



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: June 14 - June 20, 2020

Senior SPOTLIGHT

HONORING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLES "CHAZ" PETERSON!



Your church family loves you!!



THE STORM

Boy, what a day - to me a beautiful day. I love the rain/wind etc. I was in my lounge chair hours ago when the room quietly filled with 'dark'. My senses were heightened as the rain rushed from the West Coast to Plant City and surrounded our house with water as it knocked on the roof/windows to get in.

Needless to say it was held at bay from entering.

However, it did patter on the trees, adding to the sounds of the wind rushing in to join it. I was intrigued with the almost sudden change in my reality. The multitude of sounds, the darkness, curiosity, sent me, to my window to look out at my very favorite tree. It has taken me through many lonely hours so I knew it would speak to me. Yes, the tree was responding to the orchestra of sounds that the wind and rain made as they responded to the baton of nature. The tree was dancing in the wind. The long, flowing moss was dancing in rhythm with the tree. Frankly, it was an awesome experience. In spite of the intensity of the 'music', dancing, darkness, there was a certain peace that nature is really there in its beauty and emotional support.

I know all of this makes no sense to anyone not seeing and hearing what I did today - even now at 8:30 it continues to rain - wind continues to blow - birds are quietly somewhere else (protected as only birds know how.) Through it all, I know that Tuesday morning will come with the sun shining again (OMG, as I wrote this a bird began chirping very loudly. Only one I've heard today! I think he might be complaining 'cause he is out in the elements.)

Mom used to say, "No matter how dark the night is, morning will come."

"No matter how dark the clouds, the sun will soon shine from behind them."

Yes, I learned more from my mother's wisdom than a lot of people who sat at their mother's knee being read to - whatever the text might be. I don't, however, make light of those mothers - NOT at ALL.

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The wind and rain continues their concert, but my little, intense birdie decides his solo is over. It is funny that I only heard him for those moments I shared with you. Hmm, was he reading my mind? Unfortunately I can't see out - just a bit too dark but with my windows open (how nice is that?) the curtains have joined the dance - assuming my tree and moss are still dancing! At any rate, I am snuggling in under my comfortable blanky soon and just going to enjoy the open windows for a change. Some misty rain actually is sneaking quietly through the bathroom window. (Oooops More humidity. :)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JQX25fnDGE>

.....and so I say to you, as my mom said to me oh so many times,
"Nita Belle, this too shall pass."

Yes there were many stormy times in my life. The wind and rain often lifted my spirits as I perceived them as a healing that would soon be the much needed light.

-Nita

First United Methodist Church: Relaunch Information

A relaunch plan is being organized around the CDC, State of Florida, and Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church guidelines for reopening safely during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 9 AM and 11 AM services will **both** be held in the Sanctuary. The Wesley Center will be closed.

ONLY TWO entrances to the Sanctuary will be accessible:

- **The main entrance on Evers Street**
- **The elevator entrance (red doors) on Wheeler Street**
 - **The Mahoney Street entrance will be CLOSED**

Social distancing will be implemented with alternate pews being closed. Please sit with only those in your household and *separate groups by at least 6 feet*. Individuals should continue social distancing with anyone who does not live in close contact on a regular basis. Temperature checks will be required upon entry, with the threshold temperature 99.5 degrees or lower. Hand sanitizer will be provided at both available entrances, the front entrance on Evers street and the red door on Wheeler street. Face masks will be required for the safety of all those in attendance. Disposable masks and gloves will be available at each entrance for those in need. The elevator will be accessible through the red doors on Wheeler, but will be regulated for optimum safety and social distancing. For further questions or concerns, please call the church office at (813) 754-3519.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A MESSAGE FROM MARY



We have all seen bad times. But this has been vastly different. Not one of us; even our children have not been affected. The numbers say it all. To serve consistently over 7,000 people the past two months. I am asked: "Where are the coming from"? 60 percent of them are out of work without pay and another 35 percent cannot work because their kids are out of school.

For food banks, it has been called the "perfect storm" of food and nutrition support for our community. Our supply chains were interrupted and we were faced with long lines of people – all with a story, all with a family, and all devastated and said "I want to go back to work".

Through strategic planning with our community members and community leaders, we are excited that we have been able to remain open to serving our community. It is because of our strong community and giving when it is hard, that we are still working to end hunger in our community.

I have learned that sometimes going an extra inch is as significant as going an extra mile. Every dollar counts and every supply donation counts.

Thank you,



Weekly Kids Bag Program AVAILABLE!

Our Kid Bag program still continues weekly for those students who are on free or reduced lunches in our service areas. Each bag usually contains peanut butter, jelly, bread, cereal or cereal bars, mac & cheese and fruit cups--kid friendly and shelf stable.

For inquiries, call our front office at 813-764-0625 EXT. 5





Since the onset of this pandemic, the United Food Bank has been operating with "Emergency Protocols" which is TURNING NO ONE AWAY, NO MATTER THEIR RESIDENCE. We are still operating under those protocols, including our office is currently not available for clients to enter. We will be also extended our service area to Brandon's 33510 and 33511 zip codes once we our back to normalcy. Currently we are allowing clients to come twice a month (instead of once a month) as long as supplies are available.



The ForkRanAwayWithTheSpoon5K run is dedicated to making a difference in people's lives. The ForkRanAwayWithTheSpoon5K benefits the United Food Bank of Plant City.

When: Sat November 14, 2020
Where: 102 N Palmer St.
Plant City, FL



**REGISTER
NOW**