



The
United
Methodist
Church

The Beacon

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 7, Issue 4

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Pennings by Pastor Esther

Keep on swinging...

They say that opportunity only knocks once, but temptation seems to pound on my door forever. Even opening up and letting it in doesn't seem to make it go away. More temptations come along and the beating goes on.

Those temptations that cause me the most problems are those that pull me away from being my best self. So I can relate to the Swiss woman who was served dinner on a domestic American flight. She opened up her dessert - a delicious looking piece of chocolate cake - and immediately sprinkled a generous layer of salt and pepper over it. A shocked flight attendant exclaimed, "Oh! It's not necessary to do that!"

"But it is," the woman replied, smiling. "It keeps me from eating it."

She found a way to drive temptation away from her doorstep, at least for a while.

The most persistent temptations in my life are distractions that keep me from doing what is in my best interest.

I forgo some much-needed exercise because I "just don't feel like it" today. Have you ever felt like that?

You may want to quit that reading group, that difficult class or those music lessons. It's easier to become distracted and get discouraged.

Or maybe we say we just "can't find the time" to spend with those closest to us, such as family. We may want to do these things; it's just that sometimes we need a nudge.

Something baseball great Hank Aaron once said can help us out: "My motto was to keep swinging," he said. "Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was to keep swinging."

Sometimes we just need to keep swinging. And if we tell ourselves that all we need to do today is to take one more swing, that may be enough. We can always take one more swing. And who knows... today we might hit a home run.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Esther

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Blended

11:00 a.m. Traditional

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

General Conference

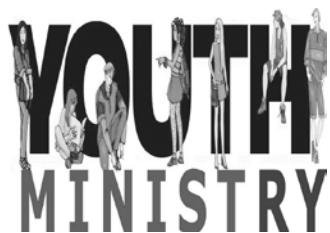
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held May 10-12, 2016, in Portland, Oregon. This is an important time for our church, as delegates from around the world will gather to consider proposed legislation and ministry for the next quadrennium. The General Conference is the only body which may speak for the entire church. During this exciting and often challenging time, elected delegates discern global vision, mission and direction. The prayers of each United Methodist in preparing for General Conference are important. The Council of Bishops has called upon the church to be in a season of prayer in preparation for the General Conference. To encourage ongoing prayer the Council has issued a Call to Prayer.

This 131 days of prayer began on December 31, 2015, in the Oregon-Idaho Conference and will end on May 9, 2016, in the Austria Provisional Conference. Each Annual Conference has been given a day, and the Florida Conference has been asked to devote April 14 to prayer for the General Conference.

Bishop Carter asked me to facilitate the Call to Prayer for our Annual Conference. So, I am asking that you, as a pastor/leader in the Florida Conference lead your congregation(s) in a time of prayer on April 14 so that we reflect the unity Jesus prayed for in John 17:22, 23: "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be as one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Peace and Grace,
Rev. David McEntire
First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, Florida



******* YOUTH NEWS *******

Here at Calvary we have a warm, loving accepting youth group, where all youth are welcome. Our Youth Group is open to all 'Rising' Sixth Graders through High School seniors. We would love for any and all youth to come and share in Christian fellowship!

Our regular meetings take place on Wednesday evenings, 5:30 till 7:00. We spend time in fellowship, discuss current events and share devotionals. During that time we also enjoy pizza or tacos and hamburgers, and sometimes steamed lobster. And if we are real lucky, Burrito Brothers!!

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please speak with Youth Director Fran "The Man" Ronan or his PA, George Clooney. We hope to see you real soon!

Email FTMYD@hotmail.com 904-272-4210

Fran "The Man" Ronan



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We support our family and friends in the military with prayer.

Over Seas Assignments

Aaron Ermer
Alex Fogel
Bobby Price

Daniel Richardson
Rae-Ann Tello
Ronald Mark Tello

U.S. Assignments

David Chapman
Tyler Crabtree
Christine Davies
Matt Ellison
Jonathan Emler
James Ferguson
Brian Fuller

John Haney
Joseph Haney
Josh Haney
Shannon (Hause) Kizer
Christopher Mills
Brian Perkins
Gene Register

Maverick Stowers
Robbie Taylor
Aaron Williams



April Birthdays

1st Deborah Ronan
3rd Ron Coleman, Mary Studzinski
4th C.J. Hernaez
6th Beth Locke
7th Barbara Taylor, Kim Wilds
10th Larry Rood
12th Luis Ordonez
13th Nancy Masser
15th Thomas Zang
16th Sharon Harris
19th Joan Killebrew, Connie Lorey
28th Gladys Lopez
29th Zachary Banks, Bob Jones

The Beacon is published monthly by Calvary United Methodist Church.

To submit items, please e-mail to newsletter@calvaryumcop.org, or leave in the office marked "newsletter", or leave your submission in the slot marked NEWSLETTER outside the office door.

Items for the May issue are due by **April 15th.**

Check your email for a copy of *The Beacon*. Let us know if you would like to be included in the email listing.