



Altar Flowers

We still have 2022 dates available if you would like to reserve the altar flowers and commemorate a special occasion or remember a loved one. The order forms, calendar, and flower catalog are on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Curlew United Methodist Church

where everyone is welcome and where all can make a difference!

Curlew UMC proudly celebrates over 150 years of ministry.

Our Mission:

To Know, Love and Serve Jesus Christ by the grace of God through the Holy Spirit

Our Purpose:

Be the Body of Christ gathered in love. Worship God and Preach the gospel so that others may know the power of God's love through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. Grow in faith, knowledge and strength in order to do God's work in the community and in the world.

For more information, please contact us.

Office Open: Monday - Wednesday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

727.784.3424

Website: www.CurlewUMC.org



**Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors**



Contact Information

2210 Cathedral Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Phone: 727.784.3424
Fax: 727.771.1449

Email:
CurlewUMC@verizon.net

Website:
www.CurlewUMC.org

Facebook:
Curlew UMC



Sunday Morning

10:15 Organ Selections
10:30 Morning Worship



Rev. Rachel Hughes
Senior Pastor

E-mail:
CurlewUMC@verizon.net

727.784.3424



THE COURIER NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication of Curlew United Methodist Church

February/March 2022

From Helen Hershman.

From Your Lay Leader....Hello Curlew,

Can you believe February is more than half over already? It seems like we were celebrating Christmas just yesterday! March is just around the corner. March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, which begins our Lenten journey together. Lent is the remembrance of the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent fasting, tempted by Satan. He responded to Satan's temptations by quoting Scripture and in deep prayer with His Father. It is a time of penance, prayer and preparation, a time to reflect and to deepen our commitment and relationship with God or to return to Him through the only One with Whom that is possible, Jesus Christ. Joel 2:12, "Yet even now declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning."

My prayer for each and everyone of you is that as you reflect, confess and repent of your sins, that you experience the joy of renewal; renewal of life through Jesus, the Christ!

I am blessed to be able to walk this Lenten Journey with you. I am blessed to be a part of Curlew and I am blessed to be your Lay Leader. To God goes the Glory!

On our way-REJOICING!

Helen Hershman, Lay Leader



Curlew United Methodist Church
2210 Cathedral Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The People of The United Methodist Church



Forwarding Service Requested

Pray for our Shut-ins

Esther Besch - 2851 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (Manor Care, 787-4777)

Mary DeDea - 855 Carpenter Way Room 4098, Lake Gibson Rehab Center, Lakeland, FL 33809

Eileen Huntington - 2655 Nebraska Avenue, #1022, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (St. Mark, 785-2576)

Barbara Bardua - 1212 Lanyard Street, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 (789-4313)



- | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 2/05 | Mary De Dea | 3/06 | Alan Brand |
| 2/06 | Art Worth | 3/07 | Tammy Shepardson |
| 2/8 | JR Melvin | 3/09 | Nancy Kerr |
| 2/17 | Dustin McClain | 3/13 | Marilyn Nicely
Marlene Smith |
| 2/19 | Linda Swenson | 3/15 | Shirley Swenson |
| 2/24 | Helen Kamp | 3/19 | Betty Johnson |
| 3/01 | Eileen Huntington
Mary Robertson | 3/20 | Jordan Theriault |
| 3/02 | Ann Krissinger | 3/21 | Al Van Patten |
| 3/04 | Dorothy Baker | 3/22 | Carol Shank |
| 1/11 | Carol Jo Brenneman | 3/25 | Mark Smiech |
| 1/26 | Bill Quinn | | |
| 1/27 | Jerry Nahrwold | | |
| 1/28 | Alan Astle | | |
| 1/30 | Deb Thompson | 2/20 | Bob & Judy Poirier |
| 1/30 | Tom Barto | 3/18 | Terry & Helen Hershman |
| | | 3/20 | Brad & Elaine Dunson |



Be sure to go online to: members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and register to use our online directory. Only those in the directory can register, and then you'll have access to our most up-to-date information!



If you need information or assistance
The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

A program of the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.

The ADRC provides access to information and resources for:

- Adult Day Care ♦ Caregiver Support ♦ Food Resources/Meals on Wheels ♦ Housing Options ♦ Incontinence Supplies ♦ Legal Services ♦ Medicaid/Medicare ♦ Nursing Home and Assisted Living Placement ♦ Prescription Assistance ♦ and more!
Helpline: 1-800-963-5337 or 727-217-8111, 8 am - 5 pm; Online: www.AgingCareFL.org

“Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.” Hebrews 13:5-9





Options for Online Worship through Gulf Central District UMC Churches

Aldersgate, Seminole (Sun 10:30) <http://aldersgate.com/watch/>

Anona, Largo (Sun 9:30, 11) <http://live.anona.com/>

Community, Oldsmar (Sun 10) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/GrowWithCommunity/videos/>

East Lake, Palm Harbor (Sun 10:25, 11:35) <https://www.myeastlake.church/watch-live/>

First, Clearwater (Sun 9:45) <https://www.fumc-clw.com/>

First, Lakeland (Sun 8:15, 9:30, 11, 11:20) <https://www.firstumc.org/worship-now/>

First, St. Petersburg (Sun 8, 9:30, 11) <https://www.facebook.com/StPeteFirst/>

Heritage, Clearwater (Sun 9, 10:30) <https://heritageumc.com/watch-listen/>

Hyde Park, Tampa (Sun 8:30, 9:30 11) <http://hydeparkumc.org/watch-live>

New Hope, Brandon (Sun 9:30, 11) <https://www.findnewhope.com/watch-live-1>

Skycrest, Clearwater (Sun 9:45) www.facebook.com/skycrestumc

St. Paul, Largo (Sun 9, 10:30) <http://stpaulumc.sermon.net/Live/live/20007062>

Sun City Center (Sun 10, 11) <https://www.sccumc.com/services>

Covenant UMC, Port Orange - Pastor B.J. Foster's church (Sun 10:30)
www.jesusatcovenant.org

United in Love

Love is in the air! Our awareness of love seems to be significantly increased in February largely because of Valentine's Day. Want to read a good love story? Go to the Bible! You can read about Naomi and Ruth, the love and respect between a mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law, Ruth and Boaz, love with honor and integrity but certainly not devoid of emotional love. Mary and Joseph, pure sacrificial love born of trust and obedience to God.

Jesus continually talked about and demonstrated love in **every circumstance**. When asked which is the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus replied, **Matthew 22:37-40**, "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself. All of the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.

Absolutely no one can out love Jesus! He demonstrated love with every breath He ever took-including His very last breath on the Cross-He did it for you and for me, He did it without counting the cost. Our response should be one of obedience to the first and greatest commandment and to the second commandment. It should also be an attitude of daily gratitude. We have the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ every day by random acts of kindness, a telephone call, a card, a note of appreciation to a veteran, a police officer, a caregiver, the pastor, someone that is sick, or grieving-the list goes on. Use your imagination. [Here is your assignment!!!!](#)

Show the love of Christ in some way this week-and put a note in my box by the office or hand it to me or put it on my chair on the chancel. You do not have to tell me what you did, who you did it for or sign it if you don't want to. Just do it! It will not be difficult because there are so many people especially now that can benefit from a gesture of loving kindness. Let us unite in love as the body of Christ reflecting God's love in around and through us.

Praising, praying and rejoicing with you,

Helen J. Hershman, Lay Leader

Lent 2022

The 40 days leading up to Easter, many Christians celebrate Lent, is the annual Christian holiday that precedes Easter. Derived from the Anglo Saxon word "lencten," meaning "spring," Lent is a special period of reflection, fasting, and prayer, where Christians are encouraged to recall the sacraments of baptism and penance in preparation for Easter Sunday.

The season Lent lasts 40 days to represent the amount of time Jesus spent in the desert fasting and preparing for his ministry. To celebrate, many Christians choose to make a sacrifice of their own over those 40 days. Luxuries like dessert or alcohol are commonly given up for Lent, or Christians may perform acts of kindness through volunteer work throughout the Lenten season. It's also common for Christians particularly Roman Catholics, to give up meat over Lent, either throughout all 40 days or just on Fridays up until Easter.

Each year, the Lenten season is determined by the liturgical observance of Easter Sunday, which is a moving Christian holiday. The date can't be fixed, since Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after the spring equinox.

From there, Western and Eastern churches differ a bit. In Western Christian churches, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (the 7th Wednesday before Easter) and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). Eastern churches begin Lent on the Monday of the 7th week before Easter and end on the Friday nine days preceding Easter.

This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 17, 2022. For Western churches, that means Lent will begin on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 with Ash Wednesday. On that day, priests gather ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday and rub them on congregants' foreheads while citing Genesis 3:19: "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

For Western churches, Lent ends on Saturday, April 16, 2022, this year with an evening Easter Vigil mass on Holy Saturday. However, the last week of Lent is celebrated a bit differently with Holy Week, kicking off with Palm Sunday on Sunday, April 10, 2022. Holy Week also includes Holy Wednesday (acknowledges Judas' plan to deceive Jesus), Maundy Thursday (commemorates Jesus's last supper), and Good Friday (when Christians recall the crucifixion of their savior). The final day of Holy Week is Easter, when believers acknowledge that Jesus rose from his tomb.

We thank you for continuing to support the church through your tithes and offerings, even during the uncertain times of 2021. Because of your faithful generosity we are able to meet our financial obligations. Pledge cards for 2022 are available in the church office and the narthex. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge!



If you need a reason to celebrate, here are some known and some not-so-known observance days in February and March.

February 23
National Banana Bread Day

February 24
National Peanut Butter Day

February 25
National Pancake Day

February 26
National Bubble Gum Day

February 28
Rare Disease Day

March 1
Mardi Gras Day

March 2
Ash Wednesday

March 4
National Grammar Day

March 6
National Dress Day

March 8
International Women's Day

March 10
National Hug Your Dog Day

March 12
National Girl Scout Day

March 13
National Good Samaritan Day

March 14
National Napping day

March 17
Saint Patrick's Day

March 20
Spring Equinox

March 25
National Medal of Honor Day

Listening For God's Voice

By Mike Riley

A Native American and his friend were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square. It was during the noon lunch hour and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said, "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes beneath the branches, and sure enough, there was a small cricket. His friend was utterly amazed. "That's incredible," said his friend. "You must have super-human ears!" "No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for." "But that can't be," said the friend. "I could never hear a cricket in all this noise."

"Yes you can," came the reply. "Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed that every person's head within twenty feet turned and looked to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" asked the Native American. "It all depends on what's important to you, and what you're listening for."

What's important to us? What do we listen for? Are there times that we fail to listen to God, because we are focused on other things that are more important to us? Regarding the Jews, Jesus said, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear." (Matthew 13:15-16; cf. Isaiah 6:9-10; Acts 28:26-27).

Brethren, amid the distractions of the world all around us, may our ears always be open, not only ready to listen for, but to hear and be obedient to God's voice as He speaks to us through His word (1 Samuel 3:9-10; cf. John 8:47; John 10:4; John 10:27; 1 John 4:6).

My Grandmother's Prayer Book

By Tess Griffith

On May 7, 1967, my grandmother, along with three other women, drowned on their way to an Episcopal Women's retreat in Florida. The next day their car was pulled from the murky water and my grandfather retrieved her suitcase. Miraculously little damage was done to her cherished devotional book. Over the next several months, I want to share some of my favorite things she added in her own handwriting, although original authors, if any, are unknown.

OLD AGE

There is no need to worry about old age. If we are fortunate enough to have our health and wise enough to find an outlet for services, it is possible to find our richest satisfaction in the later years. Thank God for your talents and abilities. Accept them as obligations to be invested for the common good. The best preparation for the future is the present well seen to, the last duty done.

WAKE UP WITH A SMILE

Just before going to sleep, take stock of the wonderful day just spent. Give thanks for the good things that happened to you all day. Thank Him (in advance) for a good night's rest and a wonderful day tomorrow. Thank Him for peace of mind and close your eyes in sleep. See how wonderful you feel when you wake up!

*Two eyes to look to God above,
Two hands to clasp in prayer,
Two feet to carry me to church,
Why... I'm a millionaire!*

For someone in the hospital?



There are **hand-held prayer crosses** and **New Testaments** on a table in the Narthex. If you or someone you know would be blessed by either of these items, please feel free to take as many as you need. And don't forget, we have **prayer shawls** available in the church office!

Prayer E-Mail

We are restarting a prayer e-mail that lets you know of the prayer needs in our church family. It's not on a regular schedule, but on an as-needed basis.

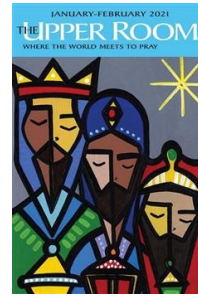
Here's some info about the email you might find helpful:

- 1) If you have, or know of, a prayer need, please call or e-mail the church office.
- 2) If you do not receive the e-mail (but would like to) and have a computer, please call or e-mail the church office (curlewumc@verizon.net).
- 3) If you do not have a computer but would like to receive the information, please call and let us know. We'll either mail it out or leave it for you to pick up on Sunday.

Please note that this e-mail **DOES NOT** take the place of our Prayer Chain. That is used for immediate and/or emergency prayer needs, and is invaluable. Those prayer needs will most likely be included when the next e-mail is sent out.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER ...

JR & Linda Melvin, Mary DeDea, Eileen Huntington, Vivian Cox, Barbara Bardua, Esther Besch, those in our Military, our Curlew church family, the United Methodist Church, our country and those still fighting the pandemic.

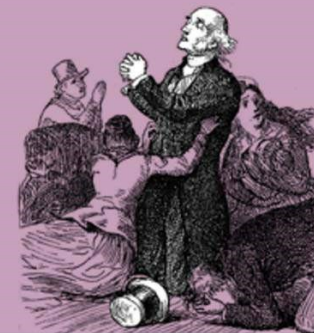


The Upper Room, March/April Edition

We have received both the regular and large-print editions of The Upper Room, March/April Edition. They are available in the narthex. If you are unable to attend church (but can still get out) and would like one, please stop by any weekday between 10:00-3:00. If that is not possible, just call the church office (784.3424) and we'd be happy to mail you one!



Your Facebook friends are praying for you to give up Facebook for Lent.



someecards



Six-year old Angie, and her four-year old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're Hushers."

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."