

The Happening

JULY 2024



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Residing Hope

We are deeply humbled and honored that you chose Residing Hope as your Mission of the Month for July. Residing Hope? Yes, Residing Hope. After several years of effort and consideration we re-branded on March 16, 2024 to a new name which we hope more fully conveys exactly who we are and all we do.

Residing Hope, formerly known as The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was started in 1908 as an orphanage in Enterprise, Florida. Today, it has transformed into a multi-faceted organization with a great deal of breadth and depth. Residing Hope serves children through two residential campuses (Enterprise and Madison), and Independent Living services in Enterprise. Community based services include serving children through our foster care program in four counties around the state and community children through our Montessori School in Enterprise. Finally, we serve children and families through outpatient therapeutic counseling in ten counties.

Some organizational highlights include our Equine Therapy program at the Madison Youth Ranch which time after time continues to impact young lives and enables them to eventually open up to their counselors and others. This form of therapy has consistently led to transformed lives, confessions of faith to Christ and baptisms signifying new life! Our Spiritual Life Team on our Enterprise campus reports that seven youth made decisions to step out in faith and were baptized in 2023. We had three youth start taking weekly piano lessons and they performed in their first recital while several of our other youth worked together and wrote three original songs we now use in worship on Sundays!

Scripture of the Month

*"I pray that you may
have the power to
comprehend, with all the
saints, what is the
breadth and length and
height and depth and
know the love of Christ that
surpasses knowledge, so
that you may be filled
with all the fullness of
God. Now to him who by
the power at work within
us is able to accomplish
abundantly far more
than all we can ask or
imagine"*

Ephesians 3:18-20
(NRSV)

Continued on page 2

In 2023, we served 155 children in our residential care programs. We served 166 children in Volusia, Flagler, Broward and Palm Beach Counties through our Foster Care Services. Of those children, 27 were re-unified with their families and 18 found their forever families! Our Independent Living program provided support to 13 young adults, two of whom graduated from high school and began college. In addition, three of them were able to buy new cars! Our Outpatient Counseling Services provided counseling for 1234 children and their families. For more success stories please check out our website at www.residinghope.org.

We are excited to announce that on October 12, 2024, we will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our Madison Youth Ranch. All are invited to attend to celebrate this great achievement! We look forward to seeing you there and sharing with you the long-lasting impact of your partnership with us.

Finally, we could not accomplish anything without your inspiring partnership with us. The continuing, consistent support of the local church is the backbone of our ministry. Thank you!

May our GOD richly bless you all.

‘Breakaway’ with Breakaway **-Renee Tisdale**

We’ve had a great month at Breakaway, despite the awfulness of dementia we can’t seem to help ourselves from experiencing love and joy every day that we’re together! It doesn’t seem to matter what we’re doing either! We recently replaced our “window treatments.” Who knew that coloring with markers on plastic bags could be fun and so beautiful?

Our beloved bad boys have begun leading our afternoon music session, with singing and dancing, and they’re doing an amazing job getting our friends involved in their performances!

We celebrated the volunteers of Breakaway with a luau! Much fun was had by all. Some of our church family, and in my case literal family were able to join us, which only made things better! We had such a good time, and because some of our folks couldn’t make it, we decided to have a celebration twice a year!

We made a few new items that we’re going to be offering for sale on the patio soon: fairy lights, incense burners and fairy plant stakes! We’ve also started creating different patriotic door/wall hangings and watercolor paintings that our friends take home.

Carol Hulet led us in making our own dessert day which was a huge success. Soon Wanda Hoover will be leading a make our own lunch day. We also had a BBQ and potluck in celebration of so many June birthdays!

Pastor Charlie was able to join us one morning before retiring, led us in devotion, and shared words to live by John Wayne, and we’re very fortunate to have Pastor Debbie joining us this month!

We had to say goodbye to one of our friends but, welcomed two new fellows to our Breakaway family. We still have a waiting list, and I would like to invite more people to join us, but could use some more help at least through the summer months and especially on Mondays. Please consider stopping by Breakaway on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am-2pm to check us out, and maybe joining our family!



Meet Our New Pastor!!

Dr. Cynthia Weems



Dear Friends,

It is so good to finally get started in ministry with you! Since the announcement of my appointment in February of this year, I have been praying for you and for our ministry together. Later, in April, it was announced that

Pastor Travis Taylor would join us as well. During these last months I have prayed that God would guide our next chapter in ministry together. The Lord has written a faithful book in The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, and I am excited for this next chapter and all that it will hold.

Pastor Charlie Rentz is a gift, isn't he? Please join me in continuing to pray for Pastor Charlie and Marcia and all of the fun they will have together in his retirement. We wish him well, and I am so grateful for the care he has shown to me in our transition. There is nothing quite like sharing the same congregation. Charlie and I will have this special bond, and for that I am grateful.

You will have time to get to know Pastor Travis and me over the coming weeks and months. Pastor Travis will write the article for the August newsletter before his first sermon on August 4th. For now, I will share just a few things about myself that I feel are important for you to know about my ministry journey.

I have always wanted to be a pastor. Starting at about 8 years old I began to tell others that I wanted to be a pastor. I grew up in a family of four children and my father was a United Methodist pastor so, spending lots of time in the church, I could not imagine doing anything else. I was ordained twenty-five years ago and have loved every day of the pastoral life.

In those 25 years I have served churches where I have used my gifts in preaching, administration and leadership.

I have a heart for outreach to the community and love asking the question, "Who is not here?" I believe Jesus calls us to a personal life of transformation as well as a faith that leads us to invite others into that transforming relationship with Christ.

My most recent years of ministry have been serving at the Conference level as a district superintendent. In this role I worked with churches and pastors in the district that includes Ft. Lauderdale, Miami and the Florida Keys. This ministry was a gift to me as it allowed me the opportunity to help churches take the next faithful step in ministry.

When I was just out of seminary, in 1997, I traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia where I spent almost two years serving as a volunteer missionary. This was out of the ordinary for me and truly a response to a prompting by God to get out of my comfort zone. My time in Bolivia would prove to be highly consequential on the rest of my ministry, and you will see the influence of that experience in my ministry among you too.

I first became a parent to two stepchildren whom I had the blessing of helping to raise, Aline and Felipe. Later, we would welcome Mariana in 2006. She just graduated from high school and will head to college in late August. Earlier that month, on August 3, I will marry again and you will soon meet my new husband, Mark. (He has a one-way ticket to Florida on August 5!) The experience of blended families and second marriages is one that many of you likely share. For me, these things have been a source of grace and hope in my life and places where I have seen God's hand of healing and new life.

I so look forward to getting to know each of you in the days ahead. Please tell me your names more than once and don't hesitate to stop by the office to say hello. I am so honored to be your pastor.

Pastor Cynthia Weems

2024 Vacation Bible School

VBS

**July 15 - 19, 2024
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

(Dinner and Games @ 5PM)

Dive into the splash-tastic world of Scuba VBS! Join the underwater party and make a splash with us!

Scan the QR Code to register your children for VBS. Space is limited. Kids must be K - 5th grade. 6th grade and up can volunteer!

Join us for a week filled with exciting activities, meaningful lessons, and unforgettable memories. Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, neverending love of God.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to guide children through interactive bible stories, fun crafts, spirited games, and uplifting music sessions.

Whether you have a talent for teaching, a knack for organizing, or simply a heart for helping, there's a place for you in our team.

No prior experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to share God's love with the next generation. Together, we can make this Vacation Bible School a truly impactful experience for all involved. Sign up today and be a part of something truly special!

To join the adventure, contact Debe Allen at umcscvbsreg@gmail.com or call 813-634-2539 at the church office. Let's create some magical moments together!

SCAN ME



**VOLUNTEER MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024
6:00M - 7:00PM**

We hope to "SEA" you there!

'Happenings' with Children & Youth

Happy Summer Church Family!

Our children and youth are doing great. Even though school is out for summer, they are still having a great time gathering for fun, fellowship, and... FOOD, of course!

Currently, our UTC youth are having a fantastic time at Warren Willis camp for a week. Thanks to your dedication in supporting our ministry, we managed to send 16 kids to camp. This experience is not just about fun and games; it's an opportunity for them to grow spiritually, build lasting friendships, and create cherished memories. The stories they bring back will undoubtedly inspire us all.

Meanwhile, our children's ministry is bustling with excitement as well. Every Sunday morning, the kids gather for Kid's Club, where they receive engaging Bible stories, participate in creative crafts, and enjoy spirited games. It's heartwarming to see their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn more about their faith.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2024 Scuba Vacation Bible School! Join us for an adventurous underwater experience from July 15th to 19th. The event will start at 5pm with a family dinner, followed by thrilling underwater activities at 6pm, concluding each night at 8pm. Children will embark on an exciting underwater journey exploring the infinite love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will dive into the Scriptures and discover the essence of the living waters! Registration is now open with limited space available. To sign up, visit our website. We welcome and appreciate volunteers; if you're interested in helping out, please contact Debe Allen at umcscvbsreg@gmail.com.

Thank you once again for your continued support and prayers. It is through your generosity and dedication that we can provide these enriching experiences for our children and youth. Let us continue to nurture their faith and guide them on their spiritual journeys. Blessings to you all.



TIMELY
TREASURES

Arts &
Crafts
Fair

Saturday
Nov. 30th
2024

Vendor
Applications Now
Being Accepted

Do You Make:

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

Only handmade and one-of-a-kind arts and crafts are allowed. Booth fees start at \$25 and optional table rental is available. There will be both indoor and outdoor (covered and uncovered) spaces. Applications being accepted until July 15th and must include two photos of your work. Vendors will be notified by July 31 of acceptance into the show. For more information and an application, email TimelyTreasuresCraft@gmail.com or pick up a packet in the church office.

A Big Thank You From a Big Heart!



Jennilyn Crawford wishes to thank EVERYONE who helped her purchase her own... GOLF CART!

As most of you know, Jennilyn is one of our differently-abled adults. She is responsible for most of the slides that you see on Sunday mornings. She has always had to rely on others for transportation, especially her stepdad Bob, but now she can 'drive' herself anywhere a golf cart is allowed to go. Special thanks to Don Wolf and Earl Gall for the modification of the vehicle which can now be operated with hands only. Thanks again to everyone who pitched in... and please drive carefully, dear Jennilyn!

Thank God It's Variety! - Larry Hirschak

Hoping everyone is having a safe, happy and blessed summer so far! I have been busy making final booking arrangements for the 2024-25 Thank God Its Variety Concert Series. July will be a quiet month with only one Rasmussen Artist Series concert on Sunday July 21st featuring Karl Mitze and Haley Dietz. The program will be a mix of classical, original compositions, and arrangements with violin, viola and mandolin. On August 18th, the Series will feature an opera singer with piano accompaniment. More information about this performance will be provided in the August Newsletter.

On Sunday August 11th, we will have an evening of entertainment called "Hot Summer Cool Jazz" with the nationally acclaimed singer, songwriter, saxophonist and flutist Stacey Knights and a trumpet accompanist. You really won't want to miss this special Sunday evening performance of mesmerizing and exciting smooth jazz!!

The Fall, Winter and Spring season will be packed full of Variety including the following: Tribute Artists, Bluegrass, Jazz, Gospel, Comedy, Choral, Country, Family Groups, and Orchestral entertainment. Come and enjoy the God-given talents of the many artists and performers that this Outreach Ministry provides.

Staying United Through 'Unity' - Young Adult Group



Hello Church Family,

Our Young Adult group, Unity, recently had a wonderful experience during our weekend retreat. Six of us journeyed *ALL THE WAY* to Brooksville, FL, where we stayed together in a cabin, distancing ourselves from our daily routines to concentrate on bonding with each other and strengthening our relationship with the Lord. Our weekend was filled with devotions, discussions, and team-building activities. Our primary goal was to reconnect within the group and with God. Like many adults, especially those of us who are new to this stage of life, we often get caught up in our various responsibilities (and expectations) and overlook the importance of spending time with our Creator.

Each day we had devotions, each of us having an opportunity to lead. The peaceful surroundings of the cabin provided the perfect backdrop for our reflections. Our discussions ranged from personal challenges to spiritual growth, and everyone felt heard and supported.



A few highlights from our trip included kayaking through the river behind the cabin. Being graced by the presence of our Contemporary Worship leader, Maria Leasure, and her husband Will, where we enjoyed a meal and great conversation together. And guess what? We broke the record time on successfully completing an escape room!

In the evenings, we gathered around a campfire, where we roasted marshmallows and shared testimonies. The warmth of the fire and the openness of our conversations definitely brought us closer together.

By the end of the retreat, we all felt rejuvenated and more connected—not only to each other but also to our faith. We returned with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of the importance of fellowship and spiritual practice.

We encourage everyone to take the time to step back from their daily routines and focus on their spiritual well-being. Whether it's through a retreat, a quiet moment of prayer, or simply spending time in nature, these moments of reflection can really impact your life.

Blessings,
Unity, Young Adult Group



Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

**“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”
— Nelson Mandela**

Welcome to July—a month filled with all the wonderful things of Summer. Speaking of wonderful things, I would like to say “Welcome” to Pastor Cynthia and Pastor Travis as they become part of our wonderful church family. We are excited to have you and look forward to getting to know you better!

June was amazing and it is all because of your generosity. Our Food Pantry has helped so many families, and all of you continue to keep it filled to the brim so we can continue to make an impact in our community. Your continued support with pantry and hygiene products allows us to help those who need a little extra support. Thank you to all the ladies who made our June brunch a success. A special thank you to Barbara Smith for her presentation about Rose Percy. Who knew that Rose would be such a pro at fundraising? She raised additional funds for those suffering from the ravages of the Civil War, and in aiding in worthy causes for a sixty-year period, and continued to serve over another eighty years as the official mascot of the Junior Red Cross. What a career Rose, thank you for your service!

Who knew communication could be so fun? Our “Boost Your Communication Social Groups” have been busy improving their communication, memory, and socialization skills with students from Gannon University’s Speech and Language class. I have had the pleasure of watching our church and community family members and the Gannon’s students work together and learn from each other. Because of its success, Dr. Rita and I are thinking of having another class in the future. So, if you are interested in learning more about this class, talk to one of our church family members or me to learn more about how you can “Boost Your Communication”!

We are well on our way to collecting school supplies for our 2nd Annual Community Back-to-School event happening on Saturday, July 27th from 10am until 2:30pm. We are sponsoring thirteen schools this year in addition to the Wimauma Boys and Girls Club. If you are interested in donating school supplies you can search our Amazon Wishlist at Amazon.com, or you can support us with your financial donations by making a check payable to SCCUMC and writing school supplies or Back-to-School in the memo line. Thank you in advance for supporting this community outreach ministry, helping our children and youth prepare for their 2024-2025 school year.

I am happy to announce that we have a new outreach ministry in our community. I had the pleasure of visiting Inspira Tampa Bay, Inc in Wimauma. Inspira is making a huge difference in our community by providing services to children, youth and young adults, and their families. Inspira is dedicated to fostering the social inclusion of at-risk children, children with autistic spectrum disorders, and their families. During the visit, Diane Cantwell and I brought items from our food pantry and learned more about their services. We plan to help them by providing food and hygiene products (toothbrushes, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.), children’s books for ages kindergarten to second grade, in addition to other items. If you are interested in learning how you can help with this outreach, please contact me for additional information.

Here are a few reminders as I close this note to all of you:

- Friday Night at the Movies is July 12th, and our movie is A Question of Faith, so come join us for some popcorn and lemonade in the Life Enrichment Center. Doors open at 5:30p.m.
- We have volunteer opportunities available, so if you are interested in finding your place on the campus, please email me at victoria@sccumc.com.
- We are looking for team members for Our Methodists on the Move Alzheimer’s Walk team. The Alzheimer’s Walk for a Cure on Saturday, October 19th. To register for the walk, by visiting the 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer’s website and searching for our teams name, ‘Methodist on the Move’. Additionally, Billy “Elvis” Lindsay will be doing a benefit concert supporting the Alzheimer’s Association on October 11th, so come and enjoy this wonderful performance supporting a great cause,

As always, I look forward to seeing you on the patio on Sunday mornings!
Blessings,
Victoria

Friday Night at the Movies

FRIDAY, JULY 12TH AT 6:00PM



A QUESTION OF FAITH:

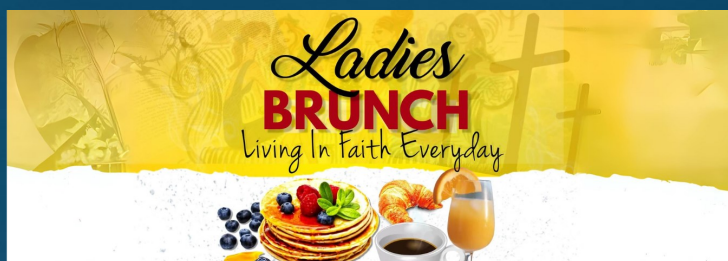
Three families find themselves at a crossroads, questioning their faith and the God that guides their lives. As each family member deals with their issues, their worlds start to intertwine. This leads to a chain of events, which unknowingly brings the three families closer and closer together. Will the families give in to the

loss, pain, and uncertainty that has shattered their lives, or will they find the tie that binds them all together through hope, trust, redemption, and goodwill?

This is a free event for our community and church.

Light refreshments are available.

Doors open at 5:30PM.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST AT 10:00AM

**THE SCHOOL BELLS WILL SOON
BE RINGING!!**

Join us this month as we look back into our childhood and the anticipation of school starting! We ask that you bring an item to support a new outreach ministry with Inspira Tampa Bay who are dedicated to fostering the social inclusion of at-risk children, children with autistic spectrum disorders, and their families. Appropriate items can be coloring books, crayons, reading books and board games for ages K-2nd grade. Enjoy a fun school cafeteria theme lunch. Don't be tardy!

This Month's Menu:

Chicken Tenders
Tater Tots
Creamed
Corn Pudding

Please note the change in date from the 4th Wednesday in July to the 5th Wednesday.

Cost is \$10.00.

Sign up in the office by Sunday, July 28th.

Center 4Life Learning
Come Learn and Be Entertained



SUMMER CLASSES AVAILABLE:

Streaming Movies, TV, and Music
Tuesday Mornings/10:30AM - 12:00PM
July 9th

Fun with the Fifties Rock N' Roll
Friday Afternoons/1:00PM - 2:30PM
July 12th - August 2

Android Smartphones & Tablets
Friday Mornings/10:30AM - 12:00PM
July 12th & 19th

Fun with Logic
Friday Afternoons/1:00PM - 2:30PM
August 9th & 16th

Sign Language
Friday Mornings/10:30AM - 12:00PM
August 9th - September 13th

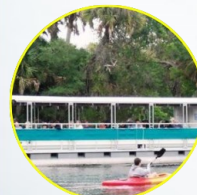
Center 4Life Learning's upcoming trips and tours!

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



**The Second-To-Last Chance Ladies
League, Early Bird Dinner Theater,
Buffet Lunch & Show**
October 3, 2024

**On Golden Pond, Mantee Performing
Arts Center, Bradenton**
November 13, 2024



**Snook Haven, Myakka River Tour,
Venice**
January 15, 2025

***Make Memories! Enjoying trips and classes together
are great gifts for birthdays and special occasions.***

Register for Classes and Trips 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



-Jeff Jordan

Enjoying a cooler (74 degree!) morning and yes, it'll get hotter than heck by 2PM or so, but I sure love Florida, our fair city (SCC) and most of all, our church family!

We church folks reckon the year in a few ways: the calendar year, the liturgical year (Advent to Advent), and here in Florida, the seasonal year. June marks the end of our seasonal year, and July is the month that the worship arts folks take a short breather before the new 'season' commences.

Looking back over the last month, June was a time of planning for the coming season. Maria, Nancy, Teo and I have much of the music planned for the Fall season. Personally, I spent much of the month (about 100 hours) working on my schooling to become a Licensed Local Pastor, and I'm happy to say that it's done! It was through the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. I learned lots and lots about the Methodist Church and the role(s) of the pastor therein working through the following ten modules: United Methodist Tradition, Pastoral Care, Preaching, Worship, the Sacraments, Spiritual Formation, Leadership and Administration (a tough one), Education, Missions, and Evangelism. After I'm appointed, I'll continue to take a few seminary classes each year in something called a Course of Study. I want to thank all of you who have supported me in this new venture, and please know that I am NOT leaving the music ministry here, just taking on a new role or roles as assigned. I'm VERY excited about this as I know the Lord has been leading me in this direction for some time!

In July, I'll be taking a couple of weeks off – going up to the north GA mountains for one and down to my favorite place in the world, Ann Maria Island, for the other. And, of course, we get to have a week of sheer joy with the kids, young and old, at Vacation Bible School!

I'm looking forward to greeting and working with our new pastoral staff and what God has in store for this amazing and loving church. May He continue to bless our continued kingdom-building!

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

From the Ledger - Bill Turner

Greetings church family!!

In May, we received \$160,986 in income to offset \$236,203 in expenses. This leaves us with **\$75,217** in expenses over income. Our income year-to-date is \$968,490 and our expenses year-to-date are \$1,097,098. This leaves us with **\$128,608** in expenses over income through May.

Our current mortgage balance is \$1,557,535 as of June 1st, 2024.

Please reflect on your stewardship decisions and their impact on the future of our church. Every member plays a crucial role in maintaining the financial well-being of our community, and your participation is vital for our shared success. Your support during this transitional period for our church is greatly appreciated. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication, commitment, and loyalty to our church and its ministries.

Additionally, we invite you to join us in prayer and reflection, seeking guidance and wisdom as we navigate this financial period. Let us also remember the words of 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and for being an integral part of our faith community. May God's blessings be upon you and your families.

Sun City Center
United Methodist Church

Community BACK to School Fair



Saturday
July 27th, 2024
10:00AM - 2:30PM

SUPPLY DRIVE

amazon

wishlist



Students



Teachers

What We Need:

Pencils, pens, paper,
folders, binders,
back-packs, highlighters,
crayons, markers, glue,
tape, calculators,
notebooks, erasers, rulers,
sharpies, composition
books, scissors, etc.

For Hillsborough Public Schools