

Youth Mission Trip
Barefoot Ministries to
serve in North Carolina

Honoring Staff Service
Celebrating Rev. Gary Upleger
and our Sunday childcare team

Summer Fun Begins
Footprints Family Nights, VBS,
Bible studies and more!

GOSPEL GAZETTE

June 2021

A hand with pink nail polish holds a vintage-style compass. The compass face is dark with white markings for degrees and cardinal directions (N, E, S, W). The background is a soft-focus sunset over a landscape.

With Joy on the
JOURNEY

Enjoying a summer of new
adventures and timeless faith

Summer is a fun time. I know many of you are looking forward to traveling in ways you weren't able to in 2020.

This summer, our youth and children's ministries will have several fun nights in June. They will also travel to mission trip sites and to summer camp at Warren Willis United Methodist Camp in Fruitland Park. You can read more about these events in this newsletter.

Knowing that many of you are traveling, I will be launching a portable Bible study online during the summer. You can check it out when you have the time. Beginning June 2, I will post it online at 3 pm on Wednesdays. The study will help you utilize free resources on your computer or smart phone that can help you grow deeper in your understanding of the Bible.

I will also be attending the Florida Annual United Methodist Conference online during the second week of June from June 7 to the 12. I look forward to when they bring back the in-person conference next year.

For our church, it is an exciting time as repairs for the stained glass in the Sanctuary will continue through June. Lynchburg Stained Glass will likely finish the project in September.

Likewise in the Christian Enrichment Center, preparations will continue for the First UMC's 5th Avenue Thrift Shoppe to raise funds for missions such as our connectional giving to Africa University in Zimbabwe, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, and to local missions such as Lake Cares and the Carpenter's House.

As Father's Day also occurs on this month, I know God the Father is pleased with the way we are taking care of His holy ground and His children here at First United Methodist Church, nurturing each other in the Christian faith and serving in the name of Jesus.

As Jesus once said to His disciples: "At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do." - Luke 10:21

Let us keep the faith and make our Father in Heaven glad.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor David



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Barefoot Ministries Mission Trip

Keep our Barefoot Ministries staff and students in your prayers this month as our Directors of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Dylan Reed and Linda Smith, will lead a group of 17 youth to Columbus County, North Carolina.

The trip is in partnership with Praying Pelican Missions, to assist in construction and repairs after the area was devastated by a hurricane a few years ago. The group will also lead a three-day VBS program, and participate in an outreach ministry to the area's homeless and shut-in population.

"We hope this trip will be a great opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones, see how important it is to serve God both home and away," says Dylan. "We will be COVID-cognizant in everything we do, and are looking forward to our mission trip."

The group will depart for Columbus County on Saturday, June 12.



Fifth Avenue Thrift Shoppe to Accept More Donations This Month

Earlier this month, Fifth Avenue Thrift Shoppe received its first round of donations. Although it will be several weeks before we're ready to open, we're well on our way to building an inventory of items to sell.

We will accept another round of donations this month on the following Fridays: June 11, June 18, and June 25

From 10am to 3pm, we invite you to drop off any of the following items (in good condition):

- Women's clothing and shoes
- Accessories such as purses, scarves, and jewelry

- Vintage clothing and linens
- Small household items
- New or gently used linens
- Novels or popular reading books
- Family-friendly CDs and DVDs
- Kitchenware / small appliances
- Puzzles and games
- Electronics, including flat-screen TVs, radios, clocks, etc.
- Lamps
- Durable medical equipment
- Pet items
- Home and wall décor, picture frames (includes seasonal décor)

We are not currently accepting menswear, children or infant items, formal wear, heavy winter clothing, scrubs, or intimate apparel. Any items not included on this list will not be accepted at this time.

Our Mask Policy has Changed

Thursday, May 13th, the CDC updated recommendations that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks or remain physically distanced in indoor or outdoor settings. We have followed CDC and Florida United Methodist Conference guidelines up to this point, so we will continue to do so moving forward.

Masks are now optional in worship and adult programs.

We know some of you are not yet comfortable without masks, and some have yet to be vaccinated. Therefore, while masks are optional, we encourage you to wear your mask. Pastor David and other staff will continue to wear masks and practice social distancing when interacting with worshipers.

The following is a detailed breakdown of what will change and when.

- We will continue to serve individual communion cups.
- Pastor David will continue to wear a mask except during the sermon.
- We will keep every other pew closed until VBS in July.
- Hymnals and Bibles will return to the pews
- Worship times will remain at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am.
- We will likely bring back coffee hour, meal times, and other hospitality events in the fall.

It has been nearly 15 months of these unusual circumstances and adjustments. I appreciate your patience and faithful support of Christ's church here at First UMC of Mount Dora. When you are ready and if I have not already met you, I look forward to meeting many of you upon your return to worship.



Attention All Cooks!

We are compiling a church Cookbook, but we can't do it without your delicious recipes! If you want to participate, please include your name, contact info (phone number or email), the name of the recipe, list of ingredients and measurements, and step-by-step instructions. We're accepting recipes from adults and kids alike!

To submit a recipe, please leave it in the blue tote at the main entrance of the church or send it to the church office via mail or email. Due by August 1.



A Bible Study about Studying the Bible

Pastor David's new Bible Study video series will teach you how to use free resources on Biblehub.com to help you grow in your faith and knowledge of God. The study will cover the following topics:

June 2: Study Bibles

June 9: Concordances

June 16: Bible Dictionaries

June 30: Atlas

July 7: Reverse Interlinear

July 14: Commentaries

July 21: The Apocrypha

July 28: Reading Plans

August 4: Advanced Software

Each lesson's video will be posted on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.



Gary Upleger named Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gary Upleger was named Pastor Emeritus on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. 1 Timothy 5:17 says, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." Pastor Gary led with grace, taught the truth, and preached the word with Love and compassion. Gary, may God guide you with His love as you walk the path of retirement.

Honoring Betty Snowberger and Elizabeth Craycraft

We celebrate Betty Snowberger and Elizabeth Craycraft for their dedication to the First United Methodist Church's children. Betty and Elizabeth have been caring for our children on Sundays for 50 and 33 years, respectively.

New and Renewed Ministry Certifications

We celebrate with Rosemary Plummer as she was renewed in her status as Certified Lay Minister by the East Central District last month.

We also celebrate with Brian Lawson, who was appointed by Bishop Ken Carter as a supply pastor to the First United Methodist Church of Zellwood, after receiving approval from the East Central Committee on Ministry for the status of certified candidate in May.



Register for VBS!

JULY 19-23, 9AM-NOON / AGES 3 – 5TH GRADE

At God's Wonder Lab, kids discover that Jesus does the impossible for us! To register your child, visit mtdorafumc.org/get-involved/vbs.

A board of needed supplies is in the Fifth Avenue entrance.

Weekly Prayer Group

WEDNESDAYS AT 4PM IN THE LIBRARY

Come together in prayer for our members, our church, our community, and our world.

Summer Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS, 9:30-11:30AM

Janet Westlake will be leading a five-week study on the book of James in the chapel. The study will begin on June 9, and will end on July 14



Donate Blood with the Big Red Bus

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 8:30AM-NOON

On the first Sunday of every other month, the Big Red Bus comes to us to do a blood drive. For each visit, we need a minimum of 5 people from our congregation to commit to donate.



Footprints Family Nights

SELECT WEDNESDAYS THROUGH JULY / 6:30PM

We invite parents and children to come join us on Wednesdays throughout the summer for evenings of fun and worship! Visit our website for a complete list of dates.

Congratulations to our Scholarship Awardees!

FUMC's 2021-2022 College Scholarships have been awarded to the following students:

- **Claudia Berry**, attending Lake Sumter State College
- **Connor Chevalier**, graduating senior from Mount Dora High School, college to be determined
- **Brandon Evans**, attending Stetson University
- **Zander Gould**, graduating senior from Mount Dora High School, to attend Lake Sumter State College
- **Nick Mowers**, planning to attend Florida State University
- **Paige Passen**, graduating senior from Mount Dora High School, to attend Seminole State College
- **Jack Peterson**, attending the University of Central Florida
- **Hannah Spradlin**, attending Appalachian State University
- **Rebekah Spradlin**, attending the Florida School of Arts
- **Victoria Spradlin**, attending Lake Sumter State College
- **Kobe Talton**, attending Florida State University

OTHER GRADUATING SENIORS

- Lily Cornman
- Sam Cornman
- Adam Frisbie
- Bryson Cain
- Georgia Mosteller
- Heaven Rosignol
- Connor Fortson

Meet our new Member

We are delighted to welcome Susan Morrow as the newest member of the Mount Dora First United Methodist Church. She joined May 23, 2021.



Four Simple Ways to Give

Online

Visit mtdorafumc.org/donate to access our quick and easy giving portal

App

Download the GivePlus app on the App Store or Google Play

In Person

Drop your envelope in our offering box at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday morning or mail/deliver your offering to the church office.

Giving Your Time

We value volunteers in our community, those who use their gifts and resources toward the glory of God. Contact Janet Westlake to learn how to volunteer with us.

Flower Calendar

The 2021 Flower Calendar is now hanging in the Sanctuary. Feel free to select any open date to donate flowers for display on our stage, in honor or memory of someone or something special. Ask any usher for help.

Exercise With Us

MON, WED, FRI / 8AM

Join us in Room 103 three days a week for a free exercise class to improve balance, mobility, endurance, posture, and our brains. We do it as a group because it is more fun, more of a challenge, and a stronger commitment.

2022 Offering Envelopes

If you would like us to make offering envelopes for you for next year, please email the office to make sure we add you to our list.

Stay in Touch!

We want to be there for our congregation. If you have new contact information, if you have become hospitalized or ill, if there is something you need prayer for, or if you have any questions, please call us at any time.



Mount Dora

First United Methodist Church

Service Times

Early Traditional 8:00am
Contemporary 9:30am
Late Traditional 11:00am

Office Hours

Mon–Thu 8:00am–4:30pm
Fridays Closed thru July
Sat–Sun Closed

Address

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