

The Happening

February 2026

Mission of the Month



Residing Hope, formerly known as the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, would like to thank you for selecting us as your Mission of the Month for February. We are honored and blessed by your faithful, generous partnership with us over the years. Your partnership enables us to minister to abused, abandoned and neglected children throughout Florida by offering Therapeutic Residential care at our campuses in Enterprise and Madison; Outpatient Counseling (virtually) throughout the state of Florida; Foster Care Services in four different counties; Independent Living on our Enterprise campus; and Spiritual Life at both our campuses. We also offer our Montessori School in Enterprise which serves the community around us. We are able to serve more than 300 children and families each week through our transformative ministries. Thank you so much! We love and appreciate you more than you know. Your support plays a crucial role in helping us provide these essential services and create a nurturing environment where children can thrive and find hope for a brighter future. As we move forward, we're excited to continue our journey together, building on our shared mission to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve. With your continued support, we can achieve even greater things and bring hope to even more lives. Thank you once again for your trust and partnership.



A Word From Our Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

Yesterday in worship I shared publicly the exciting news that we are beginning an effort this spring toward **Becoming a Debt-Free Church**. Your generosity over the years has put us in the position to see clearly a future without debt. The remainder of our loan on the Life Enrichment Center is just over \$1,000,000.00. In the last two years, through your generous gifts, we have been able to pay nearly \$300,000 in extra payments toward the principal. And this was before we even asked! The heart of our congregation wants to be faithful stewards of God's gifts and we desire to invest in those things that will grow the Kingdom of God. Therefore, we are seeking *to decrease debt in order to increase ministry*. To many of us, that is music to our ears.

Over the coming weeks you will be hearing more from the co-chairs of our Debt-Free Team, Linda Whitt and Rea Cantwell. They will share with you more about this opportunity to make an immediate difference in the life of our church and far beyond. Every dollar that decreases our debt is a dollar that is freed up for mission and ministry. We hope every friend and member of the church will participate in some way in this impactful effort. At the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center we believe the Light changes everything and every gift spreads the Light. Won't you join me in spreading the Light of Christ through the act of faithful stewardship?

I am looking forward to taking this journey with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your questions. I'll see you in worship!

Pastor Cynthia

Welcome New Members!!

Let's extend a heartfelt welcome to those who joined our church family in January! On January 25th, we were thrilled to welcome 24 new members during all three worship services, along with 2 members who participated virtually through our online congregation. We also celebrated a baptism in our Contemporary Service. What an amazing way to kick off the new year! When you see them, please offer a warm greeting and take a moment to get to know them. It is truly a blessing to embrace new members into our church community!

Doug Banning	Tracy Joniec
Save & Sue Renolds	Jennilyn Crawford
Linda MacGeorge	Steve & Diane Repaal
Becky Dessecker	Deb Nolan
Dave & Sally Lamp	Carol Clarke
Roberta Guendelsberger	David & Jane Bump
Michele Mulkey	Bob & Beverly Feindt
Bill & Liz Underwood	David & Linda Janiszewski
David & Susan Foran	Evelyn Scott



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Looking for a Phone Call Crew

This year we will be checking in with every church member and constituent by phone. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this important project. If you have some extra time and would like to offer a word of care to our church family, please contact Aisling Turner by calling the church office at 813-634-2539 or by email at aturner@sccumc.com

In Case You Didn't Know... The Church has a Notary

If you require notary services, please schedule an appointment with Aisling Turner, Director of Operations and Administration. Appointments can be scheduled during office hours.

You can make appointments by calling the church office at 813-634-2539 or send an email to aturner@sccumc.com



Update from the Volunteer Response Team (VRT)

A huge thank you goes out to the dozen volunteers who showed up on January 16th to help with hedge removal, tree trimming, and power washing. We successfully transported 1,300 pounds of root balls and logs to the county yard waste facility.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming church campus cleanup on March 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Important Reminders

In case you're not aware, we have a collection point for aluminum cans and scrap metal in the rear parking area by the sheds. Please remember to use this service responsibly: no trash, tires, paint, chemicals, or wood.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2026, in room 19 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Meeting times are the third Wednesday of each month.

We are a group of caring Christian volunteers that help with community projects, His Helpers, church maintenance, disaster response, and recycling.

The Volunteer Response Team (VRT) of Sun City Center is always looking for people with different skills to join our team. In addition to those skilled with tools, we always need cooks, organizers, administrators, maintenance workers, and those who can provide a caring Christian presence.

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

Chili Cook-Off



The SCCUMC Men's Ministry will be hosting our first annual Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off on **Sunday, February 8th** from **1:30pm-4:00pm**. Welcome/Opening Ceremony will be at 1:45pm and an Award Ceremony will be held between

3:00pm-3:15pm. Tickets can be purchased at the church office for just \$10. Each ticket provides you with one bowl of 'church chili' and allows you to sample eight different entries from the chili cook-off.

Spice up your life and bring your appetite for a day of delicious fun, where only ONE will take home the title of SCC's Chili Champion for 2026!

'Break Away' with Breakaway

It sure was hard for everyone—caregivers, friends, and our team—to be closed through Christmas and New Year's. This marked our first two-week closure, and I think it might be the last! I'm not saying that we didn't need a break, but the feedback I've received leads me to believe that a one-week closure might be enough in the future.

Since our return, we have enjoyed being together once again. We've been busy un-decorating Christmas and refreshing our space with new decorations! Be sure to check out our new bulletin boards, doors, and windows! By the way, what do you think of our new T-shirts?

Larry Schafer created portraits of several of our friends, and I was honored to deliver them to our caregivers with him.

We're looking forward to having our first sock hop to include milk shakes, hamburgers and french fries for lunch and Greg Rabelo will be performing for us in the afternoon.

In February among other things, we'll be celebrating the Super Bowl, Valentines Day, and Ash Wednesday with activities, crafts and special menus. Make sure you check out all our fun on our Facebook Breakaway Respite Ministry Page! Keep your eyes on Breakaway Creations as new items are being added all the time!

If you've been considering volunteering for Breakaway, now could be your time! We need people, on Wednesdays especially.



Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."

— Paulo Coelho

Welcome to February, the month of LOVE! Have you ever noticed when love is the purpose of things how everything is better? As Jesus gave himself for us, the love we extend to others, is us sharing Jesus with our friends, our community, and the world. What a powerful thing to pass on.

Here are things we will be doing in February, and I encourage you to be a part of them, sharing your love with others by sharing your gifts, talents, and time or just spending time in fellowship together.

February Events:

Mondays: Metro Ministry Lunches

Wednesdays: Prayer Group Main Office Conference Room

February 11th 4:00-5:30pm Tampa General A-Fib Support Group Creason Hall

February 13th 6:00pm Friday Night at the Movies Surprised by Oxford

February 17th 5:00-6:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 19th 8:00am Men's Breakfast

February 24th 8:00-3:00pm Tampa General Check Your Medications Room 30

February 25th 10:00am Ladies Bruch

February 28th 8:00-3:30pm Wellness Day Life Enrichment Center (including Mission Smiles Dental Clinic - restrictions apply, Preserve Vision Eye Exams, and BayCare Community Health Screenings)

As you can see, we remain engaged in ministry and mission work this month, and new opportunities for you to be involved will continue throughout this year. Here are some opportunities where the church needs your help:

- Sunday Morning Greeters for all services
- Welcome Ambassadors
- Coffee Bar Attendants
- Mission Volunteers

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact me so I can help you get involved and connect with others that share your passion.

As always, I am so grateful to work alongside each of you in ministry and mission work. Together, we continue to make an impact on the lives of those in our community by giving of ourselves, sharing the love of Jesus, and letting the Light change Everything!

Blessings to each of you in this New Year. May it be filled with Love, Kindness, and Peace.

Victoria



**SHROVE
TUESDAY
PANCAKE
DINNER**
FEBRUARY 17TH
5:00-6:30PM

Are you curious about Shrove Tuesday?

It's a fascinating day with rich traditions and history. Celebrated in many countries, Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day in some places. It's the day before Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent in the Christian calendar, a period of fasting and reflection. Traditionally, it's a time to indulge in rich foods before the Lenten fast begins.

Last year was our second annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and it was met with great enthusiasm. This year promises to be just as wonderful! Come and indulge in the syrupy goodness. Join us anytime between 5:00 and 6:30. Tickets are free and can be picked up in the office.

Donations will be warmly accepted at the door that evening.

WORSHIP ARTS

- Jeff Jordan

As I sit here shivering in the 'Sunshine State', I must remind myself that lots of folks are shivering for several months at a time in places like Chicago and Minneapolis while we only have to endure a few chilly days at a time... we are so very blessed to live in Florida! And to be honest, a cooler morning every once in a while, is sometimes just what a person needs to start their day with vim and vigor, right? The first sermon in this month focuses on the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, the "Blessed are..." statements of Jesus. To these I would very humbly suggest that we could add, "Blessed are those that recognize how blessed they are and rejoice in it!" Count your blessings – we live in this beautiful South Shore community surrounded by many and various activities, and we are warmly embraced by a loving church family. We are truly blessed and I, for one, rejoice in that blessing.

Speaking of blessings, Teo, Nancy and I are blessed with so many wonderful folks that give of their time and talents to make the Worship Arts Ministries of UMCSCC such a vital part of our church and our community. And we can't forget those folks that support our ministries behind the scenes by sharing their resources so generously, especially to make our special cantatas possible. Bless y'all for blessing us!

February, as you know, is Black History Month so you will be hearing and singing quite a few spirituals in the next several weeks. African American spirituals form a large part of our Methodist hymnal and have continued to profoundly influence much contemporary Christian music. And I love 'em!

The Chancel Choir has already begun working on a brand-new Easter cantata entitled *Testimony of Life* by one of our favorite arrangers/composers, Joseph Martin. We think the congregation will really like it as they are invited to join the choir for several selections. We'll be presenting the cantata on Saturday, March 28th and Sunday, March 29th, and the Choir will once again be accompanied by strings and percussion. Special thanks to Teo who makes us sound so good each week!

Our handbell ensembles are busily preparing for both Easter as well as the Florida Handbell Festival which WE are hosting this year. It's quite a bit of work, but I'm sure it will be very rewarding. At the end of the festival there will be a short concert in the LEC on Saturday, March 14th at 3PM to which the public is invited. Mark your calendar and come out to see and hear over 200 bell ringers making music together at YOUR church. Special thanks to Nancy who keeps us all in line week after week!

Wishing my church family a blessed February!

Soli Deo Gloria

jeff

Center 4Life Learning Trips and Tours

Come Learn and Be Entertained!!

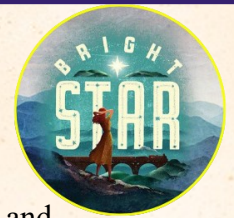
2026 Winter Semester Is Now In Session

Register Today!

- **February 13, 20, 27 at 1:00 p.m.:** *The Adams Family: A Multigenerational Legacy of Public Service, led by Dan Madden*
- **February 21 at 10:30 a.m.:** *Fun With Improv, led by Diane Keyes*
- **February 25 at 1:00 p.m.:** *High Altitude Reconnaissance During the Cold War, led by Tom Barrett*

Bright Star, Musical Production,
Manatee Performing Arts Center

March 5, 2026

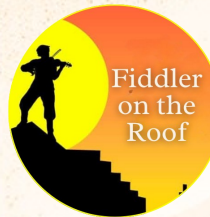


Columbia Restaurant and
Ybor City Bus Tour

March 10, 2026

Rays vs. Cubs, Tropicana Field,
Section 124

April 7, 2026



Fiddler on the Roof Musical
Asolo Repertory Theatre

May 13, 2026

Becky's New Car
Early Bird Dinner Theater

May 28, 2026



Rays vs. Yankees, Tropicana Field,
Section 124

July 9, 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

Mission of the Month Update

Here is how we have and continue to pass love to others. Last year, through your second mile giving to our Mission of the Month recipients, you donated \$70,397.00 to help others in need of love, kindness, and healing. I want to share with you, how you affected each of our Mission of the Month recipients and continued to spread your love and the love of Jesus to those in need.

Your contributions in 2025 were distributed each month to the following missions:

January: Campaign Against Human Trafficking \$3,831.00

February: Residing Hope Children's Home \$14,541.00 (includes 5th Sunday donations)

March: Under the Cross Youth Ministry \$3,912.00

April: Breakaway Respite Ministry \$5,074.00

May: Friendship Circle \$4,273.00

June: Cuba Sister Church \$4,686.00

July: Unity Young Adults Ministry \$4,007.00

August: WATOTO \$5,407.00

September: Mary Petro Food and Medicine \$4,845.00

October: Volunteer Response Team \$4,151.00

November: India Sister Church \$4,162.00

December: Anchor House \$11,508.00

In October 2025, the Mission of the Month Review Board reviewed and voted on our 2026 Mission of the Month recipients, based on their application requests. The review board, read and discussed the needs of each applicant and voted. Below are our 2026 Mission of the Month selectees:

January: Campaign Against Human Trafficking

February: Residing Hope (including the 5th Sunday offering in March, May, August, and November)

March: Your Abundant Life, Inc

April: Breakaway Respite Ministry

May: Friendship Circle

June: Cuba Sister Church

July: The Lord's Lighthouse

August: WATOTO

September: Anchor House, Inc

October: Volunteer Response Team

November: India Sister Church

December: TBD

We cannot wait to see how we will extend our love into our church ministries, community, and the world in 2026 through our second mile giving!

Caregivers Support Group

"Caregiving often calls us to lean into love we didn't know was possible."

-Tia Walker

All are welcome. We are here to help. For questions please contact Kit Carson at 706-897-9526



Every
1st & 3rd
Tuesday
2pm

Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is looking for special items.

If you find it in your heart to donate, the following items are what our clients need.

New Pantry Hours are Thursday from 10am-1:00pm

Please reach out to our Pantry Volunteers on Thursdays to see how you can help.

Donations Dropped Off Days and Times:

Sunday 8:00am-12:00pm

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-3:00pm

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • La Moderna Pasta | • Pudding Cup (Chocolate) |
| • Quaker Oats | • Pasta Sauce |
| • Tuna (in water) | • Box Milk (Large) |
| • Canned Chicken | • Vegetable Oil (16oz) |
| • Canned Corn | |

• Vienna Sausages

• Peanut Butter

• Canned fruit

• Grape Jelly

• Pancake Mix & Syrup

• Applesauce

Diet Restricted Items

• Gluten Free Items

• Low Sodium Items

• No Salt Items

• Low/No Sugar Items

Friday *Night* at the Movies

February 13 |



Surprised by Oxford: Brilliant but emotionally-guarded Caro Drake arrives in Oxford with the singular goal of attaining her PhD, but through a turbulent friendship with a charming young man she starts to open herself up to mystery, vulnerability, and love.

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



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 | 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 February 15.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | 10:00AM

We are celebrating Valentines this month so wear your favorite Valentine's attire and join us in celebrating the Sweetest Holiday in the Year! The meal will be catered by BubbaQues and we will have Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Mac n Cheese and Texas Toast.

The cost for this meal is \$15.00. Sign up in the church office by February 22.

OUR LENTEN SEASON BEGINS



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18

COME RECEIVE THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

12:00PM 30 Minute
Devotional
Service

6:30PM Traditional
Service

*Let us remember the love
of God that is poured out
through Christ Jesus on
the cross in His death;
and His defeat of death,
and resurrection that
brings
Eternal Life to you.*

Thank God It's Variety

-Larry Hirschak

We start this month's concerts on Friday February 6th with Christian artist Sherry Anne. Born partially deaf and with a speech impairment, Sherry Anne's life story began with years of overcoming adversity and obstacles to being featured on national Christian networks such as the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Charting nationally in Christian music radio, Sherry Anne is a four-time Singing News Fan Awards Top 10 nominee. Additionally, she holds a doctorate degree and is an effective communicator sharing the message of the Gospel, and how it changed her life, through speaking and music events across the country. Sherry Anne has shared her music on stages such as The Ark Encounter, National Quartet Convention, Dollywood, Silver Dollar City, and in concert with Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band. You may remember, Sherry Anne sang *Amazing Grace* for the offertory last year the day after her concert.

Next, we have one of the fan favorites, the Nashville Hall of Fame Tour. This concert is on a Sunday night, February 15th. Country Music artists, Charlie McCoy, Rich and Denise Kiser and Jason Coleman make up the group.

Nashville boasts many super-session musicians, with few as enduring as Charlie McCoy, who has spent 60 years in studios and recorded 44 solo albums. He was the music director for "Hee Haw" for 18 years and is a Country Music Hall of Fame member. Richard Kiser has received over 65 awards, including "Instrumentalist of the Decade" and three "Artist of the Year" titles. He was inducted into the Country Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame in 2009 and performs annually for the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society. Jason 'Floyd' Coleman, grandson of Floyd Cramer, began his music career influenced by his grandfather. He has produced piano albums and tours, showcasing Cramer's signature style. Denise started performing at age eight and served as a church pianist for over 40 years. A cousin of Patsy Cline, she is a singer/songwriter with a unique vocal style, covering genres from Traditional Hymns to Bluegrass.

Another fan favorite is that of Kenny Evans performing his Oldies Show! Kenny is a studio musician and vocalist and for the past 19 seasons has performed at various theatres in Pigeon Forge, TN. Kenny presented his "Golden Oldies Show" that he does at the Red Skelton Tribute Theatre in Pigeon Forge last year and is coming back by popular demand once again. Music has always been a part of Kenny's life. As a child he sang in a family quartet with his father, brother, and younger sister. The Evans Family Quartet toured the southeast doing concerts at churches, festivals, and theatres and made guest appearances with Archie Campbell at the live Hee-Haw theatre in Pigeon Forge, TN. In 1994, just three months after getting married Kenny signed with a booking agency out of Orlando Florida, and quickly began a grueling tour schedule that would put him on the road for more than 250 days a year as the opening act for some of country music's biggest stars including Kenny Chesney, Charlie Daniels, Lonestar, Sara Evans, Toby Keith, Tracy Byrd, and many others. More recently he has been touring solo singing and evangelizing across the country. You won't want to miss this concert as Kenny "Wows" the audience with his four-octave range voice!!

Finally, on February 27th, Christian artist Joseph Habedank will be coming here for the first time! Christian artist Joseph Habedank is no stranger to writing songs about real life. Habedank has been weaving his life into melodies since his acclaimed solo debut, *Welcome Home*, released in 2014. Joseph is a two-time GRAMMY® nominated, five-time GMA Dove Award winning, six-time BMI Award recipient and ten-time Singing News Fan Award winning artist, including seven-time fan-voted Male Soloist of the year award. Joseph has a powerful testimony of recovery from drug addiction that has been featured on Fox News Spirited Debate, TBN's Praise the Lord, and in such publications as Billboard Magazine, CCM Magazine, and Glenn Beck's The Blaze. He has shared his songs in some of America's greatest churches and venues, including the Brooklyn Tabernacle, Charles Stanley's First Baptist Atlanta, The Grand Ole Opry, and the historic Ryman Auditorium. It is his signature honesty, however, that has captured the attention of listeners for the past two decades of his professional career. For the first time, Joseph is diving deep into his storytelling tendencies for an album that is, quite possibly, his most personal undertaking yet. Aptly titled "*Autobiography*", Habedank's fifth studio effort effectively sets his own story to music. Joseph remains an open book on "*Autobiography*", . He states, "What I've always found is that when I write something about my life — whether it's a song about losing my grandmother or it's a song about my addiction — it somehow resonates with people. I guess it's because everybody has a grandma and everybody's got somebody in their life who struggles with addiction. When people listen to this record, somehow I want my life to intersect with their lives." You will truly be blessed during this concert!!

And again, I would like to thank you for your great support of this very special and successful outreach ministry!! Remember "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!!" Ps.150:6

Larry Hirschak,

Thank God It's Variety Concert Coordinator



\$10
Each

BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR UNDER THE
CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY



SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

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.

The funds raised from this fundraiser will be used to support our youth in attending the Warren Willis summer camp.

This event is always highly anticipated by our youth.

Thank you for your support in making this possible!