



Dear Colleagues in the mission of Jesus Christ,

We journey through the latter days of Lent, moving insistently toward Jesus' passion, resurrection, and exodus. Although much of that journey does not appear in the lectionary Gospel readings until the fall, still I will make reference to events from the Gospel of Luke. They shine light and bring coherence to the event of the cross.

Luke 18 – 19 drives home, in narrative and teaching, the essential kingdom movement of God among us. This is best revealed in two stories: "The Rich Ruler" and "Zacchaeus."

A young (and rich) ruler seeks out Jesus and asks: "What must I do to inherit (NRSV) ... to obtain (CEV) ... to deserve (Msg.) eternal life?" The commandments the young man has "kept" (does he see that they have kept him?) since a young age. And then Jesus calls him to a kingdom life! "Sell everything you own and "distribute" (NRSV) ... "give it away" (Msg.) the money to the poor (repent) ... And come, follow me." The young man goes away locked in relationship to all that he has in his possession. Far more than riches, he is wedded to his sense of entitlement and righteousness; he has salvation the old fashioned way: He earned it!

At Jericho another rich, entitled man, Zacchaeus, is curious to see Jesus passing through. He seeks out Jesus in an odd way – he climbs a tree. Jesus seeks out Zacchaeus in an odd way – he invites himself and his entourage to dinner at Zacchaeus' home. This occasions a turning point (repentance) in the man's life; suddenly he sees a new possibility about how God's way of life really works. "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor." Jesus' response? "Today salvation has come to this house."

These two stories are signposts along the way, pointing to the essential kingdom movement of God consistently and fully revealed in and through Jesus and, at odd moments and by the most unlikely, revealed in the responsiveness of people. There is getting and keeping; there is receiving and giving. And to modify a phrase frequently used by the late Leander Keck: "You either 'get it,' (and 'give it'), or you don't."

The kingdom of God, eternal life, salvation; we do not "obtain it," "keep it," "deserve it," or "pay for it" (or have someone else pay for it in our stead). We receive it, share it, and give it. And the only way for us to do so is with our bodies and our lives. We freely and fearlessly receive, and give, even "to the last full measure of our devotion," as did Jesus.

As you meditate on the cross this Holy Week, consider how the cross reveals, in ways consistent with the rest of the Gospel Good News, the movement of God's grace and God's kingdom as it comes to us in the person of Jesus, and comes to us now in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in faith, hope and love,

*Tim*

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## In the District

### Changes Coming to the District Office

Dear Friends,

I know that some of you have heard about changes coming to the district office. Yet, I am sure that many of you have not. I thought it would be helpful for me to lay out the following details:

1. A new, standardized staffing model for all district offices across the Conference is being implemented as a result of streamlining district financial operations and issues related to property management.
2. The change also reflects the impact of a downward trend in overall clergy and pastor salaries, a combination of the loss of clergy positions and reductions in salaries. This directly effects funding for the District Work Fund (DWF).
3. A new model in district staff responsibilities is being implemented. Across the conference in our district offices, we will no longer have employees classified as business administrators or business managers. Each district will have one full-time and one part-time administrative assistant.
4. Debbie Moore, who has served in the Jacksonville / North East district office for over twenty-one years, was offered the full-time position but has discerned that her season of service in the district office is concluding. Her last day in the district office will be March 31<sup>st</sup>.
5. Faye Johnson, who has served in the North East district office for eight years, was offered the part-time administrative position, yet she too has discerned that her season of service in the district office is concluding. Her last day in the district office will be March 31<sup>st</sup>.
6. Kathy Macaulay, our long-tenured, part-time clerk, will also end her employment on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. The new staffing arrangement is scheduled to begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>, subject to new staff being hired by that date.

This is a major change for Debbie, Faye and Kathy. Each has served you with a servant's heart and with true collegiality. Please keep each one of them in your prayers as they move through this transitional time. You may wish to contact each of them to express your thanks and regard. Debbie Moore: [flumc-ne@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-ne@flumc.org); Faye Johnson: [flumc-ne2@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-ne2@flumc.org); Kathy Macaulay: [kathy.macaulay@flumc.org](mailto:kathy.macaulay@flumc.org) or write them c/o The North East District Office, 1415 LaSalle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Incoming superintendent, Jay Therrell, and I both appreciate your prayers (and referrals!) as together we work with the conference to bring new staff to the district office and develop a new way of accomplishing our work.

I continue to be aware of how blessed I am to be serving in ministry with each of you.

*Tim*

## Reports Due

The following Reports are due **March 31<sup>st</sup>** in the district office via snail mail, fax, scan or email to [flumc-ne2@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-ne2@flumc.org)



[Child Youth Protection Policy](#)  
[Fiscal Responsibility & Management Policy](#)  
[Clergy Employee Conduct Policy](#)  
[Adoption of Employee Conduct Policy](#)  
[Annual Parsonage Report](#)

**The following reports are submitted online** - do not send a hardcopy to the district. You can locate them on your church dashboard under forms. **Fund Balance -- Disaster Recovery Resource Survey**

The church needs to get a signed [Local Church Employee](#) form signed by each employee and keep in personnel files – these forms are to keep at the church and not to be sent to the district office.

You can find instructions and other pertinent information by clicking the link(s) above or going to the conference website, [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org) and click on [Calendar of Reports Due](#) at the bottom of the page.

# DLC Nurse and Learn News

Only a few weeks before the kickoff of the 17th Annual DLC Golf Tournament at 12pm on **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** at the South Hampton Golf Course, presented by the *Jacksonville City and Police Federal Credit Union*.

>> **Sponsor info and Foursome sign up's at [www.dlcnl.org](http://www.dlcnl.org)**

**We still need Hole Sponsors and foursomes!**

**Only \$360 a foursome, or \$90 a person now through March 6<sup>th</sup>! We also need extra raffle prizes like gift cards, foursomes, golf items, etc!**

If your business is looking to Sponsor an event (TAX DEDUCTIBLE) -- this is the perfect opportunity to **get your company in front of 2,000+ customers**.

The Tournament starts at 1pm and Lunch is at 12pm.

Call us today to get more information about our Sponsor options: 904-387-0370 and ask for Caleigh!

\*\*\*\*\*



## Are YOU In?

Lent is upon us and many followers of Jesus Christ are taking advantage of the 40 days to give back, give something up or take on a new project. *What are your plans?*

At DLC we would love for you to participate in our Lenten offering.

**We are asking you to put \$1 a day aside for DLC, which will go toward our Summer Camp program. Our summer months are the hardest for our center since extra funding has been used to finish out the school year, and we are waiting for more grants to come in. You can also make a one-time donation to DLC for Easter.** All funds collected will go back into our school to help provide quality Summer Camp services to our medically dependent ages birth – 22 years. **Are YOU in?** Please watch our video to learn more: [Click Here](#)

# Comunity Outreach Ministries News

Jim Young, NE District Community Outreach Ministries Director, along with churches in the district are "Pitching in for the Homelessness." [Read more](#) from article by Kathy Steele.

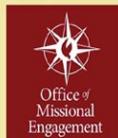
# Lockmiller Grant Application Due March 15th



## Lockmiller Grant

**Small grants available to local churches and church-related groups who feed, nurture, and support children in need.**

*Where children live,  
where they learn,  
where they play,  
and where they pray.*



The Florida Conference is accepting applications for grants of up to \$2,000 each for local church ministries that target children and hunger.

Up to \$25,000 is awarded annually for churches that help keep children fed, preferably with an education component as well. The awards are among legacies of Alice W. Lockmiller, a lifelong Methodist and philanthropist who died in 2007.

A committee organized by the Florida Conference Missional Engagement office will review applications according to established criteria and notify churches approved for grants in time for funding of summer programs.

[Click HERE](#) for more information.

## Clergy/Pastor Gatherings May 24, 2016

### “Developing a Culture of Call”

There will be two clergy/pastor gatherings Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The morning gathering at 9:00am and will be held at Mandarin U.M.C. in Jacksonville. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the morning gathering at Mandarin.

The evening clergy/pastor gathering will be at 6:00pm and will be held at First UMC in Starke. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the evening gathering at First-UMC in Starke.

Please be reminded that all appointed clergy/pastors are required to register their attendance for one of the gatherings. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings please send an email [ds-ne@flumc.org](mailto:ds-ne@flumc.org).

## Around the Conference

### 2016 Sinclair Scholarships



The Florida United Methodist Foundation is accepting applications for the Sinclair Scholarship for United Methodist Youth. Applicants must be full and active members of a Florida United Methodist Church, have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and have a record of church and community service. They must be planning to attend a Florida or a United Methodist college or university in the fall of 2015.

Scholarships awards range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year and are renewable for up to three additional years for students who remain in good standing. **Deadline for applications is March 31, 2016.** Visit the Foundation website at [www.fumf.org](http://www.fumf.org) for the scholarship application and other required forms.

Note to churches: [Click HERE](#) for a flier to share with students who could benefit from this opportunity. For more information contact Nadara Brock at [nbrock@fumf.org](mailto:nbrock@fumf.org) or 866-363-9673, ext. 7113.

## Spiritual Life Retreat April 15-17



**Save the Date: April 15-17, 2016**  
**Spiritual Life Retreat**  
 Florida Conference United Methodist Men  
 w/ Bishop Carter, Pam Carter, & John Riley

**Spiritual Gifts Retreat**  
**for couples & singles**  
 Life Enrichment Center  
 4991 Picciola Road - Fruitland Park, FL

Registration Information Coming Soon  
[www.ummficonf.org](http://www.ummficonf.org)  
 email: [info@ummficonf.org](mailto:info@ummficonf.org)  
 (850) 545-4594



The Florida Conference of  
 The United Methodist Church

*Retreat Music led by the Lighthouse Band of Coral Gables*

## 2016 United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union Scholarships



Scholarship

UMC FCU offers four \$1000 scholarships every year, one for each of our four Conferences (Alabama-West Florida, Florida, North Georgia, and South Georgia). Eligible candidates must be between the ages of 17-35 and a member of UMC FCU. [Click HERE](#) for complete guidelines and to download the application. Complete and submit application no later than April 29, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the scholarship program, contact us at 1-800-282-9368 (Georgia) or 1-866-687-2136 (Florida).

## Clergy Women's Retreat April 18-19



Florida Clergywomen are invited to participate in a retreat on April 18th - 19th. We will gather with each other for a time of inspiration and personal renewal, led by retired Bishop Charlene Kammerer. A wise leader of the church and friend of Florida, she will lead us in telling our own stories while also telling The Story.

The retreat will be at the Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo. The cost for program, room (double occupancy), 4 meals and morning break is \$225.

Clergy members in full connection and associate members can use up to \$750 per quadrennium for continuing education. [Click Here](#) for the application form. [Click Here](#) to register.

If you want more information, please call Marta Burke at 305-975-2032 or email Beth Fogle-Miller at [pastorbeth@mumconline.com](mailto:pastorbeth@mumconline.com).

## 11th Annual Native American Ministries Gathering April 22-24



Come and join us for the Eleventh Annual Native American Ministry Gathering April 22 - 24, at the beautiful Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park. This is an event for those who are interested in ministering to Native American people, have Native American heritage or are just interested in the Native American culture. This is an especially informative event for those who are Native American Ministry Reps in their local churches or are thinking about becoming Reps. Everyone is welcome. [Click HERE](#) for more information. [Click HERE](#) for registration form.

This event is sponsored by the Florida Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) Questions? Contact Vickie Swartz at 941-544-6951 or [vswartz@verizon.net](mailto:vswartz@verizon.net)

## 2016 LEC Family Programs



Check out our 2016 Family Programs:

[Dad and Me Weekend](#) (April 15-17)

[Grandparents and Me](#) (June 27-30 and July 18-21)

[Family Camp](#) (July 22-24 and July 29-31)

[Mom and Me Weekend](#) (Sept. 16-18)

## Warren Willis Retreats & Camps



Check out Warren Willis Retreats and Camps.

[Confirmation Retreats](#) - March 11-13, 2016

[Created By God](#) - April 22-24, 2016

[Adult Wilderness Retreats](#) - May 2-7, 2016

[Summer Camps](#) - June - August 2016

## Disaster Recovery News

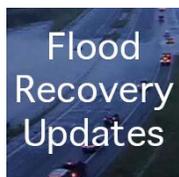


Early Response Team (ERT) are self-contained teams who enter a disaster zone at the invitation of local emergency management officials. ERT's offer a Christian presence and are trained to provide various types of physical, emotional and spiritual assistance to disaster survivors. ERT's are registered with the Disaster Recovery ministry of The Florida Annual Conference, and Disaster Recovery coordinates team placement with emergency management to get help where it is needed most after a disaster.

[Click Here](#) for more details and to register online for the **April 29-30<sup>th</sup>** ERT Training at Warren Willis Camp in Fruitland Park, FL. \*\*Note: Basic Disaster Ministry Training is required before taking ERT Training.

### \*\*DISASTER 101: BASIC DISASTER MINISTRY TRAINING

[Click Here](#) for information on the March 19, 2016 Basic Training at Greater Bell UMC – Brooker [Register Here](#)



Many of you are aware that the Florida Conference has been leading a recovery effort in south west Pasco County (just north of the Clearwater-Tampa Bay area) from a severe flood and rain event in July and August of 2015.

As often happens, this is a small disaster - unless it affected you - and as a result, getting resources to purchase supplies and make repairs has been a bit of a challenge.

Nonetheless, UMCOR and the FL Conference have been there, along with our partners, doing the work of recovery. Some of our UMCs in neighboring counties have already been hard at work on the weekends cleaning up debris and making repairs. But as many of our large national teams head home, it's now our turn to step into the gap.

### **WE KNOW WE CAN COUNT ON YOU TO HELP!**

Beginning in April we need teams from Florida who can assist with home repairs. If you can go for a week or longer - great! If you only have a weekend or maybe a long weekend -- that's okay, too. But we need YOU!

Housing is available at no charge, so if you are able to bring resources from your church to help pay for materials, that would be a blessing, too.

To learn more or schedule your team, please contact our construction coordinator: Josh Hipp (330) 473-5644 or email [josh.hipp1@gmail.com](mailto:josh.hipp1@gmail.com)

**Let's help our neighbors and fellow Floridians get their homes put back together!**

## Summer Pastoral Internship Program



ARE THERE YOUNG ADULTS IN YOUR CHURCH WHO WANT TO EXPLORE PASTORAL MINISTRY?

If so, [Click Here](#) for more information and to access the [2016 Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program](#)--and encourage them to apply!

## Leading Ideas Online Newsletter



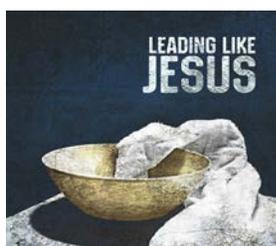
If you do not already receive *Leading Ideas*, the weekly online newsletter of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC, I encourage you to subscribe. Each week you will receive information, resources, and strategies to help advance God's mission in your ministry. To check it out and subscribe, [Click Here](#).

## 2016 Annual Conference

**June 16-18, 2016**

Pre-Conference Leadership Gatherings: June 15  
Buena Vista Palace Hotel  
1900 Buena Vista Drive  
Orlando, FL 32830

[Click Here](#) for more information.



# Employment Opportunities

## Part Time Pianist

**Yulee United Methodist Church** is seeking a part-time pianist for traditional worship service and Wednesday night choir practice. Please send resume' to P.O. Box 127, Yulee, FL 32041.

## Part Time Treasure/Bookkeeper

**Lake Shore United Methodist Church**, 2246 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville Florida is seeking a part treasure/bookkeeper. Weekly duties include summarizing offerings and reconciling deposits and entering the data into QuickBooks. Various other duties include payroll, reconcile of bank accounts, yearly W-2 statements and taxes. The position is 20 hours per week; working Monday - Thursday. If interested please send resume' to [office@lsumcjax.org](mailto:office@lsumcjax.org).

## Part Time (Full Time Potential) Youth and Young Adult Director

**Lake Shore United Methodist Church**, 2246 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida is seeking a part time Youth and Young Adult Director to guide and develop Christ centered programs that encourage fellowship, foster Christian friendships, and contribute to our youth and young adults' spiritual development. **As the youth and young adult programs grow there will be the opportunity for this position to be full time.** Individual will report directly to the Senior Pastor. Send resume' and references to [office@lsumcjax.org](mailto:office@lsumcjax.org)

## Elementary Intern

**St. Paul UMC** (in the Arlington area of Jacksonville) is looking for an energetic and patient intern to work with our elementary children, primarily on Wednesdays. We are looking for someone who has the joy of Jesus that can worship with, lead activities, and teach our students. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact Kate Hicks at [kateh@stpauljax.org](mailto:kateh@stpauljax.org) for more information.

## New Life Community UMC-Jacksonville has two positions:

### Youth Ministry Director

This position is ideal for a tech savvy individual with the desire and interest to integrate technology and discipleship for Youth 12-18 years old.

### Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator

Develop and monitor overall growth strategy for both Youth and Children ministries at New Life Community UMC. Please email resume' and any questions to [newlifecommunity@bellsouth.net](mailto:newlifecommunity@bellsouth.net)

## Part-Time Music Minister/Worship Leader

Fort Caroline United Methodist Church is seeking someone who is Spirit-led that can cater to both the congregation's traditional and contemporary tastes. Contact Joe Alexander, SPRC Chair at 904-635-0596 or email [tentmates@gmail.com](mailto:tentmates@gmail.com)

## Part-Time Pianist

First UMC in Green Cove Springs is looking for part-time Pianist. Please contact Eve at the Church Office 904-284-9700.

## District Calendar

### March 2016

- 13 Daylight Savings Time
- 14 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.
- 18-19 Lay Servant Ministries Classes, Highlands UMC
- 25 Good Friday, District and Conference Office Closed
- 27 Easter Sunday

### April 2016

- 11-13 Cabinet
- 17 Announcement Sunday
- 18 Full time appointments posted on conference website
- 25 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.

### May 2016

- 9-20 General Conference, Portland, Oregon
- 23 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.
- 24 Clergy Gathering, 9a.m. at Mandarin UMC
- 24 Clergy Gathering, 6p.m. at First UMC-Starke
- 30 Memorial Day, District and Conference Office Closed



Check out the new E-Learning Videos and Church Resources on the conference Website brought to you courtesy of Congregational Vitality [Click here](#).