

The Happening

November 2025

Mission of the Month

Miracle Ministries: India Sister Church

Greetings from Miracle Ministries!

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for selecting us as the 2025 United Methodist Church of Sun City Center's Mission of the Month for November.

Introduction to Our Ministries

Miracle Ministries is a diverse organization based in Kadali, located on the southeast coast of India. Below are the ministries that your support helps sustain:

- **Miracle Church:** Our Miracle Church hosts a congregation of 300 attendees.
- **Miracle Children's Home:** With 42% of our population living below the poverty line on just \$1.25 a day, the crisis is severe, as 6,000 children under the age of six perish from hunger and malnutrition. Established in 2001, the Miracle Children's Home aims to be a beacon of hope for children deprived of their childhood. Currently, we are meeting the needs of 20 children.
- **Living Waters:** In collaboration with the Global Water Consortium, Miracle Ministries is dedicated to providing clean drinking water to the local community.
- **PNG Institute:** We are committed to offering computer education to young individuals through the PNG Computer Institute.
- **Dorca's Sewing Institute:** Miracle Ministries empowers women through Dorca's Sewing School.
- **Church Construction:** We are actively involved in building churches, with four constructed so far thanks to the support of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AND NOVEMBER 5, 2025 | 4:00 – 5:30 P.M.

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION SUPPORT GROUP

You may have one or more of the following symptoms: feeling lightheaded (fainting), tired, shortness of breath, sweating and chest pain or swelling in your legs. Or perhaps you have no symptoms, and were surprised when the doctor said, “You have Atrial Fibrillation.”

Whether newly diagnosed with atrial fibrillation or managed for years, TGH Heart & Vascular Institute’s goal is to help reduce the fear and anxiety patients with AFib may have. Through this support group, we can provide you with educational materials, address common misconceptions, and facilitate ways for those diagnosed with atrial fibrillation to share stories about their own individual experiences.

During these sessions, you will be able to meet other patients and families facing similar challenges with this condition and ask healthcare experts your questions.

Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.

Presenters:



SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Chris Cook, MD | Electrophysiologist
Feeding Tampa Bay | Classroom B/C
624 Causeway Blvd, Tampa, FL 33619



NOVEMBER MEETING:

Allan Welter, MD, MPH | Electrophysiologist
Sun City Center United Methodist Church
Creason Hall | 1971 Haverford Ave., Sun City Center, FL 33573

For more information, email communityevents@tgh.org or call (813) 844-8125.

This is for informational and promotional purposes only. It is not intended to diagnose or treat any medical condition. Please consult with a healthcare provider for personalized advice.



2025 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, September 10
and November 5, 2025
4:00- 5:30 p.m.

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT

Registration is required to ensure
accommodation is available for
those who attend.



To register, scan the QR code or visit: www.tgh.org/CHWEvents.

A Word From Our Pastor - Travis Taylor

In 1604, Sir Henry Wotton once described the role of an ambassador as, “*An honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country.*”

Until the advent of fast long-distance travel and instant communications, sending ambassadors to represent you at another monarch’s court was the most efficient way for kings to stay current, informed, and involved in the mutual affairs of their respective kingdoms. Even today, ambassadors with an assembly of aides known collectively as an ‘embassy’, are sent abroad to represent their nation’s interest and maintain diplomacy in the nation they are stationed. In II Corinthians 5, the apostle Paul not only refers to himself but also encourages the Corinthian church to see themselves as “Ambassadors for Christ”, informing them that it is God who is making His appeal through them! This illustration only rings valid if indeed Christians understand themselves to be citizens of another Kingdom.

As we enter November, unveiling our new Mission and Vision for our church, let me also implore you to represent The Kingdom well! Stay current, be informed, and get involved as we work together to bring the light of Christ to dark situations. The Light changes everything! Let us be ambassadors of The Light!

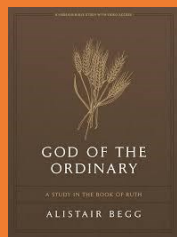
New 6-Week Sunday School Class led by Sarah Taylor



The book of Ruth is an unforgettable tale of purity, faithfulness, innocence, loyalty, duty, and love. Yet it is set in dark times. The final verse of the book of Judges, which precedes Ruth in the Bible, tells

us that “in those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). The time was marked by apostate religion, lawlessness, invasions, and tribal war.

Against this backdrop of strife and chaos, Ruth is a story of ordinary people in Bethlehem making the most of their bad situation—and finding God in the midst of it.



Starting Sunday, November 2nd at 11am, Sarah Taylor will be leading this 6-session Bible study by renowned pastor **Alistair Begg** reminding us that no matter how dark or dramatic our days may seem, God still protects His people and accomplishes His purposes.

Men and woman are welcome to participate. The study will take place in Room 30. Books are available to purchase at the front office for \$20.

Pages of Life Bookstore



New Inventory:

The Hallelujah Girls have arrived at the Pages of Life Bookstore! Be sure to stop by and grab your very own, specially curated piece of jewelry for SCCUMC.

This stunning item is sure to be a statement piece and a fantastic conversation starter!

Store Hours: Sunday: 9:30AM - 12:30PM

Mon-Thur: 10AM - 2PM

Fri & Sat: Closed

New Church Notary

If you require notary services, please schedule an appointment with Aisling Turner, Director of Operations.

Appointments can be scheduled during office hours. You can make appointments by calling the office or send an email to aturner@sccumc.com



FALL BACK SUNDAY

November 2nd

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR



Center 4Life Learning



Come Learn and Be Entertained

2026 Winter Semester begins in January
Registration will begin late December

Trips and Tours

Tour of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox
Cathedral and explore Tarpon Springs

January 14, 2026



Once Upon a Mattress, Musical,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

January 22, 2026

StarLite Sapphire Luncheon Cruise,
South Pasadena

February 12, 2026



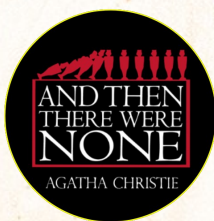
The Cemetery Club, Dramatic Comedy,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

February 25, 2026



Bright Star, Musical Production,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

March 5, 2026



And Then There Were None, Classic
Mystery Drama, Manatee Performing
Arts Center

April 15, 2026

**Reservations Fill Up Fast –
Register Today!**

Contact the Center 4Life Learning office at
813-634-8607

email at center4life@sccumc.com, or
visit our website at lovethelight.org/4lifelearning

Friday Night at the Movies

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH AT 6:00PM



THE SHIFT is a modern-day, sci-fi story of faith that takes a lot of its cues from the Book of Job.

THE SHIFT's Job—a character named Kevin—faces off with a mysterious stranger, known only as "The Benefactor", in a way that exposes his tricks and the lies used against people by shining a light that cuts through all that darkness.

Kevin will be presented with concrete temptations most people can relate to, and audiences will see how his choices alter the world around him. The sci-fi plot that lets Kevin "shift" between reality and an alternate dystopian world shows with dramatic allegory the way lives can be changed by small, daily choices. In the end, Job proved worthy of God's faith in him. The question is: can Kevin overcome the temptation of untold wealth and power to do the same?

This is a free event for our community and church. Donations are gladly accepted for light refreshments. Doors open at 5:30PM.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 8:00AM

Please plan to join this month's Men's Breakfast. It'll be a good time with good guys, so don't be afraid to bring a buddy with you. Whether you're a regular attendee or a first-timer, this event promises a warm welcome and lots of laughter. So mark your calendars, and don't miss out on this chance to connect and recharge. We can't wait to see you there!

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month. Cost is \$10.00. Please sign up by November 16.

Thank God It's Variety - Larry Hirchak

A variety of entertainers continues in the month of November. Comedy returns as well as our first Tribute Artist for the season!

On November 14th, comedian **Chad Thornsberry** will be coming to provide an evening of laughter and lightheartedness. Chad has an instant likeability the second he steps up to a microphone. Chad's slow paced, conversational style is the perfect backdrop for his hilarious observations. He trademarks his show as "Smart Comedy with a Dumb Accent!" Drawing on experiences ranging from growing up in a trailer park, being a former public school teacher, marriage, kids, and all of life's everyday problems, Chad's own unique view of life has him quickly becoming one of the most sought after clean comedians today. A contrast to the high energy, in your face comedians that are prevalent today, Chad's slow paced, conversational style immediately puts audiences at ease. Often referred to as a "great writer" or a "classic monologist" (which is a word Chad had to look up after reading this bio), Chad allows audiences to take a humorous journey through well written stories always ending in laugh-out-loud punchlines. His credits include appearing on the Travel Channel, BET, ESPN (joke writer), NFL Network (joke writer), and DryBar Comedy.

On November 21st, Tampa Bay's premier horn band **Pieces of Eight** will be here for an exciting concert that you won't want to miss!! Pieces of Eight is made up of eight seasoned professional level musicians from all around the Tampa Bay area that will keep you grooving throughout the night. Starting as a Chicago Tribute band, Pieces of eight has recently expanded its song lists to reflect more dance songs with other bands from the 60s to the 90s such as Average White Band, Huey Lewis, Peter Dinklage, Tower of Power and more. The three-piece horn section along with a high energy rhythm section will keep you grooving, moving and wanting more through the night. Celebrating its 4th year together, Pieces of Eight continues to play songs that pay tribute to those artists from the past era of horn bands. Don't miss this exceptional group of musicians as they fill the sanctuary with all the favorite band tunes you will surely recognize!!

Thank you for supporting this special outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center!! Remember "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!!" Ps.150:6

'Break Away' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

I think I've said this before; the last month has flown by, we've been busy, and it's been awesome! Well, maybe not the time flying part. I do wish life would slow down sometimes, but Breakaway has been awesome!

Some of our highlights include making, painting, and distributing little wooden pumpkins of joy around campus. We decorated coasters for Halloween, and they are currently available for purchase at *Breakaway Creations* in the LEC lobby.

We were well represented at the Walk to End Alzheimer's and, as a service project we assembled all the flowers for the garden. Thank you to everyone who helped sell our items and to all who supported us. Thank you to the walkers, those supporting the cause, and Dave and Elaine for being a part of the ceremony.

We tried combining science and art by painting over baking soda with a turmeric/alcohol combination and had some groovy results. After, Paulette Miller joined us and led a fun science experiment where we simulated exploding pumpkins!

We spent one morning turning ourselves into paper scarecrows with some hilarious results. These can be seen decorating the side entry into Creason. Sometimes it's good to be silly!

October allowed us to celebrate eight of our friends and volunteers' birthdays! I had the opportunity to co-host a trip for Center for Life Learning, so it allowed Breakaway to celebrate my absence. We look forward to celebrating Halloween. On November 1st we'll be holding our 4th Volunteer Appreciation Party!

Looking ahead, a couple new projects on the horizon are being led by some of our amazing volunteers. On November 10th we'll be recognizing all our veterans and November 19th is our Thanksgiving celebration with our caregivers.

Our waiting list is as large as our current enrolled group. We have the physical space to add a few more friends but we still need volunteers, especially on Wednesdays. Please consider joining us. Check out Breakaway Respite Ministry on Facebook, feel free to like, follow, comment and share!



Volunteer Response Team (VRT) Update

It has been a busy few weeks for the Volunteer Response Team (VRT). Here are some highlights:

- We were blessed to offer a donation to the Food Pantry, which assists those in need in our community.
- A team visited Residing Hope, refinishing 48 pieces of furniture, enabling them to open another cottage for fostered youth.
- Some team members contributed to the success of FALLtoberfest.
- Church maintenance tasks, including painting and repairing doors, were successfully completed.
- We assisted Wholesome Ministry Church by clearing brush and debris to create a drainage ditch, helping to prevent flooding.
- A trip to the recycling center was made to recycle cans and scrap metal.

Our next meeting will take place on November 19, 2025 in Room 19 from 2:30 to 3:30PM. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

We are a compassionate group of Christian volunteers dedicated to community projects, church maintenance, disaster response, and recycling.

The VRT of Sun City Center is always on the lookout for individuals with diverse skills to join our team. We welcome not only those with handy skills but also cooks, organizers, administrators, maintenance workers, and anyone willing to provide a caring Christian presence.

If you are interested in becoming an active member of our VRT, please consider attending our monthly meeting and registering on our VRT email database at <http://eepurl.com/gew3MD>.

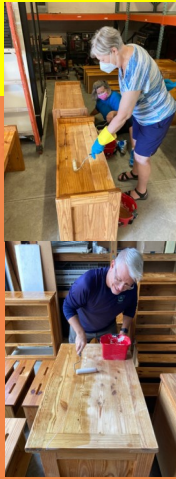
Volunteer Opportunity for Church Campus Clean-Up

VRT is seeking volunteers for a church campus clean-up on November 14. Everyone is welcome to participate, even if you are not a VRT member.

Tasks Include:

- Raking leaves
- Yard clean-up
- Power washing walkways

We will gather at 8:30AM at the VRT trailer located at the church. All necessary yard clean-up and power washing tools will be provided by VRT.



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 28th, 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, starting November 2nd.**

For more information or questions please contact Karen Ransbury at 440-781-0887 or Gene Valcke at 562-879-5095

Accommodations Corner with J. Crawford

Hey Church Family, Jennilyn here! As many of you now know, I am a part of the Disability Awareness Ministry Team for the conference with Jeff. On Sunday, October 12th, we held our disability awareness listening session and 16 people attended. One of our attendees was Tanya Hines from the Experienced Autism Alliance located in Ruskin. She was able to share with us church accommodations that would be helpful for people that have autism like her son.

I wanted to let you all know about some of the things we already have in the church to meet some accommodation needs. We have a Hearing Loop in both the Sanctuary and LEC worship spaces that can work with hearing aids or independently with headphones for those that are hearing impaired. For those that are sound sensitive, we have ear plugs available to make the worship experience more comfortable. For those that struggle to come to a standing position, armed chairs are available in the LEC and are currently positioned near the entrance of the room. If you come into the LEC and are unable to find one, please see an usher for assistance, and if you don't really need one, please try to use a regular chair.

We want to be as accommodating and inclusive as a church as possible. If you, or someone you know, has a need for something that would help make your worship experience more enjoyable, please feel free to reach out to Jeff or me. Email me at jmcrawford31@aol.com or Jeff at jeff@sccumc.com. Thanks!

WORSHIP ARTS - Jeff Jordan

I just got back from visiting a long-time friend, church family member, and in some ways mentor at the Lifepath Hospice here in Sun City Center [an amazing place, by the way!]. Though he was no longer able to speak or even open his eyes, I knew he could hear me praying with him. I imagine, no, I believe his eyes were fixed on the 'light' before him, the light of our Lord and Savior who was waiting to welcome him home, to welcome him into his eternal home in heaven with a warm embrace. Times like these are always so powerfully transformative. Thank you, Lord, for this man, for his life and for his legacy.

Just as this man is about to embark on this next and most glorious part of his life, our church is entering a new era, a period of revival and renewal. We are being given a fresh start, and I know that the Lord is blessing and will continue to bless it. A wise, committed and prayerful group of folks from our church, with God's help, have fashioned meaningful and forward-looking Mission and Vision Statements as well as a new 'logo' and 'tag line' that focus upon and around a single concept - LIGHT. One of the most beautiful and powerful metaphors in scripture is found throughout the New Testament from the Gospels to the Epistles, and one of the most succinct of these is found in the eighth chapter of John, verse 12:

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. [NIV]

How easily and naturally could this scripture have been followed by:

And the light changes everything!

Pretty easily, I think, and the potential for this rich metaphor is not lost on this musician. Think of one of our favorite hymns we sing at the start of the church year:

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Or think of a 'gospely' Gaither classic like *Jesus, The Light of the World*:

Walk in the light, beautiful light

*Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright
Shine all around us by day and by night*

Jesus, the light of the world

I invite us all to embrace this light in our own hearts and lives, and to share this vision with each other, with our community and with the world! As in the refrain of the Chris Rice song:

Take your candle and go light your world!

Blessings, church family, and as always, *Soli Deo Gloria*
Jeff

Set Up & Breakdown Team Needed!!

Beginning in January, our church will be partnering with Metropolitan Ministries to provide a weekly meal every Monday from 11AM-12PM. We are looking to build a team of 6-8 able-bodied people who could set the space every Sunday at 11AM. The chairs need to be broken down and tables need to be set for approximately 100 guests. If you are willing to serve in this ministry, please contact Pastor Travis at 813.634.2539 or email him at travis@scumc.com

Stewardship Corner

Mike Schoonover



Have you ever wondered about the IMPACT of your giving? The impact can be financial, the sharing of your talents or giving your time by serving on committees and teams within the congregation. The impact can also be simply remembering our church, friends and family in prayer.

All of these are important and meaningful elements of Stewardship. God entrusts us with these gifts and with them we are enabled to do important things that matter to our mission of 'Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World' (the mission statements of The United Methodist Church).

During November, we will hear from folks in our church family about what it means to **Belong** to and **Worship** in this place. I ask you to join me in listening to what God has to say about being stewards of all **He** has entrusted us with and prayerfully considering pledging of your Time, your Talents and your Treasures for 2026 and beyond.

Last year, our Stewardship Campaign invited us to be generous and joyful givers who make an IMPACT with our gifts. This year, we continue that journey with the knowledge that **The Light Changes Everything** at The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.

With sincere appreciation for your faithful stewardship and commitment to our shared ministry.
Mike Schoonover, Stewardship Chair

Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

November is here — ushering in the season of gratitude and stirring a reflective energy that inspires us to cherish each moment of dwindling daylight and the soothing cool breeze! -Unknown

Welcome to November! This year has just flown by, and we have accomplished so many things with more to come as we enter into our holiday season. Take a look at what we accomplished in October, and some highlights of upcoming events for November.

Over the past month, we have continued our commitment to our Bare Necessities for All Mission. We have distributed t-shirts, joggers, leggings, sports bras, underwear, and hygiene packets, along with deodorant, to high school students. Additionally, for elementary students, we provided hygiene packets, body wipes, hand-made lap quilts, and extra backpacks. Our efforts continue as we provide items for seniors living in assisted living facilities. So far, we have purchased hairbrushes, tissues, fuzzy socks, soft washcloths, nail files, hand lotion, and lip balm to ensure that those without family nearby receive Christmas gifts that can brighten their holidays.

On October 4th we hosted our Annual Alzheimer's Walk for a Cure on the church campus. A "BIG" thank you to all our volunteers who came to help us get ready for the event help our attendees with registration, and helping folks find their way around our campus. Our fundraising goal this year was set at \$4,000.00 and I am pleased to say we raised **\$6,218.19** for this wonderful cause. Thank you to everyone who participated in the walk this year, and **REMEMBER**, donations can still be made through December to help find a cure. If you would like to donate through the church, please make your check out to SCCUMC with Alzheimer's in the memo line.

Our Friday Night at the Movies on October 10th had such a great turnout for the Ice Cream Social and the movie. This is the second month we have had over 100 people come to the campus to enjoy a movie and refreshments. A "BIG" thank you to Shirley Walker and her team for dipping and serving the ice cream at the social and our Movie Night crew who made and served popcorn and drinks to everyone.

On October 11th, we held our 3rd Annual FALLtoberfest. Thank you to Larry Hirschak for the wonderful German Band, and our fantastic volunteers for cooking and serving our food at the event, and a special Thank You to our youth who served some delicious Root Beer Floats. A good time was had by all, and I heard there are some great axe throwers in our community! Thank you for coming out for this fun event.

Our Annual Blessing of the Animals was held on Friday October 17th and Pastor Debbie enjoyed seeing all of our wonderful pets at the event. I can honestly say, no animals were harmed during this event, only lots of love and kisses were administered to all...and a few kisses were given by our furry friends to us as well.

Our movie on November 7th at 6:00pm, is *The Shift*, an American Christian movie based on the Book of Job, about a man who is shifted to a dystopian reality by Satan. The main character, Kevin, travels across worlds to reunite with the love of his life, Molly, when The Benefactor threatens Kevin's survival. So, if you like a good movie with action, romance and suspense, bring a friend and come join us for a night of fellowship and a movie. Donations are accepted to support this exciting community event.

Thanksgiving Day, come join us and bring a friend to our church Thanksgiving Service followed by our Thanksgiving Dinner. This year a team of volunteers will be cooking their love into our Thanksgiving Dinner for 200 guests. This year's menu will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, corn bread dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, and of course pumpkin pie. Tickets will be available in the church office starting Nov. 2nd. This is an eat-in meal and while tickets are free, donations are appreciated. So come to church at 10:00 for the service and stay for fellowship and a Thanksgiving meal starting at 11:15 until 2:00pm.

Are you interested in joining our volunteer force? There are so many ways to become a volunteer. We are currently seeking individuals interested in helping at the coffee bar on Sunday mornings, greeting, ushering, or maybe you have a passion for serving on the Mission Team under one of our many Local, State, and National areas including the Food Pantry, Matthew 25, Inspira, Residing Hope, Volunteer Response Team, Metro Ministries Meals, or our International Missions such as Cuba, India, and Watoto.

If you like serving our church and local community, there are many opportunities for you to get involved because...
The Light changes everything!

So come and "share your light" with others! As always, I am so grateful to all of you for the help each of you do for our different ministries and missions. **WE** could not do what we do in our community and abroad without your help and financial support. Thank you for answering God's call to love each other fully because *The Light truly does change everything and everyone!*



Join us for

THANKS GIVING

Worship + Meal

November 27th
10:00AM

You are warmly invited to our Thanksgiving worship service and meal. After the service, please join us for a festive Thanksgiving feast. Dine-in meals will begin starting at 11:00AM.

FREE tickets for the meal will be available at the church office starting November 2nd. We have a limited number of 200 tickets available. A ticket is necessary for the meal and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of 4 tickets per person. To ensure everyone enjoys the celebration, please remember to bring your ticket with you for the meal. Donations will gladly be accepted.

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