

The Happening

NOVEMBER 2023

Mission of the Month Miracle Ministries (Our sister Church in India)

Greetings from Miracle Ministries!

At the very outset I would like to thank you so much for having selected us as 2023 Sun City Center United Methodist Church Mission of the Month for November.

Let me give you a brief introduction of the Ministries. Miracle Ministries is a multifaceted organization with its headquarters in Kadali, on the southeast coast of India. Below are our Ministries that you help support.



Miracle Church: Miracle Ministries runs a Miracle Church which has 300 congregation in attendance.

Miracle Children's Home: 42% of our population falls below the poverty line making \$1.25 a day! 6000 children under the age of 6 die of hunger and malnutrition. The Miracle Children's home was started in 2001 to be a beacon of hope to children who are being deprived of their childhood. Currently we are catering to the needs of 20 children.



Living Waters: Partnered with Global Water Consortium, Miracle Ministries is providing good drinking water to the community.

PNG Institute: Miracle Ministries is providing computer education to the young people through the PNG computer Institute.

Dorca's Sewing Institute: Miracle Ministries is serving the women through Dorca's sewing school.

Church Construction: Miracle Ministries is involved in church construction. So far we have constructed four churches with the help of Sun City Center UMC.



Scripture of the Month

*"Enter his
gates with
thanksgiving,
and his courts
with praise!
Give thanks to
him, bless his
name!"*

Psalm 100:4



Loving God and Each Other

We are a group of women who meet the first Monday of each month at 1:00PM in room 19.

After devotions, we have a program to inform us of church and community projects that we may be able to assist with.

Our current project is to make gift baskets for elementary teachers in the area with the help of our food pantry.

We also have bake sales and offerings that fund mission projects where needed.

We would love for you to join us!!

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 3rd at 1PM.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST
10:30AM

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

Guest Speaker: Drew Smith

"Facebook as a Tool to Break Through Brick Walls"

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 November 9th.



"Ignite," the Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection, Kansas City was designed to ask the question: "Are you committed to helping your church do everything possible to share God's love with your community?" Pastor Charlie, Pastor Josh and members of our staff answered a resounding "YES" and returned with new energy to equip us with practical tools to move our church forward. Their reflections:

"Submerged in an abundance of hope and reassurance."

"Need for connection with all."

"Reignite The Flame!"

"Excited for the future of UMCSCC!"

"Trusting God to unify us as we move forward together - One Unified Body."

"Newly equipped with tools to take our ministry to the next level."

"Rejuvenated to move forward; validated in God's Love."



Nursery News



update...



Nov. 2023

That bright moment every week which we call “Tot-Spot” continues to delight little minds of South Shore on Tuesday mornings. We excitedly discover new things about the Lord’s earth and all its wonders. This month we investigated our 5 miraculous senses (Can you name them? We can!) We are both happy & sad to report that Tot-Spot registration is currently closed due to full enrollment. Never you fear Brothers & Sisters, the Nursery is beginning enrollment on Thursdays for “Story Time @ The Center”. We would like to remind our congregation that the nursery can care for children 3mos- 5yrs at our 9:45am & 11:00am Services.

~ Sharon Bennyhoff, Director of Nursey Ministries



Story Time @ The Center



FREE!

*One time registration is required

Story Time @ the Center is a weekly story hour for local families with children aged 3-10. It was designed to meet preliteracy, literacy and social emotional needs of families in South Shore. This Co-op offers an interactive story hour and a chance to meet your neighbors.

STORY TIME THURSDAYS 10-11AM

Email sharon@sccumc.com
for registration & volunteer
information

‘BREAKAWAY’ with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale



Breakaway has been busy this past month and in such wonderful ways! We were so fortunate to have several guests come this past month to provide entertainment. We had The Joneses and Greg Rabelo get us up and on the dance floor! Jan and Mark Anderson, along with Ace from Southeastern Guide Dogs came and led a game of “Name that Tune” and a sing along.



To get us in the fall/Halloween spirit, our own Cathy Curry led a day where mosaics were made from beans! We created new window treatments out of fall leaves that we made, and used shaving cream and paint to color.



Tons of tiny pumpkins were made for displays our participants were able to take home and as a community service project.



We held our first bake sale fundraiser at movie night. Thanks to several volunteers who donated baked goods, we received over \$150.00!



Volunteers and participants alike were out in force for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, and we welcomed our newest Breakaway family member, Elaine.



In the next couple weeks, we will be having a country/western day with entertainment by the Orange Blossom Ukes, and along with celebrating Halloween we will be having a drum circle graciously donated by one of our volunteers. We will also be completing all the products needed for our debut in the annual craft fair. We are very excited about that!



INTEREST MEETING

Thursday, November 2nd at 3PM

Are you single? Have you never been married? Would you like to have a ministry in your church that is specific to Christian Singles? If so, we invite you to join our interest meeting scheduled Thursday, November 2nd at 3:00PM in room 11. We know it is comforting when we find others who understand what we are going through. With this new ministry we hope to help form friendships, enjoy social time together, build common bonds, and provide practical encouragement to better trust God in our journeys.

Disaster Response Team DRT

Our Disaster Response Team is a dedicated, hardworking, compassionate group of volunteers involved in local, statewide, and national missions that help others after disasters, assist with projects on our church campus, and provide local assistance to members of our community through His Helpers, (a committee within the DRT). Generous support from our church and local fundraisers allow us to train our members, maintain equipment and support our mission trips.



Part of financial support we receive is through the DRT recycling of aluminum cans and scrap metal, including appliances (i.e. washers, dryers, hot water heaters, etc). We encourage you to drop off recyclable items in the trailers at the back left side of the church parking lot.



Our next meeting is Monday, November 20th at 2:30PM in room 19. If you have questions, please contact Earl Gall at urlthepearl@tampabay.rr.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS NOVEMBER 2023

Fall blew into Southshore a few weeks ago and brought with it a string of festivities, most notably "FALLtoberfest." The Children's Ministry joined the church in this community wide celebration. We estimate approximately 50 children enjoyed fall fellowship. Live music and food were enjoyed by all. We are grateful to God for the lovely day, Victoria Sorensen for her coordination efforts, our volunteers for their festive attitudes and hard work, and to the church community who love to come support of our many community outreach efforts.



Kid's Club is on Sundays 9:30am-2:00pm. Our group has Bible lessons, Christian formation, worship, arts/crafts, lunch and fellowship each week. If you would like to register a participant or you would like to volunteer, please reach out to The Director of Children's Ministry by emailing kidmin@sccumc.com.



WE NEED HELP!
WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!
BE SPECIAL IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN!



As I sit at my desk writing (and looking longingly out the window at the perfect weather we're having at the end of October), I can almost hear the clear blue sky calling... "Jeff, what are you doing inside on a day like today?" Well, we're all getting ready for another busy October weekend, and they all have been, or will be! Kudos to Victoria (aka Valerie, aka Veronica) and Larry (aka Laruo) for putting together several very special community events in October! I personally want to thank Pastor Charlie for giving me the opportunity to preach last month, and I want to remind everyone to keep him in your prayers.

On the music front, we're seeing lots of our 'northern friends' returning and have picked up a few new members in our ensembles. There are too many to mention and I don't want to leave anyone out, but a big WELCOME and WELCOME BACK to all of you!! Special thanks to the contemporary Praise Team (*Broken Together*) for their faithful service EVERY Sunday, and special thanks to the AVL Team that works tirelessly behind the scenes all week long!

I'd like to share again that the Chancel Choir is preparing the Christmas Cantata that they'll be presenting on December 9th and 10th. It's not too late to join them if you'd like. On Thursday afternoons at 1PM, the Choir rehearses its weekly anthems, and then at about 1:45PM we begin rehearsing the Cantata. We still have plenty of scores if you are interested in joining us at either or both of those times. AND the handbell ensembles (*Bellissima*, *Jubellation* and *Glory Ringers*) are always looking for new members. I, Nancy Harris and Holly Bowes are all looking for new ringers year-round.

The cast is set for *Madrigal Dinner – Part II* which will be performed on Friday, December 1st at 6PM. A limited number of tickets will be available and will certainly go very quickly, so please listen for the sale date announcement. It's a great meal (thanks, Chef Joe and staff!) and a rollicking good time!

A reminder: both the Women's and Men's Choruses now make their homes here and are preparing some very entertaining holiday concerts. At our church, the Men will be performing on Sunday, December 3rd at 3PM and the Women will be performing on Friday, December 8th at 7PM.

Next, our annual *Sights and Sounds of Christmas* featuring all our musical ensembles as well as the children and youth will be on Wednesday December 13th. Again, keep your ears open to find out when you can pick up tickets for this FREE event. We're also going to invite the community to a *Sing-Along Messiah (Part I)* on December 20th with a rehearsal for choristers the Saturday morning before. Please get the word out about this very special opportunity to sing a masterwork with a large group of singers! And Christmas Eve is just around the corner... God is SO good!

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

Soli Deo Gloria



Center 4Life Learning



FREE Diabetes Self-Management Education Course Starting Soon!

Beginning on January 5, 11:00AM-12:30PM, this seven 90-minute sessions will cover a comprehensive range of topics relating to diabetes. Topics like complications, nutrition, carb counting, physical activity, monitoring, medications, and coping. Participants must have a diagnosis of Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes (not pre-diabetes) to attend. The course is limited to six students. Spouses or other support persons are welcome and will not be included in the total student count. The program is led by Deanna Doran, RND, LD/N. A registered and licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist employed by the Florida Department of Health.

To register for this free course, contact the Center 4Life Learning office at 813-634-8607 or center4life@sccumc.com.

Trips and Tours

WHO NEEDS STUFF? TRIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS AND MEMORIES!

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. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 8TH.



Early Bird Dinner Theater February 8th, 2024

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

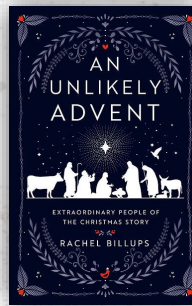
Edison and Ford Winter Estates Tour April 9th, 2024

The Edison and Ford families left an incredible legacy. Enjoy a guided tour of their homes and properties.



Trips Sell Out Fast! Sign Up Today! Contact the Center 4Life Learning office at 813-634-8607, email at center4life@sccumc.com, or visit our website at www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning

Advent Study Coming Soon



Pastor Debbie will be offering a 4 week Advent study beginning Monday, November 27 from 4:30PM – 5:30PM. The book we will using is called An Unlikely Advent about the extraordinary people of the Christmas story who are often overlooked. It is a 2023 study written by Rachel Billups helping us to see how interconnected we are with God's story revealed in the hopes, dreams, disappointments, and surprises of the "B" actors of the Advent journey to Christmas.

I know this is a busy time of year for each of us, but this study will give us the opportunity to explore our own journey during the Advent season.

Books will be available in the Church office for \$10.00 when you sign up for the class. Classes will be held on November 27th and December 4th, 11th, and 18th.

I look forward to seeing you November 27th!

"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

Vivacious Ministries

with Victoria Sorensen

Welcome to November...cooler weather, falling leaves, pumpkins, and hot cider! Wait! I forgot...we live in Florida! Welcome Back to all our Snowbirds to the warm and sunny State of Florida!

As we leave behind the days of October, I just want to say we were busy, and boy did we have a great time, every Saturday of the month and the days in between!

October let us share with our community the Blessing of the Animals, where Pastor Debbie blessed our furry babies and gave away treats and toys to everyone who came, and some even got their picture taken with their Humans! We had a great time visiting with everyone who came and loved petting and playing with all of your wonderful fur babies!

The SouthShore 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time! This year's walk raised over \$40,000 dollars toward finding a cure, and all of your contributions equaled a little over \$7,000 dollars with your Mission of the Month contributions, attendance at the Elvis concert and your donations from participating in the walk itself. THANK YOU for your support at this event and we look forward to seeing you next year!

FALLtoberfest was a blast too! The flavors of Germany and Fall descended on the campus with hot bratwurst and hot dogs, pumpkin desserts, hot cider and so many other goodies. In addition to the yummy food, we had music, dancing, bouncing, facepainting, kids' games and, of course, Trunk or Treat! Thank you to everyone who came and volunteered for this wonderful day!

And rounding out the Saturdays of the month, the Under the Cross (UTC) Youth Golf Cart/Car Wash. I am so glad everyone got their cars and golf carts clean and shiny! It certainly makes our parking lot beautiful during the week and weekends!

Along with all the Saturdays, we also had some other wonderful things happening on the campus. Center 4Life Learning started their Fall semester. Our classrooms are full of eager students. We attended the South Hillsborough County Chamber of Commerce Fall Expo, we enjoyed Movie Night. We also hosted a wonderful Connecting Resources through Community Involvement, event bringing several community organizations together to share how they can and are helping the underserved community. We also hosted a Medicare Update presented by Marcie Maisonet, our local Medicare Expert where everyone received the most up-to-date Medicare information.

The Ladies Living in Faith Everyday (L.I.F.E.) Brunch ended on a high note for the year by celebrating the Day of the Dead. We had a great time this year from January to October enjoying fellowship with every lady who attended. Pastor Debbie and I can't wait until January 2024 to start all over again!

On October 25th, several of the congregation joined the congregation of Beth Israel, the Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center for an evening of prayer, song, and solidarity following the horrific attacks occurring in Israel. Our hearts and prayers remain with the families who are affected.

November brings more things to do on the campus, so mark your calendars and come and join us in fellowship for Friday Night at the Movies where we will feature "Fearless Faith." Our Unity Young Adult Ministry will be selling baked goods for donations to help their ministry and, of course, there will be our famous popcorn!

November 22nd, the church office will be closed, but we hope you will join us for Thanksgiving Day service at 10am followed by our Community Thanksgiving Dinner from 11:30am until 1:00pm. While this meal is free, you will still need a ticket for take-out and dine-in. Tickets will be available first to our community and on November 12th available for our congregation. You will surely enjoy this delicious dinner Chef Joe is preparing...Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressings, Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls and, of course, Pumpkin Pie...YUMMY! Stay out of your kitchen and come eat with US!

Don't forget the Craft Fair on Saturday November 25th where you can find everything under the sun for Christmas. We will once again have our Crafterteria open, so you don't go hungry. Stay tuned for more information!

As you can see, we continue to do more and more things on the campus to bring people together in fellowship. It takes a village to keep everything fresh and new, and we can't do it without you! If you are looking for a way to serve the church community as we help our local community, consider volunteering.

WE NEED YOU, and the COMMUNITY needs YOU TOO!

**COME, LEARN, GROW, and SERVE
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!**

As always, my heart is full of 'GRATITUDE' 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



Join us for Our

COMMUNITY

THANKS
GIVING

Service

November 23rd
10:00AM

Following the service you are invited to join us for a Thanksgiving meal. Meals are available to dine in or take out. FREE tickets for the meal are available in the church office starting November 12th. A ticket will be required for the meal and are dispersed on a first come first serve basis.

Friday *Night* at the Movies

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH AT 6:00PM



Fearless Faith

His Christian faith shaken by the loss of a close fellow officer who was also his best friend, Patrolman Colton Miller struggles to find meaning within the daily grind of being a cop. A grateful pastor does a ride-along to begin restoring Colton to his fearless faith.

A unique glimpse into the lives of heroes, *Fearless Faith* is a powerful example of the type of faith that many police officers walk by daily, as they live out their sacrificial mission for God.

This is a free event for our community and church.
Light refreshments are available. Doors open at 5:30PM.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH 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, Pork Sausage Links,
Hickory Smoked Bacon, Apple
Cinnamon Rolled Oats, Blueberry
Pancakes, & Breakfast Potatoes**

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up in the office by November 12th.



**Thursday,
November
16th at 11AM**

Topic: Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

This is a free event to attend.

You will need to register your attendance in the church office: 813-634-2539.



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 24th, and continue through Christmas Eve, Monday through Saturday from 10AM-6PM. All volunteers will be scheduled for 2 hour shifts.

Sign up on the Church Patio

Sundays, November 5th, 12th, & 19th.

For more information or questions please contact Karen Ransbury at

440-781-0887

Come Shop For

- Handmade Crafts
- Original Artwork
- One of a Kind Gifts
- Holiday Decorations

Bake Sale!!

**75+
Vendors
to Shop**

Arts & Crafts Fair

**Saturday
Nov. 25th
2023
9am - 2pm**

*Enjoy Lunch
in Our
Crafterteria*



**Presented by:
TIMELY
TREASURES**

United Methodist Church
Sun City Center
1971 Haverford Ave
Sun City Center FL. 33573
www.sccumc.com