



...to empower children and families to experience God's love and care as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

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Celebrate National Foster Care Month

Did you know that the Foster Care program at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home currently serves 250 children each day? With over 150 licensed foster homes in Volusia, Flagler, Hillsborough, and Broward Counties, the Children's Home continues its quest to serve more children, in more places, in more ways. Fostering is a vital need, as it creates an opportunity for people to temporarily provide a safe, stable, and nurturing environment to children who have experienced trauma. May is National Foster Care Month. We invite you to celebrate by prayerfully considering how you can partner with our Foster Care program to offer relief, comfort, and care to children in need. To learn more

about supporting our foster parents, as well as how you can get involved in any of our Foster Care

Thank You, Joyful Noise Preschool!



Joyful Noise is the preschool at Community United Methodist Church in Debary. They take up a regular offering as a part of their chapel time. Each year, they select a cause to support, and then direct their offering funds there. For the 2016-2017 school year, Joyful Noise chose to support the Florida United Methodist Children's Home with their yearly offering. On April 26th, the children of the preschool presented a check of over \$500 to Rev. Ryan Frack, the Director of Church Relations. Thank you, Joyful Noise Christian Preschool, for your wonderful generosity to the ministry of the Children's Home!

"Kings and Queens" Claiming our identity in Christ

Pam Shaver, who served as a houseparent on our Enterprise campus for many years prior to



SPARK Celebrates Holy Week

The truth of Easter offers a renewed sense of hope to all of creation: Christ is risen! Death doesn't have the final say over the world!

In the final week of Lent, our youth at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home participated in some Holy Week activities. They took part in celebrating Palm Sunday by carrying palm branches to the Chapel, laying them out on the ground, and then shouting "Hosanna."



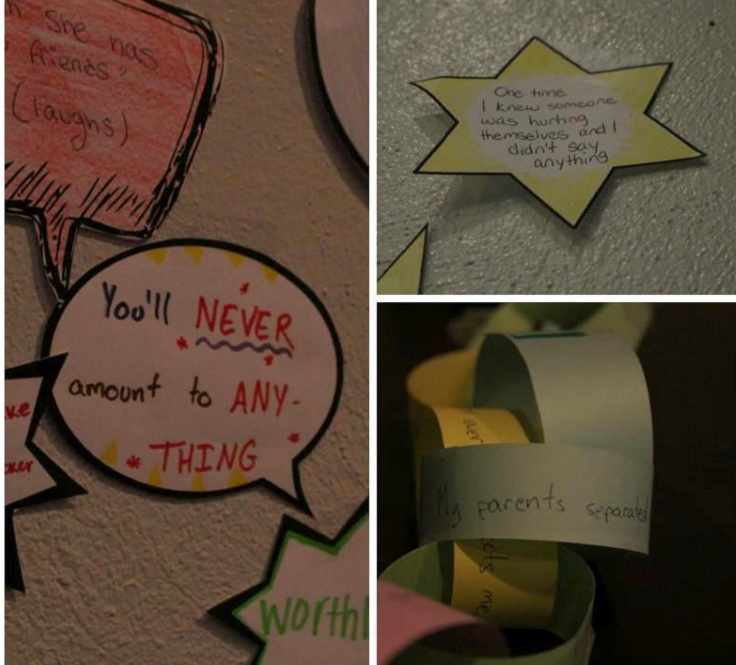
Starting on Maundy Thursday, the Chapel hosted a "Stations of the Cross" exhibit, which was put together by the children. As they progressed through the final moments of Jesus' life, each station prompted the children to consider such things as: times they stood by and did nothing when they should have acted, ways they have been let down or let others down, hurtful words people have said to them, and when they have felt trapped. The stations involved the youth drawing or creating something to help with their tactile experiences of these things. They also reflected on times when they felt hope.

starting a role in our Independent Living program, felt God leading her to offer something spiritual and intentional that meets our children as they undergo the transformation from childhood to adulthood. "As a culture, we don't do the best job of raising men and women," she said, reflecting on the important spiritual growth that can also happen during this transition. Shaver remembered many of the youth on campus with whom she and her husband had worked. Conversations with these young people allowed many themes to surface, such as destructive relationships, low self esteem, and low standards of behavior. Shaver felt as though the young people must not have truly comprehended Jesus' message that they have great value and worth. This marked the beginning of a quest to create an opportunity for our young people to hear, in new ways, the fullness of their worth and identity in Jesus.

The result was a year-long program on our Enterprise campus, called "Kings and Queens." Now completing its second year, the program consisted of weekly meetings with outside leaders and speakers. Participants heard from professionals on a wide range of topics, such as dating, integrity, responsibility, and hygiene. They also took on a service project, in which they made dresses to send children in Haiti.

The students also participated in a weekend retreat at the Warren Willis Camp in Fruitland Park. While there, they participated in group team-building activities and small group discussions. During discussions about healthy and unhealthy relationships, for example, the students heard from a pair of ER nurses, as well as a representative from the local abuse center. Rev. Corey Jones, Executive Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, served as the worship leader for the weekend. The theme for the entire weekend centered around worth, value, and identity.

On Sunday, April 23rd, children and staff gathered in the gym on our Enterprise campus to celebrate the completion of this year's program. The 24 Kings and Queens participants were dressed in Sunday best, and the young men participating served as wait staff for the entire event. In addition to a delicious meal, the evening consisted of many reminders of the love that God has for each of us. Children also shared their talents of music and comedy.



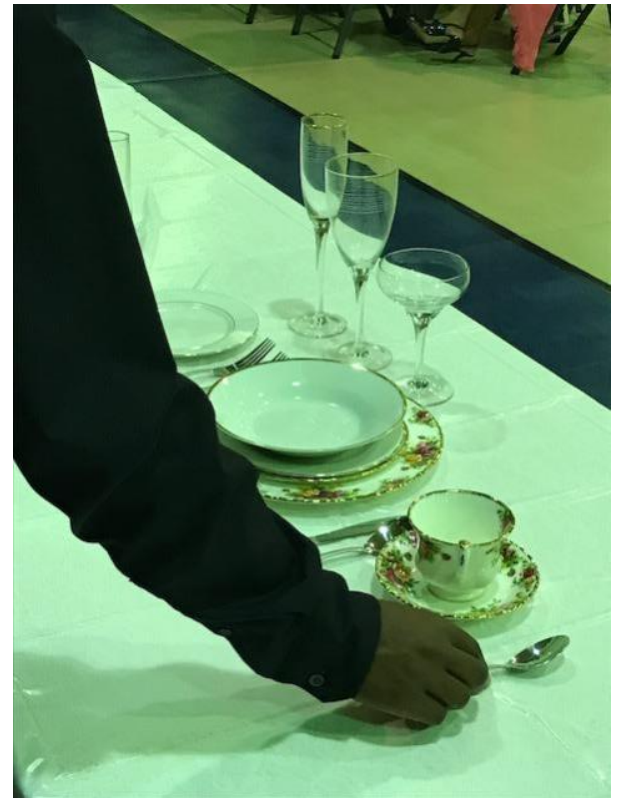
One of the highlights of the evening was the children's showcase of their etiquette skills. Some of our Independent Living staff led a trivia game based on etiquette and the proper way we should respond in varying situations. Two sets of Kings and Queens participants then closed the etiquette portion by putting together a proper table setting from memory.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of the great things Kings and Queens have done throughout the year. Thank you to all of the churches and partners in the Conference, whose support has made meaningful ministries like this possible.. What a great reminder of the immense worth and value found in all of God's children!

On Easter morning, the children celebrated the fullness of life wrought through the resurrection truth of Jesus Christ. They sang songs of joy and hope, remembering that the pain and suffering that accompany life don't confine the new life that Jesus brings. A centerpiece of the service was a mosaic cross, made up of broken pieces of colored plates. From Rev. Madeline Luzinski, our Director of Pastoral Care:

"Each week of Lent, we broke a plate and read stories of people who were broken and in need of God's healing. We talked about how when we are broken, we cry out to God and ask why we can't go back to the way we were before. Why can't the plate look whole again? But all the while, God takes the broken pieces and makes something new - something we can't even imagine. In the same way Jesus took the cross, a symbol of death, and turned it into a tool for liberation and a symbol of hope. Thanks be to God. Christ is Risen!"

The resurrection hope of Jesus is what continues to guide the ministry of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Happy Easter!



Upcoming Fifth Sunday Offerings





North West District LCR Workshop

Our North West District Local Church Representative (LCR) workshop will take place on Friday, May 12th in Madison. This wonderful event is not limited to only LCRs, but also to church staff and other volunteers. In order to ensure we have enough supplies, please contact Trista Calvin at 386.668.4774 extension 2296 or email Trista.Calvin@fumch.org with questions or RSVPs. The details of the event are:

Friday, May 12
10:00am-12:00pm
First UMC, Madison

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A MEETING WITH YOUR ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY

Whether you are discussing your first will or trust, or revising your existing estate plans, there are some ways you can begin preparing today for meeting with your attorney.

1. **Write down a list of questions you have for your attorney.** Thinking through your needs and goals in advance helps to ensure that the meeting with your attorney is efficient and effective.
2. **Gather and organize your information.** Complete our FREE Wills Guide, or use the Wills Planner available on our website, to gather information about your family, assets, and goals.
3. **Review our website for planning ideas.** Learn about ways you can provide for your family, create gifts of income, save on taxes, and benefit the Florida United Methodist Children's Home with your plan



Please don't forget to promote and collect the Fifth Sunday Offering, as it is a vital resource in providing for the ongoing day-to-day needs of the children and families. *We also have Fifth Sunday videos available to help with promotion of these special Sundays at your local church.*

July 30, 2017

October 29, 2017

December 31, 2017

Current Resident Needs

Hair Brushes
Electric Alarm Clocks
Body Lotion
Hair Conditioner
Bath Towels
Wash Cloths

Run 4 Life

The 7th annual Run 4 Life is happening on May 20th, on the Enterprise campus of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Starting at 7am, the race winds through a beautiful tree-lined course, and will both begin and end at our campus.

This is a 4 mile run/walk to help raise funds for suicide awareness and prevention programs. It is a great cause, started by some passionate individuals. Additionally, some of the proceeds will go to support the Children's Home.

For information on how you can support the event, as well as how you can register for the race, please visit www.run4lifeflorida.org

Testimonial

From an alumnus...

"I lived here for most of my childhood, which was over 30 years ago. I am so thankful I had a safe, clean place to grow up. I am especially thankful I was allowed to see how children are really supposed to be treated"

WE CAN HELP!

Creating a plan for your future is important.

For more information, please visit www.fumchlegacy.org,
email plannedgiving@fumch.org, or contact Jeanne
Griffith, Associate Director of Development at
386.668.4774 extension 2234.

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