

April 2017  
May 2017

# Seminole United Methodist Church

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." —Matthew 28: 18-20*



## Celebrating 125 years

We are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ seeking to share the love of God here in Seminole and around the world.

Sunday School at 9am

**Sunday morning worship at 10am**

Fellowship at 11am

**Rev. Drew Dancey, Pastor**

(727)391-9781

[www.sumconline.com](http://www.sumconline.com)

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### SUMA

**(Seminole United Methodist Academy)**

Serving ages infant-5

Jennie Laracuente, Director

(727)391-0657

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## Dates to Remember

- **April 5th:** UMW Board meeting at 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- **April 14th:** Good Friday service 7pm
- **April 15th:** UMW making Easter bags for kids 10am
- **April 16th:** Easter Sunday
- **April 30th:** UMW Women's Sunday 10am worship
- **May 2nd:** Final day of Thrift Shops sales for the summer
- **May 9th:** UMW Board meeting at 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- **May 10th:** Church Picnic from 6-8pm



**Join us on May 10th  
from 6pm-8pm at the  
VA War Memorial  
Park, Shelter #1**

It's Picnic time! On Wednesday, May 10th, 2017, UMW will be sponsoring their annual all church picnic at the VA War Memorial Park in Shelter #1 from 6-8pm. Everyone is invited. Please bring your own place setting, drink, and 1 or 2 dishes to share with everyone. This is a fun event and we hope all of our church family will attend. If it rains, we will meet at the church. Please note that Soup & Soul is cancelled this evening. **Invite your friends!**

## Deliver Ditty bags on Easter Sunday!

All are welcome to join us as we gather after worship on Easter Sunday, April 16th. We will drive to some parks in St. Petersburg where there is a homeless community, and deliver the bags to those most in need.



## Good Friday Service

Come on Friday, April 14th at 7pm. We should all be reminded that there would be no Easter Sunday without Good Friday.

## THRIFT SHOP

**Calling all shoppers!** Mark your calendars, as the Thrift Shop will be closing for the summer months. The final day of sale will be May 2nd. *See you next year!*

## UMW Women's Sunday

This year our Women's Sunday will be held on April 30th. Please check the bulletin as time approaches. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, our new District Superintendent!

# Community Garden News

“To everything there is a season...”

—Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2



Greetings from the Community Garden! Gardeners recently got together for the biannual pot luck lunch.

The food is always good, but it seemed like this year it was extra special. The weather was perfect and both singles and families came out to enjoy the day. Please remember church family that you are always invited!

In the garden its amazing to watch tiny seeds turn into flourishing and fruitful plants. And that's our prayer too, that from tiny seeds of faith to fruitful Christians we will each continue to grow and flourish like plants!

We would also like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to **Sapphire Signs** who recently made the generous donation of a new sign for our Community Garden. Stop by and take a look!



## Farewell to our “snow birds!”

The time of year has arrived when our good friends from the north gradually begin their way back home. All at SUMC would like to wish you farewell as we approach our Floridian spring and summer seasons. We are grateful you chose to come pray and celebrate with us, and look forward to your return in the fall. Your involvement in the church and its ministries enriches us all.

Godspeed!



## Food Pantry Sunday

We would like to thank all those participating in our new monthly event to assist local families in need. We do still see some individuals and families that require emergency food assistance here at SUMC. As with any new endeavor, it takes time for all to hear, understand, and be able to reap the benefits that a deeper level of assistance can bring through the **Interfaith Food Pantry**. Families are excited to hear of the Interfaith Food Pantry, and happily take a flyer with dates and times. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- April 5 Alanna Hess, Alan Mohney Sr.
- April 8 Bill Nar
- April 12 Michaela Ippolito
- April 17 Donald Edwards
- April 19 William Miller
- April 22 James Miller
- April 23 Izaak Ippolito
- April 25 Megan Carefoot
- April 28 Robert Mohr Jr.
- April 29 Ashley Cannard, Jonathan Nar



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 1 Joseph Ledford, Fanny Taylor
- May 3 Ellen Starbuck
- May 10 Deborah Rosenbaum
- May 11 Mark Daniels
- May 13 Rebecca Carefoot
- May 15 Iziaiah Ippolito
- May 16 Christina Nar
- May 18 Roy Kukral
- May 21 Christopher Voyvodich
- May 23 Matthew Maness
- May 28 Ethel Hoadley

...celebrate...each day is a gift!



## News from SUMA



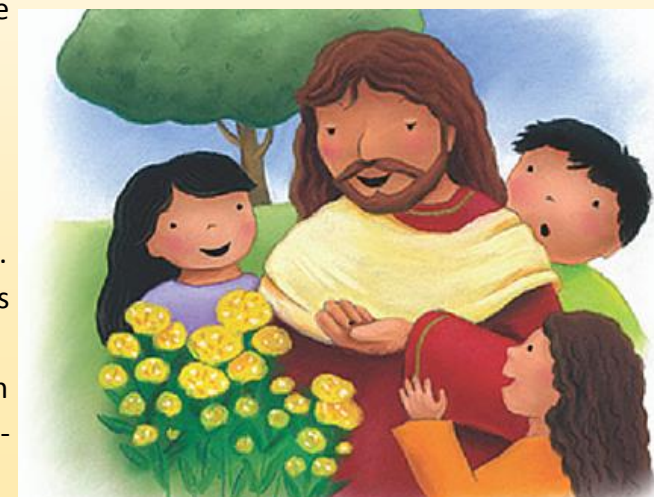
### Preschool

**“Truly God is good to those who are pure in heart.”**

With Easter Sunday in sight, we continue to celebrate and give thanks for all of our many blessings. Coming together as a family and community is at the core of all good relationships. We nurture quality time spent with our children, as these are the memories they will take into adulthood.

As we begin the season of spring, flowers bloom and so does our creativity! We have many art projects that will take us from winter to spring. May 25th will be our last day for the VPK classes. We would like to thank the church and the ladies from the Thrift Shop for their continued support of the preschool. Don't forget, as you go through the duties of the day, that “Hope is contagious!”-

-Jennie Laracuente, Director



# Church Finance Report

## *What are apportionments?*

The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

**Below are listed our apportionments for the year 2017.** Our total yearly payment is \$29,422 which becomes 12 (monthly) payments of \$2,451. As of March, we have paid 100% of each monthly distribution.

### **Clergy support - \$3,331**

Our system of appointed clergy is an essential part of our connectional United Methodist Church. The Clergy Support apportionment provides funding for the expenses borne by the Florida Conference to sustain, support, hold accountable, and nurture our clergy

### **Conference Benevolences - \$9,110**

This apportionment provides funding for Florida Conference programs, mission and benevolent endeavors including, but not limited to: Camp and Retreat Ministries, Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, College Ministries, and Disaster Preparation & Relief.

### **Conference Services and Administration - \$2,516**

The Conference Services and Administration apportionment funds the general operations and administration of the Florida Conference. The coordination, oversight, and other administrative services provided by the Conference are a vital part of all that we do together. It funds the maintenance of our buildings and facilities in Lakeland, Leesburg and other places which serve to nurture, strengthen, and broaden our ministry and mission.

### **General Administration - \$546**

This apportionment finances the administrative function of the denomination's general activities, including the cost of General Conference. It pays for general church activities that are administrative in nature rather than missional, programmatic, or ecumenical.

### **Equitable Compensation and Mission Support - \$2,056**

This apportionment goes to help underwrite various United Methodist churches and ministries across Florida that lack the financial base to fully support themselves. For example, a church ministering to refugees, a ministry serving a homeless population, or an outreach program to at-risk youth may receive funding through Equitable Compensation and Mission Support.

### **World Service -\$4,602**

World Service is "the first benevolent responsibility of the Church." This apportionment provides the basic financial resources for the core ministries of our denomination. It underwrites Christian mission around the world, empowers our evangelism efforts, stimulates church growth, expands Bible studies, supports local church programs, enriches spiritual commitment and provides the means to equip and nurture our lay leaders through education and professional support.

### **Episcopal Fund - \$1,363**

Whether presiding over annual conference sessions, surveying disaster damage, meeting with district leaders or planting a tree, bishops accept what the apostle Paul called "a noble task" (1 Timothy 3:1). This apportionment pays for the expenses of active bishops and for the support of retired bishops and spouses, including expenses related to Florida's Bishop Ken Carter. It is practical as well since our bishops are responsible for the oversight and promotion of both the temporal and spiritual interests of the church.

### **Interdenominational Cooperation - \$122**

We United Methodists are a small part of the worldwide Christian church – the living body of Jesus Christ. This apportionment supports General Church ecumenical ministries. This is United Methodism in mission with other Christian denominations, witnessing to Christian unity.

### **Ministerial Education - \$1,554**

The Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) helps recruit and train effective United Methodist Ministers. It is an essential element of assuring high-quality, well-prepared clergy for the United Methodist Church. The MEF helps men and women respond to God's divine call on their life.

### **Black College - \$620**

The Black College Fund supports the operational expense and capital improvement needs of our eleven predominantly black, United Methodist-related colleges and a medical school. Nurtured by the Black College Fund, these institutions play a unique role in United States higher education. They attract students from diverse social, economic and educational backgrounds – students who receive inestimable affirmation and support in vibrant, academically challenging spiritual environments

### **Africa University - \$139**

This apportionment helps fund the development of a United Methodist university located in Zimbabwe, Africa. This university provides opportunities for students throughout Africa and includes schools of theology, agriculture, and education.

### **Jurisdictional Administration Fund - \$178**

The United Methodist Church in the United States is divided into five Jurisdictions, or geographical areas – the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the North Central Jurisdiction, the South Central Jurisdiction, and the Western Jurisdiction. This apportionment underwrites the cost of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference along with various programs of the Church in the Southeast.

### **District Work Fund - \$3,285**

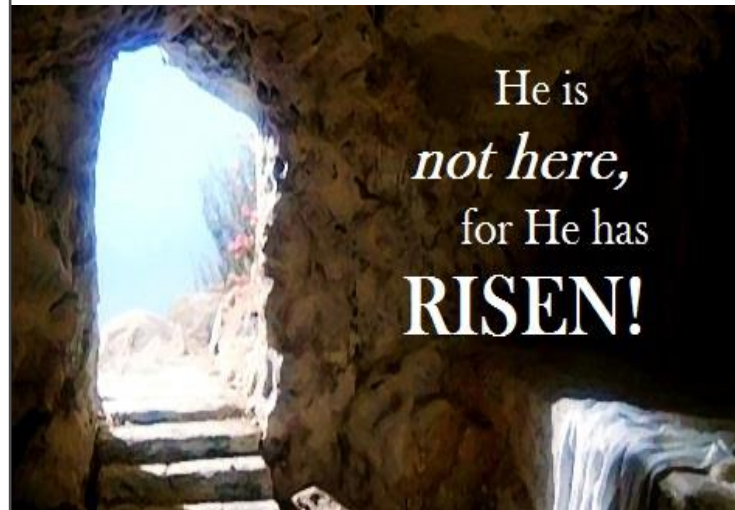
In addition to Conference, General Church and Jurisdictional Church Apportionments, each District apportions monies to support missions, ministries, programs and administration within the local District. Some Districts support several apportioned funds for a variety of different purposes. All of the monies received for District apportionments are returned to the District each month.

***Thank you for making a difference!***

## First Quarter Summary

January 1, 2016 Beginning Balance	(-\$14,093)
Total Revenue	\$73,556
Total Expenses	\$65,411
March 31, 2017 Ending Balance	(-\$5,948)
Average Weekly Attendance	158
Average Small Group & Sunday School	35

## A meditation and prayer on the Resurrection



Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it. Amen

### Ministries— Find Your Place

As we continue celebrating the Easter season and look forward to Pentecost Sunday on June 4th, we are called to look outwards. How can we serve others and improve our community as Jesus would have called us to do? See our discipleship flyer in the church lobby for details. You are also invited to continue to join us on Sundays after worship and coffee hour for continued study.



If you are seeking a way to be more active during or after worship services, consider signing up to help. Log on to our website at [www.sumconline.com](http://www.sumconline.com) to view new listings for liturgist, coffee hour host, and more!

### Many Thanks

- To the **Thrift Shop Volunteers** for their work all year in preparing and running the thrift shops.
- To **Terry & Diane Redinger** for their help with the food pantry.
- To **Rose Taliaferro, Betty Edwards, and Clara Blaser** for their faithful help with completing church bulletins and newsletters.
- To **Jo Ewers** and all who participated in the **Easter season's choir** for blessing us with their musical talent.
- To the **Thrift Shop ladies** for their generous financial donation to the church to assist with the new fire alarm system.

**"ROMEO"** Men's Group meets Mondays 7am at Mamas Kitchen, 5885 Seminole Blvd. Join us!

**THRIFT SHOPPES:** Open Tuesdays from 9am-3pm. Donations accepted Mondays, from 9 to Noon

**SOUP 'N SOUL:** Soup & Soul at 6pm supper, 6:30pm program for all ages.

## From The Pastor

### Seminole UMC Values

Whatever a group or individual values as important inevitably drives what that group or individual does. For example, Americans value freedom, so we work to preserve our freedoms and help other countries gain more freedom. Likewise, a mother who values her children will give up her precious sleep to care for a crying baby. As a congregation, our actions are also guided by what we value as important.

So what do we value? I'm glad you asked! The Church Council has been working to put our values into words. Here are the 5 values we believe guide our actions and decisions. They should be evident in every aspect of the church from the grandest plans to the smallest details.

#### Unwavering focus on Christ

Everything at the church, every activity, every ministry, every announcement, every plan, every detail, is focused on Jesus. We don't do anything for our own glory or our own good. We do what we do in order to praise Jesus, seek after him, and help others find him.

#### Passion for sharing the gospel

At the heart of what we do as a church is the Great Commission to go out and spread the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The message of forgiveness and new, eternal life should always be at the forefront.

#### Continuously deepening as disciples

As followers of Jesus, we are always growing closer and closer to him and working to live more and more like him. We deepen as disciples through prayer, study, worship, fellowship, and service. The journey doesn't end until we see God face to face in heaven.

#### Outwardly driven

The church is not called to stay within these 4 walls. The Holy Spirit sends us out into the world in ministry. Everything we do should prepare us as individuals and as a congregation to go out announcing salvation and working for God's Kingdom.

#### Action oriented

God does not want us to sit idly among ourselves! The church is oriented toward action. Our worship, study, fellowship, and discipleship should spur us to live our lives like Christ and live our lives for Christ.

- Pastor Drew