



# The Happening

MAY 2024

## **Mission of the Month** *Children's Ministry*

The Children's Ministry of Sun City Center is dedicated to spreading the Gospel among our children. Our mission aims to offer safe, engaging, and enriching Christian opportunities and settings where children can gather for discipleship, fellowship, meals, lessons, care, fun, community, and more. It's our profound responsibility to share His light and demonstrate His love. In various ways, Sun City Center United Methodist Church has nurtured all God's children and fostered genuine enthusiasm for our Risen Lord. Your generosity and support are crucial for our mission work, including programming, education, discipleship, outreach events, and vital assistance to families with children. Throughout May, the Children's Ministry urges you to PRAY, HOPE, MINISTER, and PROVIDE as we seek to understand and fulfill God's will for His children.

We believe that every child is a precious gift from God, deserving of love, care, and guidance. At the heart of our ministry is the belief that by nurturing the hearts and minds of these young ones, we are sowing seeds that will grow into a deep and lasting faith. Through prayer and fellowship, we strive to create a warm and welcoming environment where children can learn about the teachings of Jesus in a fun and interactive way.

As we embark on this journey together, we invite you to join us in spreading love and compassion to all those we encounter. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these children, providing them with the tools they need to navigate the challenges of the world with grace and faith. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this important mission. Let us walk hand in hand, guided by His light, as we strive to fulfill His will and create a brighter future for all His children.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

*Philippians 4:6*

To find out more about programming or to minister with us, please email [kidmin@sccumc.com](mailto:kidmin@sccumc.com).

## **Scripture of the Month**

*"But you shall receive  
power when the Holy  
Spirit has come upon  
you; and you shall be  
my witnesses in  
Jerusalem and in all  
Judea and Samaria  
and to the end of the  
earth."*

Acts 1:8 RSV

GriefShare

## Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement  
after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Wednesdays

6:30PM - 8:30PM

April 10th - July 3rd

If you would like to sign up reach out to Pastor Josh at [josh@sccumc.com](mailto:josh@sccumc.com)

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

## What's Lost Might Be Found...



**LOST & FOUND**

If you have misplaced something dear to you, fret not! Our lost and found department is here to help reunite you with your belongings. Please make sure to check the Lost and Found bin located in the Life Enrichment Center (LEC) Lobby to see if your missing item has been found.

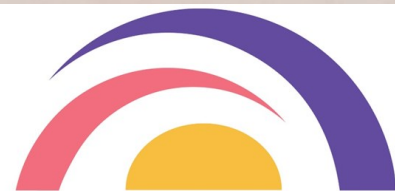
Remember, all unclaimed items will eventually be donated to those in need, so it's important to act quickly. We understand how important your possessions are to you, and we are here to assist in any way we can. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our lost and found organized.

## Grants Awarded to Breakaway & Center 4Life Learning

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center happily announces that The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay has granted funds to support our Breakaway Respite Ministry and Center 4Life Learning Non-Accredited Adult Education Ministry. Renee Tisdale, the Breakaway Respite Ministry Director, has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for the Respite Program, while Sue Holter, Manager of the Center 4Life Learning



Ministry, received a \$1,260.00 grant for scholarships benefiting low-income seniors participating in classes or a trip. We are incredibly grateful for the support from The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. This grant will allow us to continue providing much-needed services to our community. Renee and Sue's dedication to their respective ministries is truly commendable, and we are thrilled that their hard work has been recognized through these grants. With the help of this funding, we look forward to making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. Thank you once again to The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay for their generosity and belief in our ministries.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
TAMPA BAY

# New Members Classes

Tuesdays, May 7th and 14th  
4:00PM – 6:00PM

In the Life Enrichment Center (LEC)



We are thrilled to share details about the upcoming New Member Classes scheduled for May 7th and 14th. Pastor Charlie will conduct

informational sessions focusing on the essence of being a United Methodist. These gatherings will delve into our denominational history, theology, and various ministry aspects. The classes are open to anyone interested in learning more about our church. For those looking to join our congregation, we will welcome new members on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. To sign up, or for more information about joining please reach out to Aisling Turner at [aturner@scumc.com](mailto:aturner@scumc.com) for further details.



**TUESDAY, May 21st**  
**10:30AM**

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

**Guest Speaker: Carol Rooksby Weidlich**

**“The 10 Most Common Mistakes We Make in Our Family Research”**

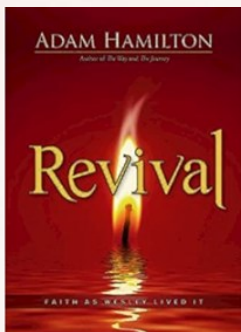
The cost is \$18.00 per person for the meal and the presentations. For reservations and meal choice contact Vicki at 360-608-1647. Make your check payable to SBGS, and mail it to South Bay Genealogical Society, PO Box 5202, Sun City Center, FL 33571

**Your check must be received by  
May 9th, 2024**

*Please allow 4-5 days for mailing.  
Late reservations cannot be accepted.*

# New Bible Study Groups Starting Soon!!

**Two Studies Available    Monday Evenings    Starting May 6th**



## “Revival”

Led by: Pastor Debbie  
4:30PM  
Room 30

*Adam Hamilton connects John Wesley’s contribution in 18th-century England with his legacy for 21st-century America, bringing lessons from Wesley’s life and ministry to bear on discipleship today. This study will take us on a pilgrimage to the places where the Methodist revival began, Wesley’s story is our story. It defines our faith and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion.*

## “What Does it Mean to Be Chosen?”

Led by: Victoria Sorensen  
5:30PM  
Room 19



*This is the official companion study to season 1 of The Chosen, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus. What does it actually mean to be Chosen? To answer that, we’re going Old school—Testament that is—which leads us back to the New and directly to Jesus. Please join this study group to discover what it means when Jesus chooses YOU.*

We’d love for you to join one (or both!) of these studies! Sign up in the church office.

Study books are available to purchase for \$10.



# DONATE BLOOD

**Sun City Center United  
Methodist Church  
Sunday, May 12  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

All donors receive\*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

*Fact: Every two seconds of every day,  
someone needs blood.*

Donors  
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please visit [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and use **sponsor code 15721**



**ID REQUIRED**

\*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit [oneblood.org/details](http://oneblood.org/details).

**oneblood**  
Share your power.

# Thank God It's Variety

-Larry Hirchak

The Thank God It's Variety concert series has concluded its peak season and looking back, all I can say is "Wow"! Thank you so much to all the folks that came out to one or more of these events. We truly appreciate the support for this outreach ministry program! We have been so blessed to have had a very successful program over these past several months. We provided a wide variety of entertainers and the audiences were fabulous!

As in the past, we typically scale back the number of events during the summer months. We will have only one concert and one Rasmussen Artist Series Recital each month throughout the summer. We have decided to only present the Rasmussen Artist Series Sunday afternoon concerts during the months of May thru October. More information about these will be provided on our website and in upcoming newsletters. However, the first one will be on Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM and is an organ recital being presented by our own Teodora Mitze-Circumaru entitled "Organ Around The World" which will include works from the Baroque to Contemporary classical music eras. There will be pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Alexandre Boëly, Paul Hindemith and Hans Peter Turk. Please come out and enjoy this exceptional artistry that usually is only available in performing arts centers!

On Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, The Goldtones from the Fort Myers area will be performing their Oldies/Doo-Wop concert as a benefit for the Kiwanis Club. This group is very popular throughout the state of Florida. Tickets for both of these events are currently on sale.

On Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Riverside Jukebox Swing Band will be returning for some wonderful Big Band Era up thru the 70's and 80's orchestral sounds! There aren't many of these types of groups anymore and we are very fortunate to have one in our own backyard!

Looking ahead, we have another Fall/Winter/Spring season packed with some repeat performers and a lot of new ones! More information about these will be provided in upcoming months in newsletters, announcements, as well as on our events tab on the church website at [www.sccumc.com/events](http://www.sccumc.com/events).

Thank God for good entertainers and may God continue to bless us with them!



## Center 4Life Learning Come Learn and Be Entertained

### SPRING CLASSES AVAILABLE:

#### Storytelling Is An Art Form

Friday Afternoons/1:00PM - 2:30PM  
April 26th - May 31st

#### Watercolor Painting

Friday Mornings/9:30AM-12:00PM  
May 3rd - May 31st

### 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

## Center 4Life Learning's upcoming trips and tours!

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



**Tarpon Springs tour of St. Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral and  
exploring the Sponge Dock**  
July 23, 2024

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



**Ybor City Dinner, Casa Santo  
Stefano Restaurant & Ghost Tour**  
August 25, 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)

## Update from the Disaster Response Team (DRT)



In March the DRT put in over 220 volunteer hours doing church grounds clean-up, mulching, tree trimming, and Church painting! This included raking up 12,500 pounds of leaves and debris! Many thanks to Earl, Don, Bryant, Frank, Karen, Larry, Penny, Ron and Jerry.

His Helpers ministry is offering assistance for typical household maintenance and repairs. The DRT can help change light bulbs, AC filters, smoke detector batteries. We can perform other small household needs including light landscaping. Sign up is in the church office.

The next meeting will be May 20th at 2:30 in room 19. There will be no meetings June, July or August. There will be AED demonstration in May and AED training after the October meeting.

The Disaster Response Team (DRT) of Sun City Center is a group of caring, friendly, talented Christian volunteers from our church and surrounding areas. The DRT also assists others within our local 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 DRT, please register on our DRT email database at <http://eepurl.com/gew3MD>

**Thanks to Don and Earl, all the DRT equipment is now located on the church grounds!! This was a big job including cutting concrete curbing and putting down pavers for the trailer.**

## 'Breakaway' with Breakaway - Renee Tisdale

Last month I mentioned how impressed I was with the volunteers of Breakaway because so many of them attended a training session in Brandon, not because it was mandatory, but because they wanted to! They have a level of commitment that I just wasn't expecting.

This month they have gone and done it again, so I just wanted to write a quick note letting everyone know how wonderful these people are! Thanks to some medical issues, I've been out of commission for the last couple weeks and it's looking like it will be several more, but is Breakaway closing? Most certainly not, several folks have stepped up and are leading the program each day, Monday volunteers are coming in on Wednesday and vice versa to ensure proper coverage for all our participants. They all know the importance of our ministry, but even more, they love Breakaway and want to be here!



One special volunteer was able to get Elvis to enter our house! Last week, Billy Lindsey came and gave us an incredible performance as the one and only Elvis Presley! All our caregivers came, and Pastors Charlie and Cynthia were even able to join us! Check out the pictures and videos on our Breakaway Respite Ministry page on Facebook.

Other activities lately have been making fairy lights for our friends to take home and hopefully you'll see us selling them on the patio one day soon! A couple different volunteers have led card making activities and our caregivers were able to receive beautiful St. Patrick's Day and Easter Cards. We have scattered more painted rocks around the campus that we made with the guidance of yet another amazing volunteer!



Thank you to all the volunteers of Breakaway!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Breakaway or would like more information, do not hesitate to reach out to [breakawaymin@scumc.com](mailto:breakawaymin@scumc.com). This is such a fulfilling ministry, you won't regret you did!

## Vivacious Ministries with Victoria Sorensen

*“May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive.”*  
– Fennel Hudson

As I write this, I pray May is filled with many blessings and you are taking time to stop and smell all the flowers this month brings. April was quite a busy month here on the campus and around the community. Our wonderful Snowbirds have flown the coop and headed North for the Summer, and we wished them well at our Friday Night at the Movies Ice Cream Social. A “Big Thank You “ to Shirley Walker and her wonderful ice cream socialites—everyone who attended enjoyed the sweets!

April also graced us with a wonderful grant of \$7,500.00 from the Interfaith Social Action Council to help us with a new ministry “Bare Necessities for All”. We will focus on taking care of our low-income families, low-income seniors, and the homeless population in our community by providing food, clothing, and hygiene products to make their everyday life a little more bearable in their time of need. This grant in addition to a grant of \$3,000.00 from the Tomiak Foundation allows us to continue to be a blessing to so many in the community.

Speaking of making a difference, we held our first Health and Wellness Day on the church campus on April 13th. We had a wonderful turnout from the community. I am grateful to our community partners who participated in this event including our speakers, Lacosta Carrell, Dr. Jeffrey Mino, Dr. Jenna Kazil, all affiliated with HCA South Shore Hospital and our keynote speaker, Dr. Martine Extermann, from Moffitt Cancer Center. We were also able to provide twenty mammogram screenings through 3D Mammography, and forty-seven head and neck cancer screenings through Moffitt Cancer Center, which provided eight individuals with early detection findings. Additionally, Gannon University Physical Therapy students and faculty provided numerous balance, grip strength, and gait screenings, and education on how to take better care of ourselves.

Our Women’s Brunch annual fashion show was a hit again this year as we saw outfits to meet the women on the go. Thank you to all of our beautiful and talented models who made the day a success, and especially Linda Whitt, our Master of Ceremony. We couldn’t have done the show without you ladies and the help of Nearly New who continues to meet all our fashion needs!

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, there are a lot of things that happen behind the scenes that you don’t always hear about, and April didn’t let us down. We were able to help several families in need this month by helping them pay utility bills and rent so they could continue to live life without concern. We were also able to provide pantry items to several families and local schools to ensure no one goes without a meal. Our pantry was blessed by numerous food donations from some incredibly special donors who wish to remain anonymous but also some we need to recognize aloud. The Kings Point Pickleball Club hosted a food drive, collected an abundance of items, and filled our small but mighty pantry. After receiving so many non-perishable items, our Food Pantry Angels were able to provide food to several people in our community in addition to helping other churches whose pantries were empty. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate pantry items all through the week and to those who go the extra mile to make sure we can continue to provide food to those in need.

So, you might be asking yourself “What’s next?”....at least I hope you are. Pastor Debbie and I will lead two new Bible Studies beginning on May 6<sup>th</sup> and we are looking forward to seeing you in our classes. Pastor Debbie’s class is Adam Hamilton’s Revival and will be at 4:30pm in Room 30 and mine will be on The Chosen Season One, “What Does It Mean to Be **Chosen**?” at 5:30pm in Room 19. Make sure you sign up in the church office and purchase your book.

Join us on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Friday Night at the Movies where we will be showing Beautifully Broken. Doors open at 5:30pm and the movie starts at 6:00pm so bring a friend and join us.

We are preparing to send our youth to summer camp in June, and working on this year’s Vacation Bible School which will once again happen in the evenings starting on July 15<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for some wonderful volunteers to help us make this year’s VBS another exciting time for the children in our area. If you are interested in volunteering for VBS this year, please reach out to Ezekiel Johnson, our Children and Youth Ministry Director and sign up!

We are right in the middle of planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Back-to-School Fair which will be on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> this year from 10am – 2:30pm. We will be placing collection bins all around the community to start collecting school items for students in the area, including one right here on our campus. Because of your donations, both monetary and school supplies, we had so much success last year. This year, we are going to bless additional schools and their students. Last year if you remember, we blessed seven schools, one high school, one middle school, five elementary school, and the Boys and Girls Club in Wimauma. This year we plan to bless three high schools, two middle schools, five elementary schools, and the Boys and Girls Club in Wimauma.

Well, that is about all for right now. I pray your month is positively aMAYzing!  
See you on the patio on Sunday mornings!  
Blessings, Victoria

# Friday *Night* at the **MOVIES**

**FRIDAY, MAY 10TH AT 6:00PM**



## Beautifully Broken

A refugee's escape, a prisoner's promise, and a daughter's painful secret converge in this inspiring real life story of hope. As three fathers fight to save their families, their lives become intertwined in an unlikely journey across the globe, where they learn the healing power of

forgiveness and reconciliation. Beautifully Broken tells the story of three families impacted by the horror of Rwanda's killing fields—two from Rwanda and one from Nashville, Tennessee. In many ways, these families could hardly be more different. But as Beautifully Broken unfolds, we see that families everywhere endure trials and hardships. Those who believe in God must decide whether they're going to keep trusting Him, even in dark days.

This is a free event for our community and church.

Light refreshments are available.

## Tot Spot - Sharon Bennyhoff

Every Tuesday morning, the young minds of South Shore are delighted by a special event known as Tot Spot. Tot Spot is not just a place for children to have fun; it is a space where they can grow, learn, and connect with others in a meaningful way. Each Tuesday morning, South Shore's young minds are enriched and inspired, setting the stage for a bright and promising future ahead.

At Tot Spot, we continue to explore God's world each week. This month's theme revolves around farm life, with its bustling animal sounds and bountiful food crops. Our activities include dancing to music, engaging in art and science projects, and enjoying games.

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



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 AT 10:00AM**

Our program will be focused on "Remembrance" and will be led by Karen Koszoru and her daughter, Heather Dongerdiva.

We will take a walk down memory lane, sharing special times together with family and friends.

### This Month's Menu:

**Silver Dollar Pancakes**

**Hickory Smoked Bacon**

**Pork Sausage Links**

**Scrambled Eggs**

Ladies Brunch is the fourth Wednesday each month. Cost is \$10.00.

Sign up in the office by May 19th.

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

-Tia Walker

## Caregivers Support Group

All are welcome. We are here to help. For questions please contact Sharon Carson at 706-897-9770



**Every  
Other  
Tuesday  
2pm**



## 'Happenings' with Children & Youth -Ezekiel Johnson

*“Peter, with John at his side, looked him straight in the eye and said, “Look here.” He looked up, expecting to get something from them. Peter said, “I don’t have a nickel to my name, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!” ~ Acts 2:5-6, MSG*

This passage of scripture has always been my favorite. It demonstrates the supremacy of the name of Jesus over all circumstances of life, fixating Jesus as the answer. Peter and John serve as an example for those who claim Jesus as their Lord. Out of all the things we can offer to any person that looks to us, nothing is more supreme and critical than to give people the name of Jesus.

It has been a little over a month since I began my work here, but for those who have yet to know me, my name is Ezekiel Johnson. I am delighted to serve as the New Children & Youth Ministry Director. I came to this position having worked with children, youth, and young adults for 5 years focusing on creative engagement and spiritual formation. I am a recent graduate of Candler School of Theology with a Master of Divinity concentrating on Race & Religion. I am a native of Allentown, Pennsylvania and relocated to the sunshine state of Florida in 2014. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am to be a part of such a vibrant and loving church community. With my introduction out of the way, I look forward to getting to know each of you and serve you with Jesus’ joy. Do not hesitate to drop in my office or to stop by on Sunday morning in Creason Hall.

Since my arrival there have been several discipleship programs that have launched and more on the way. In March, we launched our bible literacy programming with both the youth and children. Every youth and child have received their own personalized bible to help explore their faith and read the word of God in their homes. The youth have been given journals alongside their bibles for the purposes of engaging their faith in meaningfully expressive ways that are unique to them. In kid’s Club, we finished our series on the Sermon on the Mount Entitled “A Christian is...” and have just started a new series called “The Evidence of Disciples” which all the kids are extremely excited about. It is wonderful to see the exuberance and passion that the kids have when navigating and reading their bibles. Each Sunday, they show up eager to learn about God as revealed in Jesus Christ with smiles on their faces and bibles in their hands. On Monday nights with Under the Cross Youth, we have started our apologetics series entitled “The Faith You Have”. We have been diving into salient and essential topics of our “Common Faith” for each of them to express, defend, and reach others with the vital truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as given in the Holy Scriptures.

In addition to the wonderful and intentional discipleship programming already mentioned, we have some more exciting things approaching and we would love for you to be a part of the God work that is happening in the Children and Youth Ministry. On July 16-19, Vacation Bible School will be going on and our theme this year is “Under the Sea”. The youth of our church will be making their annual trip to Warren Willis United Methodist Camp & Conference Center on June 24-29, 2024. In May, our youth and children will begin to serve as acolytes during our 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM worship services. Their training will be May 5, 2024 in the Creason Hall from 12:15 PM-12:30 PM. We will continue to host our youth fellowship and spiritual formation on Monday nights from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM and Sunday School at 11:00 AM. Kid’s Club will continue through the summer months every Sunday from 9:45 AM – 12:00 PM. We have so many exciting things happening with our children and youth, if you would like to join us as a volunteer please email [kidmin@sccumc.org](mailto:kidmin@sccumc.org).

## From the Ledger - Bill Turner

Greetings church family!!

In March, we received \$235,577 in income to offset \$251,377 in expenses. This leaves us with **\$15,800** in expenses over income. Our income year-to-date is \$618,724 and our expenses year-to-date are \$660,723. This leaves us with **\$41,999** in expenses over income through March.

Our current mortgage balance is \$1,583,733 as of April 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.

# FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR *Pastor Charlie & Marcia*



**THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 2024  
6:00PM - 8:30PM in the LEC**

Join us in honoring our Pastor who has dedicated so much to our church. Let's come together to express our gratitude and best wishes for Pastor Charlie and Marcia as they embark on a new chapter in their life. This farewell reception will be a time of celebration, reflection, and heartfelt goodbyes.

Please join us for an evening filled with laughter, memories, and appreciation for all that Pastor Charlie has done for us. Let's make this a memorable send-off that they will cherish forever.