Vic’s Views….  

**Embracing the Adventure**

With the Winter Olympics in full stride right now, I can’t think of a better backdrop to take our Lenten Adventure than what these Olympic athletes put themselves through in order to win Gold. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 says:  

> 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.  

> 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadow-boxing.  

> 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.  

Did you see Shaun White in the Half Pike in February? What a joy it was to see him accomplish a comeback from the Olympics four years ago at Sochi where he didn’t even medal. In the Half Pike it all came down to the last run—the biggest run of his life, so said the commentators...he got a 97.75 out of 100 to win the Gold medal in the men’s Half Pike—his third gold in that event over his 4 appearances of Olympic competition—what a moment for him! He was overcome with emotion. He kept saying, all the hard work—so much work…Shaun thought he might be all washed up at the ripe old age of 31 if he didn’t win the Gold now in Korea. So the last four years have taken on a real sense of “do or die” for him—therefore, he invested “all that hard work.” This, his third Gold medal in this event, he said, meant more to him than the other gold medals he had received years before, because of all that hard work. His father said he had never seen Shaun cry before the moment of winning the gold here in Korea.

When I see how much someone like Shaun White puts into winning the Olympic prize, I’m a little ashamed at the amount of effort I expend for something much so more valuable and so much longer lasting. That medal that Shaun has will one day fade away and even the memory of him winning it will a hundred years from now will merely be found on the 22nd century’s version of Wikipedia…a mere footnote in the sea of thousands of other facts.

But a hundred years from now, your life with God, according to scripture, will be getting better and better and better. Our lives will be perfect in a perfect world. In the words of 2 Cor 3:18, we will be **going from Glory to Glory**.

We don’t have to wait to die for that to start happening! The time we have here is precious in that process.

Paul says in Philippians these words:  

> 12 I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.  

> 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,  

> 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

(continued on page 2)
What is this prize? Being a follower of Christ is the process AND the prize! Following Christ naturally causes you to want more….more of Him, more of faith….of the abundant life…and it’s not a greedy “wanting of more”—it morphs as we mature in Christ into a desire to give more and more—of ourselves, of the love God’s given us, of our time and talent and our service…

And God provides tools and processes and practices that over 2 millennia have proven to produce more of Jesus in people’s lives that seek Him. This is NOT a works righteousness thing. This is NOT a brownie points with God kind of thing either. God shows no favoritism, but God promises to bless those who seek Him with their whole hearts…and that’s what I hope we do during this Lenten Season.

There’s more than a gold medal at stake here. There’s abundant life now and a deepened joy that helps you weather any storm. There’s a closer connection to God that produces a confidence and an assurance of your life with Him.

In the next several weeks leading up to Easter, we will focus on disciplines/tools/practices/exercises that give life to dry bones, hope to despairing hearts, strength to weakened bodies, joy to dreary spirits, purpose to souls adrift, light to dark seasons of life, and generally a reason to get up in the morning! Seriously…for many, life has beat down the “get up and go” and when your get up and go is gone, or badly wounded, you become sedentary and apathetic and atrophy sets in, which leads to a spiraling downward that is sometimes hard to climb out of.

You may say, Pastor Vic, I don’t have any of those problems—"I am cheerful and full of hope and leaning on Jesus so perfectly that I just don’t need what you’re peddling...” Well, good for you! If that’s the case, I welcome you to preach a sermon or two in this series (as long as you’re not on mood altering drugs or something)!

It’s all about relationship with God—and how we are growing in that.

Here are some of the disciplines we will look at during our Lenten Season in worship:

**Prayer**…that connection we have with God that is now a direct connection because of Jesus—think of it…through prayer we have better access to the Creator of the Universe than access to anyone else—even with facebook, texting, instagram, email and smart phones… and how do we use this amazing tool called prayer? what is the purpose of prayer? How can we get better at prayer in our lives? We’ll talk about that this Sunday.

**Fasting**…the most neglected discipline of them all—why was it expected in Jesus’ day and what does it do in the life of a believer? What are the benefits of fasting and some of the pitfalls? How can we do it with some of the health risks we have?

**Solitude**…another easy one to neglect. We think everything happens when we’re actively engaged with others, but that’s not true! So much of our calm demeanor and trusting direction is received through the practice of solitude. We will look at that discipline.

**Service**…one we’re very familiar with, but its one that we may be missing some important elements on, such as WHY we serve…what makes us different than a service organization like the Kiwanis Club? Who would Jesus call us to serve—everybody? Or specific ones that are on God’s radar screen?

**Worship**…we practice this one faithfully, but much like service we may not know why we do. We will look at worship and what actually takes place when we give our heart-felt praise and thanksgiving to God.

And finally, **Celebration**! It’s different than worship…it’s distinctly enriching to celebrate our lives in Christ and we will do that in light of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday! What a great day that will be!

I look forward to this Adventure of Discipleship with you this Lenten Season!

You Are Loved!

*Pastor Vic Willis*
Pastor Perri’s Notes

When Gil and I moved to Kentucky for me to start Seminary, he was hired at Versailles UMC as the Youth Director and we moved into the parsonage. Our first night of youth involved the youth group and families coming over and “pounding” us. They “pounded” us with toilet paper, paper towels and pounds of things for the kitchen. Then, all the youth walked through our new home and prayed over every room. Some left little notes of scripture or prayers, that we found for many months following. I thought it was so cool for our students and families to do this. When we moved into the parsonage in 2015, I prayed these prayers below over the rooms in our house. Recently, we did this again. Maybe you have moved or known someone who has, may these prayers bear fruit and bring God’s presence in their home.

At the Doorway: May God give a blessing to this house, God bless this house from roof to floor, from wall to wall, from end to end, from its foundation and in its covering. In the strong name of the triune God, all disturbance cease, captive spirits freed, God’s Spirit alone dwell within these walls. We call upon the Sacred Three to save, shield, and surround this house, this home, this day, this night, and every night.

In the Living Room: There is a friend’s love in the gentle heart of the Savior. For love of him we offer friendship and welcome every guest. Lord, kindle in our hearts a flame of love in our neighbor, for our enemies, our friends, our kindred all, for the lowliest thing that liveth to the name that is highest of all. We call upon the Sacred Three to save, shield, and surround this house, this home, this day, this night, and every night.

In the Kitchen: May we welcome the poor and honor them. May we welcome the sick and care for them, in the presence of angels, and we ask you, God, to bless and embrace us all. Seeing a stranger approach, may we put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place, and look with joy for the blessing of God, who often comes to our homes in the blessing of a stranger. We call upon the Sacred Three to save, shield, and surround this house, this home, this day, this night, and every night.

If you love this, I have many prayers for bedrooms too. Bedrooms of single people, married bedrooms, young child, older child, guest rooms. Please ask me and I’d be happy to share more with you. Since Versailles, this has been a very meaningful time for me to pray over my home and share with others as they pray over theirs. I hope this is a tool for your faith and home.

It’s an honor serving with you!

Pastor Perri

Youth Winter Retreat Update!

In January we went on our annual Winter Retreat to Riverside Retreat Center with our youth and 4 other churches in our area. We had a fantastic time of fellowshipping together while playing gaga ball, basketball, canoeing and relaxing by the river. EUMC represented with 18 youth at this retreat!

During our 3 sessions we played some crazy fun games and had some fun singing and dancing with our worship music! The theme for the weekend was REFUEL. We talked about running on empty and how that negatively effects our lives, filling up from the True source in Jesus Christ, and living on full and staying fully connected to Jesus. We also had some time to share in our small groups about some of the things that the youth were struggling with and coming up with an action plan to accomplish the goals that they committed to during the weekend.

In the last session, we gave an invitation for the youth to come to the foot of the cross and make new commitments to Jesus, and we had several students make first time commitments and many who were challenged to stay full of Jesus. I ask for your continued prayers for all of our youth and their journeys with God and that they would live a story worth sharing!

Interested in volunteering with our awesome Youth Group? Please contact me at gil@englewoodumc.net
Welcome a Guest Speaker

George Walker, son of EUMC members Jean and Bill Walker, will be our guest speaker at all 3 services on Sunday, March 11, 2018. George and his wife, Harriett spent many years as New Tribe missionaries ministering among the Bisorio people of Papua New Guinea. Some background information for you on this remarkable couple.

New Tribe missionaries who go to live and work in a tribal village have tons of work to do in order to plant a church. They must:

**PHASE 1**

- Build a house to live in.
- Build an airstrip or helicopter pad to receive supplies, since most places NTM missionaries go have no roads or any other ways to access these locations other than hiking a trail.
- Learn how to speak the tribal people’s language.
- Write down and document their language using phonetic symbols since their language has no alphabet.
- Figure out exactly what letters should be a part of their language’s alphabet.
- Figure out how to spell every word in their language and build a dictionary.
- Learn the tribal people’s culture and try to understand their thoughts in order to convey spiritual truths to them in a way they will understand.
- Start translating God’s Word into their language.

**PHASE 2**

- Start Bible lesson preparation in their language using all the culture data that has been gathered and recorded.
- Figure out what order all the letters of their alphabet should be taught in the literacy classes.
- Prepare primers and little booklets to be used in the literacy classes.
- Teach the literacy classes so the people will be able to read God’s Word as it is translated into their language.
- Train the tribal people to eventually take over the literacy program themselves.
- Teach the Bible lessons using the translated scripture.
- Present the Gospel and plant the church.

**PHASE 3**

- Help the new believers to grow spiritually in their knowledge of God.
- Train and disciple others to become teachers, leaders and elders.
- Continue translating and teaching the new Christians about God’s plan for a mature, functioning Christian church.
- Help the new church see the need for missions and encourage them to reach out to others around them who have not yet heard God’s message.

Using his vast experience, George is now trainer at the Missionary Training Center in Missouri. Missionaries serving in the USA play vital roles on the church planting team through teaching the critical skills new missionaries will need to be successful. Like those who serve overseas, USA missionaries are responsible to raise financial support to pay their salary and ministry expenses, looking to God, trusting only in Him to provide through His people. There will be a Love Offering for George at each service March 11.

George & Harriett’s daughter with a Bisorio tribesman.

See you in church!

Nancy Prins, Chair
Missions Committee
Book Buzz

When I think back to my childhood, which was the best ever, I remember my dad telling me I was the apple of his eye! I loved my dad. He was a quiet, small man but inside was a big heart and an even bigger smile.

I am sure you have heard this saying before. But if you think about this in terms of the Bible, God saw Israel as the apple of His eye. We read in Deuteronomy 32:1 that the Lord kept Israel as the apple of His eye. He guarded Israel with great care. He protected his people. “Apple” in this instance is translated as Latin pupillage, “the pupil”. The pupil was referred to in Old English as the apple because it was thought to be a solid spherical body.

Scientists have proven that when we look at a particular person or object for which we have a special feeling, our pupils automatically dilate. That person or object fills the pupils of our eyes and becomes the apple of our eye!

In Psalm 17, David beseeches God to “keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Thy wings.” In other words, David is hoping God will continue to love and protect him.

We want God to love us. When we pray, meditate and listen for God, we often feel his warmth and know that we are the apple of His eye!

And now for another thought, we need to do a bit of housekeeping at the library. We have several movies that have been out for a long time….Look on your shelves and see if you have Unconditional, Courageous—Honor Begins at Home, Flywheel, The Old Curiosity Shop and Faith Like Potatoes. These are all great Christian movies that should be returned so others may enjoy them.

I am so happy that readership continues to increase in the library! And I thank those of you who bring books to share! The library is never closed! If the lights are out, turn them on and come in to enjoy!

Pam Heady
Church Librarian

Date: July 9th—14th!!!
Who: 6th—12th grade Students
Cost: $210
A $75 deposit is due at registration.

Please contact Gil Martin for information on signing up for this awesome experience.
941-474-5588, ext. 103
Or
gil@englewoodumc.net

Experience a high-energy, life-changing week at one of our eight weeks of classic overnight camps. Youth are invited to jump start their faiths while making lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories on beautiful Lake Griffin. Spend four full days zip lining, tubing, sailing, making crafts, learning archery, and so much more! The moments that aren't a flurry of activity are devoted to growing your relationships with others and with God.

New Members Class

The new members classes will be held March 12th and 19th for those interested in joining the church. Classes are from 6:00—8:00 p.m. in the Lampp Building. Membership Joining Sunday will be March 25th during the service you attend.

The classes are a great way for Pastor Vic to get to know you as well as for you to know him, and to learn about the history of EUMC.

If you are interested in joining the EUMC family, please call the church office at 941-474-5588, ext. 105 and let Teresa know you’re planning to attend the classes. Childcare will gladly be provided upon request.
Ms. Patty’s

Playroom….

I am so excited to announce that our parents have decided to hold a golf tournament to support the school! I am even more excited that it has a “construction theme.” This is because our parents strongly feel that our school could use some work like new paint, floors and carpeting. I love golf tournaments. I don’t play but I love driving the golf carts, welcoming guests, getting the prizes ready and announcing the winners...it is always a fun time! One of the most exciting parts of a golf tournament is identifying the sponsors and we already have two on board! Symbiont Service Corp owned by our own Sandy King is going to be our Eagle Sponsor. They have donated $1,000 towards the event and will be sponsoring the hole-in-one. Stump Pass Marina owned by the Reichards, one of our school families will be the Lunch Sponsor. This is also a $1,000 gift towards the meal which is always an important part of the event.

Over the next few weeks, we will be working hard to identify sponsors and register golfers. We can take up to 144 players and it is my hope that we will be filled to the brim! This is where you come in. If you are a golfer, I hope you will join us. If you know someone who golfs, please invite them to come and play. Your help is so appreciated.

Registration forms can be picked up at the church office or downloaded from our school website at www.foundations-eumc.com.

If you would like to be a sponsor, we have included information about sponsorships below. See you on the tee!!

Patty Tuff. Preschool Director

Sponsors and Donations

Ace Sponsor: $2,000

Eagle Sponsor: $1,000 (Symbiont Service Corp has agreed to be an Eagle Sponsor).

Birdie Sponsor: $500

Lunch Sponsor: $1,000 (Stump Pass Marina has agreed to be a Lunch Sponsor)

Par Sponsor: $250

T-shirt Sponsor: $250

Beverage Cart Sponsor: $250

Prize Sponsor: $1,000

To find out what being a sponsor entails and the benefits it provides, please contact Patty Tuff at 941-681-3169.

Save the Date!

April 21st

Shot Gun 8:30 am

First Annual Golf Tournament

Foundations Preschool

Want to sponsor, donate or volunteer?

Ask us how!

This is a great way to get your business out in front of people and support your child(ren)’s school!

All proceeds benefit reconstructing our classrooms to be better for our children!

The Hills,
Rotonda Country Club
Easter Lily Plants

As in the past, we will be decorating our Sanctuary with lily plants for the Easter Sunday services. If you would like to order a plant “in honor” or “in memory” of someone special, please fill out the slip below. Please put the slip and your check made payable to EUMC, $10.00 per plant, in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or drop off at the church office.

The deadline to order is Monday, March 12th.

Please Print Clearly

Name:___________________________________________________________Phone _________________

In Memory Of:__________________________________________________________________________

In Honor Of:____________________________________________________________________________

________Number of plants ordered.

________I will take my plant(s) after the 11:00 a.m. service.

________I will leave my plant(s) for the homebound.

Family Promise

Below is a Thank You note from Mia Rosendahl who last stayed with us. This is such confirmation of why we do all we do with love, grace and passion. Thank you to all who touched this family’s life & helped give them their hope and joy back. I am so blessed and honored to be part of this team.

Greetings to EUMC,
I want to thank you on behalf of Allie and myself. Thank you for participating in the Family Promise program. Your facilities were great with the kitchen and huge living space. Allie enjoyed her time on that great playground. Much appreciation to the volunteers and the great people who brought us food!

Thank you,
Allie & Mia Rosendahl

Our next hosting date will be March 18-25. We have really been struggling with volunteers for the host team and laundry team. Please consider giving of your, so much needed, time and talents. Your team coordinator will be contacting you for available opportunities. If you are volunteering for the first time, or have volunteered and have not yet had a chance to attend, please mark your calendars for the Family Promise Orientation Sessions.

Monday, March 12th 9:30 a.m. Or Thursday, March 15th 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall I

I can’t thank you enough for your loyal, loving service to the children and their families! It is an honor to serve with you!

Maria Ciampi
** 90 (or over) Years Young!
3/01 Gordon McLeod
3/05 Millie Wilson **
3/08 Luella Davis
3/11 Marlene Baker
3/14 Betty Gatewood **
3/14 James Padgett **
3/16 Joanne Brokaw
3/18 Franklin Sykes
3/20 Jeanne Sawyer **
3/22 Dorothy Pryor **
3/25 Julia Ferguson

March
Super Senior
Birthdays

Are you a Super Senior of four score years or more? We have the names and birth dates of many of our 80 (or more) years old, but we want to recognize ALL of these honored members. Please register your birthday if you haven’t done so already. Just call the church office or send in the registration form.

The Super Senior birthdays are listed each month in the Messenger. Help them celebrate their super birthday by congratulating them on their special day.

** 90 (or over) Years Young!
3/01 Gordon McLeod
3/05 Millie Wilson **
3/08 Luella Davis
3/11 Marlene Baker
3/14 Betty Gatewood **
3/14 James Padgett **
3/16 Joanne Brokaw
3/18 Franklin Sykes
3/20 Jeanne Sawyer **
3/22 Dorothy Pryor **
3/25 Julia Ferguson

Super Senior Birthday Registration

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THE LIVING LAST SUPPER

7:30 p.m. March 29 ~ Maundy Thursday in the Sanctuary

~ A dramatic recreation of Da Vinci’s painting based upon a script by Ernest K. Emurian ~
Each disciple delivers a soliloquy in response to Jesus’ words “One of you will betray me.”

Free Admission. Communion, open to all, will be served.
EUMC Women’s Conference

Seeking Hope

How to Recognize Blessings in the Moment

March 16-17, 2018
Englewood UMC
700 E. Dearborn St. Englewood
$40 Per Person Special: 2 for $75

Keynote Speaker: Cynthia Rutchi
Speaker & award-winning author of 16 books, Cynthia draws from 33 years writing and producing a daily radio broadcast to tell stories hemmed in hope.

Bible Teaching: Sarah Baldridge
Speaker, Bible teacher and pastor’s wife, Sarah has a passion for women’s ministry and God’s Word.

Tickets for the two day event are on sale in Fellowship Hall between services, in the church office or on the church website, www.englewoodumc.net under “Featured Events.” Conference includes: main sessions, live worship music, break out sessions, refreshments, and lunch on Saturday. Conference begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Women’s Bible Study

March 26  10:00 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Workbooks $15... Scholarships are available
Registration begins March 11
in Fellowship Hall
or call Joyce in the church office 474-5588.

United Methodist Women Unit Meeting

March 8, 2018

LADIES, you don't have to be a UMW member to attend this informative meeting about protecting yourself from identity theft and credit card fraud.

DALE PHILLIPS, Crime Prevention Specialist for Charlotte County, will be our speaker.

FELLOWSHIP PUNCH and SOCIAL TIME will begin at 11:30; Brunch will begin at 12 Noon (Please bring a brunch type dish to share.)

LEAH CIRCLE will hostess.

PRAYER AND SELF DENIAL OFFERING will be collected.

Where’s My Car?

The Hospitality Committee has addressed the confusion some people have over finding where they parked. It’s a big campus and it’s very easy to get turned around. The paved parking has been designated into four colored sections: red, blue, green and yellow. From the inside there is signage above most building exits indicating which parking lot is closest to that door. So next time you park, please look to see what colored lot you are in & follow the signs back to your car! If you invite someone new, this is a great way to help them navigate our campus. If you still have questions, please stop by the Welcome Desk.
Mustard Seed Society

Luncheon

A luncheon to celebrate Mustard Seed Society membership is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mustard Seed Society members have received an invitation to this uplifting luncheon.

What is the Mustard Seed Society? It is a special recognition society initiated in 1999 for church members and supporters who wish to make gifts to the Englewood United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund. The Society celebrates stewardship and encourages others to do the same. Members are recognized in print periodically...unless they prefer to remain anonymous. They also receive membership pins and frameable membership certificates.

How do I join? They only requirement to join is completing a one-time, membership form (available in the office) to indicate your commitment to at least arrange over the next few months a planned gift to be endowed to benefit this church. Dedicated church supporters are encouraged to join by having provisions for a gift of $1,500 or more to Englewood United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund in their wills or other estate plans. Thus, giving the $1,500 or more now from funds needed to live on is not required. However, some have chosen to make their membership gift now in the form of cash, stock or other securities. If you have already made a gift to the church in your estate plans, completing the form is all that is required! Have questions? Call Beth Harrison, 941-474-5588 ext. 255.

Gifts to the Permanent Endowment Fund
are kept to generate income for doing God’s work FOREVER!

You may chose to designate gifts in your will or other estate plans -

Or

Make a Honor or Memorial Gift to:
Permanent Endowment Subfunds
- General Endowment
(Undesignated gifts are automatically placed in the General Endowment, which supports needs identified by Finance & Church Council)
- Capital Improvements & Unbudgeted Maintenance
- Outreach & Missions
- Garden of Memories & Landscaping
- Music Ministries
- Scholarship & Christian Education
- Children’s & Youth Ministries
Health and Wholeness

What is the most dangerous room in the house?

Believe it or not it is not the kitchen but the bathroom. According to statistics compiled by Emergency Room Admissions. The injuries include hip fractures, brain injuries, bone bruises and other fractures. Think of all the hard surfaces in the bathroom which include tile, porcelain, cast iron and marble.

These are some of the ways people get hurt in the bathroom. When you close your eyes to rinse your hair you may lose your balance. Stepping into the tub to take a shower or going to the bathroom in the dark.

Some precautionary measures are a hand held shower head and a shower seat to sit on. A transfer bench over the to slide over the tub edge. A raised toilet set with a frame and handles to help yourself up and down off the toilet, and an automatic night light that comes on when the light of day dims. Either get rid of the throw rug in the bathroom or get one with very good gripping back on it. Grab bars in the tub or shower as well as the toilet are extremely helpful.

The National Association of Home Builders has trained 2,500 people as Aging in Place specialist (CAPS) to offer individual solutions. Home Health Agencies often employ Occupational Therapists to do assessments and offer a list of suggestions. New homes using a principle of "Universal Designs" put in reinforced walls in the bathroom, shower stalls that are curb less, grab bars in showers and near toilets as well as 3 foot doorways for wheelchair access.

Whatever your age or the age of your home, you can "age in place" with modifications to the home. You don't have to move, just change your home to meet the new demands.

We have shower seats or shower chairs, bath transfer benches and toilet set modifiers in our medical loan closet. Just call the office 474-5588.

Grace Talada,
Chairman of Health & Wholeness

Relay For Life of Englewood has combined with the Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda Relays and is now known as Relay For Life of Charlotte County. The 2018 Event will be held on Saturday, April 14th, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds. The theme which was selected is ONCE UPON A CURE!! Below is the link to register as an EUMC team member or survivor for the event.

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY18SER?pg=entry&fr_id=86513

I will be walking the first "VICTORY" lap this year as an 11 year breast cancer survivor and I hope many of you will join me. EUMC has led the area for several years in fundraising and bringing HOPE to our local cancer survivors and caregivers. Help me celebrate MORE BIRTHDAYS and LESS CANCER!!!

God bless,
Carolyn Kennett

Creative Workshop Spring—Easter Sale
Sunday, March 18th—Fellowship Hall
After all three church services—stop at their table and do some shopping!

Prayers & Squares

Two workshop days in March…the 15th & 29th 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. In Fellowship Hall 1 & 2. Come and spend as much or little time as your schedule will allow.

There are many ways to help that do not require sewing skills, and you’re always welcome to observe. Please feel welcome for any amount of time that your schedule allows during those hours. Bring a sack lunch and beverage, we’ll be waiting with a special place at the table just for you at 12:30!

In His Love,
Jane Parker
firstjp@aol.com or 941-564-6844
As I journey in ministry many times it is my lot to remind others that God has promised to never leave us or forsake us and that He is with us through every experience in life.

I read recently a wonderful truth that “You’ll get through this.” You fear you won’t. We all do. We fear that the depression will never lift, the yelling will never stop, the pain will never leave….. We wonder...Will this gray sky ever brighten? The load ever lighten? We feel stuck, trapped, locked in, predestined for failure. Will we ever get out of this pit? Yes! Deliverance is to the Bible what jazz music is to Mardi Gras – bold, brassy, and everywhere. Deliverance out of the lions den for Daniel – the prison for Peter – the whale’s belly for Jonah – Goliath’s shadow for David, the storm for the disciples, disease for the lepers, doubt for Thomas, the grave for Lazarus and the shackles for Paul. God carries us through stuff. It won’t be painless – It won’t be quick – but God will use your mess for good. We will talk about this more next month.

Have a great day and remember GOD IS WITH YOU!

Pastor Don
Here comes Peter Cotton Tail, hopping down the blessing trail!

Volunteers are invited to assemble Easter Baskets in Room 304, upstairs in the education building. The baskets will be a blessing to local families and elders in local care facilities.

- Friday, March 9th, 6-8pm
- Saturday, March 10th, 9am-12pm
- Sunday, March 11th, 2-4pm

Basket Pick-up dates for local families will be held in Room 103 of the Lampp Building as follows:

- Monday, March 19th, 6-8pm
- Thursday, March 22nd, 6-8pm
- Friday, March 23rd, 6-8pm
- Saturday, March 24th, 9am-12pm

*Remaining baskets will be delivered to local elder care units during Holy week. Specific dates and locations to be determined.

**Annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31st**

We are accepting small toys and stuffed animals for the Easter Basket Ministry. Bubbles, dolls, chalk, cars, balls, paint sets, stickers, coloring books and crayons are a few examples of the items kids love. We have started stuffing eggs, therefore non-chocolate wrapped candy and small prizes are also needed.

Please drop your donations off at the church office.

Thank You!

Volunteers are needed to assemble baskets, distribute baskets, stuff eggs and various positions during the egg hunt.

To volunteer please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Suzie Asa through the church office: 941-474-5588 ext. 257, suzie@englewoodumc.net, or susanasa93@gmail.com
Recently I had the privilege of meeting with Linda Jenck’s. Her face was glowing in anticipation of sharing with me, the Christmas Miracle, she and her husband Art experienced in December.

“Our Christmas Miracle”

In preparation to decorate for the fast approaching Christmas Holidays, the Jencks were moving their Christmas tree from attic storage. Linda was on the ladder guiding the large box it was in, when it got stuck in the opening. It suddenly let go. Art tried to stop it from falling; he lost his balance and fell to the concrete floor. In the fall his head went backward and hit the garage door support bar, knocking him unconscious. He also suffered a big welt from the garage door to his arm.

Seeing Art motionless, Linda feared the worst, but thankfully, after a few minutes he came to. He didn’t remember anything that happened, but seemed fine. He was transported to the ER to be checked out. During the CAT scan, the doctor asked Arthur what had happened. He had no recollection of the incident. Tests revealed he had a concussion, with temporary amnesia, but the welt to his arm had disappeared!

This 82 year old man suffered a hard fall and not one bone in his body was broken. Linda’s sister and niece saw everything that happened. They were astounded that Arthur didn’t have a more severe injury. Clearly a higher power was in charge. God gave Linda and Arthur a miracle. They refer to this accident as their “Christmas Miracle.”

Linda and Art are not strangers to God’s mighty power and presence in their lives. They often refer to their marriage as one of God’s miracles; Linda was a widow and Arthur a widower when they first met at Grief Share, right here at EUMC. Their paths never crossed before that, since they each went to a different service and participated in different committees. God brought their hearts together in grief, a grief that grew into a mutual love, guided by God that would lead to a wedding.

Early on in their relationship Art shared with Linda another time in his life when God revealed Himself to him. He was just a young boy of 7 or 8 when he was playing near a deep lake, when he slipped and fell in. He remembered going down, and down deeper. He recalls being very frightened. He was not able to swim.

Suddenly he saw a great light and heard beautiful music. In the next instant he was placed bodily on the shore. The help that was on the way had not yet reached him, but they witnessed the event. They were in awe. They could not explain what they saw, but Art knew God had rescued him.

God works in mysterious ways, like in the burning bush that was not consumed. Believe in Miracles. They are still happening in our days. Just believe!

Barbara Ierardi
Prayer, In His Presence, Intercessory Prayer
The 10th Annual EUMC Music Ministry Concert Series presents

**Soprano Saxophonist**

**Eirinn Abu** with **Guitarist**

**Manny Lopez**

New to Our Concert Schedule

Recently recorded “Hymns”!

3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 18 ~ Free Will Offering

Information: www.eirinnabu.net 474-5588 Weekdays

Arrange Free Nursery for Ages 3 & Under Only with Suzie, extension 257, by March 11

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**Pancakes & More!**

Served by Men’s Fellowship

Saturdays 7:30—11:00 a.m.

2018

March 10 & 24

April 7

All the Pancakes You Can Eat!

OJ & Bottomless Coffee/Tea with

Egg & Sausage or Biscuits & Sausage Gravy or Quiche & Fresh Fruit

$6.00

Children Under 12 eat FREE!

Enjoy Live Music

Buy: Crafts/Honey/Nuts
The 10th Annual EUMC Music Ministry Concert Series concludes with

The 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
Sunday, March 25

The Easter Cantata
"At His Name"
by Joel Raney
Reflecting on the Life of Jesus &
His Profound Effect on History

Featuring the
Sanctuary Choir
Organ, Orchestra, Narration & Video Enhancements

For information, call 474-5588 weekdays

March 2018