

October 31, 2023



**LOTS OF INFO AND THANKS HERE - PLEASE READ AND SAVE**

## **IN OUR HOUSE**

### **\*What's Next with Regard to Communications and Other Needs**

#### The Weekly Email

This is the last weekly email I will create (the 193<sup>rd</sup>!). It comes from the office account, as it will in the future. Gloria Manuel will be creating each week's email. To have your information included:

**Articles and pictures to Gloria by Thursdays, Noon**

**Prayer requests to Cindy at by Thursdays, Noon**

#### Communicating with Linda

Beginning November 1, emails to [lindaeven@theucf.org](mailto:lindaeven@theucf.org) will receive a message: "The Rev. Dr. Linda D. Even is no longer in active service with The United Church of Fayetteville. Please direct inquiries to [office@theucf.org](mailto:office@theucf.org). **Your messages will NOT be automatically be forwarded to that address. You will need to do that.** That being said, I will have access to this account for a while. I will review the messages periodically for inquiries such as: "Do we have a template for...?", "Where can I find...?" "Do you have...?" and will respond. Any questions about the transition process, what's ahead, decision-making, searches etc. should be directed to a member of the Board or Change Task Force. For other (social) communications, I have put my personal email address and cell number in the new directory.

#### Pastoral Care

Congregational Care will keep up its excellent support of parishioners.

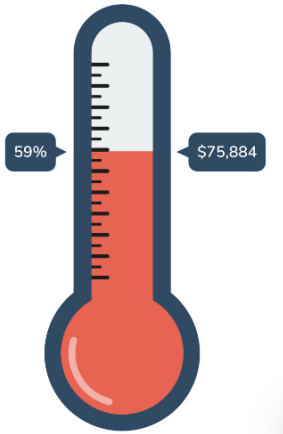
Elder Dave will make hospital visits as necessary until there is a transitional pastor in place.

#### Other Questions

Contact Mary Karen. She can direct you or find out who you need to talk to.

#### How Can You Contribute to a Smooth Transition?

Be sure to send the time, place and duration of every meeting or event to [office@theucf.org](mailto:office@theucf.org) Even if it's via Zoom. It prevents confusion and items appearing on the calendar are reassuring to the whole congregation that in a time of transition "Church is still happening."

**\*Stewardship Update****GOAL: \$128,000**

**We are almost 60% to our pledge goal for 2024.**

**There's still time to turn in your pledge, if you haven't already!**

**\*Stewardship Information – Maintaining Our Historic Building**

Our 2023 budgeted expenses for building care and maintenance including such things as utilities, janitorial service, snow plowing and other essentials are \$51,180. That total does not include some major repairs that we taken from previously designated funds and presumes the budget is not exceeded. That represents ~\$420 per member. Please keep these critical needs in mind when prayerfully considering your pledge.

**\*November 17, 2023 7:00 – 9:00 Save the Date! Game Night Back by Popular Demand!**

Bring your favorite game or enjoy a new one.



Snacks and drinks to share are always welcome.

**UCF IN THE WORLD****\*UCF Outreach & Social Opportunity Brown Memorial United Methodist Church Dinner (Prep and Serving)**

**Help with one or all three!** 1-Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> (9AM-Noon) - Meal Preparation at UCF; 2-Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> (1:45pm-4:30pm)-Transport & serve meal at Brown Memorial.; 3-Helpers are also needed to make and individually wrap dessert bars, brownies or cookies for dessert & then deliver to church Sat.AM, 11/4 or Sun. AM, 11/5 Sign up on poster in the hallway to help. Call/text Diane with questions.

### **\*Thanksgiving Offering – Received and Dedicated on Sunday, November 19**

The Thanksgiving Offering will benefit the Anti-Gun Violence program Syracuse SNUG (Should Never Use Guns). SNUG is a program that engages at-risk individuals who are causing violence in communities to address the issues that may be causing these individuals to engage in gun violence. Additionally, SNUG shows residents of the affected community how violence is spread.

SNUG is an evidence-based program, i.e., having rigorous outcomes that demonstrate the relationship between the program and reduced gun violence among Syracuse youth, ages 13-22 in the south and southwest neighborhoods. The program uses community outreach workers and violence interceders who experienced violence themselves and who have strong relationships with young adults, community leaders, and service providers. The goal is to stop “conflicts before they happen and re-direct the highest-risk youth away from life on the streets. SNUG is focused on behavioral changes in the target population to prevent victimization and perpetuation of gun violence.”

Donation envelopes are available in the pews, as well as in your offering boxes. Also, you can make contributions by check, made out to UCF with memo

### **THIS WEEK’S THANKS**

\*Coffee House Bakers: Charlotte, Linda, Gloria, Janet, Mary Jane

\*My thanks know no bounds – for 16 years of transforming ministry; for people whose love UCF is demonstrated in shared talents, treasure and vision; and who are committed to being part of a community that strives together toward shared vision and ministry, not acting as lone rangers. I am grateful for a congregation that continues to stretch itself and reach out to the world in Christ’s name; a congregation that has given me more than you will ever know.

Sunday, October 28 was a lovely morning, I hope for you, as it was for me. Thanks to:

\*Jon, the choir and Joyful Sign for finding, learning and for some, re-learning “*How Beautiful,*” the anthem I

requested for this day. And, thanks, (I think) for responding to Jon’s encouragement to make me cry, with the

lovely postlude, “*God Bless You and Keep You.*” Mission accomplished.

\*Gail Sandle for writing the liturgy.

\*The Fellowship Committee for the beautiful table settings, and to them and others for the cake, awesome

desserts and savory treats.

\*The gifts and mementos

\*The chrysanthemums are glowing in my front window

\*One of my winter projects is to paint the upstairs rooms in my house. Then I will be able to hang the two

pictures of the building which are gifts of the congregation, as well as two other pieces of artwork.

\*I am about halfway through reading your affirming cards and notes. I am grateful for your good wishes

and for sharing ways I have made a difference for you. My blessing folder is already

bursting.

\*Your very generous love offering is overwhelming. I will set it aside for a special retirement experience –

maybe a trip. I will let you know.

As is so often the case, I do not have the words to express the depth of my gratitude for the years, the ministry and the privilege of serving with you; your trust, and your love, which is mutual. I have every confidence in your ability to navigate the future and continuing to serve Christ faithfully and wish you all joy as you do so.

In faith and

with love, *Linda*