.

This month holds Easter and we are reminded of the joy and renewal that comes with this special holiday. Easter is a time of hope, new beginnings, and the beauty of nature awakening from its winter slumber. It is a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and to celebrate the gift of love and forgiveness given to us by our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather with family and friends, we are reminded of the importance of unity and togetherness, and the power of faith to guide us through challenging times. Let us embrace the spirit of Easter with open hearts and open minds, welcoming the promise of a brighter tomorrow filled with peace and happiness.

## Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

It seems like time just keeps MARCHing along here on the church campus. I can hardly believe that we are in the third month of the new year! February was filled with so many things starting with our Mission Smiles and Sertoma Hearing Clinic on February 3<sup>rd</sup> where we took care of people in our community by providing dental care (cleanings, fillings, and extractions) and testing their hearing. Soul Café started again, and our classes were full of people who want to continue to grow in their faith journey. Our Ice Cream Social and Friday night at the Movies was a big hit. We so enjoyed sharing ice cream together with 122 of our closest friends. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and concert presented by our praise band, Broken Together, was wonderful and everyone had a great time sharing a meal together in fellowship and I even saw a few of you singing along with the band... making a joyful noise!! Thanks to Chef Joe, our lunches-to-go program continues to grow in numbers as well as the Men's Breakfast and the Ladies' Brunch. It makes my heart fill with gladness to know we are serving good and nutritious meals to not only our church but to our community.

We hosted our Annual Young Leaders event sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars. We had fifty-five young people attend from local high schools in addition to special guest instructors who covered subjects such as "TAP, TAP, Are You Ready?," "The Impact YOU Have," "Why Character Matters, A Lesson from 'Message to Garcia'," and others. It is wonderful to see what our future leaders look like as they grow into our next generation.

Our Christian Fellowship Group, G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) continues to grow. We have about fourteen individuals who joined us on February 15<sup>th</sup> for our Meet and Greet, and I look forward to what March will bring. If you are looking for a group where you can be you...come as you are and join us! This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 3PM.

Remember, Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> the OneBlood Mobile will be on our church campus. If you can, please donate to help save a life. Our Friday Night at the Movies will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> and our movie will be "God Is Not Dead." We will have the popcorn ready and waiting so bring a friend and come join us! Other events for the month are, of course, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, including a sunrise service at 6:30AM.

We will also be having another Prayer Vigil starting on Good Friday evening at 9pm and ending on Holy Saturday at 9pm. Sign-up sheets are available at the usher tables so you can sign up for your time slot whether you pray here on the campus or at home. We will have colored slips of paper for you to write your prayer request on and a basket for you to deposit it in. We will then use your prayer requests to make an art piece that will be on display revealed on Easter Sunday.

As we lean forward into this month, let us grow together during this Season of Lent on our way to the Cross. I pray you will find time to spend with God and listen to where He is leading you next. It is during this season that instead of giving something up for 40-days, I focus on a spiritual discipline to help me draw closer and see where He is leading me. While we have many things going on here on the campus, I pray and encourage you, to find time to grow closer to God too.

### Resurrection Cross



The Flowering of the Easter Cross takes place on Easter Sunday. We ask you to bring fresh flowers to place upon the cross. Eventually the cross is covered in a beautiful array of color and fragrance.

The Flowering of the Easter Cross transforms a symbol of death, darkness, pain and hopelessness. The Cross becomes beautiful, new and alive in celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

It is a truly special and awe-inspiring visual. Slowly but surely, the cross begins to transform into a vibrant tapestry of petals and leaves, symbolizing the triumph of life over death. It is a powerful reminder of the hope and renewal that Easter brings. Through this act, we not only honor the sacrifice of Jesus but also rejoice in the promise of new beginnings and everlasting life. In this moment of beauty and symbolism, the Flowering of the Easter Cross serves as a poignant visual representation of the resurrection and the eternal love that Christ offers to all. It is a time to reflect on the transformative power of faith and the endless possibilities of redemption.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!*  
[Luke 24:5 NIV].

These are the words spoken by the angels at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday which, this year, comes VERY early, on March 31<sup>st</sup> – something that makes us Worship Arts folks work a little harder and a little faster. So why does this date change each year, e.g., in 2022 it was almost three weeks later! *Easter occurs on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, which welcomes spring in the northern hemisphere.* Now, I'm not so sure that helps folks like me that are a little 'science-challenged', but that is how the holiday is determined.

So, let's look ahead at the busy and beautiful month of Lent & Easter!

During the second and third weeks of the month, two of the community choral ensembles that make their home here and under my direction, are performing a series of concerts as follows (all concerts are \$10 donation at the door and include many of our choristers):

**SCC Women's Chorus – *Broadway Blockbusters: Part 1 (1929-1959)***

Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7PM & Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 3PM

**SCC Men's Chorus – *Vive L'Amour! (Long Live Love!)***

Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3PM & Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM

This year our Chancel Choir's Easter Cantata is entitled *A Journey to Hope*, and it's a GREAT one written by Joseph Martin and orchestrated by Brant Adams. The entire work is based on African American spirituals that are VERY powerful. Once again, the Choir will be joined by a string ensemble (from TFO), our favorite percussionists AND our favorite organist/pianist! There will NOT be a performance on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> as in the past, but we will be presenting the work on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at both traditional services.

After that, I want to encourage you to attend ALL Holy Week services, that is Maundy (or Holy) Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7PM as well. The first of these will be focused on **foot-washing**, something Jesus did for His disciples before the Last Supper, and the second of these will culminate with Pastor Charlie's amazing *Service of the Shadows*. Easter Sunday services will be four in number, as usual, and as follows:

**Sunrise** (in the parking lot back behind the Choir room) at 6:30AM

**Traditional** at 8:30AM & 11AM     **Contemporary** at 9:45

This IS the season that defines us as Christians. Let's make it the best ever. Finally, and 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*

## From the Ledger -Bill Turner

Greetings church family!!

In January, we received \$186,745 in income to offset \$212,415 in expenses. This leaves us with **\$25,670** in expenses over income. Our income year-to-date is \$186,745 and our expenses year-to-date are \$212,415. This leaves us with **\$25,670** in expenses over income through January.

Our current mortgage balance is \$1,609,934 as of January 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.



# Update from the Disaster Response Team (DRT)

The Disaster Recovery Ministry is excited to announce that registration is NOW OPEN for the 2024 Early Response Team (ERT) Academy retreat! Please join us for a weekend full of preparedness trainings, team building, and critical discussions on disaster response. **The deadline to register is March 4, 2024.** The retreat takes place March 15-17, 2024 at the beautiful Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center, 4990 Picciola Rd., Fruitland Park, FL. 34731. Register at: <https://florida-reg.brtaapp.com/ERTAcademyRegistration>

The ERT Academy Weekend will feature:

- UMCOR's ERT Basic Class
- UMCOR's ERT Recertification Class
- UMCOR's ERT 200 Courses

-Including: Team leader, Safety Officer, Logistics Manager, Site Evaluations, On-Site Management, and Cleaning Out a Flooded Home.

- Spiritual and Emotional Care Discussion Group
- 16 Hour Chainsaw Safety Course

The next monthly meeting will be March 18 at 2:30 in room 19. DRT is hosting Equipment Maintenance Manager training following this monthly meeting.

\*Reminder that His Helpers are looking for home projects. Sign up is in the church office if there are small projects you need help with.

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

## News from Mary Petro

February 2024 has been a victorious month for Mary Petro Food and Medicine Fund.

On Saturday, February 3, 2024, Mission Smiles and Mobile Dental Clinic provided another successful dental mission on our campus. Special thanks to all the volunteer Dentists, Hygienists, HCC dental hygiene students, Coordinators and UMC Volunteers. The services provided were as follows: 11 Extractions, 13 Filings and 11 Dental Cleanings. The dollar value of dental services donated to this community was \$10,345.00 and the dollar value of volunteers served was \$5,430.72. Total \$15,775.72. Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida also provided another successful Hearing Clinic this day, and provided 18 Hearing tests to those in need in our community.

On Monday, February 5, 2024, Mary Petro Food and Medicine Fund was invited to SouthShore Philanthropy Fair, which was hosted by Miles and Barbara Capron and Bob and Rebecca Mohr, on behalf of Community Foundation Tampa Bay. Each of the fifteen non profit organizations attending this event (which included our Breakaway Ministry) was awarded a \$2,500.00 donation. Mary Petro Food and Medicine Fund won the drawing for a \$15,000.00 prize given by Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. UMCSCC was awarded a total of \$20,000.00 at this event!



## Join Our Team of Drivers

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center is deeply committed to the Meals on Wheels program. Throughout the month of April, we will be delivering meals to those who have signed up for the service in Kings Point and Sun City Center. Meal packages can be picked up at South Bay Hospital between 3:00pm and 3:15pm, and will be delivered to designated locations according to a route slip. Each route takes approximately one hour to complete. Deliveries are made seven days a week, and two sets of drivers are required from Monday to Friday, while one set is sufficient for both KP and SCC on weekends.

If you're interested in becoming a driver, please contact Karen Ransbury at 440-781-0887 or visit her in person for more information.



## THURSDAY, MARCH 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!

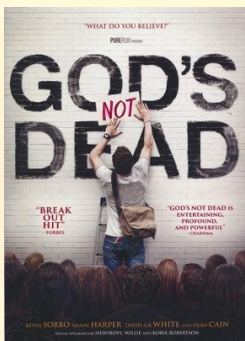
### This Month's Menu:

**French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Hickory Smoked Bacon, Pork Sausage Links, and Breakfast Potatoes**

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

## Friday *Night* at the Movies

FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND AT 6:00PM



Freshman university student Josh Wheaton attends a philosophy class, where Professor Radisson requires all students to submit a signed statement staying "God is dead" and never existed. When Josh refuses because of his own beliefs, the professor challenges him to defend his position, which leads to a

series of confrontational presentations between himself and the professor, with the class as jury.

This is a free event for our community and church.

Light refreshments are available.

Doors open at 5:30PM.



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH AT 10:00AM

Our theme for the day will be around our journeys during the Lenten season.

This will be the Wednesday of Holy Week, followed by Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as we approach Resurrection Sunday and Easter.

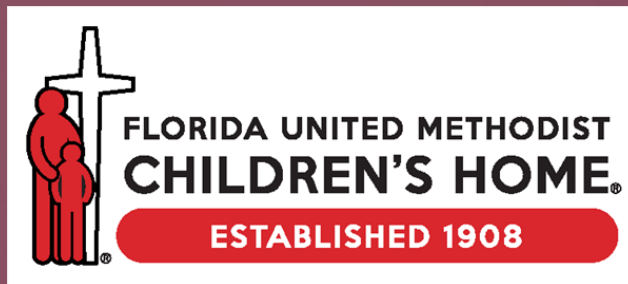
Come as we share together looking at these last days of Jesus' life and the impact it has on each of our lives.

### This Month's Menu:

**French Toast Casserole, Scrambled Eggs, and Fresh Fruit Salad**

Ladies Brunch is the fourth Wednesday of each month. Cost is \$10.00.

Sign up in the office by March 24th.



March has five Sundays and our fifth Sunday giving is always committed to The Florida United Methodist Children's Home. The FLUMCH was established as an orphanage in 1908, and by the 1950's had changed its major emphasis to caring for abused, abandoned, neglected or dependent children.

SCCUMC is one of the largest supporters for this ministry. Strong church support enables the program of the Home to maintain its ministry as a significant Christian outreach committed to the well-being of children, youth and their families.

Throughout it's long and evolved history FLUMCH has been a haven of peace and a merciful blessing to all that have come into her care.

Thank you for your continued support of this much needed ministry.



# Join us for Holy Week



This year, our Chancel Choir is presenting the Easter Cantata titled "A Journey of Hope." Join us for a moving musical experience on Palm Sunday, featuring uplifting songs, joined by a string ensemble, talented percussionists, and our very skilled organist. Come and immerse yourself in the spirit of renewal and rebirth as we commemorate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This event is open to all, and we welcome you to join us in this special celebration of faith. Mark your calendars and spread the word - we can't wait to share this meaningful experience with you!



Join us to reflect on the solemn occasion of Good Friday. The Service of the Shadows provides a deeply moving and contemplative atmosphere, allowing us to remember the sacrifice made for us and the profound impact it has on our lives. Join us as we journey through the shadows of the crucifixion, embracing the significance of this day with reverence and gratitude. Let us come together in unity, seeking solace and inspiration in the shared experience of faith and reflection. We welcome you to join us on this meaningful occasion as we honor and commemorate the events that define our beliefs and shape our spirituality.



As we gather to observe Maundy Thursday, we step into a poignant and symbolic reenactment of the Last Supper. This sacred event invites us to reflect on the profound moments shared by Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion. Through this moving drama, we are reminded of the humility, love, and sacrifice exemplified by Jesus as he shared bread and wine with his closest companions. Join us in this powerful experience as we honor this significant moment in Christian tradition and deepen our connection to the spiritual journey of Easter.



Celebrate the joy and renewal of Easter with us as we come together for a special Worship Experience on Easter Sunday. Our day will begin with a beautiful Sunrise service, where we will witness the sun rising as a symbol of new beginnings and hope. Following this, we will continue the celebration with our Traditional and Contemporary Services. It will be a day filled with music, prayer, and reflection as we come together to honor this special time of year. We invite you to join us and be a part of this meaningful and uplifting Easter celebration.