

Happenings *February*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUN CITY CENTER

FEBRUARY 2021 – VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

Super Bowl Food Drive

UMCSCC is competing with our Conference to beat the Kansas Conference in a Food Drive for Super Bowl! Please see the flyer below and bring in your non-perishable food items! Not only are we having some fun in celebrating our Tampa Bay Buccaneers trip to the Super Bowl we are helping to stock our food pantry! All donated food stays here to help families in our community!



The Kansas City & Gulf Central Districts will face off to see who can gather the most food for their local food banks. **From now until Feb. 7th**, each church in the districts will donate food and report how many pounds of food were gathered.

February Scripture

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, ‘The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness’”

Exodus 34:6 NIV

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Miracle Ministries is a multifaceted organization with its headquarters at Kadali, on the south East coast of India and has a congregation of 300. For more information on our MOM and how your financial support makes an impact please click [here](#).

Ash Wednesday

Join us for a memorable and illuminating Service at 6:30 PM on February 17th.

Please join us for an “Illuminating” Ash Wednesday experience. We will be presenting our prayers and petitions on Wish Lanterns to be released during our Ash Wednesday Lantern Ceremony. The lanterns will be available on Sunday February 14, 2021 and 30 minutes before the Ash Wednesday service at which time you will be able to write down your prayers and petitions. This will be a unique way to enter the season of Lent, emphasizing repentance and reconciliation during this time of pandemic

Men’s Bible Study

Join us virtually, Monday Nights at 6:30 PM with Pastor Sam Rorer

Join Pastor Sam Rorer through “Rightnow Media” as we join Kyle Idleman in The Book of 1 Peter.

This world looks nothing like the promised perfect kingdom of God. And yet we as God's people must live in it every day. In The Book of 1 Peter, Kyle Idleman walks through the short letter and unpacks the importance of our witness in this world.

The world's not as it should be. Until the day that God rights all wrongs, we have a job to do. Let's be about the business of the kingdom.

To be a part of this Bible Study, please email Tiffani Martinez (tiffani@sccumc.com) or call the church office so a “Rightnow Media” invitation can be sent and you can be added to our Men’s Bible Study distribution list.

Our service will take place on Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will be observing COVID guidelines requiring masks and social distancing. The service will feature special music directed by Jeff Jordan and a homily by Pastor Pam DeDea and Pastora Yamiley. At the end of the service, we will illuminate the lanterns and release them with our prayers and petitions to God.

Please plan to attend this very special service as we embark on this season of Lent.

For a video of the
Wish Lanterns
release
[CLICK HERE](#)



Membership Class

Many have expressed an interest in joining our church family and becoming members of UMCCSC. In an effort to facilitate a Membership Class but still meet with all the guidelines of COVID-19, Pastor Charlie will host a virtual membership class via Zoom on **Tuesday Nights from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Starting March 2nd**. A 3 week course will be offered giving insight into our church and the background of John Wesley and the Methodist denomination.

If you are interested in joining please contact Tiffani Martinez at tiffani@sccumc.com or through our church office with your email to receive your Zoom invitation.

New member Sunday will be March 28th and we will receive members at each of our services as well as virtually for those that attend online.

Concerts

See You At The Concerts VIRTUALLY
By Kevin Goodenow

If 2020 did nothing else, it sure reminded us how important it is to be flexible, no matter what we're doing! We had record numbers of people coming to our concerts Jan 1 – March 8, 2020 and like a flash, we shut down for 6 months. Then we re-opened Sep 4 for 3+ months, with fewer attendees, but with consistent growth over those months. Then recently, our Senior Staff felt it would be best to shut down again until after Easter (except for Sunday worship services). With another great winter concert schedule for 2021, I have been scrambling for the last 2 weeks to try to “save” as many concert dates as possible, but now they will be virtual versus live.

I am coordinating a schedule of virtual concerts. First up will be Kenny Evans on Friday, Feb 19 at 7:00pm. He will be performing live in the sanctuary as if there was an audience, but there won't be, lol. He will only have our AVL crew and me “live, in-house” working hard to live stream the concert on our Facebook page (and YouTube). He is a spectacular entertainer from Pigeon Forge, TN with a four octave singing range. If you were here last year on Feb 28, 2020, you know what a special performer he is! The following week, on Friday night, Feb 26, also at 7:00, we will have the great Morse Family Gospel group, from OH performing. They will also be live, with the whole family, and there are quite a few of them! You will love both of these Artists, I guarantee it. And in between, on Sunday, February 21 at 3:00pm, we have our second “Organ Plus Artist” series concert. It will feature local trumpeter, Gerry Bell playing his trumpet and flugelhorn, along with Keith Rasmussen. They will play some very familiar trumpet numbers, including Handel and *The Holy City*. Keith will also play some solo organ numbers, including *Sinfonia in D*, by Bach, and *Adagio in E Major* (Bridge), both amazing pieces.

All in all, despite our “on again shutdown”, you will be royally entertained and richly blessed. Just log in to facebook.com/umcsc or tune in via our church's email to you. And as always, “see you” at the concert!



Announcements

Timely Treasures Postponement

The Spring Timely Treasures sale, originally scheduled for March 4 - 6 has been postponed to an undetermined future date due to continued COVID concerns.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any donations at this time as all of our storage areas are full to the brim! Call Hollie Fox at 813-634-9765 with any questions.

Lifeline Screening

Taking preventative steps such as making lifestyle changes and getting health screenings may help you avoid a stroke or other serious health events in the future. Early intervention is important.

If you are over fifty and have diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or if you have a family history of stroke or heart disease, you may be at risk, even if you feel great.

Life Line Screening will help you find out if you are at risk, so you and your doctor can take the next steps and be proactive about your health.

Saturday, March 20, 2021 on UMCSCC Campus

Pre-registration is required. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests + Osteoporosis from \$149 (\$139 member discount). Screening takes 60 -90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and receive a \$10 discount please call

1-888-653-6450 or text CIRCLE to 797979 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitypartners .

All COVID guidelines will be observed.

Financially Speaking

We are humbled by your financial and intangible contributions to our church and community this year. You are receiving this letter because you gave to Sun City Center United Methodist Church at some point during the past year. We want to thank you for your generous support. Every contribution helps.

One of the official reasons for this letter is for tax purposes. But the other reason for this letter is to let you know what we've done with the money and time you gave. We take stewardship very seriously, which means we value spending our time and resources wisely. Because of your compassion and understanding, we've been able to accomplish some vital work. During the year, our church has supported AA, Angel Tree, the local Blanket Drive, the food pantry, the Mary Petro Fund to provide medicines to seniors who can't afford them, and our Mathew 25 fund to provide food and uniforms for local kids in 6 different schools. That was in addition to our regular ministries, such as children and youth programs and BreakAway respite care, until the COVID-19 shut down.

In addition to our regular church services, we had to learn a few new tricks, such as our daily video devotions, on-line (Zoom) classes and bible studies, and weekly phone calls to shut-ins and isolated members. We developed new ways of conducting safe, socially distanced Worship and Choir. We updated our website and video broadcasting capabilities. Our Breakaway Ministry continued to minister to caregivers and participants after the COVID-19 shut-down by providing phone calls and e-mails to caregivers, celebrating birthdays with drive-by's, emails, cards and no-touch deliveries of food, activity kits and Christmas cookies.

It was a busy year for us—thanks to donors like you. Even though 2020 presented tremendous challenges for all of us, please know that we do not take the sacrificial giving of people in times of difficulty lightly. In a year filled with health challenges, lockdowns, political and racial unrest, I am so glad we serve a God who continues to be generous to us! So thank you for your support of our church, and we hope you'll prayerfully consider continuing to support our ongoing mission to make disciples in 2021.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlie Rentz, Sr. Pastor

