



East Central District

Wholeness for our Clergy, Congregations, and Communities

April 2017 Newsletter

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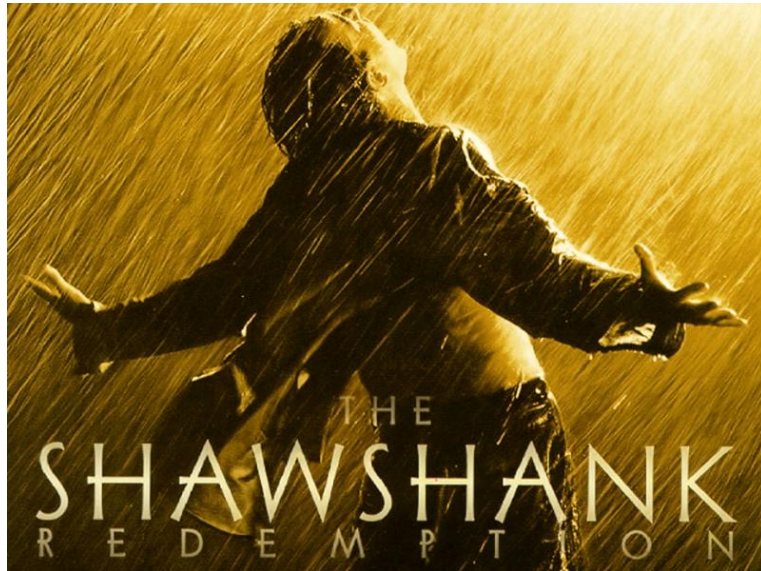
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Dear Claudia,



One of my all-time favorite movies is *The Shawshank Redemption*. It's a powerful study of the human condition, of relationships, of good and evil, of life in the face of adversity, of the testing of the human spirit, of faith and hope.

Tim Robbins plays the main character in the film, a quiet banker named Andy Dufrensen who is convicted of committing two murders that he did not commit and condemned to a separate life sentence for each murder. For twenty years, Andy works toward his



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day of escape from bondage.

Through all of the trauma of his experience he has never given up hope. Then comes the day he has been waiting for.

It's a powerful scene as Andy makes his way through the bowels of the prison, literally swimming through five hundred yards of sewage - five football fields length of pipe - in order to make his way to freedom.

As Andy slides from the sewer pipe into the cleansing refreshment of the summer rain, his experience is one of coming to new life from an experience of death - as he rips off the shroud of his years of trauma, as he is washed and made clean, as he grabs hold of the freedom inherent in new life, in a fresh start, in the transformation of the past.

In a very real way, Andy experiences resurrection. He slides from the darkness of his life of only moments before into the bright dawn of a new day, a new reality, a new future. He is freed from captivity. He is released from that which has kept him from an experience of the fullness of life. He is redeemed.

That's the message of Easter, my friends. Jesus, and through Jesus, we ourselves, slide into the bright dawn of a new day, a new reality, a new future. We are released from that which has kept us from the fullness of life. We are redeemed.

One of the great lines in *The Shawshank Redemption* is when Andy is talking to his good friend, Red, played by Morgan Freeman, about his life in prison. At one point he says, "Hope is something inside that they can't take away."

Reflecting on that statement later, Red says, "Hope is a good thing - maybe the best of things - and no good thing ever dies."

My prayer for you in this Lenten season that soon leads to the celebration of Easter is that your life will be filled with the hope that never dies.

Grace and Peace,

Bob Bushong
District Superintendent
East Central District

In the District

Young Adult Seminary Trip

July 24 - 28, 2017



ARE YOU A YOUNG ADULT CERTIFIED CANDIDATE FOR MINISTRY?
ARE YOU A YOUNG ADULT EXPLORING PASTORAL MINISTRY?

Dr. Bob Bushong is hosting a trip for young adults interested in ministry to visit Duke Divinity School and Candler School of Theology. There will be a small group driving from Central Florida to visit the two schools.

[Click HERE](#) for the application for the 2017 Young Adult Seminary Visit application. Completed applications and \$50 deposit should be turned in to the East Central District Office by June 1, 2017. All applicants will be notified by June 16th, whether or not they have been selected.

Questions? Email Claudia at flumc-ec@flumc.org.

A Message from Alice Williams, District Lay Leader

"God is great and God is good,"--it was the start of the prayer that I learned as a child and became tasked with praying at every family meal. As a child, I couldn't realize how important those words were. As an adult, I am humbled by them. This past Sunday afternoon I was with dear friends at a cookout (something we Floridians have the privilege of doing this time of year). In addition to some great food, we had a chance to catch up with one another and, inevitably, the conversation gravitated towards current events and politics. Like most situations I find myself in these days, the group I was with was mixed on their views to the point of some pretty intense polarization. Fortunately, our relationships and longevity as friends more than covered any differences in opinion. Yet, I couldn't help but notice that each of us was so assured of the "rightness" of our position.



On the ride home the hymn we sang in church that morning kept going through my mind - sort of an ear-worm, I suppose. It was "Open My Eyes" and the first verse goes: "Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth Thou has for me, place in my hands the wonderful key that will unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine." As I hummed the song, I couldn't help but think that if we did more of what the song said, perhaps we would find ourselves less divided overall. Maybe if we could just take a breather and remember that God is truly great and God is truly good, we'd somehow find ourselves in a better frame of mind to deal with what divides us and be enabled to focus on what unites us as His beloved creation.

As we approach Easter, I hope we all will take a moment to remember who we are and whose we are and that we are, indeed, illumined by the Holy Spirit!

Easter blessings to one and all!
 --Alice

Local Church Reports - Past Due After March 31





As a reminder, the following reports were due into the district office by March 31st.

Do not modify the reports. Please email reports together to Betty Sims flumc-ec2@flumc.org. You can find instructions and other pertinent information by clicking the link(s) above or going to the conference website, www.flumc.org, and click on Calendar of Reports due under Forms at the bottom of their home page.

Report	Committee Responsible
Child Youth Protection Policy	SPRC
Fiscal Responsibility & Management Policy	Finance
Employee Conduct Policy	SPRC
Adoption of Employee Conduct Policy	SPRC
Annual Parsonage Report	Trustees

The following reports are submitted online - do not send a hardcopy to the district. You can locate them on your church dashboard under forms.

Report	Committee Responsible
Fund Balance	Finance
Disaster Recovery Resource Survey	Disaster Coordinator or Trustee

The church needs to keep a signed Employee Conduct Policy on each employee in their personnel file -- the district does not get them. We only get the one on the appointed pastor(s).

Questions? Claudia Sava flumc-ec@flumc.org or Betty Sims flumc-ec2@flumc.org.

LEAD: Planning for Mission Effectiveness

April 22, 2017; 10:00am-3:00pm; St. Luke's UMC, Orlando

Gain insight into emerging trends in mission work and practical tools for developing mission strategies.



Facilitated by St. Luke's United Methodist Church mission directors Lynette Fields, Executive Director of Missions, and Mariam Mengistie, Director of Mission Development. These leaders have over 40 years of combined experience in the missions field. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and snacks). [CLICK HERE](#) to REGISTER.

Participants will learn:

- * Wesleyan grounding for "why" we are called to mission work
- * Mission strategy development
- * Resources for increasing mission effectiveness
- * Mission evaluation tools
- * Best practices for community relations
- * How to move an organization's focus from relief to development

Who should attend?

- * Pastors
- * Pastors
- * Church staff

* Lay leaders

Attendees will leave this workshop with practical tools that can be applied immediately in the mission field.

For questions email awilliams@leadatstlukes.org or call 407-257-7673
[St. Luke's UMC](#); 4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Road Orlando, FL 32819

Lay Servant & Local Church Lay Leader Gathering

April 29, 2017; 1890 W SR 434; Longwood, FL 32750



HOW DO I CONTINUE TO GROW as a Lay Servant into the kingdom builder and server God is calling me to be? At our August 2016 LSM Gathering you asked, you queried and we listened!

Please join servant leaders Lynn Campbell, Jim Boesch and EC District Lay Leaders Alice Williams, Melanie and Kim Lee on **Saturday, April 29, from 9am to noon at Sanlando United Methodist Church**, for a time to **EXPLORE, DISCERN AND LISTEN to His Calling for us to become servant leaders** as we share in worship, fellowship, some refreshment and a leadership equipping overview conversation.

Please know that while this is NOT a training event and there is **NO CHARGE**, we do encourage you to register as early as possible so that we can get you the Lead Like Jesus Overview material ahead of our time together. [Click HERE](#) to register.

Blessings --Lynn and Jim

Fresh Expressions Orlando Vision Day

May 11; 9:00 am-3:00pm; University Carillon UMC; Oviedo, FL

CHANGING CHURCH FOR A CHANGING WORLD: Fresh Expressions Vision Day
The ministry landscape is changing. Are you ready?

What if the Church got creative about engaging the 21st century world with the gospel? What if the Church could empower and equip God's people to connect with their neighborhoods and networks?



It is happening across the globe and it can happen in your context!

What is a Vision Day?

Fresh Expressions Vision Day is a one-day interactive training that can catalyze your church to:

- See opportunity in the new mission field
- Hear how fresh expressions are renewing the church
- Discover how fresh expressions of church develop and grow
- Consider what a fresh expression might look like in your context
- Discover your role in releasing these new missions

Cost: \$20 (Sponsor*); \$25 (FL Methodist Conf.); \$25 (Asbury Seminary);

General Admission: \$35

For more information and to register, [Click HERE](#). [Click HERE](#) for flyer.

This vision day is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida and Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

Run 4 Life 4 Miler

May 20, 2017; 7:00am; Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Enterprise



The 7th Annual Run 4 Life 4 Miler is May 20th at The Florida United Methodist Children's Home. This 4 Mile Event takes you through the FUMCH and Enterprise. The goal of this race is to bring awareness to mental health/depression issues and to raise money for programs providing support to those in need. All race proceeds will go to FUMCH and other local suicide prevention programs.

Run or walk...come join us on May 20th! We would love for you to sign up on team **East Central District of the United Methodist Church**. [Click HERE](#) to register online. [Click HERE](#) for the registration form to mail in.

2017 Pre Annual Conference Gathering

May 7th 3:00pm, Asbury UMC, Maitland

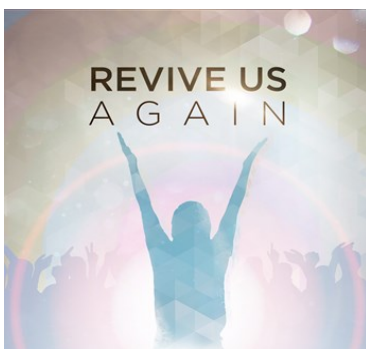
[Asbury United Methodist Church](#) - Sanctuary
220 W Horatio Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
May 7, 2017 - 3:00pm

All Clergy and Lay Members to Annual Conference are encouraged to attend this event to hear valuable information related to several voting items at Annual Conference. There will be information on the Cabinet's proposal to reduce the number of Districts in the Florida Annual Conference from nine to eight.



2017 Annual Conference | June 8-10

Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Orlando



175th Session of the Florida Annual Conference
Thursday, June 8 - Saturday, June 10
Gathering Events begin Wednesday, June 7

Buena Vista Palace Hotel
1900 Buena Vista Drive; Orlando, FL 32830

[Click HERE](#) for the AC2017 webpage. It will be updated as information is available.

Mission Trip for Senior Citizens

October 28 - November 4 - Baldwin, LA

Would you like to go on a mission trip-one that doesn't require a passport, shots, or hard labor? A team is being formed to travel by bus to Baldwin, LA. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has a large Depot there where supplies donated by churches are prepared for shipment to disaster areas. The dorm and dining hall facilities on campus can handle up to

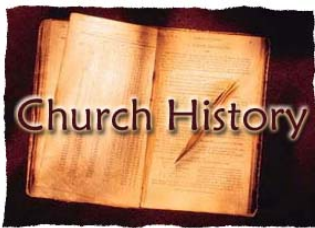


200 volunteers a week who do jobs on campus and in the community.

The First United Methodist Churches of Orlando and Winter Park have sent teams during the last fifteen years. Folks work all year making cloth school bags and collecting specified items for the kits and flood buckets warehoused at the Depot. Fabric and sewing equipment are available for making school bags.

If you would like more information about becoming a team member, taking on a project of collecting items the team can take to the Depot, or having a program about this opportunity for service and fellowship, please call Sue Cepull at 407-859-0468 or email at sue@cepull.org.

Church Historian Contact Information is Needed



The **Florida Conference Archives & History Commission** would like to contact church historians directly but *we do not know who you are or have your contact information.*

We would love to be able to communicate (by email) directly with all church historians. There are many reasons why, but the most important is the fact that our Conference will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary in 2019 and we want to plan a whole year's worth of spectacular events, exhibits, celebrations and FUN!

Please help us in this endeavor by letting your Church Office know that you would like to be your church historian. Once Nominations determines who the Historian will be, the Church Office will enter your information into the Church Dashboard. We will (finally!) know who you are and what church you represent. After that, we promise to be in touch.

Thanks, and I can't wait to get to know you better! For additional information, please contact me.

Anita Campbell
East Central District member representative and chair
FLUM Commission on Archives & History
(386) 734-9224
Anita.campbell2468@att.net

Register Now for a Free CV Webinars

Thursday, May 11; 6:30 pm Central
Offering Electronic Giving: What Are You Waiting For?



Presenter: Ken Sloane, Director of Stewardship and Connectional Ministries

Electronic giving is not the future of charitable giving, it is the present reality. If your church is not offering this as an option for those who attend your church, you are missing out on generous giving. If there have been obstacles to making this option available to your church, we will talk about them in this webinar.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR.

Rock the Universe Christian Music Festival: September 8 & 9



Rock, Ride And Rejoice At Florida's Biggest Christian Music Festival

Friday, September 8: Chris Tomlin, Lecrae, Lauren Daigle, Kari Jobe

Saturday, September 9: Casting Crowns for King & Country, Thousand Foot Crutch, Andy Mineo



[Rock The Universe](#)[™] is held at Universal Studios Florida[™] which means you can enjoy awesome attractions like Race Through New York Starring Jimmy Fallon[™] and more. While you're here make sure to check out Universal's new water theme park Volcano Bay[™] and Universal's Island of Adventure[™] where you can experience Skull Island: Reign of Kong[™], The Incredible Hulk Coaster[™] and more.

Around the Conference

Free Healthcare Webinar | Sponsored by United Healthcare

Tuesday, April 11, 2017; 12:30pm (EST)



This month's topic: Aha! Simple Secrets of Organized People

Date: April 11, 2017 at 12:30PM ET, 11:30AM CT, 10:30AM MT, 9:30AM PT

These seminars will be scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month and offer free online resources and events focused on keeping you and your family healthy.

These one-hour online webinars are fully interactive and include audio and video of the speaker with a question and answer period immediately following the presentation. Participants are able to email the speakers with questions during the presentation and they will respond during the session. We hope you'll have the time to attend this free event.

12th Annual Native American Ministry Gathering

April 21-23, 2017; Life Enrichment Center; Fruitland Park, FL



Please join us at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, FL, on April 21 - April 23, 2017, for our 12th Annual Native American Ministry Gathering. Everyone is welcome. This is a Christ-centered, culturally-relevant event where you will learn and be blessed by what God is



doing among and through the Native American people. Great music, teaching, workshops and fellowship are on the agenda.

The event is free, but you must register to attend and purchase meals and lodging, if you desire. Attend for a day or for the whole weekend. Special guest speakers will be Terry and Darlene Wildman, pastors of the Northport Indian UMC in Traverse City, Michigan. Registration deadline is April 7. You can obtain a registration form at www.flumc.org/nativeamericanministries. For more information, contact Ed Taylor at 352-409-3368.

LEC Family Programs

Want to help create meaningful experiences for your church's families this year? Want to encourage your parents to be more active in their kids' spiritual lives? Be sure they know about [LEC Family programs!](#)

[Dad and Me Weekend](#) - April 21-23, 2017

[Grandparents and Me](#) - June 19-22, 2017 & July 10-13, 2017

[Family Camp](#) - July 7-9, 2017 & July 14-16, 2017

[Mom and Me Weekend](#) - September 15-17, 2017



Questions? Email Rev. Melissa Cooper Melissa@lecfamily.org.

Warren W. Willis Retreats & Summer Camp

Check out Warren W. Willis for many opportunities to reflect and fellowship.



[Created By God](#) - April 28-30

[Summer Camps](#) - June - August

[Connect 2017](#) - October 13-16, November 10-12

[Plan your own retreat!](#)

Hyde Park UMC Mission Trip to Nicaragua

October 28 - November 4 - El Ayudante in Leon, Nicaragua

Friends in the District and Conference, Hyde Park UMC is going on a mission trip to El Ayudante in Leon, Nicaragua

October 28 - November 4. We'd love to invite anyone from area churches who'd like to join us. Let us coach you on what you need to do to lead a trip with your church if you are interested.

Our first informational meeting will be April 3 from 6:00-7:30pm and is open to anyone who'd like to come and learn more. It does not commit anyone to the trip. Subsequent team building meetings will be May 15 and June 19. For more information, [click HERE](#).



Apply Now for UMC FCU Scholarships for College Bound Students



The Florida United Methodist Connectional FCU is once again offering scholarships to 17-35 year-old college-bound students in



our connection. Four winning applicants, one from each of our four conferences - Florida, North Georgia, South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida - will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete rules, an application, and full essay submission criteria. **Deadline for submission is April 28, 2017**

Applicants must be a credit union member in good standing. Eligible credit union members are: 1) members of the United Methodist Church in this conference, 2) employees of a United Methodist church or agency, or 3) an immediate family member of a UMC FCU member.

For additional questions, contact the Marietta, GA branch at 800-282-9368 or the Lakeland, FL branch at 866-687-2126.

Sponsor a Pastoral Internship for 2017!

Do you serve a church committed to shaping the next generation of pastoral leaders?

Here are the quick facts for hosting an Intern:

Internship Dates:

Monday, May 29, 2017, through Friday, August 4, 2017

Intern Training Day:

Friday, May 26, 2017 (students and supervising pastors)

Intern Reflection Day:

Monday, August 7, 2017 (students only)

Hours:

30 hours/week as scheduled with supervising pastor

Housing:

Provided in congregant's home, if needed

Salary: \$3,000.00 (\$1,500 host site, \$1,500 Office of Clergy Excellence)



[Click here](#) for a more detailed program description or to read an extended [article](#) on the Conference website.

If interested, please email or mail an intern job description for your church.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Clergy Excellence if you have any questions about the program. Thank you!

Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org

Rev. Sara McKinley at sara.mckinley@flumc.org

Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program



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

If so, please [Click HERE](#) for the application for the 2017 Summer Pastoral Ministry

Internship Program and encourage them to apply!

Please feel free to contact the Office of Clergy Excellence if you have any questions about the program.

Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org

Rev. Sara McKinley at sara.mckinley@flumc.org

District Calendar of Events

[Click Here for a Printable Calendar](#)

April 2017

April 1: FUMCH Day on Campus
 April 4: District Leadership Team Meeting - 4pm - District Office
 April 14: District and Conference Offices Closed for Good Friday
 April 29: ECD Lay Servant Gathering 9:00am - Sanlando UMC
 April 30: Announcement Sunday

May 2017

May 7: Pre Annual Conference Gathering - 3:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland
 May 18: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due April 27)
 May 20: Run4Life4Miler - 7:00am; FUMCH, Enterprise
 May 25: Right Start for moving clergy - 10am-4pm, Lakeland
 May 29: District & Conference Offices Closed for Memorial Day
 May 31 - June 1: Right Start Training - First Time Appointments & Transfers - Lakeland

June 2017

June 7: Pre Annual Conference Workshops
 June 8 - 10: Annual Conference - Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Orlando
 June 15: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due May 25)
 June 27: Moving Day for Clergy Moving

July 2017

July 4: District and Conference Offices Closed for Independence Day
 July 13-16: Mission U; Bethune-Cookman University; Daytona Beach
 July 14-15: Candidacy Retreat, Lakeland

August 2017

August 10-11: Global Leadership Summit - Pine Ridge Fellowship UMC, Deltona
 August 17: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due July 27)

September 2017

September 4: District and Conference Offices Closed for Labor Day
 September 8-10: UMW Conference Spiritual Retreat; LEC, Fruitland Park
 September 21: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due Aug. 31)
 September 23: "Mission Sampler;" Sanlando UMC, Longwood
 September 26: District Leadership Team Meeting - 4:00pm - District Office

October 2017

October 19: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due Sept. 28)
 October 21: UMW District Annual Meeting - First UMC, Clermont
 October 24-25: Clergy Gathering - LEC

November 2017

November 4: UMW Conference Annual Meeting; Lakeland
 November 10: District and Conference Offices Closed for Veterans Day
 November 23 & 24: District and Conference Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

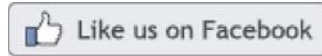
December 2017

December 21: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due Nov. 30)
 December 25: District & Conference Offices Closed for Christmas

2018_____

February 2018

February 3: Called to Serve - First UMC, Oviedo



East Central District, (407) 636-9240, Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9-4, Fri 9-2,
2221 Lee Road, Suite 21, Winter Park, FL 32789

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