

Christ United  
Methodist  
Church

*Being & Making Disciples of  
Jesus Christ*

# The Beacon

May 2021

400 Penman Road—Neptune Beach, FL 32266 | (904) 249-5370 | [www.christumcnb.org](http://www.christumcnb.org)

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**Worship Online**  
Anytime at  
[www.christumcnb.org](http://www.christumcnb.org)

**Worship In-Person**  
Sundays  
10:15 am—Traditional  
or 6 pm—RampUp  
Drive UP

## Wilderness Faith

Wilderness is a difficult place to be. We have lost sight of the place we once knew. The place where we had familiar routines. And have not yet arrived at the place we are headed. This in-between space is a space where some begin to waiver in their faith. It is, throughout scripture a place of testing. The Israelites were tested in the wilderness as they followed God out of Egypt. Jesus was tested in the wilderness for forty nights.

When we are in this space the best thing we can do is return to our core calling and values. Beyond any core values we've set at Christ Church as United Methodists we all have taken the same vows of membership. Through May we will return to these vows. We will celebrate our oneness in Christ.

Through 2020 and now into 2021 we have learned to live in the wilderness. And we long for it to end. Yet, we press on in our hope and our faith. And as we run this race let us remind ourselves of the author and perfecter of our faith, Jesus, who goes before us. Hebrews calls us to hold fast that which we first learned. Let us all cling to the anchor of our souls as we continue through the wilderness.

Amazed by Grace,  
*Pastor Bridget*

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# Raise Up: Discipleship

## **NEW Sunday Morning Discipleship Opportunities at 9:00 am**

**Carmen Johns**, Coordinator  
for Raise Up: Discipleship

### **ADVENTURE KIDS**

Led by Paula Weisenborn

For children age 4-grade 5 will teach children through an exciting format about Jesus, Bible stories, and other elements of building a faith foundation.

### **HANGTIME**

Led by Hanna Thomas

For youth grades 6-12 gives opportunity for discussion about Christ-like living in a topsy turvy teen world.

### **CONNECT: LIFE & FAITH**

For parents, grandparents, and other adults raising children and teens addresses how to help build a faith foundation. No class Mother's Day. The next series which begins May 16 is "Relieving Stress in Family Life" led by a guest presenter.

Childcare, provided by Sandra Pavlick, provides loving care for infants through age 3.

### **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Summer Bible Study, led by Pastor Carmen, will meet on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. beginning May 3 in person in the parlor. We will discover how the life and faith issues we face in the 21st century are similar to those experienced by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Come whenever you can and take another step in your faith journey. No homework; no book to purchase.

The Discipleship Team is working on future plans. Contact a team member with your suggestions or requests. They are Carmen Johns, Hanna Thomas, Michelle Forwood, Laura Adams, Phil McCurdy, Bunny Boyd, and John Nunn.



# What do Methodists do when it rains?

## Have a Picnic!

Sunday April 18 was the Ramp Up Family Picnic. It was also a morning that saw 2 inches of rain.

But the picnic was at 4:30 and by 4:00 the rain had lifted. So, we started the grills and grilled the hot dogs. The kids were playing bean bag toss and blowing bubbles. 30 people were feasting on hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, chips and homemade cookies.

Then by 5:45 the rain came and everyone headed inside, either to clean up (thank you Shirley, Shirley, Bob, Victor, Marsha, and Cindy) or to the Ramp Up service, with 13 enthusiastic adults and 8 children.

**As they say...a good time was had by all!**





# Raise Up: Worship

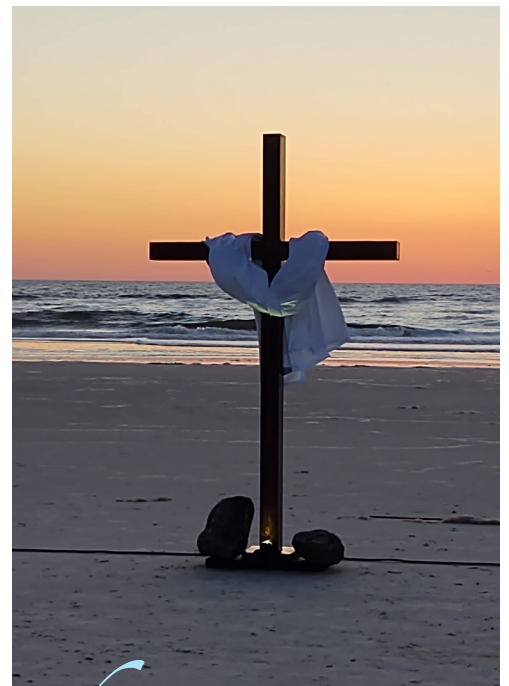


## What a glorious Easter we had celebrating our resurrection lives!

A special thanks to the many people who worked behind the scenes (especially those setting up for the sunrise service at 5 am); our greeters, ushers, musicians and audio-visual team; and to Tony and Mona for the pictures at the cross.

It is time to give the McEvoy's and Longs a break from ushering. They have been serving us faithfully since September when we reopened for in person service. Please join our usher team. The more people we have, the less often any one person has to serve. Call or email Nancy Russell (249-7320 or [middkid69@gmail.com](mailto:middkid69@gmail.com)), sign up at the welcome table or call the office.

*photo credit Shirley Van Duzer*



*Alleluia! The Lord is Risen*

# Family Ministry

The family ministry is working hard to move forward with the new changes we have enacted. The Adventure Kids class is off and running. Ms. Paula is having a blast with the kids. Come and check it out. Hang time with the youth has also had its fun and games. Donut holes too!

The parents class, connecting life and faith, has an amazing leader at this time. Sara Kennedy has been a pleasure to talk with for everything that is family. You don't have to have children in the ministry programs to attend the class, take a chance and check it out!

Youth will be meeting in person on Wednesday from 6-7. Loads of fun stuff planned by the group. This is a youth group that is overseen by me, however, the youth are planning and working all the details of what they want and need from the group. Take a moment to talk to a youth, ask them how they are and what can the church do to help them. We also have a graduating youth this year, Thomas Pavlick will be graduating on May 21, 2021. We are so proud of him, he will continue his studies at FSCJ!! Way to go Thomas!!

The family ministry is looking for Sunday childcare volunteers. There was no budget for a paid nursery worker this year. If you have an interest in working the nursery during 10:15 church service please contact me for details.

**Hanna Thomas**, Family Ministry Coordinator

## Security Corner

Have you noticed how the in-person congregation has steadily increased in numbers? What GREAT news that we at CUMC are returning to some kind of normalcy.

Returning to more normal in person attendance and the resumption of full activities like Sunday School, youth programs and special events means a resumption of safety precautions.

The Security Team has been vigilant throughout the Pandemic and now resumes the daily tasks of keeping us all as safe as possible. Door locking, the use of Walkie Talkies, signage and cameras both outside and in classrooms are just a few of the safety precautions we can see.

Security however belongs to each of us. Awareness of exits, reviewing the emergency procedures posted in EVERY room on our campus and being able to react with RUN HIDE FIGHT protocols.

Christ United Methodist Church cannot guarantee your safety but with your help we can continue to make our church campus a least likely target.

**Stay Alert Stay Alive**

# Release: Mission Highlights

## Our Mission:

*“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

**Proverbs 22:6**

**Shirley Church**  
**Sonnie McEvoy**  
Release Coordinators

Greetings from your Release Coordinators, Shirley Church and Sonni McEvoy!

This month we highlight the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home with an article provided by Johnna Ware.

On any given day, the Children’s Home serves over 400 children in crisis, including those who are victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment. They provide residential care programs for children ages 5-17. With foster care and independent living programs, they are able to serve infants through young adults. Children are given love, hope and a safe place to call home.

Today, the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home includes residential care on two campuses located in Enterprise and Madison County, where the youth enjoy a equestrian center. There is also a school on the Enterprise campus. Therapeutic Group care, foster care, emergency shelter care, independent living assistance and a community child care center are also available. Children depend on the generosity of caring supporters and friends to continue to provide a safe place to call home in their time of need.

The majority of financial support comes from the Florida Annual Conference and that includes our church and YOU. Additional support is provided by individuals, estate gifts, foundations and a port through state reimbursement. We are happy to report that last year Christ UMC, with the addition of donations from our live, drive-through nativity was able to exceed our annual contributions to the Home. Thanks be to God and you for your faithful support.



- 1 Ken Nolan
- 3 Angelique Boyette
- 4 Larry Barz  
Greg Moores
- 7 Shirley Church
- 8 Jerry Ferguson
- 10 Ann Marie McCurdy  
Edith Jenkins
- 11 Nancy Russell
- 12 Angela Herron  
Terry Stuart
- 18 Lota Maness
- 19 James Oventrop  
Yvonne Hitch
- 20 Claudia Young  
Diane Hamm
- 24 Sally Dajero
- 25 Mimi Ames
- 26 Dick Galphin
- 27 Pete King
- 28 Cheryl Medis  
Thomas Pavlick
- 31 Christine Mezza  
Mona Ewest



- May 1 Bruce & Cindy Smith
- May 6 Mike & Sonni McEvoy
- May 22 David & Kathleen Stephens
- May 26 Bob Strachan  
& Shirley Van Duzer

# Sponsorship

Would you like to offer the love of Jesus to a newcomer?



Sponsorship of a new member is an opportunity for our church to offer a personal connection. My husband and I have sponsored a young woman, Whitney Heer. We enjoyed getting to know her, spending time with her and introducing her to others in our church family. Whitney offered this comment concerning her sponsorship: "It was nice to have a sponsor when I first came to Christ UMC. Bob and Shirley invited me to all kinds of things and I attended several church events I wouldn't have otherwise attended. It was helpful to have someone to help get me plugged in and feel welcome right away." For more information on becoming a sponsor contact Shirley VanDuzer, ppnb209@gmail.com, 904-855-7982



Our Christ UMC Weekly Bulletin offers continuing prayers for thirteen individuals serving our nation: Whitney, US Navy, is one of them. Our church is very blessed to have Whitney in our church family. To God be the Glory!





# May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 9 am Adventure Kids 9 am Youth Hangtime 9 am Connect: Life and Faith 9 am Heavenly Hash 9 am Phone In Sunday School 10:15 am Traditional Worship 5 pm RampUp Set Up/ Practice</p>	<p>3 10 am Summer Bible Study 6 pm BSA/ Cubs 282 6:30 pm Summer Bible Study</p>	<p>4 3 pm Feed the Hungry Prep</p>	<p>5 10 am UMW Brd. Mtg. 10 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Chimers Practice 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>6 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight School Chess</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 2 pm Discipleship Mtg. 8</p>
<p>9 9 am Adventure Kids 9 am Youth Hangtime 9 am Connect: Life and Faith 9 am Heavenly Hash 9 am Phone In Sunday School 10:15 am Traditional Worship 5 pm RampUp Set Up/ Practice</p>	<p>10 10 am Summer Bible Study 6 pm BSA/ Cubs 282 6:30 pm Summer Bible Study</p>	<p>11 10 am Preschool Connection 10 am Circle One 6:30 pm Freedom Circle</p>	<p>12 10 am Hope Circle 10 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Chimers Practice 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight School Chess</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9 am Adventure Kids 9 am Youth Hangtime 9 am Connect: Life and Faith 9 am Heavenly Hash 9 am Phone In Sunday School 10:15 am Traditional Worship 5 pm RampUp Set Up/ Practice</p>	<p>17 10 am Summer Bible Study 6 pm BSA/ Cubs 282 6:30 pm Summer Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>20 10 am Christ Quilters 11 am Congregational Care 5 pm Knight School Chess</p>	<p>24 </p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9 am Adventure Kids 9 am Youth Hangtime 9 am Connect: Life and Faith 9 am Heavenly Hash 9 am Phone In Sunday School 10:15 am Traditional Worship 5 pm RampUp Set Up/ Practice</p>	<p>24 8:30 am Lifeline Screening 10 am Summer Bible Study 6 pm BSA/ Cubs 282 6:30 pm Summer Bible Study</p>	<p>25 6:15 pm Ops Team Mtg.</p>	<p>26 10 am UMW Unit Mtg. 10 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27 10 am Christ Quilters 10 am Preschool Graduation 5 pm Knight School Chess</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9 am Adventure Kids 9 am Youth Hangtime 9 am Connect: Life and Faith 9 am Heavenly Hash 9 am Phone In Sunday School 10:15 am Traditional Worship 5 pm RampUp Set Up/ Practice</p>	<p>31 Memorial Day Holiday Office Closed</p>	<p></p>				