



April 2019

Monthly Publication



### Vic's Views....

## ANTICIPATION of NEW LIFE!

Did you know that when a baby is born, some hospital waiting rooms have lullaby chimes that herald the blessed event? There we were, two pairs of 'grandparent want-be's' waiting for our daughter, Bekkah's, baby chimes to ring, but through the day and evening and into the night, several other families received the good news instead of us!

The first few times that happened, it was very cool. We celebrated with the happy family in the huge waiting room and pretty soon the father emerged from the delivery room overflowing with joy exclaiming, "It's a girl!, mother and baby are fine!" and then a joyful family hug unfolded before our eyes that served as a release-valve of hours of built up frustration for them and a point of contention for us!

Our baby's chimes wouldn't ring, after 5 hours, 10 hours, 15 hours, then 23 hours of pushing and prodding and considering alternatives—our baby operated on her own clock—a somewhat slower clock than the one all the grandparents carry.

For some strange reason, I thought of the commercial from the mid-70s that high-jacked the Carly Simon hit, "Anticipation." It was before plastic squeeze ketchup bottles were invented. Remember the shaking and smacking of the bottom of the glass bottle of Heinz to get that first little thick, rich, trickle of ketchup plopped down on your mound of fries—it made me salivate! Marketing at its finest! (which is proven by my remembering it so vividly 45 years later.)

We grandparents were salivating for those baby chimes. And the longer we waited, witnessing others celebrating *their* baby chimes, the more we anticipated it.

It occurred to me, in that waiting room, that the drama that is played out when a person is **born** is similar to the drama that is played out when a person is **reborn**!

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**There is a gathering of people:** because no one gets saved in a vacuum. Those gathered might be parents, and grandparents, a spouse or several friends. They are gathered in love for the one that is far from God... folks who love that person and who have been praying for him to come to his senses and receive New LIFE in Christ. It takes a whole community of people to help each of us along the path toward Christ, some planting seeds, others watering them and still others helping in the harvest of faith. Often, it's not an instantaneous process. And just like in that hospital waiting room after many hours of delay, we sometimes wonder if it's EVER going to happen.

**There is waiting:** because the new birth does not come on our time table. Just like the first birth, the second one is unpredictable in its timing too. As God's conviction of sin and the need for salvation bears down on the person, they still have the choice. But the ironic beauty of Grace is that the more we resist, the harder it is to resist. So, the waiting always has a shelf-life. Though it may seem like a long, long night of darkness, there will be joy in the morning! The Joy always comes in the morning! Let this be a word of hope for those of you who have been praying for a long time for the New Birth to happen for a loved one. Keep Praying. Keep loving. Keep up your trust in God's timing!

**There is anticipation:** all the angels of Heaven are up on their tip toes to catch the first indication that someone is saying "yes" to God! The timing is dependent on the responsiveness of the sinner, therefore it may be delayed for a long, long time, which

heightens the prayers and anticipation of concerned friends and relatives. The people gathered in anticipation are all those friends who are believers who have been praying for this individual to receive Jesus and start their new life. The anticipation for the second birth is what drives the mission, vision and values of the Christian Church.

**There is rejoicing:** When a person finally crosses the line from self-reliance to God-reliance, that's when the Party begins! It's like that big 'ol family hug when a new baby is introduced. Everyone feels they've had a stake in this new life, and most certainly they have! But that's just the party here on earth. Look what Jesus says takes place in Heaven: Luke 15:7

*"I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."*

We've all waited for babies to be born—to hear those chimes signifying New Life! It's quite thrilling! Let's not miss out on the thrill of nurturing a person into New Life in Christ! It just doesn't get any better than that!

You Are Loved!

*Pastor Vic Willis*



**Marcella  
(Chella) Grace  
Sheetz  
March 14, 2019  
7 lbs. 9 oz.**



## Greet Your Neighbors!

They are here. The Braves are here. On March 24th, the Atlanta Braves played their first Spring Training game at CoolToday Park in West Villages. This stadium is literally 10 miles from the church building and that's before an entrance from River Road opens. Sarasota County expects this will grow our community economically by 1.7 Billion dollars in the next 30 years. This will include year-round events, Braves Spring Training, Gulf Coast league baseball and a farmer's market that will be led by our own, Lee Perron, and his team. West Villages is the 4th fastest growing master-planned community in the country. These are our neighbors! We have been discussing West Villages growth coming since I came to EUMC in 2015, and many new people have come to town looking around, buying houses and finding churches. Some of you reading this, might be residents in the West Villages community. We are so glad you have joined our "Tribe". (Get it? The Braves... hehe)

On Sunday Mornings when I preach, I invite you to "Greet Your Neighbors." These might be physical neighbors in your neighborhood, or they are your pew neighbor that Sunday. These might be people you have grown old with and some who you know are new to your section of seats. It's often easy to "greet your neighbors" in the safety of our church building when everyone reaches out and makes a new friend or says hi to old ones. Let's be real, some people seek out the first-time guest while others are introverted, and they wish we didn't do this portion of the service.

This section of the service used to be called the "passing of the peace." Instead of saying "Hi! How are you?" we used to say, "The peace of the Lord be with you" another responding, "and also with you." This is an ancient practice going all the way back to Jesus and his disciples when they greeted each other. It was a reminder to bring peace into their time together and it can also be with us today.

Wouldn't it be nice if peace flowed out of our time together (physically through our hands, feet and actions) in worship into the greater community where we live, work and play? Maybe just maybe so that those who are visiting our area, decide they also want to make this place home the same way your family vacationed here for the last 50 years until it became home. What if this is a new family moving into town where their family will come here for the next 50 years? What if we displayed our welcoming peace to our neighbors as we drive down the busy McCall or River Roads? What if we display welcoming peace at the grocery store that is overly crowded and delaying your "plans"?

What if one of those people showed up sitting next to us in church this Sunday? Most of us would be so kind to welcome them here, in our sanctuary... but if it's just in our sanctuary and not on the streets of our town, it's just a fake peace. I pray we are genuine people who pass the peace of the Lord wherever we go. We are called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and help transform the world. That happens in real and genuine ways by "passing the peace" and welcoming our neighbors into our "Tribe."

It is an honor to serve with you,

*Pastor Perri*



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

<p><b><i>At Home</i></b>            Fran Altman            Jimmy Clovis            Joe &amp; Ethel Croce            Dick Davis            Audrey Grant            Colleen Haag            Lori Ierardi            Howard &amp; Nan Jackson            Jean Kushall            Deborah Larsen            Geri Meneely            Roger &amp; Barb Molendyke            Jackie Morton            Damon &amp; Ruth Runyon            Adele Stewart            Mary Thompson            Matt &amp; Helen Williams            Gina Willis            Virginia Wilson</p> <p><b><i>Bay Breeze</i></b>            Dorothea Fleming</p> <p><b><i>Brookdale Palmer Ranch</i></b>            Vivian Slimak</p>	<p><b><i>Brookdale Venice</i></b>            Jim Roch</p> <p><b><i>Discovery Village</i></b>            Jean Leshner</p> <p><b><i>Family Affair</i></b>            Marjorie Fitzgerald</p> <p><b><i>Gardens of Venice</i></b>            Alice Buck</p> <p><b><i>Grand Villa</i></b>            Margaret Cypher            Diane Keemon</p> <p><b><i>Heritage Oaks</i></b>            Frances Bates            Peg Grim            Charles Lindberg            Willard &amp; Janet Wilson</p> <p><b><i>Jacaranda Trace</i></b>            Margie Laney            Sandra Dussault</p>	<p><b><i>Inglenook</i></b>            Millie Messner            Jeanne Sawyer</p> <p><b><i>Live Oak Manor</i></b>            Shirleen Gallagher</p> <p><b><i>Magnolia Acres</i></b>            Gayle Davis            Dorothy Hill</p> <p><b><i>North Port Pines</i></b>            Janice Reynolds</p> <p><b><i>Pinebrook</i></b>            Geri Demmin</p> <p><b><i>Sunset Lakes Village</i></b>            Al King            Vivian Miller</p> <p><b><i>Towers of Venice</i></b>            Audrey MacEhiney-Rogers</p> <p><b><i>Tuscan Gardens</i></b>            John &amp; Janice Watson</p>
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Our Congregational Care Ministry team is alive and well. At our recent Ministry Fair we had six new people sign up to serve our congregation as Congregational Care Ministers. The first of April, Herb and Diane Bump and Charlie and Linda Sherrin will join Mary and myself to attend The Congregational Care Conference in Kansas City, Kansas where we will share with members of Congregational Care throughout the nation, learning how to be more efficient in our ministry. CCM supplies the extra love, care, encouragement and support a person needs when dealing with the trials life can throw at us. They walk alongside a hurting person to listen, care and help the person connect with the one true Healer...God. "We are the care-givers, God is the cure-giver. The CCM program is now in its fourth year. We have had members of our church attend conferences and have held a local conference inviting our church members who have felt led to participate in this ministry in addition to other churches joining us for training.

The more we can live out the love of Christ through Congregational Care Ministry and show what a benefit it is, the more people will gravitate to that love. If you feel the call to serve in this ministry do not hesitate to let me know. We visit in homes with Homebound Congregants and in Assisted Living dwellings that spread from Sarasota to Punta Gorda. This ministry reaches out beyond our congregation to others in the community. Hats off to all who serve with a loving heart. You are appreciated.

May God Richly Bless You Today!

*Pastor Don*



**Priscilla Shirer “Going Beyond” Simulcast at EUMC!**

**Saturday, April 6, 2019**

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

(The simulcast begins at 10:00 a.m.)

Cost: \$10 Includes lunch

We want this to be an outreach event so bring someone new to church or someone who hasn’t been in a while and their companion ticket is \$5.

Tickets on sale in Fellowship Hall after each church service, in the church office or on the church website:  
**www.englewoodumc.net**  
under Featured Events.

**Women’s Bible Study**

**“One in a Million” by Priscilla Shirer**

Mondays at 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

7 week study, begins April 22

Workbook \$13, scholarships available

**Signups begin April 6 after the “Going Beyond” conference and in Fellowship Hall April 7**



“If you hunger to experience His power, hear His voice and live in the abundance promised you, then this study is for you.”

**United Methodist Women Unit Meeting**

**April 4, 2019**



Come join us for another great program! Martha Bireda, Executive Director of Blanchard House Museum will present “*The Little House That Unity Built.*” She will tell the history and social significance of this Punta Gorda landmark.

Friendship Punch 11:30 a.m.  
Potluck 12:00 Noon  
Hostess: Sarah Circle



**Ladies Bunco once a month on the last Saturday of the month.**

**5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Pizza & Prizes**

**If you have questions:**

**Call Brenda 941-473-0150**



## Intercessory Prayer

Jesus knows us. He knows and understands us better than we know ourselves; He knows just the right time, way, and place to bring us close to Him.

This month I share with you two experiences from two separate believers, and a statement from a man named Jason Cruise.

First, I give you Bob's story, written in his own words:

"Mid-December before the 11:00 Sunday Service, I stopped to inquire into a friend's health. I told him in passing, I had an upcoming operation. Immediately he placed his arms around me and prayed for a successful outcome. His words of encouragement were just what I was spiritually thirsting for, although I didn't know it at the time. Truly, Pastor Chad is a blessed man to have the perception of what I needed and how to convey it-in an instant. I am grateful EUMC has a place for such a gifted healer."

Next, I share with you how a dear sister was ministered to, by her dying husband. She writes: "After a short illness my husband passed away, in February. I am fortunate that my family lives near us and were able to be with him during his last hours. We were able to share scripture and sing his favorite hymns before he was unconscious. As the afternoon went on he spoke at one point of his Mother saying; "The pie was not ready." His Mother was a wonderful pie maker. But the pie must have gotten done as he passed away peacefully three hours later. Such comfort for his family to know he went to his heavenly home where his Mother was waiting, and the pie was done." "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Lastly a profound statement made by Jason Cruise: "Monumental changes often occur in simple, quiet moments, and in those few seconds that a person makes a clean break with an old way of living, and never looks back."

The Holy Spirit led me to share these experiences to remind you: although we can't visually see Jesus, He is with us. His Holy Spirit lives within every

The above encounters are only two of the many different experiences we have with Jesus every day. Jesus wants us to recognize Him, to remember His gift of Salvation. This is why He went to the cross for you, and for me. Think about what it took to free us from sin and death, to life forever, with Him to eternity.

## His Love, For Us

The cross symbolizes what Christ did for us with His love,  
Not on His own strength, but from the Father above.

Lies, stealing, deceit, and murder:  
He suffered them all,  
Not from His doing, but our sins, He did fall.  
His love for you is both warm and tender,  
No preset requirements, no matter your gender.  
This love is powerful, this love is strong.  
For Him, He wants you to long.  
So open your heart to the inclination.  
Receive the gift, His gift of Salvation

*Barbara Terardi*  
Intercessory Prayer



### Comparative Financial Operations/Performance For the 12 months ending February 28, 2019

	2019	2018
Tithes & Offerings	\$155,022	\$166,497
Cash Expenditures	\$111,708	\$128,743
Tithes & Offerings Less Expenditures	\$ 42,314	\$ 37,754



## *Ms. Patty's Playroom*

It is that time of year when I feel it is really important to mention our "Sponsor a Child" opportunity. I bring it up now because summer is coming and funding is often hard for families to find. So trying to find and retain care becomes a real challenge. \$160 is the average cost of tuition per week at Foundations. Sponsoring a child for one week a year makes it possible for us to keep tuition affordable for many of the families who need our services.

### *Why consider sponsoring a child for a week?*

By helping to make our tuition affordable to all families, you are ensuring every child has the opportunity to receive not only their basics in ABCs, but a strong foundation in who Christ is and the love He has for each one of His children. Please note, sponsoring a child does not replace our parent's responsibilities of paying tuition. It does however allow us to reach more children with the Word of God everyday!

### *When you sponsor you are ensuring:*

- \* Exposure to a Christ centered environment everyday.
- \* Lower ratios for greater attention to each student.
- \* Special programs such as Chapel, sign language, gym, Spanish, anti-bullying and manners.
- \* An opportunity to participate in structured learning.
- \* Participation in Community Service Projects serving others.
- \* Abundant love.

### *How to Sponsor A Child for a Week*

- \* We are able to accept cash, a credit card or check when making a payment.
- \* If you are writing a check, please make it payable to EUMC with "Sponsor a Child" on the Memo Line.

- \* If you would prefer to pay cash, we ask that you stop by the Center to pay so that we can identify you as a sponsor.
- \* Processing a credit card will require you to go onto our website and pay through Paypal. Our website is [wwwFOUNDATIONS-eumc.com](http://wwwFOUNDATIONS-eumc.com)
- \* Our address and phone number is: 700 East Dearborn, Englewood, 34223 \* 941-681-3169.
- \* If you would like to ask a question or learn more about this program, email Ms. Patty at [patty@englewoodumc.net](mailto:patty@englewoodumc.net)

We are so grateful for this church and all that you do for our preschool!

*Patty Tuff*

## *Celebrate Recovery*

God's Vision for Celebrate Recovery at Englewood United Methodist Church: To partner with God in transforming people with hurts, habits and hang-ups from unbelievers to fully devoted disciples of Jesus, to the Glory of God. Celebrate Recovery Englewood meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. serving a light dinner and offering a time for fellowship, followed by the Large Open Group Worship held in the Sanctuary.

April 4th will be week 80 of Celebrate Recovery at EUMC. Rich Church and the Uplift Band will lead our CR group with a night of worship and celebration. Through our worship, our continual focus is on God, as our higher power, and He helps us to overcome our hurts, habits and hang-ups. This *"ongoing focus on God is the only real antidote to the worries, frustrations, and stress which causes so much exhaustion in our churches,"* according to Pastor Rick Warren. In his article **"Growing Stronger Through Worship"** (1/23/2019) Pastor Warren goes on to say: *"Our churches need the kind of strength only God can bring. Church growth (including CR group growth) is more than numerical growth.... Worship is the power our people need to become who God made them to be. It's the power our churches need to reach our communities and our world."*

**Let's grow stronger through worship!**

**\*\* 90 (or over) Years Young!**

4/05 Peg Beattie \*\*  
 4/07 Russ Kyper \*\*  
 4/10 Rex Chase  
 4/20 Audrey MacElhiney \*\*  
 4/22 Julie Kern  
 4/22 Mary Lanham  
 4/24 Mary Rainey  
 4/25 Patricia Guillerm  
 4/26 Nancy Short  
 4/28 Ken Guillerm



## March Super Senior Birthdays

### Super Senior Birthday Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date      /      /

Month   Day   Year

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.

### Consider Joining the Mustard Seed Society at EUMC!

Dear Friends:

The Mustard Seed Society is a special recognition society initiated in 1999 for church members and supporters who wish to make gifts to the EUMC Permanent Endowment Fund. The Society celebrates stewardship and encourages others to do the same.

To join, you need to complete a one-time, simple membership form to indicate your commitment to at least arrange over the next few months a planned gift of \$1,500 or more indicated in your will or other estate plans to be endowed to benefit the church. You may also give a current gift (cash, marketable securities, IRA distribution, etc.) of \$1,500 or more to become a Mustard Seed Society member.

If you need help to add the church to your estate plan, or if you have questions about Mustard Seed Society membership or the endowment fund please call 474-5588 or come see me in the church office. All gifts to the endowment fund will be invested to do God's work at EUMC in perpetuity!

Blessings,

*Beth Harrison*

Business Administrator

### Ministry of Music



As I write this, the Sanctuary Choir is busy preparing for their Easter Cantata, "The Risen Christ", which they will share on March 31 (prior to publication of this newsletter). A note at the beginning of the cantata book reminds us, "At Easter, we traditionally remember the suffering, death and sacrifice of Jesus. But it's important for us to realize that the primary focus of the early church – what changed their perception of reality and transformed them into a band of revolutionary messengers – was not the crucified Christ, but the risen Christ. A dead Messiah was merely a great Rabbi.

A risen Christ was indeed the Lord of all creation, with the power to usher in God's kingdom and create a resurrection community called the church." Christ is risen. We have seen him. And it matters. As you celebrate Easter this month, may your hearts burn within you with excitement as you remember the story and reflect on the powerful implications for your life.

Happy Easter,

*Fonda*

Director of Music

## THEY STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT!

George and Harriet Walker stepped out in faith forty-five years ago. They have written to us that ever since that time they have fixed their eyes on Jesus and have found him to be faithful to his word ever since.



After much serious consideration and prayer, they are transitioning from Ethnos360 USA to InterAct Ministries, an agency which exists to make disciples among least-reached people. The least reached people in this case are Native Americans, Sikhs and Muslims. Their desire is to impact communities across Russia, Alaska and western Canada, an area they call the North Pacific Crescent (NPC).

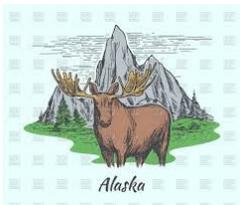
Some of the aspects of the new position will be to develop training courses for those new to the field, work to develop strategies for use in the field, training session's onsite, ministry-specific consultation.

### *A brief outline of the main areas of the ministry focus:*

**RUSSIA** – There are over 40 Native people groups scattered over the vast expanse of Siberian Russia, from nomadic reindeer herders in the North to those who have been urbanized into the cities. With 40 people groups speaking their own language there are many worldviews. InterAct serves with local churches to reach and disciple these least-reached people.



**ALASKA** – There are two opportunities to serve in our 49<sup>th</sup> State. (1) Most of the 200 villages of Alaska are not on the road system and dozens of these villages have no regular Christian fellowship or gathering. Many have yet to hear God's message in ways that make sense to them. Others have been re-born, but not effectively disciplined and their lifestyle has not been affectively changed.



(2) Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley are home to an increasing number of Alaska Natives, along with increasing numbers of vastly diverse ethnic groups. There is great need to impact these large groups of people. How can it be done? By impacting one heart at a time by His powerful, loving grace.

**CANADA** – Did you know there are over 200 First Nations communities in western Canada without a significant Christian witness? In some communities leaders are taking steps to reach their people and welcome missionaries coming and partnering with them. Living in the larger cities in western Canada are immigrant neighborhoods of Sikhs and Muslims. InterAct missionaries also serve in these neighborhoods.



The Missions Committee is so pleased and proud to know and support George and Harriet. We invite you to participate with us in prayer for them in their new service to the Lord.

*Nancy Prins,*

Missions Committee Chair

## **Over the counter medicines needed for EUMC's three Sister Churches in Cuba**

The people of Cuba do not have the ability to purchase basic over the counter meds...so, it is up to us to help them.

**The following meds are needed with an expiration of at least May 2020.**

**Antidiarrhea (tablets) Imodium D,  
Pepto-Bismol (tablets)  
Children's Vitamins  
Neosporin Cream**

The meds will be taken to Cuba in April. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Drop your donation off at the office. If you have questions call the church office 941-474-5588 and ask for Jan.

## Health & Wholeness

### Brain Stewardship: Caring for Our Brain

EUMC's annual stewardship drive inevitably urges us to consider how we manage our time, talent, and treasure. The treasure part includes our brain, that three-pound marvel between our ears, which may be one of God's most magnificent creations. Our brain contains about 100 billion neurons, or brain cells. Although our brain represents only two percent of our weight, twenty percent of the blood pumped by our heart goes directly to the brain providing needed glucose (for energy), nutrients, and oxygen.

In my view, effective brain stewardship means that we should consider doing two things. First, care for our brain and second, use it wisely. Consider caring for our brain beginning with regular exercise because a healthy body tends to mean a healthy brain. Walking for thirty minutes several times a week is helpful. Then we have diet. The Mediterranean diet is recommended – fruits, vegetables, fish, olive oil, etc.

The third and final major way to care for our brain – to practice good stewardship with it – is to enjoy mental stimulation. Consider one of several studies that show a correlation between mental stimulation and brain health.

Starting in 1990, 678 nuns in seven U.S. convents agreed to participate in a groundbreaking study that focused on their brains. The study's purpose was to determine who gets dementia, especially Alzheimer's disease which is the principal cause of dementia, and why, and what factors affect life expectancy. The nuns offered an ideal situation for scientific study because they led similar lives, had access to similar health care, ate well, didn't smoke, hardly drank alcohol, and didn't experience physical changes caused by pregnancy. The research process included tracking each nun's writings and other activities beginning in their 20's and extending to death, conducting annual cognitive and physical tests on each participant, and removing and studying the brain of every deceased study participant.

The study reached a decade milestone in 2001 with the publication of *Aging with Grace* authored by David Snowdon, the principal investigator. He reported that 383 nuns had passed away. Researchers concluded that early language ability, a positive outlook, and ongoing mental and physical activity (in a nutshell, mental stimulation) correlated with lowered risk of dementia, including Alzheimer's, and also correlated with longer life. We are surrounded by mental stimulation opportunities. Take art lessons, start a service project, learn to play an instrument, begin writing that book, take different routes, join an archeological dig, give of yourself....

In summary, practicing stewardship with our brain includes caring for it. We can do this by, first, regularly exercising. Second, we need to watch what we eat and drink – go Mediterranean. Finally, seek life-long mental stimulation.

*Stu Walesh,*

Guest Writer

## FUN BUNCH TRIPS



On Thursday, April 25, (note change of date) the Fun Bunch will be going to the Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, Florida. This is a retirement sanctuary for Chimpanzees and Orangutans. One of the only 10 in the nation and the only Orangutans facility. You will tour this great facility among 120 acres of lush forest and be introduced to and hear the stories of how these over 40 great animals ended up in this unique environment. It will be a half mile shell path tour that will last about two hours.

We will be stopping for lunch at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant on the way to see these magnificent animals. The cost will be \$72 per person.

May 9th trip to Broadway Palms Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers to see "Second Chance." Tickets go on sale Sunday, April 14th in Fellowship Hall after each church service. The cost is \$75 per person.

*Stella Cade*

Trip Coordinator

941-681-2642

## Ideas for Making the Most of Your Charitable Giving Under the New Tax Law

Since April is our tax filing deadline month, I wanted to offer tips to consider for your tithing/giving to Englewood United Methodist Church. We are learning that deducting charitable donations made in 2018 may pose a problem for many taxpayers this year. That's not because last year's tax overhaul limited these donations...most are still deductible, just as they were in prior years. However, the new tax law did increase the standard deduction and limited the deduction for state income and property taxes. That means more filers will find they're better off simply claiming the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions, including those for charitable donations. Here are the details behind the changes – and what you can still do to gain tax breaks from your charitable donations to EUMC and other worthy causes.

The new tax law increased the standard deduction for single filers to \$12,000 from \$6,350 and for married filers to \$24,000 from \$12,700. It also limited the deduction for state income and real estate taxes to \$10,000. Because of these changes, many taxpayers who itemized deductions with their 2017 tax return will no longer do so. Here is what you can do to gain tax breaks from your charitable donations:

### Donate Appreciated Stocks/Mutual Funds

A valuable tax strategy is to donate appreciated shares of stock or a mutual fund that you've owned for more than a year instead of writing a check and giving cash. If your donation of stock is worth \$1,000 or more, the tax benefits can really reduce the after-tax cost of the gift. That's because when you donate shares of an investment that has appreciated, you avoid ever reporting the gains as taxable income. This results in two potential tax benefits: a charitable donation deduction, plus the avoidance of tax on the capital gains.

### Donate from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

For anyone who has an IRA and is required to take minimum distributions from it each year. There's a way to make charitable donations that will reduce taxable income dollar-for-dollar, even if you plan to claim the standard deduction and not itemize. Here's how, and who, can do it.

If you are required to take minimum withdrawals from an IRA or retirement plan because you're age 70 ½ or older, you can use the pretax dollars in your IRA to make direct donations to EUMC or other qualified charity. This is called the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution rule, and it allows IRA owners age 70 ½ or older who are

subject to the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules to use the untaxed money in an IRA to donate to a charity tax-free. Be aware that you can't also claim this charitable donation on your tax return (no double dipping allowed!).

Note that the money withdrawn from an IRA and donated to charity stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer to the charity. It's not tax-free if you withdraw the money first, deposit it into another account and then donate it to the charity.

*Please consult your tax advisor to confirm how the new tax laws apply to your specific situation. EUMC does not offer tax advice...only educational information about giving options.*

Many of our members have taken advantage of these giving options in 2018 and I want to encourage others to do the same. If I can be of assistance with your giving needs to EUMC, please call 474-5588 or stop in the church office.

Blessings,

*Beth Harrison*

Business Administrator

## Memorial Corner

2/16 Matt Williams

2/18 Ken Lavrack

*Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.*

## Memorial Gifts

### *Missions Committee*

In Memory Of: Jan Prins

Given By: Agnes Whited

Donald Pepper

Randy & Laura Whited

Brenda Bradley

### *Non-Designated*

In Memory Of: David & Patricia Pogue

Given By: Tom Pogue

In Memory Of: Ted Stuhldreher

Given By: Edwin Swanson

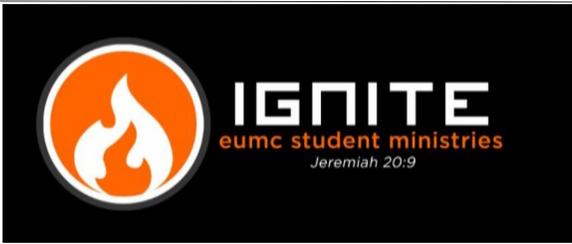
In Memory Of: Jerry Parthemer

Given By: Liz Brennan

### *Music Scholarship*

In Memory Of: Bill Antholz

Given By: Brenda Bradley



We are so VERY Happy God has called us to Englewood!!!

Maria and I both were born and raised in Western NY near Buffalo. We have seen our share of snow and are happy to leave that for those who seem to enjoy it. We spent about 10 years in Northern VA before moving to Myrtle Beach, SC. Three months after moving to Myrtle Beach it snowed, proving that we had not moved far enough south. But God had work for us to do in Myrtle Beach and it was 18 years before we moved to Jacksonville, FL. Then, we were only there 6 months before God called us here to Englewood....“REAL FLORIDA!”

I am very excited to be serving the Youth of EUMC and the community of Englewood and beyond. As I build relationships with the Youth, I also look forward to building relationships throughout this congregation. It is exciting to learn each other’s stories and discover how we can work together in new ways to learn God’s Word, to live it out in our lives and to share it with others.

Planning is already underway for our Youth Summer Mission Trip. This year we will be going to Lake Asbury (just south of Jacksonville, FL) with TEAMEffort. Dates are July 21<sup>st</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup>. Cost and other details will be coming soon. If you are a student who would like to go on this trip be sure to attend Ignite on Wednesday nights and see me. We are also in need of parents and other adults to help with the leadership of this trip. If God is leading you, please see me and let’s talk about it.

Maria and I have been truly blessed by your warm welcome here at EUMC and are thrilled and humbled to be a part of God’s plan for this community.

*Kory Hall*

Director of Youth Ministry  
KoryLHall@gmail.com

### 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, April 8th.**

**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.



## Englewood United Kids Ministry

*"They will be called Oaks of righteousness, A planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor."  
Isaiah 61:3*



Egg stuffers, station leaders, and many volunteers are currently being recruited to work the annual egg hunt. The Children's Easter programs are huge at EUMC and continue to be a great way to bless the community children of Englewood. Please sign-up to volunteer at the program table in Fellowship Hall between services on Sunday mornings, or contact Suzie Asa through the church office, 941-474-5588 or [suzie@englewoodumc.net](mailto:suzie@englewoodumc.net)

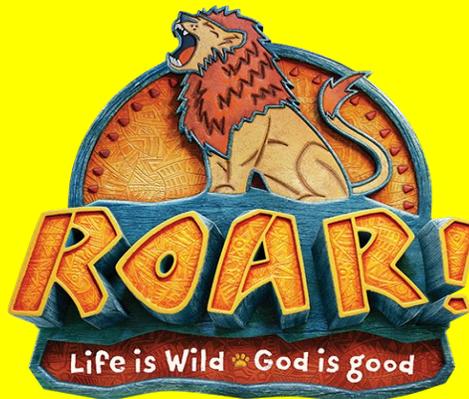
The egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th from 9 to 12 noon. We are collecting small, individually wrapped candy, toys, prizes and fruit snacks to put in the eggs. Please drop your donations off in the church office or in the bin by the children's check-in area behind the church nursery.

**No Chocolate please. Thank you!**



***Vacation Bible School is coming soon! Mark your calendars!***

July 15th—19th  
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon  
3 years old through  
5th grade



Participants may  
pre-register online at:  
[www.englewoodumc.net](http://www.englewoodumc.net)

## Book Buzz!!!!

**Disclaimer:** “Upon further study, I find that last month’s column on Eagles has incorrect information within it. I apologize for my lack of proper research! Sorry I ruffled some feathers.”

For this column I would like to write about the Book of Psalms in the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible.

Most of you know there are 150 Psalms in your Bible. David wrote 73 psalms, Asaph wrote 12, the sons of Korah wrote 9, Solomon wrote 2 and the others were written anonymously.

Did you know that besides these hundred and fifty Psalms, there is one additional Psalm 151! It can be found in the Apocrypha which includes 15 books usually not included in your Bible translation.

A Hebrew version of Psalm 151 is found in the Dead Sea Scrolls (11QPS). The psalm is a narrative of David, the youngest brother after he fought the battle with Goliath. The Coptic Orthodox Church reads this Psalm on the Bright Saturday each year (the day before the Resurrection feast).

### Psalm 151

*I was small among my brothers and the youngest in my father’s house I tended my father’s sheep.*

*My hands made a harp; my fingers fashioned a lye.*

*And who will tell my Lord?  
The Lord himself; it is he who hears.*

*It was he who sent his messenger and took me from my father’s sheep,  
and anointed me with his anointing oil.*

*My brothers were handsome and tall, but the Lord was not pleased with them.*

*I went out to meet the Philistine,  
and he cursed me by his idols.*

*But I drew his own sword; I beheaded him and took away disgrace from the people of Israel.*

*Pam Heady,*

Your church librarian



**Financial Peace University**  
**Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00**  
**May 1-June 19**  
**Cost: \$109 per household**  
**Facilitated by Rick Krieger**

Take control of your money with *Financial Peace University* (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Space is limited. Sign up now on Sundays between services, or at [www.inglewoodumc.net](http://www.inglewoodumc.net) under “Featured Events.”

**Country Brunch**  
**Served by Men’s**  
**Fellowship**  
**Saturday 7:30—11:00 a.m.**

**Last of the Season**  
**April 6, 2019**

**Eggs & Sausages**  
**OR**  
**Biscuits & Gravy**  
**OR**  
**Quiche & Fruit**  
**OR,**  
**Belgium Waffles with Whipped**  
**Cream and Fruit**  
**OR**  
**Pancakes**  
**\$6.00 / Children Under 12 eat**  
**FREE!**

**Enjoy Live Music and Buy Crafts**

## ***To Ground Zero and Back*** ***A story from*** ***Family Promise National***



Collisa recalls exactly where she was during the World Trade Center attacks on September 11 – stuck on a New York City subway. A single mother and former teacher-turned-police officer, Collisa was heading to graduate school classes when tragedy struck. She was called to action and spent the next two weeks volunteering at Ground Zero during her time off.

By the end of September, however, stress pushed her to resign from the force. Desperate to escape the haunting memories, she moved around the country with her young daughter, eventually returning to teaching. After the birth of her second daughter, the family moved to Georgia to be with Collisa's partner, and life settled down...until her partner abruptly turned them out of his home. Collisa was about to start a new job, but the family had nowhere to go. She secured a loan to pay for a hotel room– a temporary solution –and soon found the Family Promise Affiliate in Athens, Georgia.

Family Promise became the support system Collisa needed, providing emergency shelter and helping her navigate her next steps. Once back on her feet, Collisa was asked to serve as the Affiliate's interim Service Director, eventually accepting an offer to join the Affiliate full time.

"Families' faces light up with they hear my story," says Collisa. "It gives them hope." She says her experience stemming from 9/11 gives her a unique perspective. "When you're dealing with trauma, there are no rules. That's how it was during 9/11, and that's how it feels to be homeless. But people don't think that way if they've never experienced a crisis like that," Collisa explains.

Collisa also helps train Family Promise volunteers. Educated and employed when she lost her home, she feels her story changes people's assumptions of homelessness.

"I've been there. I know you can't assume anything. I know how families in this situation think and feel," she says, adding, "that's what's so great about Family Promise: we give families more than shelter, we help them focus on healing and moving forward."



**Dinner in Fellowship Hall**  
**5:00-6:30 p.m.**  
**There is a \$7 suggested donation.**

**Take-out meals are available for \$7 each.**  
**As always children eat for free!**  
**Kid's meals are always served.**  
**Left over food is given to Englewood Meals on Wheels.**

### **April 3**

**Creamy Swiss Chicken Breast with Seasoned Rice Cup & Roasted Zucchini**  
**Caesar Salad**  
**Roll**  
**Blueberry Lemon Crunch Cake**

### **April 10**

**Salisbury Steak**  
**Mashed Potatoes & Gravy**  
**Fiesta Corn**  
**Mixed Greens Medley Topped with Three Bean Salad & Crispy Tortilla strips**  
**Roll**  
**Boston Cream Cake Cup**

### **April 17**

**Pot Roast**  
**Roasted Baby Carrots & New Potatoes**  
**Bistro Salad**  
**Roll**  
**Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake**

### **April 24**

**Oven Roasted Chicken with Bacon (Leg Quarter)**  
**Apple-Bread Stuffing**  
**Mashed Potatoes with Gravy**  
**Green Beans Almandine**  
**Garden Salad**  
**Roll**  
**Peach Melba Cake Cup**



**Englewood United Methodist Church**  
700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood, FL 34223  
Phone No. 941-474-5588 Fax 941-475-2865  
Website: www.englewoodumc.net

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April 2019

# THE MESSENGER

## **A SERVANT CHURCH**

*Following the example  
Of Jesus Christ,  
The Englewood United  
Methodist Church  
Shall strive to make God  
And His Kingdom  
More real through our  
Caring, worship, study  
Fellowship & outreach.  
To this end, as a  
Servant Church,  
We offer ourselves  
And our facilities  
For the Christian growth  
Of all persons.*

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**Adopted 1978      Revised 1989**

