

The Happening

October 2024



MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

Volunteer Response Team (VRT)

Did you notice the new name? To better incorporate all that the VRT does, the name has been changed! The Volunteer Response Team (VRT) is a group of caring, Christian volunteers that help with local projects, church maintenance and disaster response.

Did you know that members of the VRT respond to local needs? Under His Helpers ministry the VRT can help change light bulbs, AC filters, smoke detector batteries and other small household needs including light landscaping. Sign up is in the church office. This summer His Helpers have put in 16 hours helping neighbors with weeding, installing an air conditioner, fixing faucets, drapes, cabinets, light bulbs and changing AC filters.

Under the guidance of Earl Gall, VRT members have participated in church maintenance. They have power washed the porticos of Creason Hall and the main Sanctuary; oversaw the trimming of 44 oak trees and grinding of 6 stumps which resulted in 21,000 pounds of debris being hauled to the dump. Other projects include filling a pothole in the parking lot, landscaping around the church and picking up donations for Vacation Bible School. Many thanks to Earl Gall for overseeing all of this!

NOTE: Meeting times have changed to the 3rd Wednesday of the Month. It is still in room 19 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Next meeting will be October 16. There will be Equipment Maintenance Manager Training by Earl Gall after the October meeting.

The Volunteer Response Team (VRT) of Sun City Center is comprised caring, friendly, talented Christian volunteers from our church and surrounding areas. The VRT assists others within our 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 Christian presence. If you are interested in becoming an active member of our VRT, please consider attending our monthly meeting and register on our VRT email database at <http://eepurl.com/gew3MD>

Scripture of the Month

“Happy are those who trust in the Lord, who rely on the Lord. They will be like trees planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water. They won’t fear drought when it comes; their leaves will remain green. They won’t be stressed in the time of drought or fail to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8
(CEB)

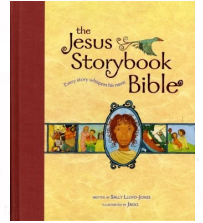
A Word From Our Pastor - Travis Taylor



In the spring of 2009, shortly before Sarah and I traveled to Africa to bring our daughter, Mia, home from Ethiopia, the ladies of our church threw Sarah a baby shower. Amid the plethora of diapers, bouncy seats, bottles, and teething rings, my favorite gift that we received was *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. Unlike most children's Bibles, in my opinion, this one is exceedingly well-done. The artwork is fantastic, the writing is good, and the common theme woven throughout the entire book is Jesus.

The author, Sally Lloyd-Jones, does an amazing job of digging the raw gospel theme out of the Scriptures and brilliantly communicates to her readers how God has been on a mission to rescue and redeem His people from the very

beginning. But what makes Mia's storybook Bible so special, is that during the baby shower, all the women present passed the book around and offered a special handwritten prayer or reflection for Mia on the opening page of their favorite Bible story. They shared pieces of their own stories and explained to Mia why they most identified with that particular story.



And throughout their prayers and reflections, what becomes clear is that the gospel is as woven through their personal lives as it is in the Scriptures themselves.

We can see the gospel in God's first sacrifice in the Garden and we see it in Noah's Ark (the life raft) of the Great Flood. But we can also see glimpses in Helen's struggle with breast cancer, and through Kathy's sudden loss of her husband. We can see the gospel written in the bloody doorposts of an enslaved people in Egypt, but we can also see it in Laurie's giving up her career to stay home and care for her children. We see it when the great fish that swallowed up the prophet Jonah when he refused to do what God asked him to do, and we also see it in Kristyn's rescue from a flaming car accident.

Throughout the Scriptural narrative, we repeatedly find God delivering people from their most perilous situations and asking them to recognize their need for Him. More often than not, He found Himself reaching out to stubborn and stiff-necked people who refused to believe... refused to trust... refused to heed His teachings and warnings and ended up spending the rest of their lives wandering lost through the proverbial wilderness.

Jesus *is* the Savior and the gospel *is* God's solution to our plight. As you read the various gospel narratives throughout the Bible, try and also consider how the gospel presents beyond the pages of Scripture and how it might be written into the pages of your own life as well.

Welcome
New Members!

Please welcome those who joined our church family in September! When you see them, give a warm welcome and take the time to get to know them.

It is always a blessing to receive new members into our church family!

Brad and Jill Beveridge
Audrey Taylor
Sarah Taylor
Anita Trubelhorn
Bill and Kathy Vannatta
Frank and Jeannie Weiss
Jim Butner
Angelo and Kathy Cavalier
Eleanor Thurston
Albert Villanueva-Reyes
Manny and Deborah Iturralde

Budget/Stewardship Update

Year-to-date budget numbers will be provided later this month as we prepare for a stewardship series in November. At that time, a complete picture of our year-to-date income and expenses along with projected figures for 2025 will be presented. We continue to be grateful to our congregation for your faithful giving as we seek to steward those gifts on your behalf. We look forward to a November stewardship theme of **IMPACT!** when we will dive deeper into a biblical understanding of stewardship and learn more about the stewardship of our household here at The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center. Thank you!



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

10:30 AM

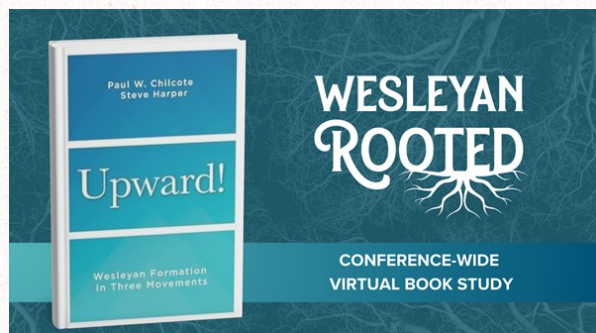
Beginning at 10:30 AM there is an optional Round Table Discussion followed by a sit down luncheon at noon.

Guest Speaker: Karen Fortin

"Identifying Female Ancestors"

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
October 3rd.***



We invite you to join us for a special online Conference-wide study of the book *Upward!* by Paul Chilcote and Steve Harper. Together we'll explore what it means to be Wesleyan Rooted as we look at the theology, practices, habits, and attitudes that characterize the people called Methodist. The class features videos with Paul and Steve done specifically for this study, and small group conversation to share our insights and apply what we're learning. **The sessions will be on Zoom on Saturdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m., October 5 through November 23.** The study is targeted to laity involved in the local church but is open to all!

If you would like to register for this study please reach out to the church office and we can email you the registration link.

BLESSING of the *Animals*

5 October
2024

Saturday
8:30AM

All Pets Welcome



"Blessed are You, Oh God, and All of your Creatures!"

Pets Must Be on a Leash or in a Carrier

**Coming in October –
Holy Communion Every Sunday**

In response to significant conversations about the practice of Holy Communion in our church, we are planning to begin a new practice in October. Beginning October 13, we will offer Communion after each worship service, every week, for those who would like to remain in the sanctuary or LEC and receive Communion. Simply plan to come forward toward the altar at the conclusion of worship and Pastor Debbie and lay volunteers will offer the sacrament with bread and juice. A gluten free alternative will also be available. On the first Sundays of the month, Communion will continue to be offered in all worship services. If you would like to assist Pastor Debbie with Communion, please email her at Debbiemarion@sccumc.com and include your worship service time in your email.



Annual Charge Conference

Thursday, October 24

2:30 p.m. in the LEC

All are invited to attend the church's annual meeting where new leaders are approved and ministries of the church are lifted up. The Charge Conference is open to all, however only full members of UMC Sun City Center will be able to vote on voting matters.

Refreshments will be served.

 **SCCUMC UTC YOUTH**
SPONSORED

\$10
Each

BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO PURCHASE A NEW
FREEZER FOR OUR CHURCH KITCHEN



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Potatoes with all the fixings will be
available TO-GO. Purchase your potato on
the church patio following the services.**

Please help the UTC Youth reach their goal to replace a broken freezer in LEC kitchen. This freezer is essential for the kitchen's daily operations and plays a vital role in providing nutritious meals for our UTC Youth.

'Happenings' with Children and Youth

Happy Fall Y'all! As we approach the holiday season, our Kid's Club and UTC Youth are buzzing with excitement! We're looking forward to everything pumpkin and hopefully some cooler weather.

Our UTC Youth will be sponsoring a Baked Potato fundraiser. Potatoes with all the fixings will be available for purchase on Sunday, October 6th following all three worship services. The youth are raising money to replace a freezer in the kitchen that is on the fritz. You can imagine how important the freezer is to the kitchen for day-to-day operation but it is equally important to our Youth who receive a delicious 'home-cooked' meal every Monday evening. Our UTC Youth have made it their mission to raise the funds needed to replace this appliance. Please consider helping our youth reach this goal.

Recently, during our Monday meetings, the youth completed a series titled "Shattered." Led by master illusionist Harris III, this five-week program highlighted how easily our minds can be misled and emphasized the importance of trusting God. The series finale resonated deeply with the youth as Harris III illustrated that fear is just an illusion. He reminded us of the story from Matthew 14, where Peter displayed enormous faith in Jesus despite a storm. Jesus invited Peter to walk on water, and Peter stepped out of the boat, fully trusting in Him. What we highlighted in this story is it wasn't the storm or the violent winds that endangered Peter, but rather his little faith. Despite his initial trust, fear crept in and caused him to sink. He had no reason to fear and yet he did. As FDR famously said, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself....

Sunday mornings continue to be a time for worship, fellowship, and learning at our Kids Club. Sharon captivates the children with engaging Bible-based lessons and activities that challenge their minds. Along with the lessons, kids participate in various games and musical activities that reinforce the teachings of the day.

Our kids are also eagerly anticipating Family Slime Night, scheduled for Friday, October 25th, from 6 PM to 8 PM. This event is designed for families with children aged 12 and younger, providing an evening of snacks, music, quality family time, and, of course, SLIME! All materials will be provided, so just bring yourselves and wear clothes you don't mind getting a bit messy while enjoying some SLIME-tastic activities!

WORSHIP ARTS

- Jeff Jordan

Well, it's finally beginning to feel 'a lot like Autumn', at least Autumn in Florida, and I am very thankful for that! Yes I know, it's not New England this time of year, but we can get a feel for it by watching the Bears, Lions or Patriots on a Sunday afternoon, right?

First off, I'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to ALL the volunteers that make my 'job' so fun and easy. Did you know that, counting all the volunteers and staff involved, it takes close to 100 people to make worship happen each weekend, and most of these loyal, faithful folks are volunteers. I praise God for a church family that is so involved in the ministry of their church. And I think our new pastors are happily surprised as well!

September had some memorable concerts [thanks, Larry!] And we still look forward to a special Lauren Daigle concert [congratulations, Maria!] as well as another even more amazing Falltoberfest [special thanks to Larry and Victoria, a.k.a. Valerie, a.k.a. Veronica, a.k.a., well, you get the idea!]

This month, all our musical ensembles continue to prepare for weekly worship in addition to looking ahead to the Advent and Christmas seasons – YAY! One of the joys of music ministry is that we get to 'celebrate the season' for more than four months! Also, this month we have the privilege of continuing to fight against the terrible disease we know as Alzheimer's with a special concert and again by hosting this year's South Shore Walk. Finally, Teo and I will be performing another Two-piano/Four-hand piano recital on Sunday, October 20th at 3PM. We'd sure like to have you join us that afternoon!

And while these are not specifically "Worship Arts" events, I invite you to explore one or more of small group studies offered here at SCCUMC. There are small group offerings most days of the week including Sunday mornings! A church family our size will only continue to thrive and grow spiritually if we come together to love, nurture and encourage one another in smaller, more intimate settings. Give it a shot (or two) and see what God has in store for you!

And one more reminder to please get or to please replace your church name tag. As we continue to grow AND welcome back so many church family members that have been gone since Covid (!), we might have just plain forgotten your names. This is Sun City Center, after all - Thanks!

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

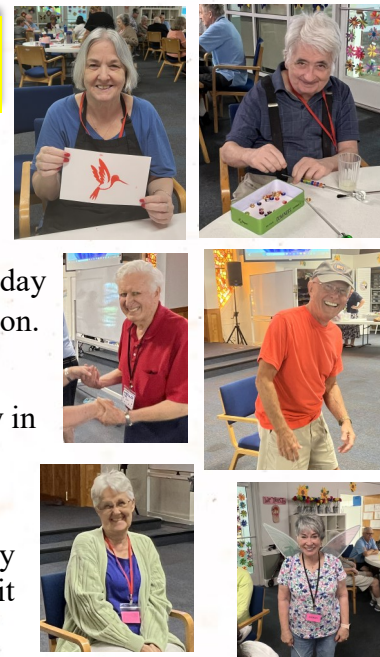
Soli Deo Gloria

'BREAK AWAY' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

Another month has flown by for us in Breakaway! We've been busy getting ready for upcoming events where you'll have a chance to purchase some of the items we're working on! We'll have a table at the Alzheimer's Walk on October 19th and we'll be at the craft fair on November 30th. Proceeds from these sales not only help fund our day-to-day expenses, but also ensure that no person will be turned away for their inability to pay tuition.

We're having fun making the centerpieces for the Thanksgiving meal, and we'll soon get busy on the angels for the angel tree. Projects like this are so important and go a long way in helping us all remember that no matter what a person is living with, they can still serve a purpose and find joy in doing so.

In between our latest projects, our days are filled with games, dancing and joy! Breakaway meets on Monday and Wednesday from 10am-2pm in Creason Hall. Please stop by to visit sometime as we are always looking for new people to join our family!



Friendship Circle

Jesus said, "A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." —John 13:34

Women, are you looking for a small group? Why not join our Friendship Circle?

We are a group of like-minded women who help local missions in our community and around the world and would love to have you come and join us, on the first Monday of the month at 1:00pm in Room 19.

We come together to share devotions, have guest speakers, and enjoy meeting new friends in our church and local community. We are very active in our local missions and even those abroad. Our current local mission project is providing four (4) gift baskets to local schools for teachers who are making a difference in the lives of their students and are also providing items to our food pantry that are not usually donated to help feed our ever-growing homeless population and local seniors and families in need.

If you are interested in joining us, come visit us on Monday, October 7th at 1:00pm in Room 19. Nancy Starewicz will present a program on "Personality Traits". Nancy's presentations are always informative and entertaining and not to be missed! We would love to see you there!

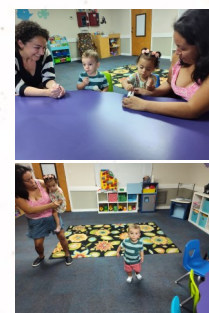
News from our Nursery

Our vibrant morning program, Tot Spot, is preparing for the exciting season of Autumn. We will explore the delightful colors, animals, and foods that define this time of year. Truly, God has created a bustling period for all His creations, marking a beautiful time of transformation.

Join us every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:00am. If you have children aged 18 months to 36 months, we invite you to be part of the fun! If you haven't registered yet, please reach out to Sharon Bennyhoff at sharon@secumc.com with any questions you may have. We can't wait to see you there!

Additionally, our Sunday Morning Kids Club runs from 9:30am to 12:00pm for children ages 5 to 11. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, engaging Bible lessons, worship, and games, all aimed at glorifying God. We look forward to welcoming you!

We also provide free nursery care for children aged 0 to 4 years every Sunday morning from 9:30am to 12:00pm.



Center 4Life Learning's upcoming trips and tours!

On Golden Pond, Manatee
Performing Arts Center, Bradenton
November 13, 2024



A Christmas Carol and Pre-Show
Dinner, Ruth Eckerd Hall
December 23, 2024

Steel Magnolias, Manatee
Performing Arts Center, Bradenton
January 29, 2025



Columbia Restaurant, Dance Show, &
History of Tampa Bus Tour
February 5, 2025

The Sound of Music, Manatee
Performing Arts Center
March 12, 2025



My Fair Lady, Suncoast Broadway
Dinner Theater, Hudson
May 8, 2025

WHO NEEDS STUFF?
TRIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS AND MEMORIES!

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

Register for Classes and Trips Today!

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

Contact the Center 4Life Learning office at
813-634-8607, email at center4life@sccumc.com,
or visit our website at www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning

Center 4Life
Learning

Back to School

**2024 Fall Semester Begins
October 7th
REGISTER NOW**

CLASSES AVAILABLE

- A.I.: The New Frontier, The Next 10 Years
- Aging with Grace & Vitality Through Holistic Methods
- Android Smartphones & Tablets
- Befriending the Ending: Advance Care Planning, Part 1 and Part 2
- Beginning Modern Dot Art
- Beginning Genealogy
- Chautauqua IX
- Crafty Sew and Paint
- Cut The Cord
- Film History 1929-1961
- Gettysburg Seminar
- Immigration: Its History, Current Controversies, and Proposals for Reform
- Introduction to Modern Calligraphy
- Introduction to Modern Quilling
- Investment, Estate, and Tax Planning
- iPhone and iPad for Seniors
- Life Lessons from Lucky
- News and Views
- Sign Language
- Starlink Presentation
- Streaming Movies, TV and Music
- What Would Happen If You Got Hit by A Bus? (Preparing For Life Changing Events by Getting Your Stuff Together)
- World Religions

**Classes have limited space and fill
up quickly!!**

Purchase yours today!

www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning.com

**Friday Night at the Movies
Presents:**

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

**ICE
Cream**

**Social
PARTY**

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 18TH
5:00PM**

In the LEC Lobby



**Friday Night
at the Movies**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH AT 6:00 PM



Heritage Falls:

Three generations of totally opposite men go on a weekend 'retreat' at Heritage Falls and, in the process, are forced to get over their longstanding differences. Basketball coach Charlie Fitzpatrick has had a rocky relationship with his son, Evan, but now he has a great idea on how to heal the past.

He takes his son, and grandson, Markie, to a rustic cabin where he hopes they will all bond by hiking and running an obstacle course. It's Evan's worst nightmare. Over three hilarious, adventurous, soul-searching days the men discover what it means to be a father, a son, a grandfather.

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



**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 17TH
AT 8:00 AM**

Join us for Men's Breakfast led by Pastor Travis. 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 guest speaker is Russell Johnson: Associate Regional Director at Tampa Urban Young Life

This Month's Menu:

Thick Cut French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Hickory Smoked Bacon, Pork Sausage Links, Breakfast Potatoes

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up in the office by October 13th.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD AT 10:00 AM

GORGEOUS GIRLS DAY WOMEN'S BRUNCH
Come and meet our Floridian Mae West and enjoy a feast. If you wish to dress as a Gorgeous Girl, we would be delighted! This will be our last brunch until January 2025, as the church calendar is super busy in November and December. So, plan to come and enjoy a rootin', tootin' good time! Reservations need to be made on or before Sunday, October 20. Cost is \$10.00. See you Gorgeous Girls there!

This Month's Menu:

French Toast with Toppings Bar

Baked Apple, Strawberries, Whipped Cream, Caramel Syrup, etc...

Scrambled Eggs

Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

“Each person leaves a legacy — a single, small piece of themselves, which makes richer each individual life and the collective life of humanity as a whole.” – John Nichols

Welcome to October! Well, we are officially in Fall according to the calendar...but it still feels like Summer to me. As I still try to adjust to the warmer temperatures here in Florida, I find myself missing the cool and crispness of Fall, with the colors of red, orange, and yellow of turning leaves, hot cider, and a warm fire...but enough reminiscing! Fall is HERE and we are getting busy!

September was certainly a busy month as we welcomed new members to the church and our pastors met with members of the congregation and got to know more about all of you. We welcomed back our Galaxy Bridge, SouthShore Women's Connection and Genealogy groups. Even with all of this going on, we were still able to help our community through our outreach Pantry Ministry providing food to local community members in need, local schools, local sister churches, and Inspira who work with neurodivergent children, youth, and their families. We also provided local schools with clothing, underwear, and hygiene items to help support local students in need. I would be remiss if I did not mention the wonderful volunteers who continue to visit our local assisted living communities. What a wonderful ministry this is, visiting, singing, and sharing the Word of God. Our Wednesday morning Prayer Group continues to pray for all of you, our church, those struggling with difficult situations, and our local community. What a wonderful September we had, thanks to all of you and our wonderful volunteers!

I would like to say a big “WELCOME” to our returning snowbirds. We have missed seeing you around the campus and are so glad to have you back! We are looking forward to seeing you in our Men's Study Groups, Class Meetings, the EmpowHer Women's Study Group, Adult Sunday School, and the upcoming activities we have scheduled for the month of October.

Here is what is coming up this month on the church campus:

- Wednesday, October 2nd, 4:00-5:30pm Tampa General Hospital will have an A-Fib Support Group meeting in Creason Hall. If you are interested in participating, please register at <https://www.tgh.org/patients-visitors/classes-events/event-detail?eventtemplate=141-atrial-fibrillation-support-group&event=2253>
- Saturday, October 5th 8:30-9:30am, Blessing of the Animals
- Tuesday, October 8th, 1:00-3:00pm, Hillsborough County Tax Collector Seminar
- Friday, October 11th, 7:00pm, Alzheimer's Benefit Concert featuring Billy “Elvis” Lindsey
- Thursday, October 17th, 8:00-9:30am Men's Breakfast
- Friday, October 18th, Friday Night at the Movies and Fall Ice Cream Social. Ice Cream Social begins at 5:00pm and the Movie, Heritage Falls begins at 6:00pm
- Saturday, October 19th, 8:30am-12:30pm, SouthShore Alzheimer's Walk for a Cure. To register for the walk, you can register at [2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's - South Shore, FL | Walk to End Alzheimer's](#)
- Wednesday, October 23rd, 10:00-11:30am, Ladies Brunch

So come and join us for one or all of these events this month; I look forward to seeing you there!

A big “Thank You” to those of you who have volunteered to greet on the patio on Sunday mornings with me. It will be my pleasure to serve next to you as we greet our guests and congregation together. I will be placing a sign-up sheet on the ushers table outside of the Narthex and in the LEC Lobby for you to sign up.

In closing, we have several opportunities for you to volunteer and share your gifts with one of our ministries. We have current volunteer openings to serve in the following areas:

- Audio, Visual, Lighting, and Camera (AVLC) Team point of contact is Bill Turner, at bturner@sccumc.com
- Breakaway Respite on Monday and Wednesday from 10am-2:00pm. Point of contact is Renee Tisdale, at breakawaymin@sccumc.com
- Children, Youth and Family point of contact, Pastor Travis Taylor at travis@sccumc.com
- Hospitality Team point of contact is Linda Sanford at lindasanford92@yahoo.com or Victoria Sorensen at victoria@sccumc.com
- Mary Petro Food and Medicine, Tuesdays 10:00am-2:00pm. Point of contact is Madeline Hughes at marypetrosc@gmail.com
- Missions Team, point of contact is Tony Petree at tonypetree15@gmail.com
- Outreach Ministries point of contact Victoria Sorensen at victoria@sccumc.com

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

 **SCCUMC Kid's Club**
PRESENTS

FAMILY SLIME NIGHT

FRIDAY
OCTOBER | **25**
6PM - 8PM

**Ooey
Gooey
Messy
Fun**

*Enjoy snacks, music, time with
family and new friends, and a
slime-tastic evening of activities!*

UMC of Sun City Center
1971 Haverford Ave
SCC FL 33573

813-634-2539 www.sccumc.com

This evening is specially organized for parents and children aged 12 and under. All necessary supplies will be provided, and light refreshments will be available.

