



MARCH 2021

Gospel Gazette

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAVID "THE PASSION PLAY"

Dear First United Methodist Church,

The famed passion play of Oberammergau, Germany has its historical roots in a faithful response of its citizens to an outbreak of the bubonic plague in 1633. The citizens vowed that should the village be allowed to survive, the villagers would perform a play reenacting the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ every 10 years. As a result of this vow, the village suffered no more deaths due to the plague. They have continued the tradition to the present-day with the next play postponed to 2022 as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In Europe, there were many other villages who held passion plays. They were called passion plays because they depicted the suffering (Latin: *passio*) of Jesus Christ. The passion play of Oberammergau is not unique. However, it is noteworthy for its longevity and continuity. It is the most lasting and continuing play of its kind. Rev. Rob Fuquay details the history of the play in his book, "The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days".

I believe the God-honoring tradition of the Oberammergau Passion Play reveals how God will care for us if we live for his glory in the face of trial and tribulation. What does the Oberammergau Passion Play have to teach us following Jesus in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?

Here are some of my thoughts:

- The power of entrusting our lives to God through faith and commitment. The vow that the inhabitants of Oberammergau made in 1633 signifies the ways that we can honor God by following through on our commitments to our families, our friends, and our churches.
- The power of the Holy Spirit working through a community of faith. God brings good news not only to individuals, but also to communities. God does his best work, by inspiring and uplifting a group of people to a cause greater than themselves.
- Death never has the final word. The resurrection power of God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, and the same power brought protection and vitality to the village of Oberammergau. God's resurrection power will lead us to a better future beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and thereafter, into eternity.

As we consider these and other lessons from the powerful testimony of the village of Oberammergau in the Sunday messages during Lent, may we receive hope that better days await us in the light of the Lord.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor David*



 **PASSION PLAY**
Living the Story of Christ's Last Days

The Oasis at Lowell Correctional Institute

The Oasis is a ministry operating inside of Lowell Correctional Institute, where Spirit-filled worship and small groups lift women out of shame, trauma and hopelessness. HOPE...without it, life is not bearable. For our sisters beyond bars, hope can be hard to come by. Do you have room in your heart to extend hope, love, and encouragement to an incarcerated woman?

Pastor David would like us to focus on this worthy cause for Lent. The following is a list of some different ways to help:

- 1) Collect hygiene supplies. (collection basket is in the Narthex) The only way to get hygiene products is for them to buy them at the "canteen". The indigent inmates (the ones who have no family that puts money in their account) often go without shampoo or deodorant or toothpaste/toothbrush because the prison doesn't have any donations to help them (and they won't provide them).
- 2) Financial donations to The Oasis at PO Box 1352, Lady Lake, FL. 32158
- 3) A woman can become a HOPE Letters correspondence mentor and be assigned an incarcerated woman with whom to correspond. They send letters of hope, love, encouragement, faith. They share scriptures and testimonies. They pray for each other. They always send a stamp and return envelope so the Christian sister can write them back. Many send extra envelopes, cards, and stamps so they can write to their family. Some send Bibles or devotional books.



DID YOU KNOW?? AS WE PRACTICE SAFE SOCIAL-DISTANCING:



- Every other pew is closed in the Sanctuary***
- Face masks are required for all worshippers***



- Our volunteer team cleans every pew between services***

FACE COVERING REQUIRED

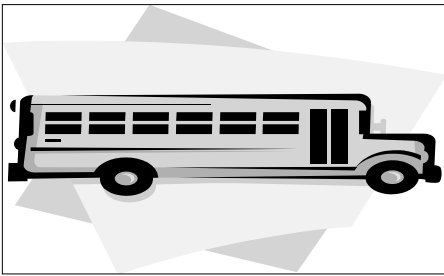


City of Mount Dora
Resolution 2020-138

- Requiring Face Coverings in all Indoor Public Spaces
- Requiring Social Distancing of six (6) feet or more in public places

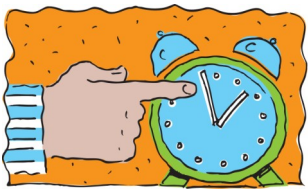


MARK YOUR CALENDERS



THE BIG RED BUS WILL BE HERE SOON!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 7TH
from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
PLEASE BE A HERO AND SAVE LIVES!
WE NEED YOUR “TYPE”

O-	O+	A-	A+	B-	B+	AB-	AB+
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SET YOUR CLOCKS

Ahead!

TIMES AND DATES...
SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH -
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!!



Feeding the Body, Educating the Mind
and Lifting the Spirit of All Individuals.

Lake Cares needs our non-perishable food, funding, and feet

On the first and third Fridays of each month, 25-30 volunteers from our congregation provide groceries to 60-75 families at the King Center in Mount Dora. This is one of seven mobile sites that receives food from Lake Cares in addition to the main pantry. You can help by:

- **Bringing in non-perishable food to worship on March 14 or throughout the year**
- **Donating \$1 purchases \$9 worth of food at Second Harvest**
- **Volunteering at the main pantry or one of the mobile sites**

AND THERE'S MORE...

March 20th - 21st Mt. Dora Spring Festival

WHY VOLUNTEER DURING THE SPRINGFESTIVAL?



- It extends radical hospitality to our visitors
- It strengthens the volunteer's personal faith
- It allows us to tell Christ's story and show God's love

Volunteers are needed outside at the Welcome Center and in the Sanctuary to greet people, guide them to the bathroom, and give stained glass window tours. Saturday shifts are 8:30-11:30, 11:30-2:30 and 2:30 to 5. Sunday shifts are 12:15-2:30 and 2:30-5:00. Tour guide training is available.

If you would like more information about volunteering March 20th and 21st, contact Janet Westlake, Minister of Discipleship, at 352-383-2005 or janet@mtdorafumc.org.

Messy Church

Messy Church is an intergenerational way to worship creatively. Designed for people of all ages, Messy Church includes worship, crafts, games, and dinner that explore the themes of Holy Week. ***Messy Church meets on Sunday, March 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.***



Reserve your place at Messy Church by contacting the church office at 352-383-2005.



Living Love

Our community needs to experience the love of Jesus. We need to experience the grace that comes when we serve. On Saturday, April 10 we will merge the two together. Adults, families, children, and students will join together to be an example of Living Love for our community! Beginning at 9:00 am, we will meet at Gilbert Park in Mount Dora and receive our assigned worksites. Projects include landscaping and sanitizing at local schools, delivering gifts to public servants, making crafts with kids, and creating cards for shut-ins. After serving and loving our neighbors, we will return to Gilbert Park for a free LUNCH, great conversation, outdoor fun, and joyful community!

We LOVE GOD, and we LOVE OTHERS! Now let us do that together as a community. All ages are welcomed and wanted. Every participant will receive a free T-SHIRT! To sign-up, visit www.mtdorafumc.org.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming events:

Feb 27 - March 23 Confirmation Class

Confirmation is coming soon for any student in middle or high school. This is an opportunity to learn about our faith, and discover what it means to be a member of First United Methodist Mount Dora. The confirmation retreat is Saturday, February 27 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Class sessions are Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16, & 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

We hope you, and your student(s) consider this opportunity. We believe it is one that can grow their faith and love for our church! If you would like more information, or would like to sign up you can contact Janet, Dylan, or Linda and they'll make sure you're registered.

***March 20 - March 21
Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser***



**PARKING
LOT
FUNDRAISER
....REPEAT**

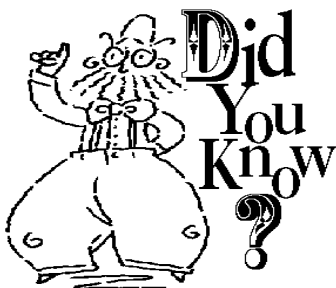
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 8:30 - 3:30P
SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 10:30 - 3:30P

The Mount Dora Spring Festival is the weekend of March 20-21.

This is an opportunity for your student to raise money toward the summer mission trip to North Carolina in June or for any other Barefoot activity that has a fee. Our first fundraiser this February was very successful and we had a great turnout from the students. If you would like more information, or would like to sign up you can contact Janet, Dylan, or Linda and they'll make sure you're registered.



College Scholarships: 2021-2022
Applications for qualified students are available on the youth website www.BarefootStudents.org or the church office.
The applications are due in the church by March 31



***We are scheduled to attend
SUMMER CAMP
at Warren W. Willis Camp from
June 28 - July 3rd....
Contact the Ministry Team for details!!!***





PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 28TH

Plan to join us as we joyously wave palms at all three services to celebrate the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem.



MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 1ST

Join Pastor David in the Sanctuary for a service @ 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2ND

Plan to join us at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary with Pastor David & our Worship Team to "Remember the Seven Last Words of Christ"



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 4TH

8:00am; 9:30am; 11:00am

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Easter morning, you are invited to bring fresh flowers to help decorate the cross on the front lawn.

EASTER BUTTERFLIES

A butterfly is a meaningful symbol for Christ's resurrection. We are adding to our flock of butterflies to display in the church yard on Easter Sunday. If you would like to paint a butterfly, please contact the church office. We will provide you with the wooden butterfly cut-out and the paint.





FUMC MtDora Landscapers!!

A huge thank you for all your great work on the church campus this past year!

But now it's time to prepare for Spring...

Contact Sandy via the office to "adopt" your spot!!!



**EXERCISE
& WELLNESS**

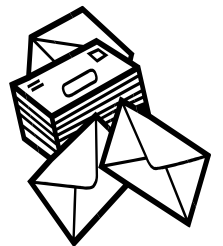
Exercise - Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

Come join our exercise group on MWF at 8:00 AM in the Children's Wing, Rm 103. It is free & for all ages. Our goal is to improve balance, endurance, mobility, posture and our brains.

We do this as a group because it is more fun, more of a challenge and commitment and because I wouldn't do it by myself.

2021 Offering Envelopes

Plan to pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes in the Conference room behind the Sanctuary.



A NOTE FROM FINANCE

As we leave and move forward from 2020, our outlook for 2021 is to be inspired to grow and expand our horizons financially with our talents and gifts.



We will be brainstorming ideas for ways to address these key questions:

- **What are ways we can leverage church assets to generate additional revenue? (for example, our parking lots, our many buildings, our classrooms).**
- **What are possible fundraising events/campaigns?**



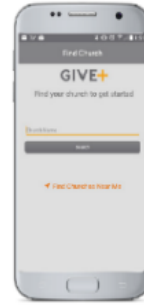
If you have any creative ideas or are interested in working with us, perhaps on a fundraiser, please call the church office (352) 383-2005.

New Ways to Give

Giving App

Download the 'GivePlus Church' app to set up one-time or recurring donations.

GIVE+



Online

Visit www.mtdorafumc.org to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

www.mtdorafumc.org

[Facebook.com/FirstUmcMountDora](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUmcMountDora)

[Twitter.com/FirstUmcMtDora](https://twitter.com/FirstUmcMtDora)

[Instagram @firstumcmtdora](https://www.instagram.com/firstumcmtdora)

[#FirstUmcMtDora](https://www.instagram.com/firstumcmtdora)

Phone: 352-383-2005

Email: office@mtdorafumc.org

Sanctuary address:

439 E. Fifth Avenue, Mount Dora

Mailing and Office address:

440 E. Sixth Avenue

Mount Dora, FL 32757

HELP US TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE...

We don't want to lose contact with you - so call the office @ 352-383-2005 and let us know...

- ***If you move, call us with your new address/phone #***
- ***If you are ill and become hospitalized, let us know***
- ***If you have any questions, call and ask***

Our VISION:

A passionate community that grows the faith of individuals, worships with purpose and loves extravagantly.

Our CORE VALUES:

Acceptance, Authenticity, Excellence

Relevance, Trinity-centered