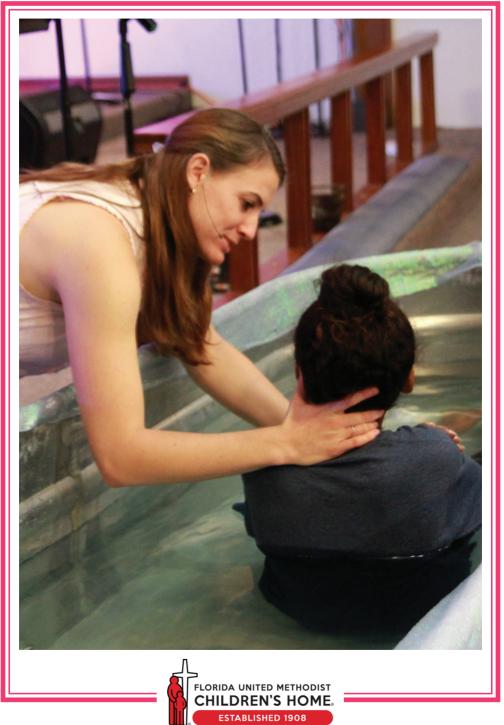
FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING

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"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." *Mark 1:9-11 (NRSV)*

As we begin a new year, many will put intentional effort into "turning over a new leaf." Whether this comes in the form of new habits, healthy eating, or a general resolve to live differently, we tend to see a near year as an opportunity to start new.

Tanya is a young lady who has been in our care due to abuse in her home and depression. As you may imagine, she has experienced quite a bit of trauma in her life, and that trauma doesn't just dissipate because she has moved locations. Recently, Tanya expressed to our Director of Pastoral Care that she wanted to be baptized. While many of our children are baptized either before or after their stay, there are occasions when our Spiritual Life program really has become the child's church family and the child specifically requests to be baptized here. Following Tanya's baptism, our Spiritual Life team threw a birthday party for her, celebrating her new life in Jesus. Baptism is a powerful way to experience the regenerative nature of God's love, and it reminds our children that God really does make all things new.

With the new year upon us, we at the Children's Home want to let you know how much we appreciate your support. Your contributions help us lead children, just like Tanya, to life-changing experiences with Jesus. You can **text "SPARK" to 50155** for quick and easy giving. You can also go to <u>www.fumch.org</u> and follow the "DONATE" button to support us that way. Without you, this ministry wouldn't be possible!



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