



336 South Halifax Drive
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OCTOBER 2023



Editor's Note: Pastor Scott has been meeting with various groups in the church, providing his thoughts about the church over his ten year period of service here. This is his report.

I arrived here in 2013, and what follows is a comparison of the statistics from that time until the present day.

As of August 2013:

Attendance: 503, which increased from 407 the previous year.
Giving: \$661,552.
Expenses: \$725,995. (They had not been paying the full Conference apportionment for several years, so that figure should have an additional \$50,000 in it.)

As of August 2023:

Attendance: 601 (includes online viewership. We only count as one viewer, although many argue it should be multiplied by 1.7 viewers.)
Giving: \$722,677, down by 5% from last year. Many were hurt by inflation, a downturn in the stock market, and a lack of surplus cash.
Expenses: \$758,204, up by 7%. The reasons include making two positions full-time, salary adjustments,

and the general inflation of other expense items. It costs around \$250,000 annually just to maintain our buildings.

I'm enthusiastic about our youth activities, Messy Church, growth groups, and J.E.L.L.O. programs, as well as the growth of The Gathering Place. They recently celebrated their second anniversary, and more than 20 people have joined their church this year.

I'm concerned about our giving and attendance, although this is an ongoing worry. Studies indicate a declining trend in church attendance nationwide, with over 40 million people leaving churches since 2000. This figure surpasses the number of individuals who came to Christ during the First and Second Great Awakenings in the 1700s and 1800s, along with all the attendees of the Billy Graham crusades.

The focus should not be on bringing people back to church but on reaching those who need Jesus.

I want to express my gratitude to the numerous volunteers serving in our church. This has several benefits, including cost savings, the ability to initiate more programs, and generally contributing to the spiritual growth of the volunteers.

I invite you to attend our One Big Sunday church service at 10 a.m. on November 5th. During this event, we will present a three-dimensional model for a new classroom/office building to be constructed adjacent to the sanctuary. Your feedback will be invaluable as we progress with these plans. A generous church member has funded this project's developmental work. Following the service, we will enjoy a Chili Cook Off meal!!

Grace and Peace,
Scott



One Big Sunday Chili Cook Off

Join us on Sunday, November 5th at 10 a.m.

for one joint service. Afterwards, enjoy the chili and view the model of the new building project.

Operations Report by Brett Robinson. We've had a series of breakdowns in our facilities during the Summer. Have had to replace three mini A/C units and the computer system server. The water main that runs past the classroom wing failed and has been replaced. The bus battery and power steering were repaired. The north office roof, which has been leaking, will be replaced, as well as the office A/C.

Financial Report by Mark Dunn. Expenses were up, and giving was down 5.5% through August, resulting in a deficit. Fortunately, a generous donor provided \$100,000 in September that covered that deficit. Mark warned that the inflation in the U.S. is causing increased costs, and the people also feel that pinch, causing a drop in giving.

Guide Team Report by Julie Harris spoke about the progress toward the Ten Year Plan set six years ago. We're on track this year to spend more on others than ourselves. We're

also doing better on our Community Service hours and should exceed this year's goal. So far, we only have two of the desired ten people to be called to ordained ministry. Our goal of multiple venues is progressing well as The Gathering Place celebrated its second anniversary and is meeting at The Foundry at 728 Fentress Boulevard. The Guide Team is jointly studying the book *Pursuing God's Will Together* by Ruth Haley Barton to help them in their decisions.

TOWN HALL MEETING

September 17, 2023

Staff/Parish Relations Committee by Marshall

Snyder, commenting that Macon Armistead has begun his service at The Gathering Place as the Worship Leader and Ministry Coordinator.

The Gathering Place by Amy Armistead. She said the Florida UM Conference has awarded their ministry a \$150,000 grant to help them operationally. Proudly, she said we now have children's ministry each week and that attendance and giving have increased.

Youth Attend Fall Retreat

In September, the youth of our church joined more than 400 others from the Florida Conference to partake in the Fall Retreat held at the picturesque Warren Willis Camp. Throughout the weekend, they immersed themselves in a variety of experiences, including worship, intimate small group discussions, engaging workshops, and many exciting activities.

Pastor Amy Armistead took the podium on Saturday morning and spearheaded one of the most enthusiastically received workshops. Her session was centered around the intriguing topic of drawing parallels between the new Barbie movie and the teachings of the Bible. Dylan Reed, our Youth Minister, donned the role of the master of ceremonies for the entire weekend,



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Send a card or gift to show your thanks to Pastor Scott and Pastor Amy!!



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.

Oct 26—Jack Bergman—2100 Ocean Shore Blvd Apt 107, Ormond Beach FL 32176-3162

Oct 26—Ruth Westwood—277 Greenbriar Cir, Daytona Beach FL 32114

Oct 27—Barbara Tumbelson—1 John Anderson Dr #610, Ormond Beach FL 32176

Oct 29—Lewis Slaughter—1823 Ridgewood Ave, apt 216, Holly Hill FL 32117-1781

Nov 9—Don Powell—8345 Renner Blvd, apt 3003, Lenaxa KS 66219

Nov 11—John Parkerson—110 N Beach St, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Nov 12—Fran Cresser—14 Bay Pointe Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Nov 14—Liz Reside—3 Glen Way, apt 108, Holly Hill FL 32117-2553

Nov 19—Joann Brown—1313 Wicklow Ln, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Nov 20—Marlene Embry—911 Brookridge Ln, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Nov 23—Bob Hayek—1130 Live Oak Ave, Daytona Beach FL 32114-3912

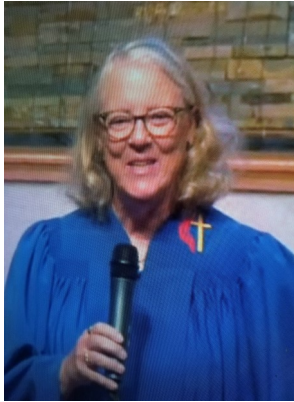
Nov 23—Cary Holland—52 N St. Andrews Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-3839

Nov 24—Linda Sherm—124 Sandpiper Ridge Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32176-2244

Nov 26—Corrine Ives—1328 Antrim Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-2835

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

New members at the 11 a.m. service on September 24th



Diane Goldie was born in Dayton, Ohio and moved to Daytona Beach last year. She is a retired



Sylvia Whitley is from Alabama and moved here from Panama City. Her husband, John, is a retired UMC minister.



Millie Johnson was born in Chicago and is a friend of Lucy Pierce.



Jan Powell is a retired kindergarten teacher and is a Florida State graduate.

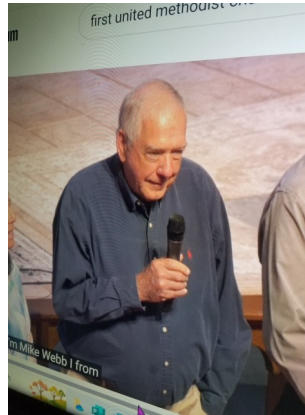
New members at the 9 a.m. service on September 24th 2023



Terri Slonim moved to Ormond Beach about two years ago. Her friend, Jody Howe, invited her to come.



Linda Webb spent childhood in Orlando. Met husband, Mike, in high school. He went to Alabama, she went to Auburn



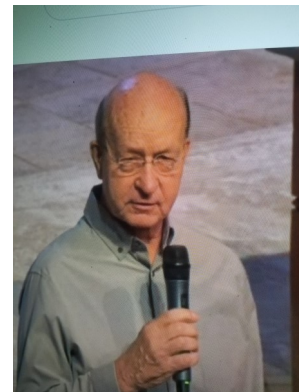
Mike Webb said he went to the better school. They celebrated their 50th anniversary this year.



Connie Dettra is from Reading, PA. Moved with her husband to Florida 14 years ago. She is a retired teacher and librarian.



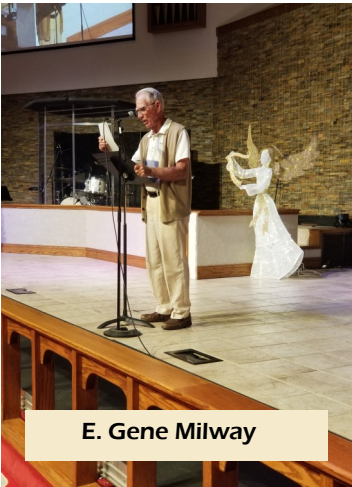
Sarah and Dale Perkins, Dale is a Ohio State graduate and retired engineer. Sarah was a teacher/reading specialist for over 30 years..



Are you interested in joining the church?

Contact Terri Lynch at tlynch@firstunited.org. or call her at the church office:

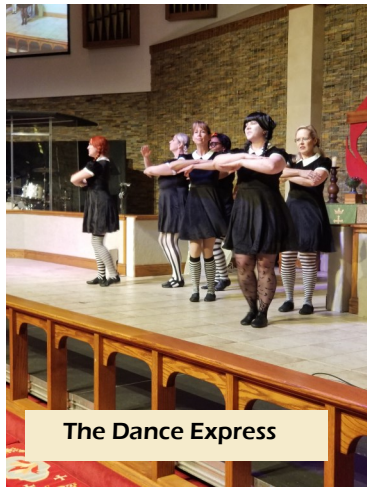
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E. Gene Milway



Amy & Macon Armistead



The Dance Express

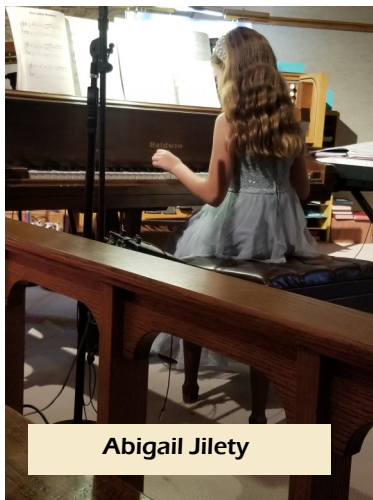


Mark Whitehouse

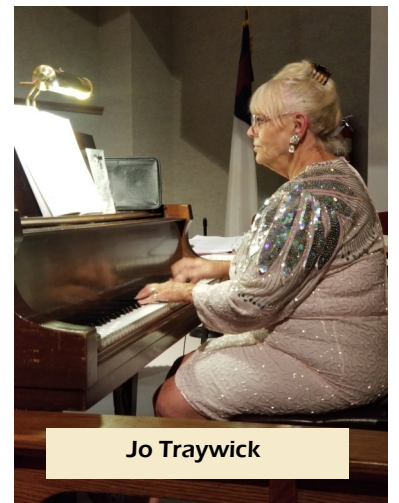
TALENT SHOW OCTOBER 19th

First United's Got Talent!! A benefit for Operation Christmas Child, the Shoebox Gift Program for children all over the world

It's exciting when we can get together to raise money for a worthwhile project and have fun at the same time.



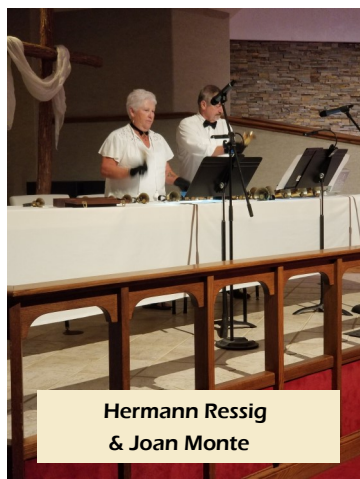
Abigail Jilety



Jo Traywick



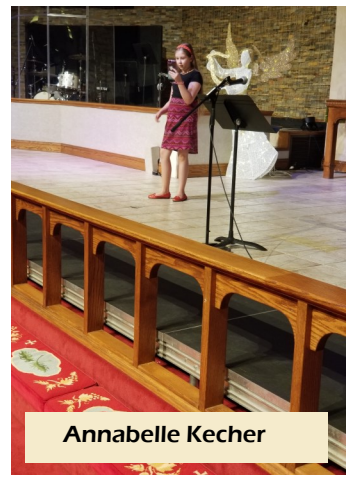
Elizabeth Flynn



Hermann Ressig & Joan Monte



Charlie Jilety & Pastor Scott



Annabelle Kecher

Scott Smith, Senior Pastor
First United Methodist Church
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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>