

HOSPITALITY TRAINING
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SUPPORT OUR SISTER CHURCH
The story of our sister church in Cuba

GOSPEL

Gazette

SEP 2022

An Attitude of Prayer

What is the
role of prayer in
our relationship
with Christ?



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Meria Echevaria
Office Managers**Rheya Tanner**
Communications Coordinator**SERVICE TIMES****Early Traditional** 8:00am**Contemporary** 9:30am**Late Traditional** 11:00am**CONTACT**


352-383-2005

URGENT AFTER-HOURS: DIAL 2
office@mtdorafumc.org**OFFICE HOURS****Mon–Thu** 8:00am–3:30pm**Fri–Sun** Closed**ADDRESS**

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Mount Dora, FL 32757

SOCIAL MEDIA @FirstUMCMountDora
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 FUMC MtDora**STAY IN TOUCH!**

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 contact us at any time.

What does it mean to pray?

It is not a laundry list of wants, needs, and desires to lay before God. Of all people, Jim Morrison, the lead singer of The Doors, once said, "You cannot petition the Lord with prayer." While Morrison may have said that mockingly, he was correct. Prayer is not a one-sided deal. It is a relationship, namely a relationship with God.

Moreover, Jesus taught his followers to pray in private. Thus, prayer is not a demonstration of piety either. Prayer is a deliberate communication of our status to God. It is a status report, so to speak. Indeed, God knows what we need, so prayer is not for God's benefit or knowledge. Prayer is for the benefit of the believer who prays. Prayer is an intimate time to sort out our thoughts, anxieties, and our experiences in the presence of Our Father. Most of all, it is about love and care. All good relationships deserve mutual care and concern. Prayer is one way that we show God we love Him.

How should we pray? Is it merely a recitation of the Lord's Prayer? No, definitely not. However, the Lord's Prayer is an outline for our conversations with God. Below is my personal interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, and then, eight points of worship that I believe comprise the concise order of prayer as Jesus taught his followers (Matthew 6:5-15):

Our Father who lives in Heaven [and by faith, we believe this to be undeniable].

We pray that your name should always be sacred [because this is what you deserve].

We pray for your Kingdom to be seen.

We pray for your will to be done on earth, as it already happens in heaven.

We pray that you will provide for us today all that we need.
 We pray that you would forgive us of our sins according to the way in which we forgive those who have wronged us.
 We pray that your desire for us will not lead us into the tribulation that we deserve. [Though we know you would not do such a thing].
 But instead, we pray that you would save us from the Evil that surrounds us.
 [Added later – Doxology] For we know that the real kingdom is yours, for we know that the true power is yours, and we know that all honor and glory belong to you forever.
 Amen. [Affirmative]

The 8 Points of Worship

Reverence. Hold God in high esteem.

Acknowledgement. Recognize God's accomplishments.

Expectation. Expect God's blessings in our lives, and for God to prevail in all situations.

Thanksgiving. Thank him for the blessings we have and are going to receive.

Mercy. Ask God to forgive us, and ask God for the courage to forgive others.

Grace. Ask for God's favor though we are undeserving of it.

Salvation. Ask for help because we cannot survive without God.

Affirmation of Faith. Personally affirm our own faith in front of God.

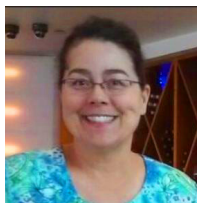
With the Love of Christ,



David Averill



Indeed, God knows what we need, so prayer is not for God's benefit or knowledge. Prayer is for the benefit of the believer who prays.



WELCOME, MERIA!

After 17 years, Debbie Sprague is stepping down from the full-time Administration Assistant position to a part-time position. In her place, we have brought on a new part-time administrative assistant.

Please welcome Meria Echevaria! Meria lived in New Mexico for 20+ years before moving to Mount Dora 5 years ago. She will take over clerical responsibilities, including correspondence and scheduling. She is a great asset to the church office!

Debbie will continue to work with the Thrift Shoppe and on other financial reports.



Even if you had a photo taken for the 2018-19 directory, you will need a new photo. Universal Church Directory is a new company and does not have access to the photos from previous years.

Photographers will be on campus **September 8-10** and **February 12, 14, and 15** to photograph our members. Every household that has their photo taken will receive a directory and a free 8x10. Packages of prints will be available for purchase.

Online scheduling is available now at ucdir.com (Church Code: FL807 Password: Photos). You may sign up on the front sidewalk on August 14 and 21 (9-9:30am and 10:30-11am) or call the church office and the staff will make an appointment for you. If you would like to volunteer with signing people up, signing people in the day of photography, or calling people, please contact the church office.

HOSPITALITY TRAINING

with Janet Earls

Sunday, Sept. 11,

4-6pm. Want peo

ple to feel welcome

when they visit?

Heard of people who

worshiped without

anyone speaking to

them? Want to be a congregation that truly

loves others? Join us at Hospitality Training

with Janet Earls Friendship Hall. Everyone in

our congregation is invited.

Janet Earls serves as the Florida Conference's

Office of Congregational Vitality as the

Director of Church Vitality and Leadership

Development. According to Bishop Carter,

"Janet Earls has a deep spiritual commitment

to lead others in making disciples of Jesus

Christ for the transformation of the world.

She was a key leader in the growth of one

of our larger churches in Florida, one of our

denomination's most vital churches, where

she was a member. At the same time, she has

worked as a coach alongside some of our most

distressed congregations. She has experiences

in corporate and congregational life."



CLASSES & GROUPS

Old Testament Essentials

Weds., 9:30–11:30am.

A study on *Old Testament Essentials* in the chapel. Pick up the \$20 book and homework schedule in the church office.

The Gospel of Mark

Weds., 6:30pm. A

16-week study on the

Gospel of Mark. The

in-person study will

meet in the Chapel.

To participate online

through Zoom, email

Pastor David for the

meeting code.

Men's Bible Study

Thurs., 5:30-6:30pm.

Join Pastor David and

others in the confer-

ence room as we grow

in our faith and knowl-

edge of God.

Senior Club

2nd & 4th Tues., 10am–

1pm. The Mount Dora

Senior Center offers

programs and games at

the MLK Center.

Wonderful Wednesdays

6-8pm. Kindergarten through

grade 5 can enjoy Worship Arts,

Bible study, crafts and games.

Grades 6-12 can enjoy worship,

circle groups and fellowship.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 16, 4pm. Plan to attend the annual Church Conference at Tavares United Methodist Church (600 W. Ianthe St.). This is the annual business meeting. All professing members are eligible to vote on the business matters of our church. The District Superintendent, Dr. Bob Bushong, will be presiding along with Pastor David.

Lake Cares Distribution

This month's mobile distribution dates are Friday, Sept. 2 and Friday, Sept. 16. See our online calendar for more details.

New Office Hours

As of 9/1, office hours have changed. See p2 for updated hours. The office will also be closed Monday, Sept. 5 for Labor Day.



Church Officer Nominations

The committee on lay leadership is now accepting nominations for church officers to serve in 2023. They will begin meeting over the next month to discuss the nominees. Contact the church office to put your name forward for consideration.

An Update from Jim Flach on the Belize Medical and Dental Clinic

I recently took a small team down to Belize to check on the clinic. It has not been used for two years, as the Ministry of Medicine closed down all teams going to Belize due to the covid situation. Thankfully, we found it in very good shape. The last team did a good job of following our guidelines.

At this time there are two teams that will use the clinic in October, 2022 and March, 2023.

Our church and Palm Bay Methodist completed the clinic in 2003. Unfortunately, the roof has developed some leaks, and termites have made it to the ceiling. In order to keep the clinic functional, the roof needs to be replaced in spring, during dry season.

I will continue to keep you posted on the project. The clinic has been a true blessing to the people of that area!

For the full update, see our church website.

SUPPORT OUR SISTER CHURCH

The dusty ground does not deter the people sitting under creaking beams and between cracked walls. The Holy Spirit is with them, and they know no fear. For over 50 years they have had no building to come together and worship in. But now, they have the building that used to hold their church back. Despite disrepair, the community has come together again, sharing what little they have and celebrating their new old building.

Our church has come alongside this little church in Cuba, supporting the new pastor and his wife, and supporting the church community. The building the Cuban government has returned to them is in desperate need of repairs; the congregation is trying to buy a new parish for the church, and to help their local community.



Most of the funds have already been raised for the building repairs, but they have asked for help buying the parish. The house they are hoping to purchase is around \$7,000. For Vacation Bible School this summer, our outreach project was to raise funds for the church. We raised \$660 during that week! The children in our church community loved singing “*Jesús Me Amo*” (“Jesus Loves Me” in Spanish) every day, and they were so excited to help our sister church and share God’s love with them.

Our church team is so excited to go there hopefully in the next year to meet our sister community. On their next trip to Cuba, they will take the funds we have raised, as well as other small things they can carry in their suitcases, like small Bibles and clothes to donate.

With your help, our sister church can rebuild. Pray for them as their community continues to grow! For more information on how to give, contact the church office during office hours.





4 *Simple Ways to Give*

1 Online

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

2 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.

3 Vanco Mobile App

Download the Vanco Mobile app on the App Store or Google Play

4 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.