



303 N. Evers St.
Plant City FL 33563
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9 AM-12 PM & 1 PM-4 PM
(813) 754-3519
firstchurchplantcity.com

THE VINE



Week of: August 23 - August 29, 2020

Dear Church Family,

The Re-launch Team has made the decision to resume in-person worship on August 30, 2020. We will offer our usual worship services at 9:00 AM and 11:00AM. In order to sanitize only one building, both services will take place in the traditional sanctuary.



We will follow all the safety guidelines as we did when we worshiped together on June 21. Temperature checks will be done upon entering. Face coverings will be required. Social distancing will be observed except for families and others living in the same household. Please enter the Sanctuary through the main staircase on Evers Street or the red door on Wheeler Street. The Mahoney Street entrance will be closed.

We understand you may not feel comfortable returning to worship at this time. Please do not feel obligated to be present. We will continue to offer our online worship service each Sunday.

I am deeply grateful for your patience and understanding when we made the decision to suspend in-person worship. You have remained faithful and committed to your church and its ministries.

I look forward to seeing you on August 30, 2020.

Pastor Stephen

AD Council

Monthly Administrative Council meetings are resuming. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be respecting social-distancing guidelines. Masks are requested and are available at the Mahoney street entrance. The church office kindly requests an RSVP. You can do so by emailing fumcpc@tampabay.rr.com or calling the church office at 813-754-3519.



Tithes and offerings are being accepted online through members.myEoffering.com or you can mail your contributions to:
303 N. Evers St. Plant City, FL 33563

WEEKLY DEVOTION FROM PASTOR DENNIS - AUGUST 23, 2020

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
Galatians 6:7*

What We Should Know

Evangelist D.L. Moody had just started preaching a sermon on Galatians 6:7 when a man in the audience stood up and shouted, "I don't believe it."

Moody replied, "My friend, that doesn't change the fact. Truth is truth whether you believe it or not, and a lie is a lie whether you believe it or not." When the meeting broke up, a police officer was at the door to arrest the man on an outstanding warrant. He was convicted of theft and sent to prison for twelve months. Moody observed, "I really believe that when he got to his cell, he believed that he had to reap what he had sowed."

We should know that whatever angry words, immoral activity or mean looks or actions we may be guilty of, they will likely bring us negative results. On the other hand, Isaiah 55:11 tells us that a wise word, a spiritual activity, a smile, a word of witness or a gift will not return void.

D.L. Moody said, "The evil harvest of sin and the good harvest of righteousness are as sure to follow the sowing as the harvest of wheat and barley. Life is not casual but causal."

Congregational Care

This wonderful ministry, led by Sally Verner, seeks to keep the church connected to members who are home-bound, shut-in, in long term care facilities or otherwise unable to participate regularly in the life of the church. This group also provides meals and emotional support to those who have lost a loved one, or are recovering from a recent hospital stay. They need volunteers who are willing to check-in with these individuals, or who can deliver or prepare meals. For more information contact Pastor Hartsfield at PastorStephen@tampabay.rr.com



This is a ministry of the Good News Sunday School Class. They provide prayer blankets and devotional material for people facing cancer or major surgery.

For more information contact Carole Wright at carole@myersandwright.com

Ladies in our church family and friends are invited to participate in a new Bible and book study beginning the week of August 24. We are living in challenging times, but we are not the first to do so! Our first study will be the book, ***When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up***, by Jamie Janosz. We will meet on a weekday morning or early afternoon, day and time to be determined by the ladies who sign up. Our goal is to set a day and time that works for all, either every week or every other week. Fellowship and connection with each other are very important, and the opportunity to read a book that supports our spiritual growth and to share insights with

Trailblazers: New Bible and Book Study for Ladies!



friends will be great fellowship! We will enjoy our connections, just like the ladies in the picture to the left, even though our chairs will be in our own homes for our ZOOM gathering! (We will make sure everyone is connected!) Please call Ginny Roebuck at 813-505-9399 or email her at g_roebuck@msn.com to sign up and arrange for a book. Our first book: "*When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up*," available in paperback, Audible, or Kindle format (Ginny will help you with obtaining the book!)

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home serves as an extension of the local church that meets the needs of children from situations of abuse, neglect and family dysfunction.

They have two campuses serving school aged children up to young adults in independent living. On our church campus, we house the office of their foster care ministry that serves Hillsborough County.

In 2019, our church gave a total of **\$28,384.57** to the home from the 5th Sunday offerings!

August 30th is Fifth Sunday. Checks made out to FUMC Plant City should indicate "Children's Home" in the memo. **Checks made out to the Children's Home should be mailed directly to the Home.** For more information contact Frank Bullard at frankbullard@icloud.com.

Prayer Chain

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Then please join our new prayer ministry. Add your name to the chain by your preferred means of communication:

- Shirley Robertson, phone 813-389-7174
- Nita Shaw, email to alinitarose@gmail.com
- Audrey Montella, text to 813-966-5698 or email to audreymontella40@gmail.com

Prayer needs are circulated to all on our list. Anyone may contact Pastor Stephen or Pastor Dennis, one of the above, or drop a prayer request card in the collection plate. Mighty and fervent prayers will be set up to the Lord from the whole group.



Testimonials

Testimonials are an important part of the church and how we spread the Word of God. Do you have a story to share where you have seen God at work in your life? It could be recent or a while ago. It could be something you saw, or it can be something you felt. You are invited to share that story, or stories if you have more than one, in a 2-4 minute video that could be included in an upcoming worship service. You can send the video to jenn.m.kramer@gmail.com.

Your testimony could touch someone's life!

NEWCOMER BIBLE STUDY

AUGUST 31, 2020

6:00 PM

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM MEETING

Newcomer Bible study will resume with a study by James W. Moore called Jesus' Parables About Priorities. For a copy of the study, please email Jennifer Kramer and delivery/pick-up can be arranged by August 30, 2020. Newcomer Bible Study is a diverse group of people that come together to study scripture, discuss our own faith journey, and support each other as we move through this life as sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. If you have no experience with the church or if you have been "churched" your whole life, you will find a welcome seat with Newcomer Bible Study. To receive emails for the Newcomer Bible Study, including information and meeting reminders, please email jenn.m.kramer@gmail.com. Join us for Chapter 1: The Priority of Love. For more insight into this study, please read and excerpt from the introduction below:

"Parables slip up on us. They flip our values. They turn our world upside down. They surprise us. This is the great thing about the parables of Jesus: They are always relevant and always personal. They speak eloquently to you and me, here and now. In this book, we will examine six of Jesus' thought-provoking parables about priorities to see if we can find ourselves, and God's truth for us, in these magnificent truth-stories. They are, after all, truth-stories for us--- truth - stories from the mind of Jesus that can change our lives as they proclaim God's truth for you and me."

