

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Won't you be my Valentine?*

Do you remember when you were growing up and getting a Valentine's Day card? Maybe it was from one of your classmates or even your parents. Do you remember how special it made you feel? Or getting so many Valentines that you were just overwhelmed? For many children, this translates into their definition of self-worth and a measure of love.



Now imagine what it might feel like to not receive a Valentine's Day card from classmates, friends or even family members. The absence of that outpouring of affection can bring feelings of hurt and heartbreak, diminishing a child's self-worth. For the children who come to us at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, their definition of love and self-worth are skewed, and even their hearts have been broken.

Before coming to us, many of our children didn't know what it was like to have their own bed or food on the table, let alone loving and supportive parents who encourage emotional and academic success on a daily basis. The therapeutic intervention we provide helps to get to the heart of the matter and provides the tools to become successful in all areas of their lives. Perhaps more importantly, it gives the children hope.

Jacob came to us with this misconception of love. He had been abused by his parents, and had to be removed from his home. He had anger issues and low self-worth, blaming himself for his situation. This showed in his failing grades and inability to make friends. Through our care, including appropriate therapy, he came to understand the true love God intended for him. Now he has a B average in school and will often lead discussions in his group Bible studies.

Will you join us in supporting children like Jacob, with their daily needs and therapeutic intervention?

**You can show all the children here at the Children's Home that they are loved by signing and returning a Valentine.** Simply go to <http://www.fumch.org/happy-valentines-day/> and click the link to print a valentine, sign it, and mail it to:

**Florida United Methodist Children's Home  
51 Children's Way  
Enterprise, FL 32725**

You can even send the children a Valentine message of your own! For your convenience, you can make your gift online by selecting the online donation button.

After we receive your Valentine, we'll place them all in the Chapel for the children to see, and explain to them that every Valentine was signed by someone who cares about them. They even get to choose a few to take with them. It's just another way to show our children that they do have an extended family who cares for and loves them. The impact of feeling loved by others is truly amazing.

**Even though many of our children will not hear from their Mom or Dad this Valentine's Day, please let them hear from you...so they know they are loved.**

Thank you and God Bless!

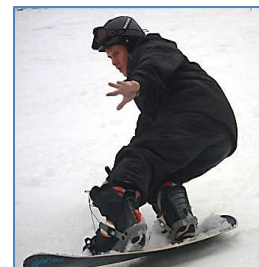
*(from the Florida United Methodist Children's Home website)*

More Children's Home News

from their website at <http://www.fumch.org/>:



- April 1, 2017 is the next Day On Campus. It includes tours of the Enterprise campus, special performances, resident testimonies, a picnic lunch and wonderful fellowship with others from across the state.
- In January, Florida United Methodist Children's Home has been awarded \$3,500 by Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc.
- In December, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home was recognized as a premier member of the list of faith-based, EAGLE (Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence) accredited organizations, and has been reaccredited through the year 2020.
- In December, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA), demonstrating the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services.
- In December, the Board of Trustees for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home appointed Kitwana McTyler as President and CEO.
- In November, the Children's Home welcomed their new Vice President of Residential Services, Dr. Kathy Lee Hurley.



We are hearing wonderful things about our new Youth Director, Camille Feaster! The youth and everyone involved had a great time on their Lake Junaluska ski trip, and the rest of us had a super time hearing about the trip the following Sunday! We can't wait to hear what they will do next!

If you want to know more, go to <https://sway.com/vkxn7OJRMkv9axej> and see the terrific presentation Camille made. Make sure you click on all the pictures at the end. And come hear Camille give her testimony during the 10:30 AM joint worship service on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.



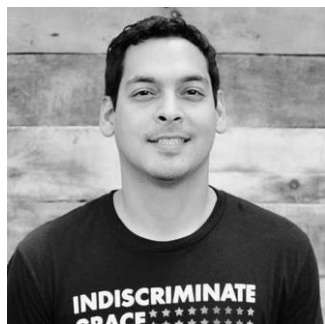
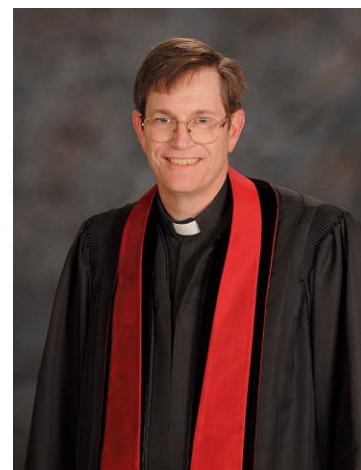
## A word from Rev. Barry Andrews, Senior Pastor

Some of us have resolved 2017 will be our fixer-upper year. We'll work on healthier living, or being more intellectually engaged, or work on the house, maybe get a new, or other, car. Lots of options present themselves.

We're always doing this sort of planning/ dreaming around the church. We've known for some years that the gym roof was leaking and rusting, and hoped that this year would be the year that we'd be able to do something about it. Regrettably, though, other projects always pushed the gym out of the front of the line. That is, until this year, when our agents of change and renewal, also known as NOMADS, took on the formidable project of sanding, cleaning, and coating the gym roof. Mercy, what a job! And we can't even see it, it's so high! A plan has come to fruition, and this rather large part of the Faith campus is in better shape than it's been in over 40 years, since it was new.

Not every job is as formidable as the gym roof, but every renovation, every resolution, takes effort, and costs something. Lent's coming up at the end of February; have you thought about how your life at work, in your family, at church, or in your community, could be made better, what renovation by resolution needs to be undertaken? Not that we're going to get everything done this year, but, maybe something? Valentine's Day is also soon on the calendar; could our relationships be improved by our efforts, on our side of the mirror?

Pray for guidance, and for strength. We're not alone, and there's a congregation of people here at church that are all paddling the same boat, or swimming in the same stream. Be a part, lend a hand, and take a place in this crowd, and we'll all be the better for it. Keep your resolve, begin that renovation, and let God lead you along this path during the soon-to-be-here Lenten season.



Erwin Lopez, Maria's son who preached a wonderful sermon at Faith UMC on January 1<sup>st</sup>, wrote the following on Facebook:

"I am happy to announce that yesterday I was recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry to be Ordained as an Elder in Full Connection in the United Methodist Church. I started this process in 2006 not knowing the full extent of how I would be shaped by contingencies, probationary periods, mentors, counselors, and challenging appointments. The church has made me a better person, Christian, father, husband and leader.

Thank you all for your support, your encouragement and your prayers.

But this is not the end. It's just the beginning.

Cheers to many more years of what I love to do, Preach the good news of Jesus, strengthen the local church, love all people and walk alongside some pretty amazing people..."

Congratulations to Rev. Erwin and his family!



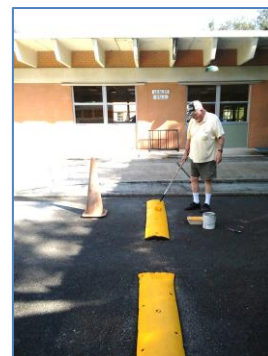
*In Memory of*

# Joseph Jepson Collins

October 15, 1920 - January 12, 2017

Joe Collins was a long-time member of our church. He has been sick and unable to worship with us for the last several years, but we are certain he is singing passionately in heaven today! Joe's Visitation was on Thursday, January 19, 2017, but his Graveside Service will be on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 1:00 pm at Greenlawn Cemetery, 4300 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Please keep his wife, Marge, and his family and friends in your prayers.

***HAVE YOU TOLD OUR NOMADS LATELY HOW MUCH WE LOVE THEM?***



***THANK YOU!!!!***



There is a group traveling to Cuba this month, so we can send some of the monies and medicines we have collected. Please remember Martin Perez Methodist Church, its Pastor Juan Luis Perez, and its congregation in your prayers!

### UMW News:

**February 5th**, following our 10:30 service – it's Souper Bowl Sunday! Everyone join us in Wesley Hall for Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup, Stone Soup, and Desserts!



### Story of Stone Soup:



Some travelers come to a village, carrying nothing more than an empty cooking pot. Upon their arrival, the villagers are unwilling to share any of their food stores with the hungry travelers. Then the travelers go to a stream and fill the pot with water, drop a large stone in it, and place it over a fire. One of the villagers becomes curious and asks what they are doing. The travelers answer that they are making "stone soup", which tastes wonderful, although it still needs a little bit of garnish to improve the flavor, which they are missing. The villager does not mind parting with a few carrots to help them out, so that gets added to the soup. Another villager walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the travelers again mention their stone soup which has not reached its full potential yet. The villager hands them a little bit of seasoning to help them out. More and more villagers walk by, each adding another ingredient. Finally, the stone (being inedible) is removed from the pot, and a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by all.

UMW members are bringing 2 cans of veggies or beans – one goes into making the Stone Soup and the other goes to UCOM!

P.S. – we won't be using a Stone!

Donations will be accepted and will go to Missions and UMW programs. Thank you for your support!

**March 10-12:** SEE-Spiritual Enrichment Experience at Epworth-By-the-Sea, St Simons Island. Contact Susan Davis, Ann Helquist, or Susan Speicher for details.





“Dear fellow members of Faith:  
 Many thanks for the prayers, cards, and good wishes during my illness and sojourn in the hospital and Life Care Center Rehab. I miss all of you and hope to be back soon.  
 God bless you all.  
 Love, Cynthia Shank”

----- **GOOD NEWS ABOUT 2016 MISSIONS GIVING:** -----

Our missions giving for 2016 was strong. We continued our tradition and commitment to the Florida Methodist Conference by paying 100% of our apportioned benevolences last year. This totaled \$27,025.

We also collected a considerable amount of funds towards the extra mile missions of our church. During 2016, we supported various love offering causes with more than \$17,300. These missions include the following:

Florida Children's Home	\$ 3,000
Missionaries (Groves family)	420
UCOM (monetary)	5,571
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	227
Neighborhood Outreach, (Easter, Trunk Treat, VBS)	550
UMCOR (Hurricane)	2,280
Church Staff –Love Offerings	928
Heifer Project	1,000
Thomas Garrett Scholarship	1,920
Others	<u>1,440</u>
	<b>\$17,336</b>

These figures do not include non-monetary donations such as our regular food contributions to UCOM or the clothing donations at Christmas. Also not included are projects supported by other groups representing our church such as UMW, UMM, Sunday school classes, youth group, etc. These dollar amounts also do not include the time and talents shared to others by the many volunteers of our church.

Faith United Methodist Church can stand tall in our missions support accomplishments. Pray for God's continued blessings for this Church so as to enable us to continue His work through our service and support in the year 2017 and beyond.

Finance Committee/Stewardship

**Even the smallest gift given by someone who loves Him will make Jesus happy.**

**We want to thank everyone who supports our church with your prayers, presence, gifts service, and witness!** Because of you, we are able to have a wonderful place to worship the Lord and can join together to make Jesus Christ known in the world!

**We especially want to acknowledge and thank the people who turned in commitment forms for 2017!** We say a special thanks to those who have pledged their financial support in advance, helping us prepare a budget and make plans for this year.

**General Fund (Church Budget) Pledgers for 2017 are:**

Rev. Barry Andrews, Mike & Sherry Beville, Bill & Joyce Blackburn, Evalyn Campbell, Audry & Frances Coulliette, Sandy & Jane Daniel, Susan Davis, Barbara Dicks, Bud & Donna Glasner, Gerry Hollingsworth, Flo Lane, Jim & DeDe Long, Mark & Nancy Loveland, Edward & Mary Lynch, Maria (Marisol) Melendez, John & Sharon Peavy, Linda Pickett, Dot Ray, Fermin Rivas & Sonia Cruz, Fermin Rivas Jr & Angélica Menéndez, Sara Schell, Richard & Cynthia Shank, Bud Shutterly, Glenn & Sue Speicher, Beverly Taylor, Clara Watkins, Henrietta Wyndham, and Robert & Carol Zaugg.

We also received pledges from the following in support of:

**Facilities Improvement Fund:** Mike & Sherry Beville, Frank & Susan Davis, Jim & DeDe Long, and Richard & Cynthia Shank;

**Hispanic Ministry:** Mike & Sherry Beville;

**Missionaries:** Audry & Frances Coulliette;

**UCOM:** Frank Davis and Beverly Taylor.

Most of the above pledgers, plus Guido, Madelin, & Giselle Izzuierdo and Evelyn Penney also renewed their commitment to uphold our church with their prayers, presence, service, and witness in the coming year.

Again, **THANK YOU** to all who pledged!

Finance Committee/Stewardship

P.S. If you want to support our church but haven't turned in your 2017 Commitment Form, forms are available in the narthex at the back of the church and can be turned in to the church office or put in the offering plate.

# 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a NIV

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

<sup>4</sup> Love is	Rejoice at
<b>Patient</b> and	<b>Wrongdoing</b> , but
<b>Kind</b> ; love does not	<b>Rejoices</b> with the
<b>Envy</b> or	<b>Resentful</b> ; <sup>6</sup> it does not
<b>Boast</b> ; it is not	<b>Truth</b> . <sup>7</sup> Love
<b>Arrogant</b> <sup>5</sup> or	<b>Bears</b> all things,
<b>Rude</b> . It does not	<b>Believes</b> all things,
<b>Insist</b> on its own	<b>Hopes</b> all things,
<b>Way</b> ; it is not	<b>Endures</b> all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never
<b>Irritable</b> or	<b>Ends</b> .
<b>Resentful</b> ; <sup>6</sup> it does not	





## St. Valentine

**SAINTS FUN FACTS** by John Sheppard

A kind hearted Roman priest, he aided young Christians being persecuted by Claudius II and was imprisoned. While in custody, he converted 46 members of a guards family to Christianity! Upon discovering this, Claudius sentenced him to death. He is the patron of love, young people and happy marriage.

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