

# The Happening

JUNE 2024

## Mission of the Month

### Cuba Sister Church

Pastor Rodriguez and his wife Yusdelkis sent our church the following update on the ministry in our Cuban Sister Church in Santiago Cuba. We are in their prayers. Let us keep them in ours. As you can see in the report, God is at work in our sister Church in Cuba. Please prayerfully consider your support in the mission of the month for our sister church.

*Here I send you a script about everything we have done working in our church.*

*We have proposed to give a lunch every Sunday for all the brothers with the resources that they themselves bring once the service is over. We are discipling 20 new believers to then baptize them so they become members of our church.*

*We are creating several cell houses in various places and thus reaching new believers.*

*We hold several services during the week on Wednesday Bible Study and prayer where we do not stop praying for you.*

*On Sundays we hold Sunday school and main worship with an attendance of 85 brothers each Sunday.*

*We have a membership of 107 members.*

*We celebrated Bible Day where we went with the brothers to a park where we all read the Bible for an hour. We celebrated the Thanksgiving service with a talent festival for Christmas. We celebrated Epiphany by doing an activity with all the children.*



## Scripture of the Month

*"Joshua told the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'"*

Joshua 3:5 (NIV)

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*We have held evangelistic services with a large number of children and adults.*

*We carry out weddings, baptisms, Holy Communion services, united services with other Methodist churches and other denominations, workshops for marriages, courses for training leaders, counseling for young single couples. With our resources, we have brought food to hospitalized brothers and other families in need.*

*We celebrate wedding vows, sometimes we climb high hills where we pray for all the inhabitants of our country municipality and we also pray for you.*

*In the love of God and Christ fraternally Pastor Diosmany Rodriguez Sibadie and Wife Yusdelkis Rodriguez Mulet. God bless you.*

Submitted by Rick Norwood, Sun City Center United Methodist representative to our sister church in Santiago Cuba.

## Tot Spot - Sharon Bennyhoff

On Tuesday mornings, the young minds of South Shore eagerly anticipate Tot Spot, a special event that goes beyond just fun. It serves as a platform for children to learn, grow, and form meaningful connections with others. Each week, Tot Spot enriches and inspires the young minds of South Shore, paving the way for a bright and promising future.

During our adventures at Tot Spot, we delve into exploring the wonders of God's world. This month, we are diving under the sea, uncovering fascinating facts. For instance, did you know that daddy seahorses have a pouch in their stomach, similar to kangaroos, to nurture the eggs until they are ready to hatch?

At Tot Spot, we engage in a variety of activities including dancing to songs, creating artwork, conducting science projects, and playing games.

A friendly reminder to our congregation: our nursery is available to care for children aged 3 months to 5 years Sunday mornings during our 9:45 am and 11:00 am services.



## 'Breakaway' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

**Help Wanted!** Are you an artist, a crafter, a gardener, a musician, a baker, a storyteller or have knowledge or skill that you would like to share? If so, Breakaway would love to have you!

We are a ministry of love, we spend our time with up to 20 people living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, please note, they're not suffering from their disease, they're LIVING with them! They're living with their diseases in part because of what we offer in Breakaway. Each Monday and Wednesday we do our best to bring a variety of projects and activities that serve a purpose. Some items we make go home with our participants, some items we can sell Sunday mornings or at the annual craft fair. We're often engaged in art projects to decorate Creason Hall since that's where we spend our time.

Each afternoon you can witness how important music can be to our friends, we love to have live entertainment, but when we can't, we play various games with song titles and almost everyone can be seen singing or dancing. When a person living with dementia can no longer formulate a sentence, we find they can often still sing all the words to a favorite song!

There is a lot more that we could offer our friends if only we had volunteers! Please consider donating your time and come lead an activity, tell us a story, or play us some tunes!

Breakaway Volunteers have gone and amazed me once again with their dedication to our ministry. We needed to hold a training/workshop this month and almost everyone not only made it but participated in our training, we had so much participation that we ran out of time! I have been to a lot of training sessions and even facilitated some during my Navy career and never have I seen such a commitment to learning and improving what we do!

We had a surprise visitor during our training, Susan Bailyn from the Gladys and Mildred Tomiak Foundation presented us with a check for \$6500.00! This generous grant will go far buying needed supplies and offering scholarships to friends in need. Thank you Tomiak Foundation!



# Vivacious Ministries

## with Victoria Sorensen

**“When we feel love and kindness towards others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it also helps us to develop inner happiness and peace.” — The Dalai Lama**

Welcome to June! It seems like yesterday we were just starting the new year and here we are mid-way through it. Time keeps moving along.

As we look back on the month of May it truly was amazing in so many ways. Thanks to everyone for providing so many items for the Food Pantry. Because of your generosity, we have delivered food items to families in need, schools in need, and sister churches who asked for assistance because their pantries were empty.

Thank you to all the ladies who made our “Remembrance” brunch a success. A special thank you to Karen and Heather for all their work to make May’s Brunch a “memorable” one! Mark your calendars for our next Ladies’ Brunch scheduled for Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Our Health Ministry continues to provide opportunities for everyone in the community. We are so excited to have Weight Watchers on the church campus every Saturday morning. Thanks to Helen Cook and her team for adding this program to our Health Ministry providing an opportunity for all of you to live a healthier lifestyle. If you are interested in attending on Saturday morning, the meetings begin at 7:30a.m. and 9:00a.m. Please pre-register for a premium membership at [ww.com](http://ww.com).

And, this month, we have another Health Ministry opportunity for the community. We have partnered with Gannon University for a six-week “Boost Your Communication Social Group.” We are offering two sessions, a morning session from 9:30AM until 11:30AM, and an afternoon session from 1:30PM until 3:30PM on Thursdays, beginning June 6<sup>th</sup> and ending on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Sessions will be conducted in Creason Hall for anyone who would like to improve their communication, memory, and socialization skills. Space is limited for each session to eight (8) individuals per session. If you are interested in participating, please call the church office to sign up or contact me for additional information. Best of all... its FREE!

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

Friday Night at the Movies is June 14<sup>th</sup>, and our movie is Running the Bases, so come join us for some popcorn and lemonade in the Life Enrichment Center. Doors open at 5:30PM. We have volunteer opportunities available, so if you are interested in finding your place on the campus, please email me at [victoria@sccumc.com](mailto:victoria@sccumc.com).

Our Methodists on the Move Alzheimer’s Walk team has once again been established for this year’s Alzheimer’s Walk for a Cure on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being part of our team, register at [2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's - South Shore, FL | Walk to End Alzheimer's](#).

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



# MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you Meals on Wheels drivers

Thank you to the 14 set of drivers for Kings Point and Sun City Center. You delivered 302 meals to KP and 248 meals to SCC.

Drivers are very important part of the meals on wheels program. This is a seven day a week program for people who can not get out and they look forward to their meals each day.

Everyone involved gets rewarded. Without your generous willingness to help keep this program going it would fail. I wish to also thank those of you who so graciously volunteered to be back up drivers. We only needed to use one \* back up driver this year.

Each month a different organization takes a turn at delivering the meals. SCCUMC month is April. I look forward to asking you to help deliver meals next year; I already have 8 drivers for 2025!

Blessings,  
Karen Ransbury

### 2024 Drivers

Roger & Jenae Barbo  
Butch Clark  
Jim & Chris Claro  
Ron Ermann  
Barb Geist  
Pat Gelsey  
Mary Huntington  
Mary Klopp  
Margorie Lang  
Vickie McDonnell  
Larry Newburg  
Bob & Lee O’Roak  
\*Desi Buckley

Kim Przekop  
Tony Petree & Lynn D’Antoni  
Richard Pritny  
Harold & Donna Petersen  
Tom & Suz Perusee  
Jim & Susan Rice  
Dave & Karen Ransbury  
Denny & Donna Schlueler  
Emad & Jane Wahba  
Claude & Beverly Webster  
Mike & Linda Whitt  
Ron & Nancy Windsor





# Boost Your Communication

## Social Group for Older Adults/Seniors



### WHAT IS IT?

A six-week program designed to enhance communication, memory, and social skills.



### WHEN?

Thursdays, June 6 - August 1

#### Morning Session:

9:30am - 11:30am

#### Afternoon Session:

1:30pm - 3:30pm

### Program Details

**Where:** United Methodist Church of SCC -1971 Haverford Ave. Sun City Center, FL 33573  
(Wheelchair accessible facility)

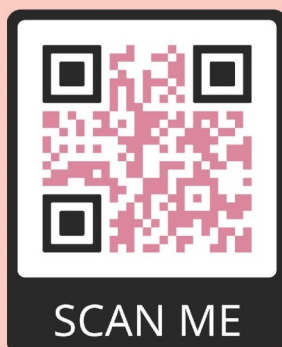
**Format:** Two-hour session per week

**Activities:** Discussions, skill practice, presentations

Led by registered/licensed speech-language pathologists and graduate students

### Who Can Join?

- Older adults seeking to improve communication, memory, and socialization skills
- Spouses are welcome
- No communication problem required; all are welcome



SCAN ME

Scan to Register  
Online or Email  
Questions to  
[tbi@gannon.edu](mailto:tbi@gannon.edu)

### Requirements:

- ✱ Commitment to attend all six sessions
- ✱ Arrange own transportation
- ✱ Ability to engage in a two-hour session
- ✱ Independently able to toilet and transfer
- ✱ Clearance from treating physician to participate as appropriate





## 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!

**Rays vs. Yankees Baseball Game,**  
Traopicana Field, St. Petersburg  
July 11, 2024



**Ybor City Dinner, Casa Santo**  
Stefano Restaurant & Ghost Tour  
August 5, 2024

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



**Mount Dora - Exploring and Shopping**  
October 9, 2024

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



### Register for Classes and Trips Today!

Contact the Center 4Life Learning office at  
813-634-8607, email at [center4life@sccumc.com](mailto:center4life@sccumc.com),  
or visit our website at [www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning](http://www.sccumc.com/4lifelearning)

## Friday Night at the Movies

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH AT 6:00PM**



**RUNNING THE BASES** brings viewers into the lives of Luke and Josh Brooks, teen brothers from a small town who dream of playing in the major leagues. When an undetected heart defect tragically takes Josh's life, Luke (Raphael Ruggero) is left without a brother and unable to play the sport he loves. He initially questions God and the prospects for his future. But when given the chance to receive a free college education, his life turns around. Fast-forward years into the future, and Luke (Brett Varvel) is now an accomplished high school baseball coach. But when he's recruited to work at a prestigious school in Texas, he finds that his faith and coaching methods are both called into question by some parents and school staff. Will he be able to withstand another test of faith, or will he crumble under the pressure?

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



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH AT 10:00AM**

This month you are in for a treat, Barbara Smith will introduce us to Rose Percy, an interesting "figure" who was "poured" into life in England and made her way to a window in a New York shop.

Come and hear about her interesting journey and the part she played in the Civil War and beyond.

### This Month's Menu:

**Pressed Cuban Sandwiches**  
**Churros**

Ladies Brunch is the fourth Wednesday  
each month. Cost is \$10.00.  
Sign up in the office by June 23rd.



Greetings, church family! Well., LOTS has happened over the past several weeks including a much-needed AVLC upgrade in both the sanctuary and the LEC – Kudos to Bill and the AVLC Team as they continue to learn how to use this state-of-the-art technology. I'm sure you've noticed that we can hear and see everything so much better than before, and this new equipment will enhance our worship and other ministries for many, many years to come! We also hosted this year's *Yom HaShoah* [Holocaust Remembrance] Service, a powerfully poignant time of acknowledging that very difficult part of western history. Thanks to all who helped make it so powerful! I was blessed to be given the 'green light' to becoming a Licensed Local Pastor [LLP] by this church and the District Committee on Ordained Ministry of the United Methodist Church. My next step is to continue my training by attending Licensing School. At present, I'm waiting to hear back from them regarding start time, books, classes, etc. The District Superintendent plans to appoint me to this church as an LLP on a part time basis in the new year so that I can continue to be involved in music ministries that I love so much. I feel so blessed, encouraged, and loved. Many thanks to all of you for that!

June is, in large part, a planning month. It's a time when we look back at the Christmas and Easter seasons behind us, start to choose and begin to prepare music for the upcoming seasons, sort out services and other church events, and look forward to some much-needed vacation time in July!

There are a couple of special events to note in the latter part of June. First, at 3PM on Sunday, June 16th, Teo will be performing her rescheduled "Organ Around the World" concert. And second, The Chancel Choir, Teodora and percussionists will again be performing our beloved patriotic cantata *Of Faith and Freedom* by Joseph Martin. They'll be 'tagging' that with Peter Wilhousky's rousing arrangement of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. In addition to presenting the cantata on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at the traditional services, the choir will be presenting it at 4PM on day before, Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, I want you to know that I'm praying for Pastors Richard and Josh as they continue their ministry elsewhere. I so enjoyed working with them both and consider them two of my pastoral mentors. And Charlie, what can I say? It's been a wonderful experience being in ministry along side someone with your faith, talents, and gifts for ministry. Thank you for the last 10 years!!!

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

*Soli Deo Gloria*

## From the Ledger - Bill Turner

Greetings church family!!

In April, we received \$188,781 in income to offset \$200,082 in expenses. This leaves us with **\$11,301** in expenses over income. Our income year-to-date is \$807,505 and our expenses year-to-date are \$860,896. This leaves us with **\$53,391** in expenses over income through April.

Our current mortgage balance is \$1,570,528 as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Kindly engage in prayerful consideration of your stewardship decisions and their implications for the future of our church. Each member holds a significant role in ensuring the financial stability of our church, and your involvement is crucial for our collective success.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your stewardship, faithfulness, and loyalty to this church and any ministries that you are involved in.