Pastor’s Message

Dear United Methodist Temple Family,

Here we are, finding ourselves journeying through another strange Lenten season together. We’ve given up so much over this past calendar year – handshakes, hugs, singing together, family get-togethers – you name it.

And as we continue through this “pandemic time,” it can be hard to have hope – we wonder when the pandemic will end, when our church family can all come together, when we can all sing again, and when we can actually shake hands and hug one another again.

To put it in the context of the Lenten season – we feel like we are stuck on good Friday, and the hope of Sunday feels so far away.

So, I invite you to join me this Lenten season in “Embracing the Uncertain,” like our sermon series title this season. Embrace this place where hope is hard to find, embrace this “good Friday,” feeling, with the knowledge that Sunday is coming, even if we don’t feel it just yet. Know that it is okay, and normal, and healthy to be in this “good Friday,” place, and that Sunday is coming.

As Psalm 107 tells us:

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south…

…Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. (Psalm 107:1-22, NRSV)
Blessings,

Pastor Nicki Taylor

**Administrative Council Meeting**
**Tuesday, March 2**
The Administrative Council will meet 5:30 p.m. March 2 in Barnett Hall.

**Super Bowl Food Drive**
From the Gulf Central District: Thank you to the 41 churches in the Gulf Central District that collected donations and food to the equivalents of 84,154 pounds of food (UMT collected 104 pounds) for the local food banks in the Gulf Central vs. Kansas City food bank challenge. We did a great job however Kansas City collected more food. The main thing is that the food banks and the families that will receive the food are the real winners.

*We did it again in 2020 - Paid 100% of our Apportionments to the Florida Conference.*
Lay Servant Ministries Advance Course

Accountable Discipleship: Living in the Household of God
March 9 - April 6, 2021
Online via Zoom
Five Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
If interested, contact Rod Groom
rod.groom@icloud.com
Cost: $25.00

March Calendar

1 Women's History Month
2 5:30 p.m. Administrative Council
3 7:00 p.m. Choir practice
5 World Day of Prayer
7 10:30 a.m. Worship
   2:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)
8 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Circle
9 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
10 7:00 p.m. Choir practice
11 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
14 10:30 a.m. Worship
   2:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)
17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
   7:00 p.m. Choir practice
20
First Day of Spring
21
10:30 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)
23
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
24
7:00 p.m. Choir practice
25
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
28
Palm Sunday
10:30 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Sunday school (Zoom)

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**Bright Future Scholarship**  
Sponsored by the Florida UM Credit Union

Ages: 17-35 Attending or planning to attend college.  
Who can apply: A member of a United Methodist Church, work for a UM Church or organization, be a relative who is currently a member of the UM Credit Union. 
Amount: $1,000
Contact Letra Davis at letrad@unitedmethodistcu.com

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Happy March Birthday
3-1 Andrea Goodson  
3-7 Suzanne Maxson  
3-11 Travis Taylor  
3-17 Pat Morris, Neil Bare  
3-19 Jessie Ward  
3-20 Dotti Dufresne  
3-24 Charlie Merritt, Ruby Hopwood  
3-26 Amy Benningfield  
3-30 Dean Parshley

Happy March Anniversary
3-17 Jay & Amy Benningfield  
3-21 Pat & Janet Harris
Holy Week Services

Holy Week Services – Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. April 1, Good Friday 7 p.m. Friday April 2
Join us as we remember Christ’s journey to the cross during Holy Week at two special services. Our Maundy Thursday service will be 7 p.m. Thursday April 1, and our Good Friday service will be 7 p.m. Friday April 2. You may join us live in-person in the Sanctuary, or watch online on Facebook or Youtube.

Easter Worship 10:30 a.m. April 4
Easter Sunday is on April 4th. All are invited to join us to celebrate the resurrection at our Easter Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. The service will also be live streamed to Facebook and Youtube. RSVP’s are required for our in-person service to help us facilitate social distancing; please RSVP to 863.688.3114, revnickit@gmail.com or utemple@tampabay.rr.com.