



## United Methodist Temple October 2020 Newsletter ~ Volume X

### Pastor's Message

Wow...how is it October already?

I've lived in Florida for 5 years now, and so I've noticed that the beginning October is a little bit different in the state of Florida. We don't really get the "cool" fall weather I was used to in Kentucky, but the humidity will drop in the evenings now, if we are lucky. Pumpkin spice everything seems to roll out in the stores. And, because we are in a swing state in a Presidential election year, there are political ads *everywhere* – and they are not always positive.

Even in the chaos and division of election season, you and I are called to be Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But how do we do that?

I think Paul's words from this past Sunday are a good place to start: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves...Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 2:3-5, NRSV).

We must shine the light of Christ in our world by going through this season with humility and a heart of peace. Carefully and prayerfully voting is important, but we must also ask ourselves "what would Jesus do?" in our thoughts, conversations and actions towards others, *especially* those we disagree with.

For more information on faith, civic action, voting and respectful dialogue, I invite you to read this article <https://www.anona.com/news/vote> from Anona United Methodist Church in Largo, Florida.

Click here [<https://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>] to check your voter status, polling place, register if you need to (the deadline is October 5), or request a mail-in ballot if needed (the deadline is October 24).

If you need transportation assistance to vote, please email me ([revnickit@gmail.com](mailto:revnickit@gmail.com)).

**Above all friends, let's keep in mind the words of our Bishop Ken Carter from this year's annual conference: "participate in our democracy with a heart of peace and a love that transcends all that divides us."**

Blessings,  
Pastor Nicki Taylor

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Sunday school is back via Zoom! The group meets at 4 p.m. on Sunday to watch/discuss videos from pastor and author Rob Bell. If you want to join the class, contact Pastor Nicki to learn how.

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### **Charge Conference 4:30 p.m. October 18 on Zoom**

Our annual charge conference will be held on Zoom because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will have a large group session alongside other Lakeland area churches, and then will break off to consider items of business for our congregation. Contact Pastor Nicki ([revnickit@gmail.com](mailto:revnickit@gmail.com)) to receive the Zoom link.



### **October Calendar**

10-1 2:00 p.m. Worship Committee  
10-4 10:30 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)  
10-11 10:30 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)  
10-12 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Circle (social distancing, Barnett Hall)  
10-16 Boss's Day  
10-18 10:30 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)  
4:30 p.m. Charge Conference (Zoom)  
10-24 United Nations Day  
10-25 10:30 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)  
10-31 Reformation Day  
Halloween

*Our worship service is on YouTube every week thanks to our Music Director, Jim Jordan,  
Pastor Nicki Taylor, Kay Sloan and Judy Shively.*



Happy October Birthday to:

10-1 Judy Shively, Sindi Steverson  
10-8 Caryl Kelley  
10-16 Margaret Merritt, Martha Schneider  
10-20 Tom Holloway  
10-21 Chelsea Wolf  
10-23 Denise Clark  
10-27 Todd Taylor  
10-29 Sara Beatty  
10-30 John Adams, Wyatt Taylor (1 yr.)

Happy October Anniversary to:

10-3 Todd & Kristie Taylor  
10-10 Ed & Ruther Perkins

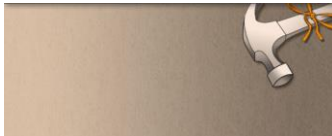


**Gifts for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home** – Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Florida United Methodist Children's home has been continuing to serve children in need, despite reduced financial giving. To support children this holiday season, we are collecting donations to purchase restaurant gift cards as Christmas gifts for the children. **Our goal is to raise \$800** – enough to sponsor all the gifts for a cabin of 14 year-old boys and their adult guardians. Your donation may be placed in the offering plate Sunday, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church P.O. Box (P. O. Box 2807, Lakeland, FL 33806), **but please indicate the gift is for "Children's Home Christmas gifts."**

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**Like us on Facebook:**

Did you know United Methodist Temple is on Facebook? Like our page [<https://www.facebook.com/MyUMTemple>] to stay connected. Every time you like, share or comment on our posts, it helps more people see it. Think of it as digital evangelism!



**Repairs** If you see something around the church that needs repair, etc. there is a form (work order) in the Narthex and the church office that can be filled out and returned to the church office.

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