

January 2022

Monthly Publication



“A Time For Everything Under Heaven”

Happy New Year! Instead of the expected “Pastoral New Year Message” about new beginnings, blank slates and resolutions, let’s think for a few minutes about something that will positively affect the unfolding and outcome of this year in several ways.

The announcement of my retirement next June caught several of you by surprise when I mentioned it in a sermon in November. Thank you for the many well wishes in spite of the surprise announcement. It is bitter-sweet for Debbie and me too.

I’ve not been quiet about my plans to retire for a while now but until recently we thought it was going to be June of 23 rather than June of 22. I’d like to share a few reasons why we’ve bumped it up a year.

Short and sweet, they are...

1. Pandemic
2. Marcella is not getting any younger
3. We aren’t either
4. It’s retirement from full time ministry, NOT retirement from our Calling
5. Timing is everything

Let’s take them in order!

While I can’t say COVID-19 is the most important contributing factor, it did play a role (as it has for many clergy-persons and people in lots of other fields). The adapting and adjusting required to lead EUMC through 2020 and early 2021 extracted a much higher level of sustained energy than pre-covid days. That’s fine, I’m not complaining, just stating a fact. Our great pastoral team, staff and Guide Team navigated those murky waters with skill and discernment, but I can read my own internal “red flags” about burnout. It’s better to stay ahead of THAT curve.

Who is Marcella, you ask? Well, if you have to ask, you’ve literally been asleep during the best moments of my sermons for 2 1/2 years! She’s our granddaughter and she’s already 2 1/2 years old! She lives in Tallahassee and FaceTime is nice but it’s not cutting it when it comes to being a physical part of her life like we hoped we could. Our 6 year old grandson, Skylor, is also getting very old very quickly in the Keys. Moving near one and having time to visit the other is the only solution! Hence, retirement needs to happen sooner than later.

Which brings me to the dreaded topic: My own aging, and Debbie’s (she’s fairing better than me though!). I was trying to remember when it was that I first realized I was no longer “middle aged”. Was it when the receptionist at the doctor’s office asked for my Medicare card? Or was it when the ticket-taker at the movie theater asked if I wanted the senior discount? Well, at 63, I’m now in the bottom third of my days on earth (that’s actually pretty cool since as a kid I thought I would not make it past 19!). Yet, with age comes wisdom, and the ability to say when “it’s time to shift into another season of life.”

(Continued from page 1)

On that Sunday in November when I asked how many of you are retired, the sea of hands that sprang up didn't shock me. I was actually encouraged by how fast all those hands sprang up! Nobody needed help lifting their arms! Vigorous and spry was your instant response and many of you have been retired for several years! That gave me great hope!

I WAS a little shocked at how FEW of you raised a hand when I asked how many were nervous about retirement just before you did it. Because I am, and I wasn't feeling the love! You see, I'm not retiring because I hate my "job." I love what I do! In fact, I am enjoying ministry now more than I ever have! Yes, I know! Go figure!

Our decision for me to retire is not being made out of some arbitrary feeling of whether or not I like ministry anymore. In truth, it is being made because I am sensing God's release from this particular expression of my Calling. There are many ways that I can be true to God's Call on my life—not just one! One way is to be the best spouse I can be to Debbie. Another is be the best Babaw (that's a grandpa) I can be to Marcella and Skylor. Another is be the best neighbor I can be to those in the neighborhood of 94 Evergreen Drive in Crawfordville. Those, in truth, are some of the highest callings assigned from Heaven!

You see, I've seen what faithfulness in these high callings looks like. I've seen it lived out through so many of you. For that, I say, Thank You!

Timing. For the past three years Debbie and I have been looking for a house to buy so that we'd have a place to live in retirement but after literally scores of walk-throughs with realtors both here and in Tallahassee, nothing ever checked all the boxes for us until recently. The best I can figure is, our timing wasn't right before, but it is now.

As far as EUMC is concerned, I've become aware of several reasons waiting till 2023 to retire was the wrong timing and why it needs to be earlier. With inevitable changes in the United Methodist Church over the next few years, it wouldn't be good for the church to begin the process of change with a senior pastor who can't complete the process. If I wait until 2023, EUMC will likely already be well into whatever change process the

2022 General Conference determines for the denomination, or whatever alternative EUMC votes for. You need a senior pastor who will stay with you through that entire multi-year process. I am not that person.

In addition, even though I may not agree with some of the changes General Conference may enact, to bail on a denomination that has nurtured me and allowed me 42 years of opportunity for ministry, and THEN immediately retire, comes real close to a major integrity issue for me. For me it would be akin to a wife putting her hubby through school by working AND raising the kids while he gets a bachelors, a masters and a doctoral degree, and as he walks across the stage to be hooded "Doctor So and So," he leans over and whispers in his wife's ear that he's leaving her for another woman. He reaped all the benefits and kicked the wife to the curb when he didn't need her anymore. I would be like that husband if I changed denominations. I need to retire as a United Methodist no matter what happens.

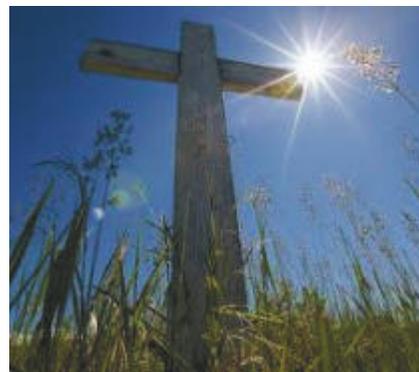
This may be too much information for some, but I think a church I've had the honor to be in ministry with for 12 years (the longest tenured senior pastor in EUMC's 106 year history, by the way) deserves a thorough explanation!

So, Happy New Year Englewood United Methodist Church! It's sure to be an adventure in faith for all of us!

I love you and God loves you! And God will see us all through!

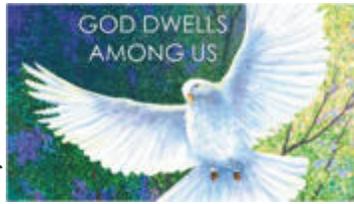
You are Loved!

Pastor Vic



A WORD FROM PASTOR BO

As we advance into the Season of Advent, we are graced with a grateful heart. Within it, the blessed Season of Gifts – Christmas.



Coming of Messiah! *Emmanuel - God with us!*
The holy Baby Jesus is born!

We have witnessed Jesus Christ, our great expectation, as seen through the Word of God. Who came as our Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! Who was and is: our Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace! All encapsulated in one Word, JESUS!

True Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love come from the most fragile being, Baby Jesus. In Isaiah 11: 1, “*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*” The rod and branch symbolize Jesus, who will be born in a manger in Bethlehem. Jesus did not come to us with some absolute right of succession to a throne in His hands. He came to us as a humble baby! Imagine, our Savior came to us as a delicate rod, not as a mighty warrior but *as a lowly Lamb!*

However, let me assure you, the rod does not always remain a rod. The living branch will eventually grow roots and sprout from the ground, and it will sprout through the most challenging bark of a tree. The delicateness of a rod contains strength, and the softness of a rod encompasses sturdiness and resilience. The rod eventually becomes the aromatic acacia tree, the mighty pine tree, and the great tree that shelter many birds and animals. These trees ultimately harvested became materials used for many purposes, especially building the Tabernacle and eventually the Temple in Jerusalem. The aromatic and sturdy acacia tree was used to craft the Ark of Covenant where the Glory of God, *Shekinah*, “*dwelled in*” and “*rested upon*” it.

Absolutely, the sprout from a branch, which may look fragile, is genuinely not tender!

We anticipate the year 2022 with a great expectation of what the Lord will orchestrate before us. We have dreamed of many Fresh Expression ministries and many mission areas, just to mention a few. Do you see that the faithful hope is waiting for something to come in the future but not yet visible at present? We must persevere and remain with hope in Jesus.

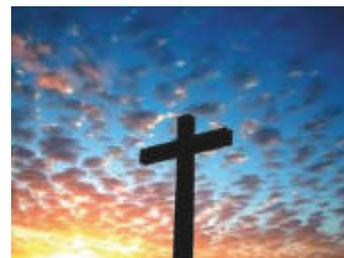
In the New Year of 2022, as we step into a new day, let us be absolutely committed to loving God with all we have and loving one another as Jesus Christ has shown to us. Just like the beautiful rainbow of hope that our God promised Noah, let the fresh sunshine, after the rain, illuminate the New Year. As we are nourished with the living water, let the abundant blessings from the Lord be poured out to fill our already overflowing cups... Let the aroma of Christ blossom and permeate through us. Let His holy Love resonates who we are, and in all, what we do on this New Day, New Year. May His blessing be abundant He *tabernacles* amongst us!

As we carry on the Lord’s ministry together, let us the Lord’s blessings bestowed upon others.

Have a Blessed and Happy Brand New Year, EUMC, and a New Day!

Be blessed as Emmanuel dwells among us ~!

Pastor Bo





Ms. Amy's Adventures

Happy New Year 2022, and what an amazing year it is going to be. Thank you again to all our wonderful donors who thought of us over the holidays.

A huge thank you to the families who helped some of our families in need. Lots to be thankful for! Volunteers are welcome back! Want to read to the kids, help a child who might need some one on one, work in small groups, or just spend time with our little ones? Give us a call and we would love to set up some time for you to come help in.



First Readers is a Childhood Literacy program that helps provide our children with monthly books to take home. Foundations is the beneficiary of funding provided in conjunction with the Rotary Youth Foundation and the Rotary Club of Englewood. Pictured: (L to R) Michelle Maddox, Amy Cloutier, Tracy Hamill, Carolyn Burk and Marcia Ziegler. We are grateful to be part of this program!

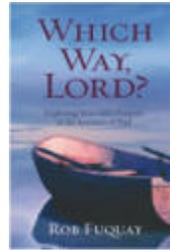
Love,

Amy, Heather and our Amazing Team



Pastor's Wednesday Night Bible Study

“Which Way, LORD?” Exploring Your Life’s Purpose in the Journeys of Paul”
by Rob Fuquay



Wednesdays, January 5-February 9
6:30pm in Doan Chapel
Led by Pastor Vic

A study to help you understand God’s desire for your life by unpacking your experiences alongside those of the apostle Paul. It is recommended you purchase the book and read the first chapter before the first class on January 5. The book is available from Amazon.com and christianbook.com. Books will also be available for purchase for \$10 in Fellowship Hall after services on Sundays.

Women’s Bible Study

“Elijah” by Priscilla Shirer

January 24-March 14 * 7 weeks (no class 2/21)

Mondays, 10:00am or 6:30pm

Workbook \$15 Scholarships Available



Join Priscilla Shirer on this 7-session journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now.

Registration begins Sunday, January 2 in Fellowship Hall after each service. You may also register on the church’s website, englewoodumc.net under “Discipleship” or by calling the church office, 941-475-5588 ext. 261.



At Home

Janet Albrecht
 Jody Brokaw
 Jenny Chastain
 Joe Croce
 Phyllis Eastlund
 Shirley Grayson
 Lori Ierardi
 Howard & Nan Jackson
 Deborah Larsen
 Betty Madison
 Geri Meneely
 Roger & Barb Molendyke
 Jackie Morton
 Ruth Runyon
 Wanda Staneszewski
 Val Stevens
 Mary Thompson
 Bob & Lorraine Turner
 Helen Williams
 Gina Willis

At Nursing Home or Assisted Living

Joan Bentson—*Tuscan Gardens on Venetia Bay*
 Alice Buck—*Gardens of Venice*
 Doris Crook—*Towers of Venice*
 Margaret Cypher—*Life Care in Punta Gorda*
 Ruth Davidson—*Bay Breeze*
 Maude Drinks—*Grand Villa*
 Sandra Dussault—*Heritage Oaks*
 Doris Finn—*Grand Villa*
 Marjorie Fitzgerald—*Family Affair*
 Sonny Gourley—*Towers of Venice*
 Dorothy Hill—*Liana Memory Care*
 Charles Lindberg—*Heritage Oaks*
 Sam & Thelma Lloyd—*Heritage Oaks*
 Audrey MacEhiney-Rogers—*Towers of Venice*
 Carolyn McCallum—*Grand Villa*
 Loraine Melnichok—*Grand Villa*
 Jim Roch—*Brookdale—Venice*
 Doris Scott—*Heritage Oaks*
 Marilyn Smith—*Summerfield—Bradenton*
 Adele Stewart—*Heritage Oaks*
 Audrey Volz—*Grand Villa*
 Janet Wilson—*Heritage Oaks*
 Millie Wischnowsky—*Heritage Oaks*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Do you live alone? In need of company? Would you like someone to visit, enjoy your company and pray with you? Congregational Care Ministers are on hand to visit with you on a monthly basis, sharing their ministry through prayer and communion.

Please call Pastor Don at 941-474-5588, ext. 252
 to request a CCM minister.



Stewardship Campaign 2022



January is *Stewardship Month*! Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign is entitled, “Stewards We Be” and Pastor Vic will be delivering a sermon series explaining more about this funny title in January. Please be on the lookout for your campaign materials and pledge cards which can be returned to the church on or before Pledge Sunday, January 23, 2022. Our prayers are that your generosity, selflessness and sacrifices will continue on in to 2022 enabling us to serve our Lord, our Church and our Community, as He would have us do.

Gratefully,

Beth Harrison

Business Administrator



Are you interested in making a family or individual's life better? Come join us in repairing homes in the Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee area the week of April 3rd. (Yes some of you snowbirds can do this on your way north this spring!). You do not have to have skills (but they are helpful), just a willingness to follow directions in making homes warmer, safer, drier. Come visit us in the back of the Fellowship hall the first Sunday of each month if you would like information.

In Faith we Serve

Your Appalachia Service Coordinators

Marty Bencsik email:
J316Marty@gmail.com

Margie Kennedy email:
Magie.Kennedy6@gmail.com



“I’m a successful businessman and am very capable of handling finances for my company – why can’t I seem to do the same thing for myself?”

“We’ve both worked for 40 years and have almost nothing to show for it. We can’t even handle a simple emergency.”

“I’m a single Mom – I have a car lease, credit card debt, and medical bills I’m still paying on. I just can’t get ahead.”

Actual comments from real students starting their FPU class at EUMC.



The how’s and whys vary - great people with great intentions to handle their money responsibly and prepare themselves for the future, but just lack the tools. EUMC has offered Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University for several years, and we continue to see lives change with concrete, tangible results.

We all need a plan – it’s YOUR time, and here’s YOUR opportunity to make a difference in your life, and for your family.

The cost is only \$129.99 (per family) for the 9-week class, and includes a full year of tools and support. Classes will be January 18th–March 15th at 6:30pm in Room 102. Space is limited – sign up today and experience your own Financial Peace.

Questions? Call Rick Krieger 941-961-5252 or Joyce at the EUMC office or register on line at:
www.inglewoodumc.net under Discipleship

Memorial Gifts

Non-Designated Giving

In Memory Of: Jane Sides
 Given By: Barbara & Paul Darlington
 Barbara & Bob Parks
 Sandra Wagner

In Memory Of: Fran Altman
 Given By: Maurice Chandler
 Noah's Ark-Christian
 Learning Center
 Jeff & Debra Jensen
 Sussex UMW
 Betty Behnke

In Memory Of: Shirley Keuker
 Given By: Betty Behnke

In Memory Of: Jeanne Sawyer
 Given By: Stuart Shoaff

Williamson Music Fund

In Memory Of: Laura Williamson
 Given By: Merrice Chandler

Worship

In Memory Of: Jane Sides
 Given By: Guy Wolf

Missions

In Memory Of: Shirley Keuker
 Given By: Jane Morin

The Whitlock Mission

In Memory Of: Shirley Keuker
 Given By: The Working Class Sunday School

Helping Hand

In Memory Of: Rodney Bentson
 Given By: Jim & Judy Johnson



Memorial Corner

11/10 *Bill Raker*

11/14 *Dave Stevens*

11/20 *Janice Stoddard*

12/06 *Patricia Wise*



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



Comparative Financial Operations/Performance For the 11 month period ending November 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,388,825	\$ 1,607,989
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$-1,367,989</u>	<u>\$- 1,339,003</u>
Tithes & Offerings		
Less Expenditures	\$ 20,836	\$268,984

**January 17th the EUMC office
 will be closed in honor of
 The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s
 birthday observance.**

Serving Opportunities

We are asking you to prayerfully consider helping in one of these ministries.

- **Wednesday Night Dinners** We need a small leadership team to plan and prepare the weekly dinners.
- **Reset Team** Needed to reset tables & chairs between dinners & Sunday worship & again for dinners.
- **Contemporary Worship Team** Help is needed in all facets of Sunday contemporary worship: coffee bar, tech, musicians and singers. Contact Rich Church at 941-544-5411.
- **Good News Team** A minimum of 10-12 people are needed to be able to offer Good News Club in the elementary schools, beginning January 2022. A commitment of 3-4 hours, once a week for 13 weeks.
- **Short term Adult Bible Study** or Christian course facilitators.
- **Family Promise** One or two people to lead and organize Family Promise at EUMC. Families staying on site will resume 2022.
- **Friends Class** One or two people to restart the Friends Class which is an 11:00 Sunday school class for adults with special needs. Curriculum is provided.
- **Senior Exercise Class** A qualified leader to hold weekly exercise classes for senior men and women.
- **Disaster Response Team** A dedicated leader is needed to take teams to help people recovering from natural disasters in the state. This team works in conjunction with UMCOR and will need to take their training.
- **New Member Team** A few people are needed to attend the New Member classes to greet and help new members learn more about EUMC.
- **Divorce Care** Two qualified people are needed to facilitate this 13-week class for those struggling with divorce or separation. The course is usually offered twice a year.
- **Sunday Welcome Team coordinator** Someone to schedule the greeters/ushers (Welcome Team) for each service on Sundays.
- **Sunday Hospitality Table in Fellowship Hall** 2-3 people are needed to aid in registering for events or studies, distributing books, selling tickets, answering questions, etc. after the service of their choice.
- **Congregational Care Ministry** more people are needed for visitation to Assisted Living, Nursing Homes and homebound congregants.

If you are interested in one of these ministries, please contact:

Joyce Doyle in the church office.,

joyce@englewoodumc.net or 941-474-5588 ext. 261

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

1/09 Daniel Desmond **
 1/03 Phyllis Little **
 1/16 Thelma Lloyd **
 1/22 Shirley Brooks
 1/27 Charles Lindberg **
 1/30 Thomas Lloyd **

January 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.



Super Senior Birthday Registration

Name _____

Birth Date ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

THE HUGE RUMMAGE SALE

FELLOWSHIP HALL ~ FULL INSIDE & OUT!

Thursday, Feb. 24 ~ 3 - 6 pm
EARLY BIRD SALE!

\$5 for Shop Early Admission
~ Special 1 day Only ~

REGULAR SALE ~ FREE ENTRY:

Friday, Feb. 25 ~ 9 am - 3 pm

Saturday, Feb. 26 ~ 9 am - Noon

Information ~ Call Annette 303/915-2690 ~ Watch Publications for Updates

DROP-OFF DONATIONS until Feb. 11
NOT ACCEPTING FURNITURE or LARGE ITEM!
(Sorry, no storage space for them currently.)

VOLUNTEER Sign Up Please!
 By Feb. 7
 Call Annette 303/915-2690

Family Ministry



Happy New Year one and all! I pray that the Advent/Christmas season was full of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love for each of you. The children and youth of EUMC were very busy for the past month with many opportunities to serve the congregation and community. I am so proud of each of them. I truly believe they understand what it means to have a servant's heart. Thank you to all of you who help our littlest disciples walk closer with Christ.

Sunday school continues with Gospel Project starting January 9th. Teachers are experimenting with new ideas and creative elements for the new semester. They are excited to explore the traditional stories in an innovative way. If you have not come back to Sunday School since the pandemic, come on back! We miss you! If you have never volunteered with children, but feel called by God to do so, join us! We would LOVE to have you!



MOVIE NIGHT RESCHEDULE!!!

Friday, January 14, 2022 6pm (Please note, we changed the day from a Saturday to a Friday!)

The movie is still LUCA!

We invite kids to decorate a cardboard box for their own DRIVE-IN movie car. We will have all the decorations and a creation station, just bring a box!



We also have a weather plan! Fellowship Hall will be our inclement weather location. So, we will have our movie night RAIN OR SHINE!

Thank you for understanding our rescheduling! We look forward to seeing you January 14th!



LET'S EAT!!! Country Breakfast

Families are invited to join us for the Country breakfast on January 22nd. Starting at 9:00, we will have a special craft table for children! We encourage all families to come, sit together and enjoy your breakfast. When children are done, send them over to the craft table for some fun. Parents/Adults can continue to enjoy coffee, more pancakes, and fellowship with one another!



Englewood UMC Youth
The world is like a fire every heart I see I hold it in. December 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

2021 was a year of continuous change, and change is not easy! Although there is much to learn from it. We started the year with Zoom meetings and less personal connection. What did we learn? Distance from others can be challenging, lonely and even depressing at times.

As time went on, we started returning to more normal activities and interaction. We went fishing, to church camp, bowling, and even to the movies! By year's end, youth group had grown three-fold, and we've made many new friends!! Challenging? Yes! But rewarding as well!

God wants this for us...friends and peers to fellowship with, have fun with and learn about Him. 2022 is sure to bring us more fun, fellowship and friendships. I hope to foster this connection our youth have with each other as we start a new year.

So keep 'em coming to youth, and BRING A FRIEND!

Blessings,

Chrissy Church



MUSIC.....

Isn't it great to be able to worship IN church again? And to have concerts and cantatas and special programs again? You never know what you are missing until it is gone. I hope those of you still at home will venture out to attend church and church events and be around your fellow Christians. As we move into the new year, more and more events and activities will be taking place, and you won't want to miss any of them.



Thank you to all those who helped to make our Advent and Christmas music so very special at all the various worship services. I am grateful for each of you and the time and talents you share.

Happy New Year!

Fonda

New Members Class

The new members class will be held January 20th and 27th for those interested in joining the church. Classes are from 6:00-8:00pm (the meeting room will be announced) . Membership joining Sunday will be on January 30th 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 the history of EUMC.

If you are interested in joining the EUMC family call the church office at 941-474-5588 ext. 105 and let Teresa know you're planning to attend the classes.



Book Buzz

Happy New Year to all the readers of my column! It is my 11th year writing this column and how time flies! I hope to bring you some interesting reading as well as challenge those who have not entered the library to do so. We have a wonderful collection, and all the shelves are full because of your generosity!

A few months ago, my friend Judy gave me a little book entitled Sweet Tea for The Soul. I would like to share part of a devotion found there. It is entitled, Let's Hear It for The Kudzu!

So, let's begin with scripture from the Book of Jonah 4:6 NLT: *"Then the Lord arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant."*

Kudzu is a climbing, coiling, perennial vine with an accelerated capacity for growth that is virtually unstoppable. Late in the nineteenth century, America's most infamous weed was introduced from Asia to the highways and byways of this country as a garden plant and a boon to agriculture.

Kudzu seems to grow a mile a minute, eating up millions of acres of native plants and creating otherworldly landscapes of tangled, eerie-looking shapes. As you have traveled the highways, you have seen evidence of this vine in all its invasive glory! I am wondering if Jonah experienced the cousin to this particular plant.

But hold on a minute. From what I have read about Kudzu, it may not be all that bad. During times of drought, bees forage on kudzu nectar from the plant's grape-scented blossoms and produce a unique red or purple-hued honey that tastes like grape jelly or bubblegum. I have never seen blossoms on this vine. Have you? The plant can also be utilized in animal feed, medicine, basketry, clothing, toiletries, compost, and the production of ethanol!

Lesson learned: Sometimes what we think is bad may very well be a benefit to us....

Take care and enjoy this New Year!

Pam Heady.

Your church librarian

A New Year, New Beginnings

God has blessed us with a new year. It's time to let 2021 be in the past and live now. Make up your mind to see life, to focus on the good. You might be thinking, "I don't know what to do." Now is the time to do the next good thing, like what? Two words.... seek God. I mean really seek Him; not because you are in crises, or because you have a special need, but because you really want to know Him.



Jesus says "You will seek Me and find Me when you search with all your heart." This can be a delightful assignment, but it can also be challenging. You will need to be focused and sincere. Go to your Bible. See Jeremiah 29:13. RSV

Spending time enjoying God's presence is a privilege reserved for those who know Him as Savior and Lord. Is this you? Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? If you have, you are already halfway there in seeking and knowing God. If you haven't asked Christ to be your Savior, why not? What holds you back? Really think about it and pray about it. Get to know Him, see what He offers you, His unconditional love, His mercy and grace, His friendship, and Eternity.

We are living in strange times. We need the blessed assurance that Heaven will be our forever home. We will be with saved loved ones who have passed before us. We will live free from pain and sorrow, to enjoy a one-on-one relationship with Jesus. What Joy!

If you are saved learn who Jesus is and why you will find delight in Him forever. You can enjoy some of that relationship right now as you become acquainted with Him through the scriptures and prayer. Open your heart, ask Jesus to reveal Him to you. Call upon His name. He is waiting for you.

Please let this be your New Year, saved by Jesus.

Happy Blessed New Year!

Barbara Terardi,

Prayer, In His Presence

Obedience and Patience Rewarded in Bolivia



A story showing that God truly loves all the people of the earth was recently received from Galcom – the solar powered radio, Bible and broadcasting mission EUMC partners with.

On October 18, 2018, Andres Saldias, a devoted South American pastor was sleeping peacefully when the Lord gave him a vivid dream, calling him to reach an unreached people called the Araona who live many hours north in a remote jungle area. When he awoke he was reluctant to take on this additional task, but when the Lord gave him the Bible verses from Job, he decided to listen to the Lord. His letter follows.

“Dear Tom: The Lord has guided me to some missionary work from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The missionary pastor’s name is brother Daniel from Christian Family Church. He is originally from Brazil but works in this Christian church for 20 years in Bolivia. The Lord has guided him to a tribe in the northern Bolivian jungle.”

“About 20 years ago, there was a missionary translator there, but he was kicked out by the head of the tribe called “cacique”, who was an evil man. Until his father passed away the cacique’s son decided to pursue Jesus secretly. He is now the new cacique and has built a temple with chairs and an altar, yet no evangelism happened until Pastor Daniel was able to get there, by plane and then 9 hours more by boat through the river, as it’s the only way to get there.

“Since Pastor Daniel got there, as a result of a clear dream from the Lord, he connected ‘by chance’ with the exiled translator and retrieved the first New Testament books in the Araona language, which was first handwritten and now is typed with an old typing machine.”

“He then brought the Word through a solar-operated radio station he built by faith and now he wants to spread the Word through solar radios in their language. The stories of how he got all the equipment are incredible and God-driven. In the villages there are about 1,500 people. They barely can read and don’t speak Spanish.”

A unique twist on this story is that Daniel said he somehow found and repurposed 80 Galcom previous O-YE radios that were already in Bolivia. These are now being used to reach the tribe. What an amazing story and allow a great opportunity! He now desires 400 ImpaX solar radio Bibles tuned to his frequency and with Araona audio New Testament books loaded on chip, so the Word of God can be spread in Araona villages. Please pray with us that we can meet the need soon. Twenty years is a long time to wait for the life-transforming Good News of Jesus Christ in your heart language.

“For God does speak—now one way, now another though no one perceives it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears.”
Job 33: 14-16

Nancy Prins,
Chair Mission Committee



**Englewood UMM
Country Breakfast
7:30-11:00am
In Fellowship Hall**

**OJ & Bottomless Coffee/Tea
Egg & Sausage Or
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy Or
Quiche & Fresh Fruit OR
Pancakes**

**January 8th & 22nd
March 5th & 19th
April 2nd**



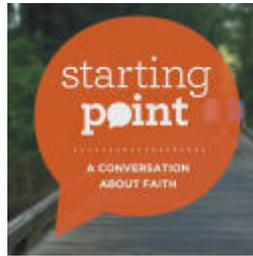
**\$6—Children under 12
eat for FREE!**

The women have crafts for sale.

Starting Point

January 26-March 16

6:30 PM in Room 100



Starting Point is an 8-session small group conversation about faith. Whether you're new to faith, curious about God, or coming back to church after some time away, it's a place where your opinion and beliefs are valued, and no question is off limits. Come as you are and build a relationship with others as you discover your starting point.

Facilitated by Gene & Lila Lee

Workbook \$10—Scholarships Available Register on our website englewoodumc.net under Discipleship or in Fellowship Hall between Sunday services or by calling the church office 941-474-5588.

United Methodist Women January 6, 2022 Unit Meeting

Ladies begin 2022 by hearing the inspiring words of local author, Ann Favreau. *Words of Heart Magazine* spotlighted her as an author who shines her light in her community through her community through her words and involvement. Ann's most recent books are *Cancer To Caring* and *A Poetic Journey of Faith*. EUMW are delighted to have her speak to us and share a meal with us.

January 6, 2022

11:00am—2:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Leah Circle, Host

Please bring a covered casserole dish, salad or dessert to share.

We all look forward to starting a new year together!

Congratulations!

Our own Luella Davis received the Church Women United—Key Women Award for 2021 at a program recently at the Venice United Methodist Church.

Congratulations for your dedicated work with the United Methodist Women for many years.



GriefShare

Mondays & Wednesdays Room 102

January 19-March 7 3:00-4:30pm

Workbook: \$20 scholarships are available

After the funeral, when the cards & flowers have stopped coming, most of the people around you return to their normal lives. But your grief continues. GriefShare is a biblically based support group with the purpose of helping individuals gain tools to manage their grief and rebuild their lives. There is no time limit on how long ago or how recent the loss occurred, you are welcome here.

Each class is self contained and you can join at anytime during the 13 sessions. You can register online, in the church office or on Sunday mornings, or you can just come to a class.

[www:englewoodumc.net](http://www.Englewoodumc.net) under Discipleship



Word in Song Bible Study with Pastor Don

Tuesdays, January 18-March 1, 6:30 PM

A 6-week Bible study using hymns and songs. You will learn about the history of the song's composition and it's relation to scripture. If you enjoy singing, or making a joyful noise to the Lord, you will enjoy this class.

Sign up online, by calling the church office, or on Sundays in Fellowship Hall between services.

[www:englewoodumc.net](http://www.Englewoodumc.net) under Discipleship

ENGLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST MEN WHO ARE WE?

Englewood United Methodist Men (EUMM) is the longest running men's group at Englewood United Methodist Church. Serving the men of both our congregation and the Englewood community for over 40 years. We are an inclusive group offering membership to all men interested in expanding their spiritual life as well as enjoying an active, fun fellowship with other men.

We raise money through our Country Breakfasts as well as the annual Rummage Sale to support numerous missions to include:

1. Scholarships
2. Foundations Pre-School
3. Radio Outreach
4. EUMC General Budget
5. Whitlock's Mission in Kenya
6. Pastor's Discretionary Fund
7. Scouting Program
8. Helping Hand
9. Family Promise
10. Celebrate Recovery
11. Ministry thru Men
12. Meals on Wheels

Over the years, we have given many hundreds of thousands of dollars to support these worthy missions.

If you would enjoy the fellowship of an active men's group along with spiritual growth and participation in the work of our Servant Church, please join us every Monday morning at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall.

We serve the best Country Breakfast in town for only \$5.00, and your first one is on us! We look forward to welcoming you to our Christian fellowship.



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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January 2022

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

