

Forward *in faith*

From the Pastor's Desk

When my nephew, Andrew, was around 4 years old he would say, "I NEED ice cream." We would tell him, "Andrew, you don't NEED ice cream, you WANT ice cream." His response was always - "I NEED ICE CREAM!!!" This year, I did not WANT a vacation in the Florida Keys, I NEEDED a vacation in the Florida Keys. It was everything Marcia and I could have ever hoped and dreamed for. We had our best year lobstering in many years (a total of 101, even if Pastor Sam does not believe it). Together, Marcia and I burned through 44 tanks of air and made several dives every day. We made a couple of trips offshore and caught some Mahi, and both Marcia and I were able to spear some fish (grouper and lionfish). Josh and his girlfriend joined us for two days, but otherwise it was just the two of us. At our age, we have discovered that vacations are so much better WITHOUT kids along!!! We were able to be on the water most all day every day, but also took time to do some bike riding, as well as going out to some of our favorite restaurants. I again enjoyed worshipping at the Marathon Community UM Church with Pastor Larry White.

For the past two weeks, I have transitioned into my Renewal and Study Time. I am staying in our camper in some very quiet and secluded places where no one can find me, including my children (especially my children)! Marcia is joining me on weekends and I am using

alone time during the week to pray, vision, seek God's face, write, plan Worship and Sermon Series - even into the next 4 years. This is something I have wanted and NEEDED to do for a very long time. It is often hard to truly seek the face of God amid the pressures and business of everyday life. God has not only called me to lead UMCSCC as your Senior Pastor - God has ALLOWED me this great privilege and opportunity, to be the pastor and leader I am called to be, I truly realize the importance of alone time with God. Jesus gave the example of often withdrawing to a "lonely or secluded or deserted place" for his own renewal and prayer time. For so many years, I would feel guilty for taking time away to study and plan. Now, as I look toward the last few years of my ministry - I realize the importance of this more than ever. And I look forward to returning in October, with my face ashine like Moses, because I have been in the presence of God and am returning with new vision and clarity for UMCSCC.

I pray constantly for you, my UMCSCC family. May you truly be blessed with an incredible September!!! And thank you for your continued love, prayers and support.

Pastor Charlie



Pastor Charlie Rentz

Scripture of the Month

“Trust in the Lord
with all of your heart.

Lean not into your
own understanding.

In all your ways
acknowledge Him,
and He will direct
your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Giving

Online electronic giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow! Sign up by going to our website, www.sccumc.com and click on the online giving picture like the one at the top of this page. Electronic contributions can be changed or discontinued at any time. Try it out—we think you will like it!

CHURCH DINNER

We are on the patio Sunday mornings selling tickets for our September 10, church Dinner. The menu is Salad, Roast Beef, Potato, Veggies, Bread & Dessert. The entertainment will be **Kevin Brooks**. Stop by our table on the patio and get your tickets today!



SWAG - SINGLE WOMEN ALWAYS GOING

All single ladies, **September 24th** at 12:00 noon in the Life Enrichment Center. Reservations must be made by Monday, **September 16th**. Contact Anne, 813-633-4031.

TIMELY TREASURES

Timely Treasures is having a one-day sale of CLOTHING ONLY on Wednesday, **September 4th** in the LEC lobby from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get some quality clothing at bargain prices! We have all the donations of clothing we can handle at this time, so please save your additional clothing donations until our BIG sale at the end of October. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Walker, 813-217-1602.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the big fall sale on Oct. 31 - Nov. 2. Watch for announcements of dates for Donation Station and new volunteer training in October.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE DRT

(Disaster Response Team)

Meeting Reminder

If you are interested in joining our active group, please come to our next official meeting on **Wednesday, September 11 at 1:00 p.m.** in Room 19.

We do local, short-term projects as well as week-long hurricane response trips. All skill levels are needed and welcomed!

SOUTH BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

On **Tuesday, September 17th**, the South Bay Genealogical Society will meet in the Life Enrichment Center (LEC). We begin at 10:30 am with a Round Table Discussion. That will be followed by a sit-down luncheon at noon, and then the main presentation by our guest speaker at 1:00 pm. This month's speaker will be Amy Crabill Lay. She will be presenting "County and Local Histories: Putting your Ancestors in Context." Amy will provide some excellent advice and guidance on an often overlooked source of information for genealogists. The cost is \$15.00 per person for lunch. For reservations and information, call Dotty Love at 813-634-2749. Mail check to SBGS P.O. Box 5202, Sun City Center, Fl. 33571. Your check must be received by **September 5, 2019**.

HOLIDAYS ARE ON THE WAY

Blue Christmas Service

September, really? Where has the time gone? Before we know it our congregation will be swelling again as our snowbird Church family returns. In a blink of an eye, store displays will overflow with Christmas.

Behind the scenes many people at our Church are already making plans for this joyous season. Events are being planned, music and songs practiced and special activities are in the works.

Through all of the happy preparations there are many among our Church family and in our community that have sadness in their hearts. They will be remembering loved ones that have passed and previous Christmas seasons celebrated with them.

This year please consider joining us for our annual Blue Christmas candle lighting event. Linked to The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, this event unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles to honor the memories of loved ones that have passed away.

Believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, this event creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. This is a time of remembrance of those that have passed but will never be forgotten. So save the date, Sunday December 8, 2019 beginning at 6:45 pm, and please tell others who may find meaning here. More details to come.



EMPTY BOWLS 'Save the Date'

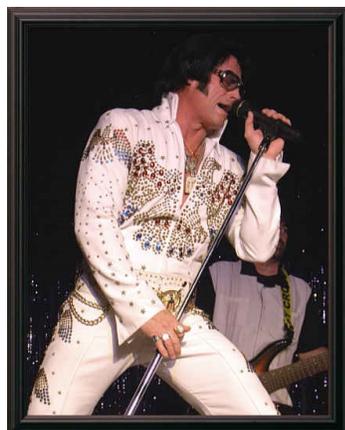
The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will be hosting an 'Empty Bowls' Event on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Empty Bowls is an international project created to fight hunger, personalized by artists and art organizations on a community level. The 'Empty Bowls Project' was started as a way to bring community awareness of local hunger needs. The Empty Bowls Project allows the talented artists of the Kings Point Pottery Club and the Sun City Potters Wheel Club to contribute to this worthy cause while showcasing their incredible talent.

For a \$15.00 donation, guests will select one of the bowls and will be served a meal of soup, bread and water. These participants will then take home their bowl as a reminder of how many bowls go empty around the world.

There will also be a drawing of some of these beautiful handcrafted bowls that have been donated. In addition, there will be a Silent Auction of artwork and woodcrafts that are being donated by many of our local artists. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the underprivileged in the South Hillsborough County community.

TGIV EVENTS



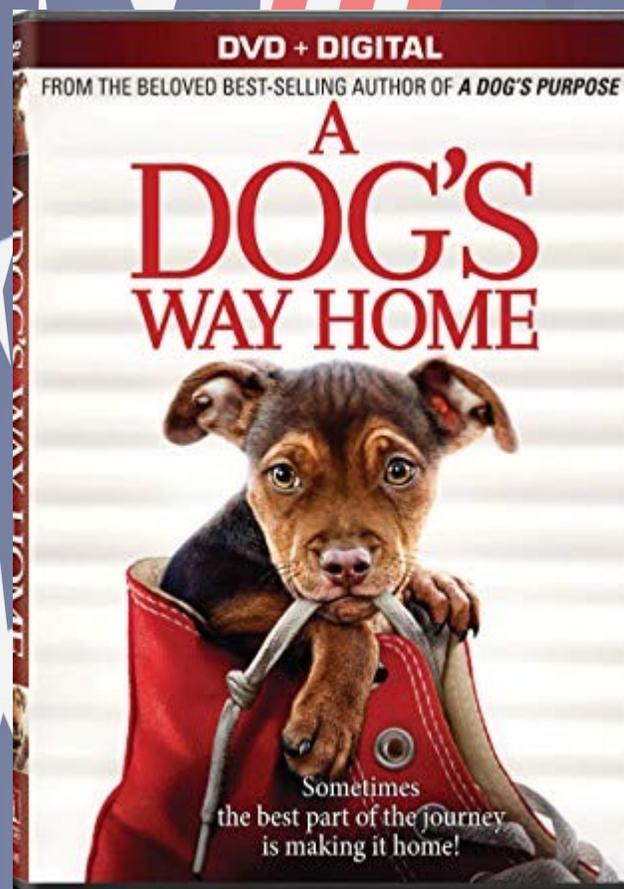
Billy "Elvis" Lindsey
Alzheimer's Benefit Concert
Friday, September 20
7PM (\$10 advance tickets,
\$15 at the door)



Dewayne Hill, America's
Funniest comedy magician
Friday, October 4
7PM (\$10 at the door)



Jay Brooks, organ
Sunday, October 13
4PM (\$10 at the door)



September Movie

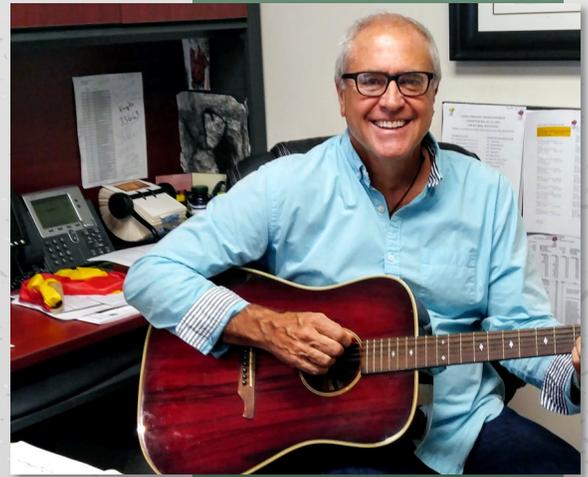
September 13th - free
3:00PM & 6:00PM

As a puppy, Bella finds her way into the arms of Lucas, a young man who gives her a good home. When Bella becomes separated from Lucas, she soon finds herself on an epic 400-mile journey to reunite with her beloved owner. Along the way, the lost but spirited dog meets a series of new friends and manages to bring a little bit of comfort and joy to their lives.

From the *Director of Worship Arts*

I guess there's no way to shake the sense that a 'new year' begins each September with the passing of summer and Labor Day festivities. Yes, I know the 'church calendar' starts on the first Sunday/weekend in Advent, and that the 'calendar year' proper is a few weeks after that. But September always seems to give me a sense of starting over, a fresh season and a time for new beginnings. I'm sure that it has to do with the fact that we all grew up starting a new school year at this time and, for me, that I taught community college for all those years. In any case, I feel that same special September freshness, even if it's not evident in the weather!

And I think you can feel it in our Church Family as it develops and grows, both bigger and closer together. Pastor Charlie's much-needed study and renewal leave in which he will be preparing and visioning for our future as a church is one indication that we are on the brink of a 'new day' in the life of UMCSCC. I, for one, am very excited at what the future holds for us. I know they'll be changes – some fairly dramatic, some not. But aren't we all called to do the same thing – to "go and make disciples of all nations". [Matt 28:19]. I feel like we are the kind of a church that reaches out and embraces its community as broadly and lovingly as we are able. Evidence of this abounds here – AA meets here, we host the Center 4LifeLearning, the Mary Petro Program now lives on our campus, our Thank God It's Variety Concert Series reaches tens of thousands, and the list goes on and on and on. Special thanks to Pat Hill [our 'Chaos Coordinator'] and Kevin Goodenow [our Concert Coordinator] for helping to keep all of these things running as smoothly as possible. By the way, one of the ways in which we'll be inviting the community to visit our campus is by performing another Java Joy Coffee House on Friday, September 27th in Creason Hall. PLEASE invite friends,



especially new ones, and family to this night of great contemporary Christian music led by our praise team, *Broken Together*. For this second version of the Coffee House, we're inviting folks to bring their dinners/suppers with them, and to share if they like. We're looking forward to a very cool evening of food and fellowship!

Also this month, it's with great sadness that we say goodbye to Andy Daley, our excellent AVL Supervisor. Andy has done a GREAT job for us this past year. And if we're lucky, Andy may be helping out 'behind the scenes'! We love him and we'll miss him terribly. Our prayers go with you, Andy, Joey and Sadie!

And finally and as always, I want to thank all of my church family for your love and support of me and my family. As I've said many times – I've served lots of congregations, but NONE like ours... Y'all are the best!

Soli Deo Gloria

Jeff

From Our Ministries

Support Groups

Care Giver Support Group

The heat of summer is here with us and many of our neighbors and friends have gone back up north for the cooler weather. However you are still here - a care giver. Though you may feel alone and closed in because of the heat, you care for your loved one. You may get tired, frustrated and may feel alone in your daily care giving. Care Givers Support Group is here to share, give each other support and you will find out there is no judgement. Come see that you have friends that are here to help you cope by listening, laughing together, offering suggestions and support with your 24-hour-a-day journey. We also have written material that you can take home to read that may help. This is a Christian based group but you do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Church. All are welcome. We meet twice a month, on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m. in room 12. If you have any questions, call Kit Carson 706-897-9526 or Sharon Carson 706-897-9770 or our home phone, 813-419-4735.



Never Alone

Never Alone meets the last Monday of every month at 1 pm in room 30. This is a support group for anyone who is experiencing the loneliness of grief, following the loss of a loved one, whether it is the loss of a spouse, child, grandchild, or close friend. We share with one another and listen to others who are dealing with loss as well. Please call Elaine Moore at 813-634-4550 or Rebecca Reynal at 813-260-3543 for more information.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EARLY SUNDAY SERVICES RETURN!

Back by popular demand, on the weekend of September 14th/15th our 4PM Saturday and 8AM Sunday worship services start up again. The early birds that attend the 8AM contemporary service should expect the same worship experience as they did last year, that is, a service that is identical to the 10AM version that continued through the summer months [and is already packed!]. The **Saturday service**, on the other hand, is going to be a little different than it was this past year, and we believe that it's going to meet the needs of those faithful folks that attended last season as well as others in the South Shore community that might be new to our church family. In short, the 'newly renovated' version of the 4PM Saturday service will have a 'blended' worship style that we are calling '**casual**'. Worship leaders Amanda Jordan and Steve DeDea [Pastor Pam's husband] will be facilitating musical praise through contemporary songs AS WELL AS our favorite hymns each week. On the first Sunday of the month Communion Sunday, we'll meet in the sanctuary for a somewhat more traditional service that will

include Keith on organ AND one of Nancy's wonderful handbell ensembles. For the rest of the Saturdays each month we will be meeting in the Life Enrichment Center where the service will be a bit more informal – casual – and will lean just a bit toward the contemporary. As you might expect, all three of our fine Pastors will be preaching at this service on a rotating basis with Sam & Pam taking the bulk of the schedule. AND members of our local Emmaus Community will be there as 'prayer warriors' before and after the service to pray for and with you!

Want to take a Sunday off? Try our new **casual service**. Do you have some new neighbors or have relatives that just moved to the area? Tell them about our new **casual service**. Like to spend the better part of the weekend with our amazing church family? Come to both the new Saturday **casual service** and come back on Sunday morning for one or more of our other special worship experiences... you won't be disappointed!

SEE YOU AT THE CONCERT!

KEVIN GOODENOW

Concert Coordinator

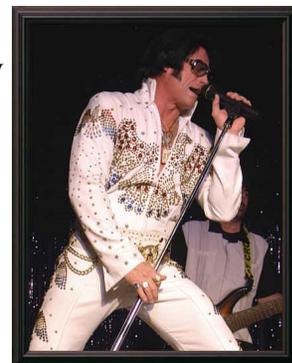
Wow! Is it September already...Fall? How did that happen? I don't remember our "slow season" ...you know, that time of year when the church office staff sort of "sleeps" through each day because all our snowbirds have gone up north. We're not in Kansas, anymore, Toto. And of course the "slow season" is now part of folklore here at UMCSCC, I think. Yes, we do have a time of year when the Sunday attendance and collection plates are down a little. But as far as "slow" is concerned, it's a thing of the past. So welcome to Fall!!!

I can't take a look at our September TGIV concert offerings until I take a quick look back at our August 11, "Romantic Piano Treasures" concert. WOW! What a concert we heard from David Alaverdian and Iryna Arbatska. I don't honestly believe you will ever hear more talented pianists. Different styles maybe? A style you prefer maybe? Sure, but not more talented. I believe by the time Arbatska had played Mephisto Waltz No. 1 in A Major, S. 514 (Devil's Dance) just prior to the intermission, it would not have taken any arm twisting for most in attendance to agree that she might be the best ever. She was everything you could ever want in an international concert pianist....and more. Talent? Off the charts. Intensity? Incredible. Musicality? Unbelievable. Feeling? Every note was special and given every attention it deserved. With all due respect to our amazing Jeff Jordan, Arbatska may well be the most gifted musician to ever grace the

platform here at UMCSCC...or maybe in Sun City Center. Amazing.

So...on to September. You could say that we have put "all our eggs into one basket" where September is concerned. We have only one concert scheduled for the month, but it's a doozy! For our annual Alzheimer Benefit concert, we will have Billy "Elvis" Lindsey in the house! "Elvis", himself will grace our stage to help us raise money for more Alzheimer research. Wouldn't it be great to stamp out this dreaded and awful disease? Here's a great opportunity to pitch in toward that cause. The Alzheimer's Foundation is one of UMCSCC's monthly missions. We participate every year in the annual Alzheimer Walk, which has been chaired by our own Connie Lesko for about nine or ten years now. And this annual concert is part of our church's contribution toward this great cause. By the time you receive this, tickets should already be on sale. They're only \$10 in advance, which will save you \$5 off the walk-in donation at the door the night of the concert. So mark your calendar for Friday evening, September 20, 2019 at 7:00pm. Come enjoy the music of Elvis, as Billy "Elvis" Lindsey takes us back in time to the sounds of "The King of Rock & Roll"!

And...as always...I'll see YOU at the concert!



Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

Men's Monday Night Bible Study – Beginning September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 30.

Attention Men: Join together for a 12 week study of the Book of Hebrews. This Bible Study is open to all men and will focus on how "Jesus is superior to anything else you're tempted to trust." Study books by Max Lucado are available in the church office and will be available at the beginning of class.

Men's Breakfast – September 19 at 8:00 a.m. in LEC.

All men are invited to join together for our monthly Men's Breakfast (3rd Thursday monthly). Enjoy a full breakfast and interesting program for a \$6.00 donation.



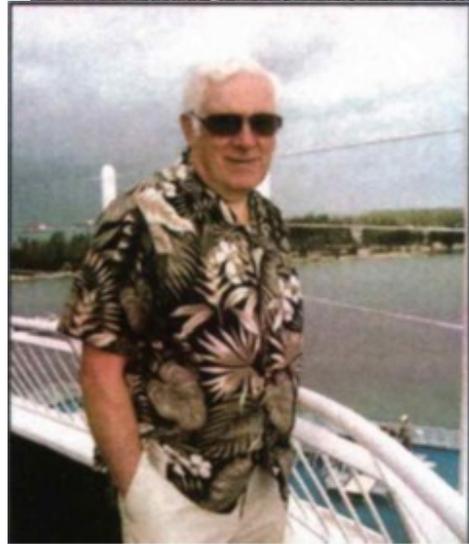
PARKING NEWS

We have had a great summer working the parking lot. Some of our “orange” shirts are up North for the summer but they will be back this fall. We have prepared a map of the parking lots that has been marked as to where we can park and where we cannot. The preferred lot is the Green lot. That is the only lot that we provide golf cart transportation to and from. The Blue lot has two available rows for the Baptist and the Methodist church to park, as noted on the map. The Blue lot is not safe for many reasons mostly the crossing of Haverford with no cross walk, considering the number of cars using Haverford. If possible please use the Green Lot and enjoy the ride to the front door driven by one of our professional drivers. (Carts are “air conditioned”) Also, when using the Green Lot you will enjoy a ride through our beautiful church garden by a bubbling brook thanks to Brenda Morrow who comes over every week to make sure the flowering plants are watered and the weeds are gone.

We would like to also give a word of thanks to Paul Warman. Paul not only greets all of you at the door but he also helps with the removing and setting up of walkers. Paul has been known to park some cars when needed. Paul filled in all of the holes in our parking lot with asphalt, AND he is our painter that paints the yellow curbs. And recently Paul has been coming to the church every day, early, when possible, and has painted all of the arrows with new white paint. He does two or three at a time, on his knees, with a 1” paint brush. The only cost to the church was for the paint! Thanks Paul for helping “curb” our church expenses.

We also have an air compressor and battery cables in our shed if you should ever need help with your car.

The parking team is a great asset for our church, and I hope that once in a while you give them a hug for the time and effort they put into what they are doing for you.



FROM OUR CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

United Methodist Church of Sun City Center helps Thompson Elementary School

Ray Bibisi, a member of our Church, spoke with other church members about meeting with Thompson Elementary regarding their Food Pantry request. At the meeting, Kristina Perez, Thompson Elementary School Counselor, explained what the school’s most urgent needs were.

Through the generosity of friends and church members, Thompson Elementary School was given shoes, socks, and school uniforms. Food was also donated for their food pantry.

A special thanks to our Church and our Mission Team who reached out to the community and also to the many generous people who donated to help families who struggle with the need for donations of supplies each year.

An integral part of a child’s success in school is to make sure each child is fed and has the fundamental tools that are needed. We will continue reaching out to the community to help those in need.



Mission of the Month-September

Cambodia Mission Initiative

Educational Scholarships for Children and Youth

In the rural villages of Cambodia, many young Cambodians have big dreams to help their families and communities. However, difficult conditions make it almost impossible for them to make steps towards their goals. One of the common difficulties is living far away from the nearest schools- sometimes as far as 25 kilometers. Almost all the universities in Cambodia are located in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and other major cities, but most of the population lives outside of these cities, in the provinces, and the universities do not provide housing for their students. The lack of housing is not a serious problem for male students, who can live free in the Buddhist pagodas. However, such options are not available to women. Thus, for the simple reason of not having a safe place to live while they are attending university, most young women in Cambodia are blocked from higher education. When young women decide to study far away from family, there are many dangers to consider, being vulnerable to trafficking, fraud and possible abuse. It is also more costly as ones needs to spend for daily living aside from the regular school fees. Consequently, most rural young women end up working in the field to help their parents earn money or in garment factories.

United Methodist Church in Cambodia recognizes the essential role of education in empowering girls and women by building their capacities to improve their own situation and that of others in their community. Evidence shows that investments in girls' education may go further than any other spending in global development. And yet, while many girls' programs worldwide address issues of educational inequality, very few include leadership development as a priority. Leadership skills help girls to capitalize on their education, to express their opinions and ideas, to take action on issues of personal importance, to make healthy decisions, and to work toward future dreams and goals. When women and girls are empowered, they are catalysts for transformation in their families, communities, workplaces and beyond.

We have the opportunity to assist the educational process by providing scholarships for these young



people through the September Mission of the Month, *Cambodia Mission Initiative*. Please be generous as you reflect on how you are able to help. Just \$15 per month will underwrite the education of an elementary student. Scholarships for young women in advanced education are \$450 per year.

Because this is underwritten by the UMC Global Ministries, every penny we raise will go directly to these scholarships. Thank you for always supporting our Mission of the Month. You truly change lives!

From Our Youth

Hello Church Family! The summer has officially ended for all of us as we started back to school on 8/12/19. Over the summer, the youth were quite busy. Our first big activity after returning from camp was our Summer Bash where we welcomed the youth and their families and participated in fun, food and games including some water games where we got to dump a bucket of water on Pastor Pam's head. It was a fun day and enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

We were also able to attend the *Java Joy Coffee House* for one of our meetings where we were able to worship with our praise team and fellow members while the praise team sang some amazing songs. It was a great time and was all done for the Glory of God.

On our last Friday meeting of the summer, we watched a movie called "Break Through", which focused on having and maintaining faith and to pray without ceasing, no matter if tragedy strikes. Jeremiah 33:3 says: "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

On Sunday August 11th, was the "Blessing of the Children" where Pastor Pam prayed for the youth as

they return to school and that they all have a blessed school year. We are all excited to go back to school and help to make a difference in the world by using the tools that God has given us.

We are planning on having a youth outing to laser tag on Saturday, September 14th, and we are all very excited to fellowship together and have fun while doing it. We are also having a spaghetti fundraiser on Sunday, September 29th. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you for all that you do in helping us and supporting us as we continue to spiritually grow. We appreciate all of the love we receive from our church family.

-Donaldo Rendon Sanchez



From the Directors

Greetings Church Family,

As most of you may already know, Persha Barker and Bill Turner have taken over as Directors of the UTC youth group at SCCUMC. We are looking forward to what the future holds while working with our youth as they grow in their walk with our Lord.

Effective September 1st, 2019, we will also be overseeing the JAM (formerly Kids Klub) children as well. We are excited to be presented with this opportunity to work with our children.

We will also be looking for volunteers who may be interested in working with the children and/or youth. You can reach out to us in person, by email (Persha: rbarker@sccumc.com and Bill: btturner@sccumc.com) or by phone by calling the church at 813-634-2539 and dialing our extension (Persha: 236 and Bill: 237).

We look forward to working with all of our young people and guiding them on the right path to continue their spiritual journeys, and we look forward to working with some of you as well!!!

Persha Barker and Bill Turner
Directors of Children and Youth Ministries



FROM OUR HISPANIC MINISTRY

The praise group “Nueva Generacion Del Reino” which means “New Generation of the Kingdom” danced to a song which was explaining how we will worship the Lord forever. The song summed up Isaiah 25:1 NLT when it says, “O Lord, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now you have accomplished them.” The girls who were dancing along with their teacher Ivelisse, were filled with the spirit and gave smiles as each time their dance ribbons moved with them. When seeing them worship, Juan 4:24 was being revealed which says, “For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” Regardless of any situation we want to praise God because he is in control. Amen.



The church recently had the marriage retreat at Christian Retreat in Bradenton. In Colossians 3:18-19 it says, “Eighteen Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Nineteen Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” The married couples set aside time from their busy schedules to have an encounter with The Holy Spirit. In the retreat there was a time for worshipping with praise songs and for learning about the different types of “languages of love.” The couples were also able to identify which love language each have, which will help

understand where each partner needs more attention. The married couples prayed together and at the end they took a picture at the beautiful photo booth. We give thanks to the wonderful team we have who helped take care of the children so the parents could have time to focus on their marriages. Afterwards, lunch was served and everyone joined by the pool for some fun. It was a great time that the congregation was able to experience alongside each other.



Contact Us

The United
Methodist Church
1210 Del Webb Blvd W
Sun City Center
Florida 33573

813-634-2539

www.sccumc.com

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Sunday
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Clergy

Dr. Charles D. Rentz
Senior Pastor

Rev. Samuel Rorer
Sr. Associate Pastor

Rev. Pam DeDea
Associate Pastor

Pastora Yamiley
Martinez
Hispanic Pastor

Rev. Frank McClendon
Pastor of Visitation

Saturday Service Times

4:00 PM Casual, Sanctuary/LEC
(begins again on Sept. 14th)

Sunday Service Times

8:00 AM Contemporary, LEC
(begins again on Sept. 15th)

9:00 AM Traditional, Sanctuary

10:00 AM Contemporary, LEC

11:00 AM Traditional, Sanctuary

4:00 PM Hispanic, LEC

“The Pages of Life Bookstore”

Hours:

Pages of Life is open Monday, Wednesday &
Friday 9:30AM-12:30PM and Sunday 10AM -
12:30PM