



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 16 - August 22, 2020

prayer blanket ministry

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

Sunday, August 16, 2020

PRESERVICE MUSIC	AMAZING GRACE	RICHARD WISHER
WELCOME		JENNIFER KRAMER
SPECIAL MUSIC	WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS	JENNIFER KRAMER
OFFERING		JENNIFER KRAMER
SPECIAL MUSIC	RECKLESS LOVE	
OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM 133	BARBARA CARVER
PRAYER TIME		PASTOR STEPHEN
SPECIAL MUSIC	WELL DONE	
SERMON SCRIPTURE	ROMANS 11:1-5	ED CASTLEBERRY
SERMON		PASTOR DENNIS
BENEDICTION		PASTOR DENNIS
POSTLUDE	HOW DEEP IS THE FATHER'S LOVE	SUSAN DANIELS
	ANNUAL BUDGET	\$ 545,644.16
	WEEKLY BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	\$ 10,493.16
	LAST WEEK OFFERING	\$ 26,351.12
	TOTAL RECEIVED AS OF AUGUST 7	\$ 374,130.69

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

MISSIONS



The TGIF Small Group made an assortment of port pillows to protect medical ports from getting caught on things during daily routine. Please contact the church office to request a pillow for you or someone you love.

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 16, 2020

"The hand of the Lord has done this." (Job 12:9)

What We Should Know

I read recently the story of the most magnificent diamond ever found in an African diamond mine. It was presented to the king of England to embellish his crown. The king sent it to Amsterdam to be cut by an expert stonecutter.

He took this gem of priceless value and cut a notch in it. Then he struck it one hard time with his hammer, and the majestic jewel fell into his hand, broken in two. What recklessness! What wastefulness! What criminal carelessness!

Actually, that was not the case at all. You see, that one blow with the hammer had been studied and planned for days, and even weeks. Drawings and models had been made of the gem. It's quality, defects and possible lines along which it would split had all been studied to the smallest detail and the man to whom it was entrusted was one of the most skilled stonecutters in the world.

No, that blow was no mistake. It was the capstone and culmination of the stonecutter's skill. When he struck that blow, he did the one thing that would bring that gem to it's most perfect shape, radiance and jeweled splendor. The blow that seemed to be the ruin of the majestic precious stone was actually its perfect redemption, for from the halves were fashioned two magnificent gems. Only the skilled eye of the master stonecutter could have seen the beauty of the two diamonds hidden in the rough, uncut stone as it came from the mine.

Sometimes, in the same way, God lets a stinging blow fall on our life. We bleed, feeling the pain and our soul cries out in agony. At first, we think it is an appalling mistake, but it's not for we are the most precious jewel in the world to God and He is the most skilled stonecutter in the universe.

In one of George MacDonald's books, one of the characters makes this bitter statement: "I wonder why God made me. I certainly don't see any purpose in it!" Another of the characters responds, "Perhaps you don't see any purpose yet, but then, He isn't finished making you. And besides, you are arguing with the process."

There is an old cliché which says: "Don't give up on me. God ain't through with me yet." Let's just open up and give God room to work so His Good News will go on. (I appreciate these thoughts from Annie Porter Johnson)



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.

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!

Our Re-Launch team communicates on a weekly basis to check-in on how the pandemic is affecting our ability to meet in person for worship on Sundays. The consensus is to remain virtual with our worship services until a two week decline in new COVID-19 cases are recorded in the state of Florida.

Thank you for your continued patience as we safely navigate this trying time. If you have questions, please feel free to call the church office at 813-754-3519.



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.



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.

Trailblazers: New Bible and Book Study for Ladies!



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 friends will be great fellowship! We will enjoy our connections, just like the ladies in the picture above, 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!)

What: Bible/book study for ladies

When: Every week or every other week, on a day and at a time determined by those who join

How soon: proposed start - the week of August 24

Who: Ladies in the First United Methodist Church of Plant City family and friends

How do I join: Please contact Ginny Roebuck, g_roebuck@msn.com or 813-505-9399, or call the church office at 813-754-3519 to leave a message and I will call you!!

