



336 South Halifax Drive
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MARCH 2023

Lenten Meals Bringing People Together

The scripture passages when Jesus was at a meal formed the theme for this year's Lenten period. People were encouraged to meet weekly to discuss the past Sunday's sermon over a meal. The wonderful byproduct of these meetings has been that many people in the church have now gotten to know many others.

Several weeks ago, people were encouraged to sign up for these meals during Lent. Neighborhood groups were formed of six to eight people to eat together, at homes or at a restaurant. Those who did not want to be in a neighborhood group could come to the church on Thursday evenings to share a potluck meal.



Discussion during these meals is based on the outline Pastor Scott sends out to the groups. Each outline contains a prayer and challenging questions from his sermons.

Caroline Bernhardt and her husband, Conrad, head up one of the neighborhood groups in Holly Hill. Her brother owns Fugu Sushi, a restaurant on Beach Street in Ormond Beach, and provides special pricing to accommodate their group each Wednesday evening.

"It's been so much fun getting to know people living in our neighborhood. We would have never met them otherwise."

— Caroline Bernhardt

Caroline said they start their discussions with a prayer and then go through the questions concerning the sermon. At the end of the discussion, they review prayer requests.

First United may be considered a large church in this area, but the small

groups meeting together are helping to make it more like a family.

Dot Black said that several Morning Light Bible Study members go into the Multi-Purpose room after their Monday morning study as they prefer to meet during the day. They each bring a sack lunch to eat while they follow Pastor Scott's outline for their discussion.



The Holly Hill neighborhood group meeting at Fugu Sushi Restaurant on Beach Street in Ormond Beach.



Holy Week Services


Thursday, April 6th — 6:30pm — "Living Last Supper"

Friday, April 7th — 6:30pm — Good Friday service at Tomoka UMC

Sunday, April 9th — 6:30am — Sunrise Service (at Cardinal approach)

9:00am - Contemporary Service

11:00am - Traditional Service



LIVING LAST SUPPER
MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
THROUGH DRAMA



Beach Baptisms
SUNDAY APRIL 16 AT CARDINAL
APPROACH OFF OF A1A
SIGN UP ON THE BAPTISM FORM AT
FIRSTUNITED.ORG UNDER FORMS



JOIN US FOR A FREE
EASTER EGG HUNT
GAMES, AGE-LEVEL HUNTS, CRAFTS, EASTER BUNNY, BOUNCY SLIDES, & SNACKS



SATURDAY APRIL 1st, 1-3pm
WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY



SUNDAY MARCH 26th 9:00 AM
kayaks & communion



THE GATHERING PLACE

WE NEED EGGTASTIC VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT
Sunday April 2, 2023
Volunteer Hours 2- 6pm



Sign up to volunteer at firstunited.org under forms



J.E.L.L.O. presents **EASTER PETTING ZOO**
Jesus Especially Loves Little Ones



Tuesday April 4th and Thursday April 6th | From 9:30 to 11:30
Easter art and crafts, hands on activities, and Bella's Petting Zoo

For More Information Contact Maria Silveira
at msilveira@firstunited.org or 386.677.3581

First United Methodist Church
336 South Halifax Dr.



THE EIGHT DECADES CLUB

We are highlighting those wonderful seniors in our church that have reached that young age of 80 or over. Send them a card, or if you see them, wish them a Happy Birthday.

- Mar 18—Russ Acker—245 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach FL 32176-5736
- Mar 25—Jodi Howe—547 Sandy Oaks Blvd., Ormond Beach FL 32174-6129
- Mar 26—Joyce Ellis—6083 Shallow Brook Ct., Port Orange FL 32128-7147
- Mar 27—Nancy Kleinsmith—4 Tomoka View Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-3852
- Mar 28—Carole Lytle—8884-A SW 93rd Lane, Ocala FL 34481
- Apr 2—Doris Rand—256 Spreading Oak Ln, Ormond Beach FL 32174-6708

- Apr 4—MaryAnn Lemery—9 Gale Lane, Ormond Beach FL 32174
- Apr 10—Dale Vranik—29 Bay Pointe Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-9233
- Apr 13—Bobbie Harden—141 Cumberland Ave, Ormond Beach FL 32174
- Apr 14—Ed Kelley—53 River Ridge Tri, Ormond Beach FL 32174-4342
- Apr 17—Ann Clements—55 Greenwood Ave, Ormond Beach FL32174-5325
- Apr 17—Irene Slaughter—53 N St. Andrews Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174
- Apr 19—Janet Willis—3719 Longford Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-2805
- Apr 21—Lee Bullwinkel—8 Pine Valley Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-3821
- Apr 25—Ray Garrow—47 Fairway Dr, Ormond Bach FL 32176-5419

If you know of a name that should be on the list, or if a correction is needed, please let Frank Johnston know at :

fjohnston@firstunited.org



Pastor Scott

This is an update on our trip to Naivasha, Kenya. Four of us from First United joined with eight others from First UMC of Winter Park and Cornerstone UMC Naples to journey to Naivasha, Kenya. It was a pilgrimage more than a mission trip as we went to experience God in a profound way in an area, not like our own.

Inua is a ministry First United has partnered with for seven years. Our work builds relationships with Naivasha's most vulnerable orphans and youth to help expand their opportunities for a future full of hope.

Inua Partners in Hope is a comprehensive program embracing the well-being of the whole child. This program **transforms lives** by empowering youth-led families with:

- food and housing security
- emotional and spiritual well-being
- legal support
- education and vocational training
- entrepreneurship

I thought it would be best to let our team members share their experience of Inua. Don't worry; we are planning an Inua Sunday, where you will hear much more.



from **Tim Smith**

Going to Naivasha, Kenya, was an experience of a lifetime for me. It isn't easy to describe the experience to anyone who's never been there. Travel is a major commitment! We flew from Orlando to Amsterdam to Nairobi. Each flight was about 8 ½ hours plus airport and customs time. It was about another two-hour drive from Nairobi across The Great Rift Valley to Naivasha.

You find a mix of a flea market, farm, and community everywhere you go. People are just everywhere! In Naivasha, the average income is about \$150 US per month, so they don't have the niceties we have or even food or water security.

We met with Inua youth at three churches representing the different Naivasha neighborhoods. The youth are primarily orphans who have become the head of household, ages 17-25, caring for their younger siblings. Inua provides these youth with job and life skills training so they can care for their families. Some of the skills are mechanics, hospitality, agriculture, and beauty. I went to help with the agriculture component.

Hearing their testimonies was very emotional, and they recalled when their Moms passed and how difficult life was for them before Inua. They told us about their training and job placement and how they felt loved by the local Inua team as well as their American partners. All the youth and mentors we met were full of love, thanks, prayer, and praise. I'll keep my name badge on at church; if you see me, stop me, I'd love to talk more about Inua or Kenya or traveling with Scott!



Judy Barefield

Pastor Scott

Clint Bagwell

Tim Smith

From **Judy Barefield**

Our visit to Navaisha had so many cool God moments for me.

One resounding theme for me, though, humbled me and caused a resurgence of my worship and faith journey. I can become complacent in my worship practices and not always appreciative of my many blessings. The people of Navaisha, who have very few material goods, demonstrated such hospitality, sharing with us all that they had joyfully and embracing us with grateful, worshipful, and joyful spirits - never negatively.

Their prayers always started with Praise Jesus repeated several times, followed by thanksgiving. We were a couple of hours late in one of the groups we visited. They greeted us with so much joy and never demonstrated or stated one negative word.

I am grateful for the reminder God provided through the INUA group that I am to worship with a grateful heart, no matter the circumstances.



From **Clint Bagwell**

I am so grateful for the opportunity to travel to Kenya to visit and see first-hand the impact of the Inua program.

Seeing the program in action and visiting with the “youths” that the program serves is a memory I will never forget. I was struck by the apparent hope that the program brings to the disadvantaged and vulnerable youths and the impact that the program has not only on the participants but the greater community in Naivasha.

I was also personally impacted by the robust faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ despite challenging circumstances and limited resources. Their light shined so brightly! Altogether, it is clear that the Inua ministry is vital and successful, and I look forward to supporting it in any way I can to build upon its past and current success.



Pastor Scott says there will be more on the trip at a future time.



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We need your help in providing suggestions for our newsletter. We will be publishing it each month and we need your help in writing articles and news stories. Contact Will McLaughlin, <willmcla@gmail.com>