



United Methodist Temple November 2020 Newsletter Volume XI

Hello, United Methodist Temple Family!



As November is now upon us, we can look excitedly to the holiday season. But, unfortunately, we have to first get through the rest of election season!

I have seen and heard that many of you have already voted in early voting or have voted by mail, and that's great! But, some of you all may be waiting until November 3rd, and that's great too. And whether we voted early or will vote this Tuesday, we will all have to sit and wait to hear the results of the races.

We have a valuable witness as the body of Christ over these next few weeks, friends. One of my friends from seminary shared John Wesley's three rules for voting on Facebook, and I believe it serves as a *great* prescription of how to handle these times in grace and in love:

"October 6, 1774: I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

- 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy*
- 2. To **speak no evil** of the person they voted against, and*
- 3. To take care their **spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.**"*

These 3 rules for voting – they are really counter-cultural, aren't they? They go against what we see and hear on TV, the radio, Facebook, you name it. But that is the point of the Christian life – to be of God's kingdom, not of this culture.

As Paul tells us in Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Go forth these next few days in love and grace, to not conform to the pattern of this world, but to stay committed to the kingdom of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Nicki Taylor



November Events

- 1 10:30 am Worship - All Saints Day - Communion
- 3 7:00 am - 7:00 pm General Election
- 8 10:30 am - Worship
- 9 10:00 am Elizabeth Circle
- 11 Veterans Day
- 14 11:00 am - Sally Moore get together in Barnett Hall
- 15 10:30 am - Worship
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 21 & 22 Christmas trees arrive
- 22 10:30 am - Worship (Thanksgiving Sunday)
- 23 - 27 Church office closed
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 9:00 am - Christmas tree sales begin
- 28 9:00 am - Christmas tree sales
- 29 10:30 am - Worship **First Sunday of Advent**
Fifth Sunday - Florida United Methodist Children's Home Sunday
(Remember these children in your giving.)



Memorial Celebration of the life of Sally Moore - Saturday, November 14th, 11:00 am in Barnett Hall. Everyone is welcome. Sally passed away in May of this year. Her family want to honor her with this gathering.



Christmas Gifts for the Florida UM Children's Home

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Florida UM Children's home has been continuing to serve children in need, despite reduced financial giving. To support the children we are collecting donations to purchase restaurant gift cards for the children. Our goal is to raise \$800 which is enough to sponsor a cabin of 14 year-old boys and their adult guardians. Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to the church office at P. O. Box 2807, Lakeland, FL 33806. It would help the Children's Home if the donations were received at the home before December 4th.

Happy November Birthday:

11-1 Jay Benningfield
11-10 JoAnne Bare, Marilyn Witter (No November Anniversaries)
11-15 Lois Borton

"Happy 100th birthday to Mirtie Newsome on November 30th"



Christmas trees will be arriving November 21 & 22. Come and help unload the trees and enjoy the fellowship. Specific days and times will be announced at a later date.

Tree sales will begin the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27th.

**Pastor's Advent Study
"Down to Earth" with Carols
(Noon Wednesdays, Dec. 2-23)**

At Christmas, we celebrate that Christ came "down to Earth" with us in the form of a tiny baby. And while it seems simple and innocent, this little baby changed *everything*. Join Pastor Nicki for this 4 week Advent study, which will conclude with singing Carols together on the deck (weather permitting). Contact Pastor Nicki for information (revnickit@gmail.com). Registration will be limited for social distancing.



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