

Missions of the Month

Anchor House & Good Samaritan



Greetings! My name is Jeff Holton and I am the Executive Director of Anchor House in Port Manatee. In November of 2022, God affirmed my calling to this ministry as I began this new journey. I am honored to be part of this team. In the short time I have served here, I

have seen God use Anchor House Mission in mighty ways. I praise God for the work He has done in the past and I have great expectations for what He will do through this mission in the months and years to come.

Anchor House is a gospel-centered mission that reaches out to and serves all international seafarers, truckers, and community at Port Manatee, Florida. We are motivated by the words of Jesus Christ who commissions us to "go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19, 20). We take this command seriously as we aim to meet spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the Port community regardless of their race, gender, country of origin, or religious preference. Some of the ways we do this is through providing spiritual and physical nourishment for the seafarers and port community. We also do ship visitation, worship services on ships, "diddy" bags, transporting sea farers to town to get supplies, hospital visitation, and so much more.

On my first day as director, Chaplain Trish Alligood and I visited a young sea farer from the Philippines at a hospital in St. Petersburg who was injured on the job. Unfortunately, his ship had to depart from the Port leaving this young man in a foreign country with no family, friends, or prospects to return to the Philippines anytime soon.

Continued on Page 2

Scripture of the Month

"For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:6

Naturally, he was downcast and concerned for his future as a seafarer and provider for his wife and children. God is using the staff and volunteers at Anchor House to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We had the honor and privilege to pray with him and bless him with Christian resources, food, and encouragement. Please pray with us for Ben's complete healing and quick return to the Philippines. This is one of the many ways Anchor House is sharing the love of Jesus Christ. It is ministries like yours who faithfully respond to God's call to support missions that make our ministry possible. I thank you for your consideration of support and I look forward to meeting and sharing with you more stories like this in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, or email me. Thank you for your time and faithfulness in sharing Christ's love. —Jeff Holton



GOOD SAMARITAN

Purpose. Community. Gratitude.

In its 38 years of service to the community, Good Samaritan Mission has been meeting the needs of its neighbors. From collecting food and clothes for the migrant population, through outreach events/food pantry/clothing distribution to starting a preschool for migrant children to serving as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter. Then in 2013, we introduced the innovative Seeds of Change program as an "Incentivized Adult Education Opportunity" where adult students learn valuable life skills, such as "Prenatal", "Civics", "English as a Second Language", "How to Use Computer for Beginners", "Cooking (Nutrition) Class", "Financial Training", and many more, in a participation format, all designed to equip and inspire adult students to grow, better themselves, and impact the lives of their relatives and neighbors. Tokens were earned and later redeemed for donated items of value to the attendees, allowing students to "put some skin in the game".

In 2016, the Good Samaritan property was placed for sale. Shortly afterwards, the property was put under contract and the ministry was moved to a storefront in Sun City Center. During its 2.5 years under contract, the property—and its buildings—were not maintained, since the buyer was going to bulldoze everything in order to build new homes. Then, in October 2019, the buyer was a no-show/no-call to the closing. Good Samaritan had to move back to the Balm property, and begin the slow process of repairs with limited resources. When the pandemic hit in 2020, this led to the hold of Good Samaritan's services while it looked into making considerable repairs and renovations on the property and buildings. With over 4,000 new homes being built around its property, Good Samaritan seized upon this unique opportunity. Most recently the scope of our organization's vision is to utilize our Seeds of Change (read "Discipleship") model to lead our neighbors to be healthy in body, mind, and spirit



with classes and events for adults and children, utilizing the Arts as our method (vehicle) of instruction. To our knowledge, there is no other program like this one in the community. At this time, we host monthly events while funds are raised and repairs made. Theresa and I (Bill), along with our team of volunteers, are using our days bringing the buildings and grounds up to code. Once all the repairs are finished, and our building/grounds are safer, these weekly classes and services will resume.

We are deeply grateful for the longstanding relationship Good Samaritan has had with Sun City Center UMC.



Interested in joining our church? Take this opportunity to come meet our Pastors and staff! Enjoy light refreshments as you ask questions and learn a little more about us. We look forward to seeing you!!

For more information on joining our church contact Becky Layton at becky@sccumc.com

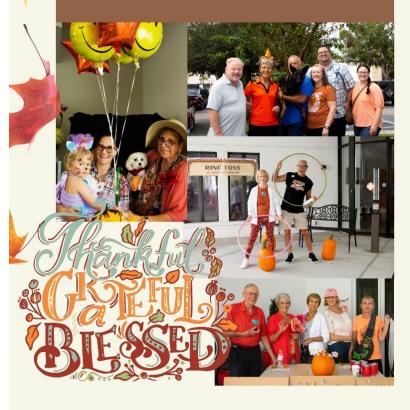
TUESDAY
DECEMBER
6TH
4:00PM
L.E.C.
Life Enrichment Center

New members will be recieved Dec. 11th during their worship service.



First Annual Fall Festival

On Saturday, October 29th, SCCUMC hosted our first Fall Festival. Working together with the Children and Youth Ministries team we pulled off an incredible Fall Festival. We were able to reach far into the community and invite many families to our church. What a great deal of fun we ALL had! If you missed it this year, be sure to join the fun next year!



First Responders Appreciation Luncheon

On Monday, November 14, 2022 our Community Connections Team, with the help of the kitchen and staff prepared a thank you lunch for the beloved First Responders of Sun City Center.

Community Resource Officer Deputy
Jeff Merry invited the police force,
firefighters and support volunteers to
be recognized and appreciated by our
church and the turnout was exciting—
72 came for lunch and 100 were
served in total!

Lunch included homemade chicken salad sandwiches, deli subs, homemade chips, fresh fruit and cookies. Then we sent our local heroes out with appreciation goodie bags for the road, big thanks, High-Fives, and our prayers for their safety in protecting and serving our community.











RSVP to jennifer@sccumc.com
Respond with your first name
then let us know how many
children and how many adults
will be in your party.
Subject line "Santa's Breakfast"

Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 4th 6:30PM

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died or it may just be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or may never have had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. For these reasons, we offer a special Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 4th & 6:30PM. Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God is present for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome.



A Moment of Thankfulness

Grant received from The Elks Lodge

It is with great excitement that we thank the Elks Lodge for their very generous donation to our Children and Youth Ministries. The Elks Lodge means a lot to our community and especially our Youth. For many years the Elks Lodge has invested in their communities to help children grow up



healthy and drug free. This grant received from the Elks Lodge will go a long way in helping us reach that goal in our ministries. THANK YOU!

Grant received from Community Foundation of Tampa Bay

We extend our gratitude to the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay in being awarded

Opportunity Grant. The grant received will be used for security enhancements for our church campus. We have been so



blessed by the relationship with the Foundation over the years, and are honored to receive this gift.

Congregational Care Needs You! Do you know anyone that is homebound or facility bound and would appreciate a visit from one of our volunteers? Our goal for December is to bring a little Christmas Cheer into their home. No one should go through the Christmas Season with feelings of being alone.

Please contact the church or Elaine Moore at 813-634-4550 if you know of anyone who needs a visit from our church. Help us brighten someone else's day!

We still need volunteers to join our team. If you are feeling led to join our ministry, please join us during our monthly meeting. We meet the fourth Thursday of every 10AM in room 30.

Look forward to seeing you there! God Bless you!

month at 10AM. Our next meeting is December 22nd at



End of Year is Almost Here!

Year End Giving Statements will again be emailed. Please make sure we have your current email address. Thanks!

Happenings in D.R.T.

(Disaster Response Team)

The United Methodist Church Disaster Response Team (DRT) is a group of caring, friendly, talented Christian volunteers from our church and surrounding areas.

Recently, we've been busy assisting our church family, local community, and neighboring communities with hurricane Ian storm damage by tarping roofs, cutting trees, removing debris, and cleaning up our church grounds.

The aftermath from hurricane Ian has devastated our neighboring communities. We need people with many different skills on our team to assist with cleanup and restoration.

Besides workers with tool skills, we always need organizers, administrators, and people to lend a caring presence. If you are interested in joining our DRT, please register at http://eepurl.com/ gew3MD to get on our email list.

To learn more about what we do, you are welcome to attend our next DRT meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 1:00 PM. We meet in Room 19.

We are hosting new member UMCOR Early Response Team (ERT) training on January 14, 2023, at Creason Hall from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If you need assistance from storm damage or have other needs, please contact the church office so your request can be assessed.

Thank you for supporting our team.

PREVENTING STROKES AS WE AGE

Different Ways to Reduce Risk and Improve Safety



Guest Speaker:



Bibhu D. Mohanty, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine Director, Neuro-Cardiac Program USF Health / Tampa General Hospital



Top 10% in the nation for stroke care



USFHealth Morsani College of Medicine

Date:

Thursday, December 8, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. United Methodist Church of Sun City Center - LEC Building 1971 Haverford Avenue Sun City Center, FL, 33573

Agenda:

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Sign-in + Lunch 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Lecture + Q&A Session

Today, people can keep up their active lifestyles well into older adulthood thanks to improvements in health care and technology. Despite these advancements, one major health challenge that remains in our society is stroke, which presents a huge barrier to enjoying longstanding life goals and social wellbeing. The heart and brain are intimately linked in stroke occurrence as we age, and new strategies are continually being developed to safely reduce risk. These strategies sometimes include the use of medication or lifestyle changes, and sometimes safely reducing risk involves using innovative medical device technology.

In this event, we describe how collaboration between multiple medical specialties, cutting-edge clinical research and a focus on the care experience have rapidly improved our ability to care for patients at the Tampa General Hospital Heart & Vascular Institute within our one-of-a-kind Neuro-cardiac Program.

REGISTER FOR THE EVENT



For more information, please visit www.TGH.org/CHWEvents or call 813-844-2001

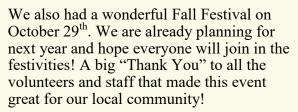


Vivacious Ministries with Victoria

Many things have been happening around the church and in our community during the months of October and November, and it is only going to become busier as we enter the Christmas Season. Here's what's been happening:

The Children and Youth Ministry received a donation of \$2,500.00 from the Elks Lodge to help with food and scholarships for camp. A big "Thank You" to Ray and Grace Bibisi for their assistance in making this donation possible.







We love to celebrate and honor our Veteran! On November 6th we were happy to recognize our Veterans on the Patio and in our Breakaway Ministry (November 9th). We love our Veterans and are grateful for their service.



Thank You to everyone who donated blankets for our Annual Blanket Drive again this year. Your donations helped our community stay warm and cozy.

Thank you to everyone who donated blood during our November 27th Blood Drive. It is through your giving that we are able to help people in our local community that have blood disorders and those with cancer receive the transfusions they need to become stronger. Look for the 2023 dates in an upcoming newsletter.

As we enter the month of December, we are preparing for the Advent and Christmas

season around the church. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia, please visit the Church Office. Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one are available for purchase for only \$12.00 and we accept cash or check. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Day service.

Christmas decorations started going up on November 21st. This year decorations include an "Angel Tree" and an "Adopt a Youth for Christmas Tree". The Angel Tree is in the Narthex and the Adopt a Youth Christmas tree is in the Life Enrichment Center. Please take time to help make our children and youths Christmas a joyous one through your donations.

As we move through the Christmas season into the New Year. New things are starting!

Ladies, come join us for the *Living in Faith Everyday* (L.I.F.E.) Women's Brunch starting in January. We will meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month in the Life Enrichment Center (L.E.C.) from 10:30-11:30am. Come join us for good food and good conversation. Look for more details in the upcoming weeks.

Friday (1) at the Movies

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 6PM



In A HOLIDAY HOMECOMING, the residents of Hope, New York open their homes for foster children because their home for children burned down just before Christmas. A young

man named Jesse is reluctant to help. He lives with his dad and is dating a girl named Maggie, who challenges him to open his heart. When Jesse gets home, he finds his father has already taken in a boy named David, and his sister, Abigail. Being an only child, Jesse is nervous about having them, but he agrees to step out of his comfort zone and show Christ's love to Abigail and David.

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



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Beginning at 10:30AM there is an optional Round Table Discussion followed by a sit-down luncheon at noon, and then the presentation by our Guest Speaker at 1:00PM. Our Speaker will be Lori Samuelson who will be speaking on "School Daze--Important Family Information Resides in Educational Records". The cost is \$18.00 per person for the meal and the presentation. Lunch Menu: Salad, Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Veggie and Dessert. The vegetarian choice will include: Salad, Noodles w/Marinara Sauce, Veggie and Dessert.

For reservations and meal choice, call Dianna at 864-607-1330. 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 December 8th.

Children's Ministry



In Sunday School and Kid's Club we have been working our way through Jesus' family tree. We just finished a unit on Moses. In this picture we are learning about the 10 commandments in an object lesson designed to show how following "God's Rules" is easier when you walk with Jesus. DON'T forget to mark your calendars for the Sights & Sounds of Christmas December 14th. We have been working on a special song & hope to see you there.



Drama Club at the Center is working on mastering the basics of acting while simultaneously working on writing and producing an original play. Our play is going to be a courtroom drama with a twist. Currently we are slated to perform our play in late May 2023. More news of Drama is forthcoming.











FALL FESTIVAL

WOW, what a fun and successful outreach event. Our estimations are that 250-300 people partook in Fall Festival. There was live worship & praise music by our own Praise Band, a bevy of fun Carnival Games, a Food Truck, Face Painting, Bouncy Houses, Arts/Crafts, a Cake Walk, Many Photoops & a Story Telling Scarecrow. Our Pages of Life Bookstore had its most successful day it's ever had, and our bake sale raised a healthy sum toward the building of a future play area. Thank you to the many, many volunteers, ministries and bakers who made this event so exciting and fun. People are still talking about what a great time they had and how yummy the baked goods were. It is our great pleasure to show Jesus' light into our community.

Tot Spot

Christmas season.

We are so excited to report that Tot Spot is a great success. We are 90% full. Our "newest" arrivals are busy singing, dancing, learning, and playing with Mrs. Sharon Bennyhoff on Tuesday Mornings. This outreach is a way to support area families with toddlers. After an adorable



class each week, Mrs. Sharon allows for a supervised free play while she ministers to the caregivers and parents in devotional fellowship.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

On Saturday December 3rd at 9:00AM Santa Claus is coming to town. There is still time to RSVP for this free breakfast event. Send the size of your party to Jennifer Glancy with "Santa's Breakfast" in the subject line. You may reach her at jennifer@sccumc.com. Come join us in a festive holiday celebration to open the

What's Happening in With Jeff Jordan

MORSH'S P

As I sit here at my desk on a Monday in the middle of November, one phrase keeps popping into my head.... "WE'RE BACK", and not just because we're worshiping over a thousand people each Sunday and the fact that most of our ministries are back to chugging along at 'full bore'. What I've been feeling is the kind of excitement and energy that can come from only one source – the Holy Spirit of God, and I thank Him daily for sharing it with our church family!

So, what's happening in December, you ask? This is UMCSCC, so the short answer is LOTS, and we 'hit the ground running' at the start of the month! There's a concert by the very talented **Ditchfield Family Singers** on December 2nd at 7:00PM followed by **Breakfast with Santa** the next morning and then another concert by **The Women's Chorus** at 2:00PM on December 3rd. Our annual **Blue Christmas Worship Service** for the community will be the next evening, Sunday, at 6:30PM. A couple of days later on December 6th, the **South Shore Concert Band** performs its holiday concert at 7:00PM. Our annual **Christmas Cantata** will be presented on Saturday December 10th at 4:00PM and again at the traditional worship services on December 11th. This year's offering is an excellent one by composer/arranger Joseph Martin entitled *A Celebration of Carols*. We've invited strings and percussion to join our fine accompanist 'Teodorable'! Three days later on Wednesday December 14th, we will once again be performing our very popular **Sights and Sounds of Christmas** which features nearly all of our ensembles including those from our Hispanic congregation. Be sure to get your free tickets ASAP as they will certainly 'sell out'. Our final concert of the holiday season will be **An Evening of Cheer with Bill Greer and Friends** on Monday, December 19th at 7:00PM. In addition to being bell ringer/singer Pam's husband, Bill is the accompanist at the Ruskin UMC and one heck of a composer and arranger! Last, but not least of course, are our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services**. There will be two contemporary services at 4:00PM & 7:00PM in the LEC and two traditional services at 5:30PM & 8:30PM, the last of these will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

I invite you to invite others to one or all of these events and services, especially if they're unsure of *the Reason for the season*!

Soli Deo Gloria

UTC Youth Happenings

(Under the Cross)

Hello UMCSCC family. We are officially in one of our favorite times of the year. Some of our UTC members were present at the Timely Treasures' Arts & Craft Fair on Saturday, November 26 at our gift wrapping station. If you haven't yet seen the youth around, I'm sure you will sooner or later. One place you can be guaranteed to see them is at the *Sights & Sounds of Christmas* on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary. The youth and children's program will have something to make you think about as we work our way towards Christmas.

We are always in desperate need of van drivers and monitors. We are currently running 2 vans that make 9 stops in total. We are preparing to run a 3rd route, but it is almost impossible with drivers and monitors in very short supply. Please prayerfully consider becoming a van driver and/or monitor to ensure that our youth and children have a way to make it to church on Sunday and Monday for fellowship. If you feel led to serve, please reach out to me via email at bturner@sccumc.com or by calling the church office at 813-634-2539.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of our youth program. We love you all.

Bill Turner - UTC Youth Director

The Disciples Class



Sunday Mornings at 9:45AM

Join us this holiday season as we explore the true spirit of Christmas with study book, "Christmas Gifts that Won't Break" by James W. Moore. As you light

your Advent Wreath, reflect on the unbreakable gifts that God has given us: hope, love, joy, and peace. Books are available in the class. All are welcome to join! This is a wonderful opportunity to make friends and learn more about God's Word.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Elaine Moore at 813-634-4550

What's Happening in our Hispanic Congregation



The "Women with Purpose" are hosting their 10th annual breakfast event, *Crowned with Wisdom!*

This event will take place in the LEC (Life Enrichment Center) on Saturday, December 10th at 9:00AM



THURSDAY, December 15th 8:00AM

Join us for Men's Breakfast. Led by Pastor Josh, 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 Menu:

Pear Sugar Belgium Waffles, Buttermilk Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Banana Nut Muffins, Sausage Links, Thick Cut Bacon, and Breakfast Potatoes

Men's Breakfast is the third Thursday of each month. Cost is \$8.00. Sign up in the LEC Lobby by December 7th.

Center 4Life Learning



Spring Semester will begin February 13, 2023 Class registration will begin January 3rd

Seats are still available for these upcoming trips - but hurry trips sell out quickly! Purchase online sccumc.com/4lifelearning or in our office

Mon – Fri. 8:30-12:30

Early Bird Dinner Theatre
December 12, 2022

\$76

New Year's Concert Salute to Vienna with Pre-Show Party

December 31, 2022

\$103

StarLite Sapphire Yacht, Daytime Luncheon
Cruise

February 2, 2023

\$65

114 Years of Broadway with Pre-show Dinner Party

March 2, 2023

\$72

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, The Mikado

March 9, 2023

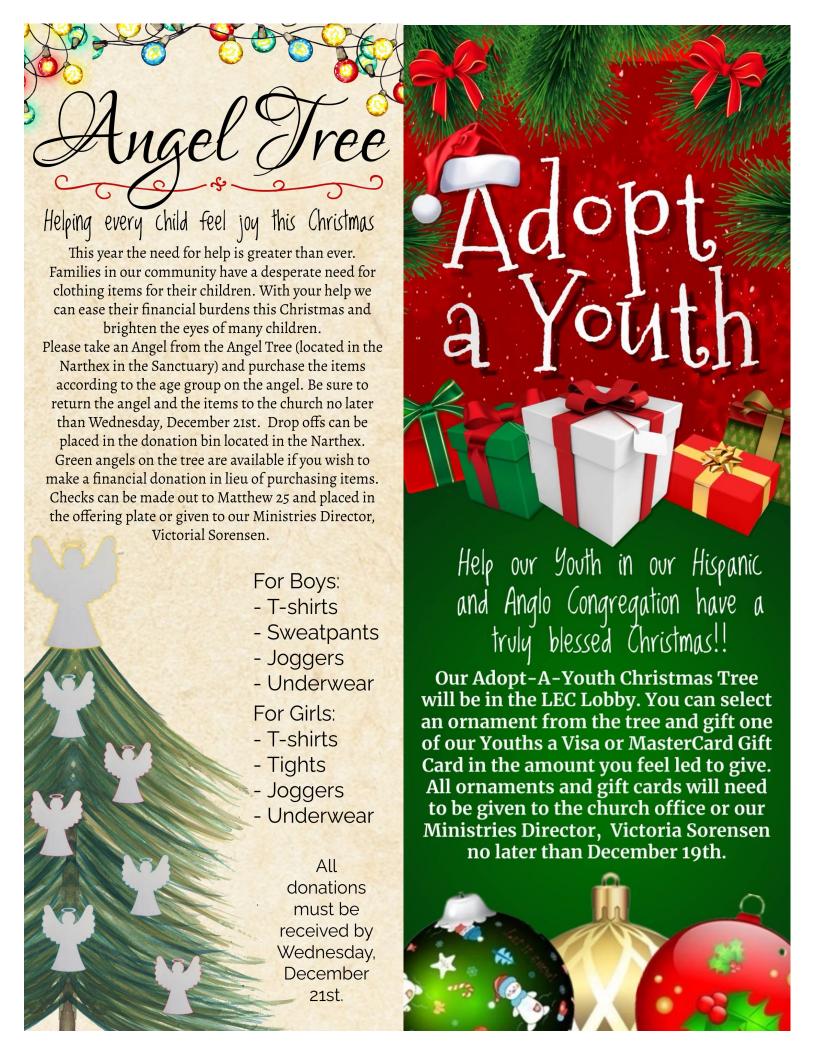
\$91



+ SCHEDULE

Our office will be closed in observation of the upcoming holidays:

Monday, November 28th Monday, December 26th Tuesday, December 27th Monday, January 2nd



See You at the Concert - Kevin Goodenow

I hope you are ready for a month of great music!!!



Right out of the gate, we have the Ditchfield Family from Sarasota back to present their Christmas concert Friday, December 2

titled, "The Spirit of Christmas With the Ditchfields". This is an enormously talented and professional family music group. They have been filling the Sarasota Opera House with musical shows for years (at a price several times higher than our \$15 ticket price!). They have no pretenses about what this concert is about...it is NOT about the holidays generically. It is ALL about Christmas! And it's ALL about FAMILY! Get your tickets early, as this could be a sellout. Check with the bookstore during their open hours, or the office when the bookstore is closed. You may also log on to our website at www.sccumc.com, go to events, and follow the prompts for tickets.



The Women's Chorus of SCC will be presenting their own Holiday concert the next day, Saturday, December 3 at

2:00pm. Yes, under the direction of our own Jeff Jordan, you KNOW this will be a very musical and entertaining concert! And as always, there will be a surprise or two and some shtick that will make you laugh. And per tradition, there will be NO cash donations collected at the door and no tickets to purchase. Jeff and the Women's Chorus just ask for you to have fun and enjoy the concert...and oh yea, just be as generous as you can when the love offering is taken. It's always up to you!



We will then host the South Shore Concert Band on Tuesday night, December 6 at 7:00pm. They will be

presenting their own Holiday concert. Ken Easton, the Director, and the band have a terrific program lined up for you!

This band has become a real asset to the South Shore area and in my opinion has become a true "treasure" of the area. You won't want to miss this \$5 concert...the best concert deal in the area!

Then last, but not least: we have a very interesting and terrific concert coming up a week before Christmas! Yes, On Monday night, December 19 we are hosting a concert we are calling: "A Night of Christmas Cheer...With Bill Greer (and Friends)". You may remember Bill was a choir member, a bell ringer and also played piano preludes for 10-12 minutes prior to our 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday morning services for a while. He has also filled in on the organ occasionally for Teodora. A few months ago, Bill accepted an offer to be the organist at the United Methodist Church of Ruskin. We are very blessed that his wife, Pam, has remained very active here at UMCSCC. She is a valued member of Bellisima and Jubellation handbell choirs and sings alto in our chancel choir! Bill has planned a concert in which he will play some piano and organ. You just might hear Bill & Jeff play a 4 hand piano piece together. You may also hear some singing and some poems, as well. This will be a fun concert with a lot packed into one evening! And just like the South Shore Concert Band concert, this fun concert will only have a \$5 donation at the door cost. What a deal!

Yes, now that the holiday season is upon us, what better way to start feeling that Christmas Spirit than to attend concerts to hear the music, and experience all that Christmas has to offer? And of course in the middle of the month you will want to attend one of our Christmas cantata services the weekend of December 10 & 11 and one of our best traditions of the past 5-6 years, the *Sights and Sounds of Christmas*, Wednesday evening, December 14 at 6:30pm. Of course there is no charge for that, just pick up a free "ticket" in the office. With all these concerts, there is at least one that will be to your liking and will lift your spirits!

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the concert! Or all of them!

