

The Community Link

Transforming Fort Pierce through Discipleship
Building Relationships - Bridging the God-Gap



Dear Community UMC, grace, and peace to you,

Did somebody say, "April showers bring May flowers?" Well, if that's the case, I'm grabbing my umbrella and doing my rain dance as I belt out, "Wake up and turn I loose, for the rain is falling!" After all, those showers are the prelude to nature's most vibrant and colorful spectacle—springtime blooms that add a splash of joy to our lives.

I eagerly await the blossoming of nature's canvas, and I can't help but think of the delightful surprises that the season can bring. It's like unwrapping a gift from God, filled with hues of every shade and scents that awaken the senses. I feel quite poetic as I watch the transformation take place. It's as if I am waiting for the calypso monarch competition to begin. The nursery is calling my name – AGAIN. I love watching the flowers as they perform on nature's stage, bopping here and dipping there, dancing and singing redemption songs.

It might sound as if I have all my gardening together, but I have to admit that as much as I love gardening and appreciate its therapeutic value, my plant garden needs a little help. Some of my plants are getting choked by things I don't recognize, and for the life of me (or my plants), I cannot explain why some of them just die – even without my interference. God help me.

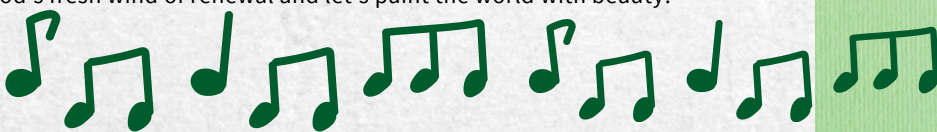
Now while I am marveling at the soon-to-be blooming flowers and I witness the miracle of nature, I also remember that blooming and growth aren't limited to plants alone. These are great metaphors for our spiritual journey and our potential for growth in every aspect of our lives and collectively as a congregation.

Think about this: Just as a seedling breaks through the soil to reach for the sun, we are called to reach for the beauty of God's love and wisdom as we nurture our souls and cultivate spiritual growth. Like a well-tended garden, our hearts and minds require care, attention, and nourishment to flourish and bear the fruits of the Spirit.

Let us bloom together, not just in our gardens but also in our souls, cultivating a community rooted in joy, resilience, and the beauty of new beginnings. I know that the process of growth is not always easy – talk about growing pains! It requires patience, perseverance, and faith. Yet, it is through challenges and trials that we discover our inner strength and deepen our connection with God.

Let's bop and dip to God's fresh wind of renewal and let's paint the world with beauty!

Bopping and dipping,
Pastor Andrea



SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Andrea Byer-Thomas
pastorandreabt@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE OF OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Bruce Kitson
brucek14206@gmail.com

TREASURER

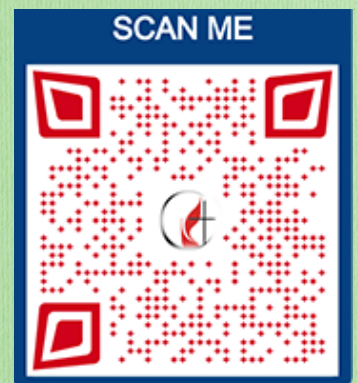
Bob Young
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LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

Rick Surface
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LAY LEADER

Ed Hamilton
ed.corahamilton@gmail.com



Hands for the Lord - May 2024

BY CINDY YOUNG

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything there is a season.
A time for every purpose under heaven:**

I am sure that our student puppeteers are looking ahead to a fun summer vacation from school. This school year is winding down. We want to honor all mothers on Mother's Day, May 12 th , with a sweet song called "You are a Masterpiece." We are also preparing for a performance on Youth Sunday, May 26 th . Looking ahead, watch the newsletter for our training of new puppeteers. It is coming up on a Saturday in August. Date and time will be announced. We are looking forward to welcoming new puppeteers at that time. Hope you are thinking about becoming a puppeteer!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our Hands for the Lord Puppet Team. We love you CUMC!

May Calendar

Sunday May 5 | Puppet Practice 12:45 - 1:30

Sunday May 12 | Puppet Performance and Practice after church

Sunday May 19 | Puppet Practice 12:45 - 1:30

Sunday May 26 | Puppet Performance and Practice after church



Romans 12:13 "Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home".

The Ladies were a small group of only 2 when we met on April 3rd. Margy brought delicious pumpkin muffins and fruit. YUM! Even though we were small in number, much was accomplished. A delivery was made to Women's and Children's Services at Lawnwood. Several stuffed bears, sock monkeys, quilts and fluffy throws will hopefully bring joy and comfort to some little ones. Graceway Village was thrilled to receive another plastic crocheted mat along with bears and quilts. We're still hoping to replenish our supply of toiletry items. We especially need toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer and small package of tissues. We're hoping to see some new faces at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 1. Remember-No Experience Required. Come for the fellowship and a delicious snack! As always we thank you for your prayers and your donations.

God Bless.

Vicki Ridinger

Happy Birthday

5/2 Andrew Smith
5/6 Ann Loveridge
5/6 Terry Young
5/10 Zander Frick
5/14 Luke Rosbury
5/15 Valeri Franceschini
5/17 Eleanor Eades
5/18 John Slattery
5/18 Kathleen "Katie" Powers
5/19 Carol Hilson
5/20 Dulce DeJesus
5/26 Jason Young
5/28 William "Bill" Hall
5/28 Todd Olson
5/30 Jennifer Young
5/31 Patty Surface

Happy Anniversary

5/17 Matthew & Leeann Chandler
5/17 Marshall & Hettie Rosbury
5/24 Jeff & Sharon Mattfeld

EVENTS

5/1 - Ladies on a Mission
5/4 - Breakfast & Pantry
5/9 - 55+ Friends
5/12 - Mother's Day
5/18 - Breakfast & Pantry
5/20 - Leadership Board Mtg.
5/27 Memorial Day
6/17-6/21 VBS

Book Buddy Ministry

BY CAROLE RATLIFF



“READING IS A PASSPORT TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES”

-Mary Pope Osborne

On Monday, April 15th one hundred three books were delivered to Hilson Hall for the teachers to distribute to the preschoolers. What an EXCITING day!! Look for the next distribution letters to be given out the first Sunday in September.

In May I tentatively plan for the children to receive activity books that they can enjoy this summer. These books will be a gift from the Book Buddy Ministry and will be paid for through past and present monetary donations and the Book Buddy checking account.

A very special “Thank You” to all of you who donated books or money to the Book Buddy Ministry during the months of February, March and April. When children receive their books you have purchased, this is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend quality time reading and enjoying good literature with their children.

Because there was a shortage of books for the VPK classes, a portion of the monetary donations was used to buy books for these children.

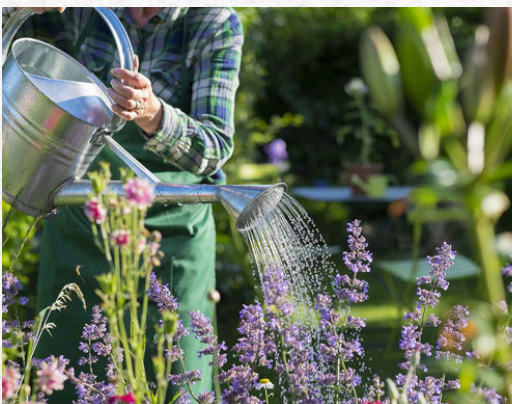
Helpers are ALWAYS needed for the Book Buddy Ministry which is program to provide the Preschool children of our church with books for their classrooms and homes...books that instill Godly values and nourish children ‘spiritually. Helpers are responsible for providing four books during the school year. Your help is truly needed!! For more information, please contact me at (772) 971-8483.

God Bless!!!



Gospel Gardener

BY JEAN HARVEY



Luke 12:27 NIV

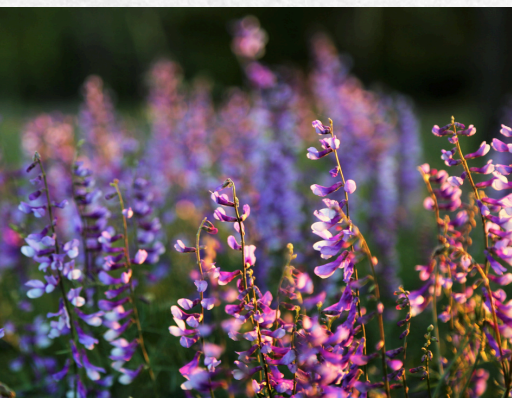
27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

April Showers, bring May flowers.

I highly recommend that you come to the John Ard Children’s Garden. The Preschool children take in all the beauty and colors of the garden. I love to mingle through the garden, every time I do I find new miracles. Life is a gift! I need to go to Home Depot to get some paint to spruce up the Alphabet Blocks.

My assortment of Gardening books are sitting on the shelves in the bookcase, shouting “Hey Gardener Lady. Read me, Read me!” When you come for a visit you will see our Vanda Orchids, the Zinnia Patch, Coral Honeysuckle Jungle and so much more.

Thank you to all who nourished, planted, weeded and /or watered the flowers. We’re open, come walk-through and look at our new plants. God Bless you all.



Free Breakfast & Food Pantry

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SATURDAY
MAY 4TH & 18TH

Volunteers needed!

CONTACT
BETSY BOBENMEYER
402-360-2729
OR TEDDI SUTHERLAND
570-460-9633
FOR MORE INFORMATION



55+ Friends

55+ is changing their monthly LUNCHEON DAY to THURSDAYS at 11:30 to accommodate other activities at Community.

We want everyone to join us who is a part of the 55+ community and who is not. Age is just a number. We welcome every one of all ages.

We will gather at Big Apple on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 11:30. Big Apple is located near the church at 2311 South 35th Street. It is across from IRSC, just south of "Circle K". See you there.

Call Sue Hall (772) 217-9543 or Patty Surface (772) 979-3955 for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

K-8TH GRADE

SUNDAYS 10:40 AM

YOUTH MINISTRY



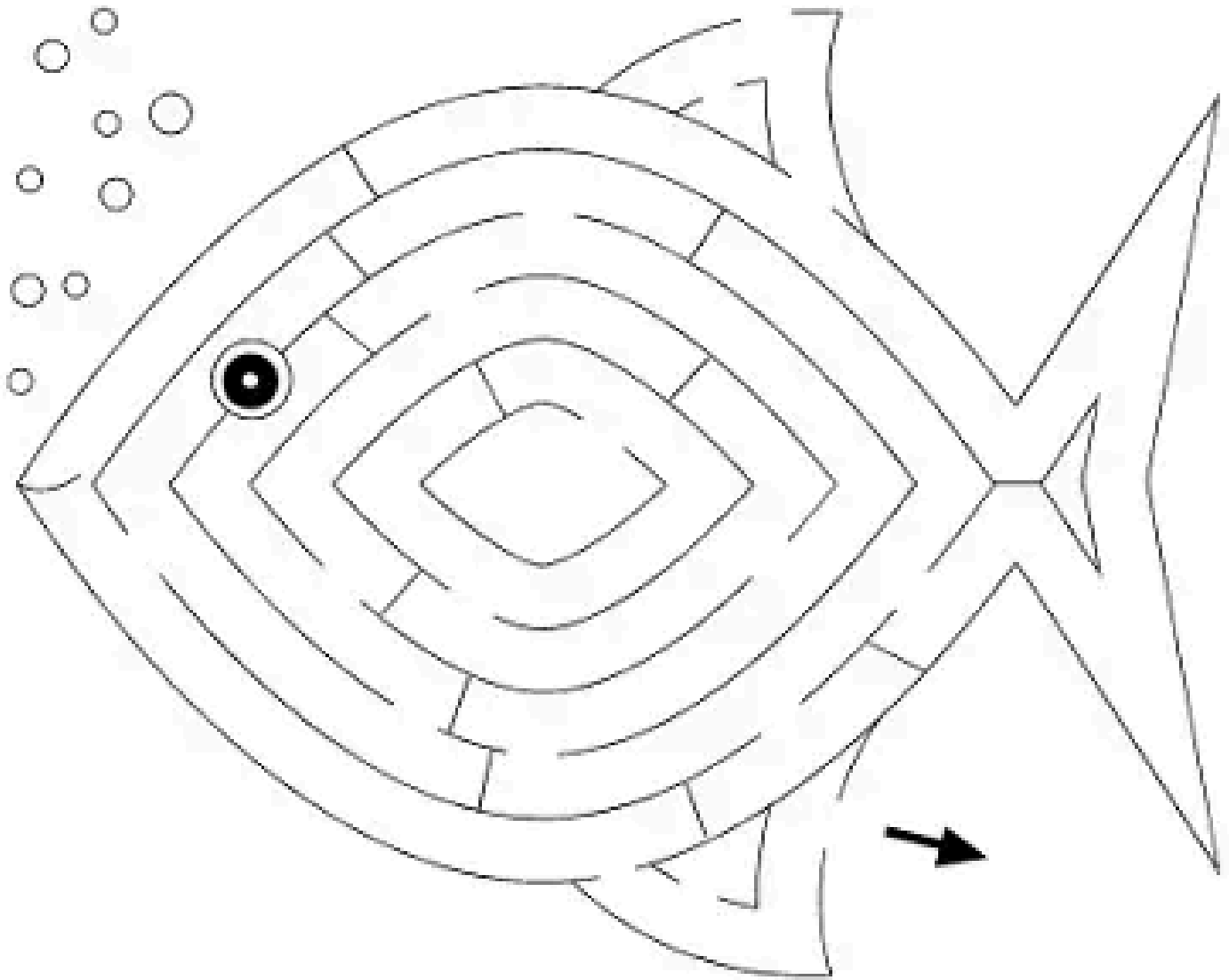
WHEN I AM AFRAID I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU

JUNE 17-21

WBS

God Cares for Jonah

Start
Here



"But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: 'In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.'" (Jonah 1:17-2:1, NIV)

Jonah and the Whale

Word Find

V N J K G T W S T N F I V O R
T C N R O Y E H H Y B F J D E
I W X D D X R H V I O W T I P
G X E O D E R Z P E P J H I E
L H E V E N I N L O S Y A X N
W W V D D S X A D E R X N L T
P O A M N O H S A I I P O D A
A Y L C S W S T O R M Z J R N
S K D Q F P N E T S G A K K C
G X G Q Q K W S Y Q F R C E E

repentance

Jonah

God

whale

prophet

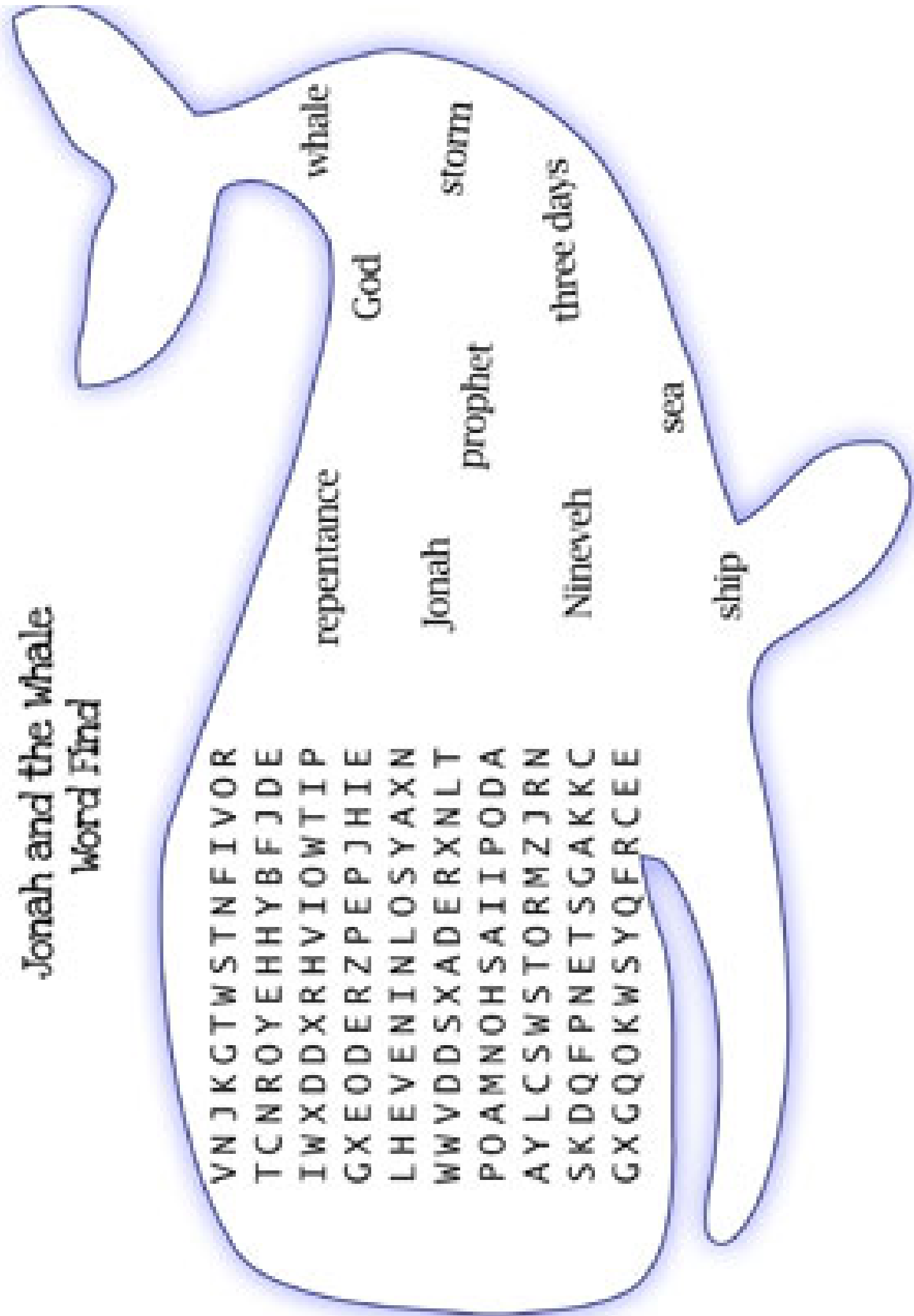
storm

three days

Nineveh

sea

ship



MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			LADIES ON A MISSION 1:00 PM HILSON HALL PRAYER VIGIL 2PM-3PM			FREE BREAKFAST & FOOD PANTRY 9A-11A 
5 WORSHIP 10:30AM	6	7 TEACHING TUESDAY FACEBOOK LIVE 12PM CONVERSATIONS IN SCRIPTURE 6PM	8 PRAYER VIGIL 2PM-3PM	9 55+ FRIENDS 11:30AM MEET AT BIG APPLE PIZZA	10	11
12  WORSHIP 10:30AM	13	14	15 PRAYER VIGIL 2PM-3PM	16	17	18 FREE BREAKFAST & FOOD PANTRY 9A-11A 
19 WORSHIP 10:30AM	20 LEADERSHIP BOARD MTG. 6:00 PM HILSON HALL	21 TEACHING TUESDAY FACEBOOK LIVE 12PM CONVERSATIONS IN SCRIPTURE 6PM	22 PRAYER VIGIL 2PM-3PM	23	24	25
26 WORSHIP 10:30AM	27 	28 TEACHING TUESDAY FACEBOOK LIVE 12PM CONVERSATIONS IN SCRIPTURE 6PM	29 PRAYER VIGIL 2PM-3PM	30	31	

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY

DISCIPLESHIP 9:00 AM | WORSHIP 10:30 AM

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 11:30 AM



**TEACHING TUESDAY
FACEBOOK LIVE 12PM**

TUESDAYS: CONVERSATION IN SCRIPTURE



ZOOM LINK MEETING ID: 837 4222 0306 PASSCODE: 082969

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83742220306?PWD=MTNML0FCM1BHEUHCN1NLEXLDAFCYQT09#SUCCESS](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83742220306?pwd=MTNML0FCM1BHEUHCN1NLEXLDAFCYQT09#SUCCESS)

COMMUNITY UMC 3114 OKEECHOBEE RD. 772.461.2499



Community United Methodist

PRESCHOOL

www.unitedmethodistpreschool.com



Happy Spring, is our theme, as our Preschool Students enjoy learning about the metamorphosis of butterflies. Each classroom has a butterfly holder with food and water, and experience seeing the little larvae grow a cocoon, and emerge as a lovely butterfly. Children then release the butterfly's into the beautiful Children's Garden". In the future, all butterflies we see, in the garden, are their butterfly!

We have so much activity, and good things to look forward to at preschool. We had large shade awnings installed, to help protect the children during the hot Summer outside play, on the Toddler and Baby playgrounds. They are Sun setter shades that can automatically roll up when there is windy weather, with a remote control and WI-FI. This was funded by an ARPA grant through the Early Learning Coalition. The grant also allowed 8,000.00 toys and equipment purchases for classrooms and the playgrounds. In addition, another ARPA workforce grant provided the staff with a bonus.

VPK graduation is May 31st @10:00 in the sanctuary. This will be a brief, fun event and a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with our preschool families.

Special activities are planned for the summer, and we are expecting a robust enrollment.

The Preschool stays open year round and we plan on a full house this Summer, as we plan some very special activities for our students.

The construction on the kitchen is almost at an end. We are breathing sighs of relief and express appreciation for all who worked tirelessly to move the work along. We are looking forward to continued growth!

Thank You for your support,

By His Amazing Grace,
Carol Hilson/Preschool Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31

VPK Graduation
10AM Church
Sanctuary

*SUMMER EVENTS

June 17-21

Camp Firelight VBS

going into Kindergarten

Reminders

Preschool stays open year round



COMMUNITY VBS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[REGISTER HERE](#)



56:3 Psalm

When I am afraid

I Put my Trust in You

Camp Firelight | A Summer Camp Adventure with God

Dates: Monday, June 17th - Friday June 21st

Time: TBD | Drop off TBD

Location: 3114 Okeechobee Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34947

We have exciting games, crafts, and activities planned to celebrate summer while guiding our youth to grow closer to each other and the Lord.

FOLLOW US: CUMCFPFL



[http://](#)



SUMMER

CAMP



Registration
Open

⚠️ ATTENTION CHILDREN & YOUTH AND PARENTS! ⚠️

WHO : for children in Grades 4 next year thru “Just Graduated Seniors”.

WHEN: JULY 1ST-6TH 2024

HOW MUCH: Subsidized \$475 - Standard \$550 - Sustaining \$625

There are 3 TIERS of pricing, choose based on your financial situation.

If the church is paying any of the amount, please select **SUBSIDIZED \$475.**

To receive “church financial assistance” attendance at Worship and/or activities at CUMC should be 50% or more. Parents and Campers should also assist with Fund Raising

WHERE TO REGISTER: WWUMCCC.ORG



Parents, please complete the registration for your child/youth. Let me know when that is done and the church will complete all as a group. We want all campers to go the same week. This helps them bond as a church group. It also makes transportation easier. Please select Week 3 for traditional Classic Camp or Creative Spirit. Please contact me with questions or suggestions. Patty Surface (772) 464-8526

April 7, 2024

CONFIRMED

in Christ



Congratulations and a heartfelt welcome to each one of our newly confirmed and received members! Today marks a joyful leap in your journey of faith and fellowship. As you join and affirm your commitment to this church family, know that you bring with you unique gifts, fresh perspectives, and vibrant energy that enrich the community.

Together, let us celebrate the many ways God speaks through each of us! May your faith be as dynamic and flourishing as a garden in spring, ever-growing and deeply rooted in the love and examples of Christ.

We rejoice in your decision to walk this path of faith, hope, and love with us. You have my strong, prayerful support! Let us learn from each other, as together, we grow in grace.

Welcome aboard! Here's to many fruitful and inspiring days ahead!

Pastor Andrea

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

- Nyheim Whittick*
- Noah Verdadero*
- Rich Lajeune*

NEW MEMBERS

- Bruce Kitson*
- Johanna Kitson*
- Teddi Sutherland*
- Ray Sutherland*
- David Washington*
- Barbara Washington*
- Malik Jordan Washington*
- Nioka Williams*
- Joann Flores*

NEW

MEMBER

Sunday