

May 2, 2022

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## *A Message From Pastor Joe*

*Col 3 (The Message) 2 Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.*

I has been a full year that my family and I moved to Florida and have been part of UCC at The Villages. My wife and I both agree that this past year went be extremely fast. It was a year of transition for all of us especially our family. Our daughter “struggled” through her last year at a new high school in a different state and has settled on attending college in Boston at Suffolk University. Yes, she is heading back North. Our oldest daughter is getting married in June. We certainly keep busy as a family. Of course, the reason why we ultimately moved to Florida was because of our church family—UCC at The Villages. Thank you for allowing me to live out my calling and providing the space and respect of my leadership here at UCC. It has been a year of growth for me personally and we are excited how God is continuing to lead us and how our church will evolve to reach our community and grow closer together. I have almost completed all that is required for my Privilege of Call for the UCC and should be finished by summer.

I am reminded of a valuable lesson during times of transition that is applicable to all. Perspective. Perspective is very important. Our *outlook* determines our *outcome*. How we “view” church, life, God, family, and each other determines our thoughts and our thoughts determine our words, and our words determine our actions. Here is a parable that reminds us how important perspective is:

*A poor man came to his Rabbi and complained that he was living in one room with his wife and four children and the congestion was impossible to bear any longer. “Do you have a goat?” asked the Rabbi. “Yes.” “Take it into the room.” “What?” “Do as I say”*

*Continued on next page*

### Join the Church!

Are you thinking about joining the church? We want you to be part of the family so it is very easy to do.

1. Fill our a membership form (forms are on the blue table in the Narthex)
2. Give the form to Pastor Joe

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*A week later he hurried to the Rabbi, sputtering, "I did what you asked. I took the goat in, and things are even worse than before! Rabbi, what shall I do?" "Do you have any chickens?" asked the Rabbi. "Yes, three." "Bring them into your house." "Rabbi!" "Do as I say." So the poor man brought the three chickens into the house and a week later he returned to the Rabbi, wringing his hands. "Do you have an ox?" asked the Rabbi. "Yes, one." "Bring it into your house." Rabbi!" "Just do as I say." "It's terrible! I can't stand it anymore!" "Put out the goat," Said the Rabbi. The poor man did as he was instructed and came back. "It's a little better, Rabbi, but the three chickens and an ox in a room with six people!" "Throw out the chickens," said the rabbi. The poor man did as he was instructed and came back. "It's a little better still, Rabbi, but an ox in the house . . ." "Throw out the ox," said the Rabbi. The poor man did as he was told and returned and stood before the Rabbi, overjoyed. "Rabbi, there's no one as wise as you! My house is now a paradise!"*

It might be a great time to get a better perspective on our own situations.

Blessings,

Pastor Joe and Janice



Char Davis

By the time you are reading this, we have celebrated the one year anniversary of Pastor Joe and Janice with our church.

Thanks to all who contributed to this happy celebration, especially Tom Fumicello for the cake, Men's Bible Study for table set up, and Barbara Teel and Penny & Dave Zwicker for planning this.

For those of you heading north during the summer - or to other points unknown - I wish you safe travels. Please remember you can stay in touch via Facebook or YouTube streaming of our Sunday services. Many of the Ministry Teams will meet during the summer via Zoom. If you wish to attend any of the meetings, be sure to contact the chair so an email can be sent to you with a link for connection.

Thanks go to the Admin Team for their work in emptying the office and putting it back after the new floors were installed. The floors are beautiful! Next will be the completion of the Audit that was delayed during Covid limitations.

I am happy to report that we will begin **Dine with Nine** starting in the Fall. Barbara Sullivan is chairing

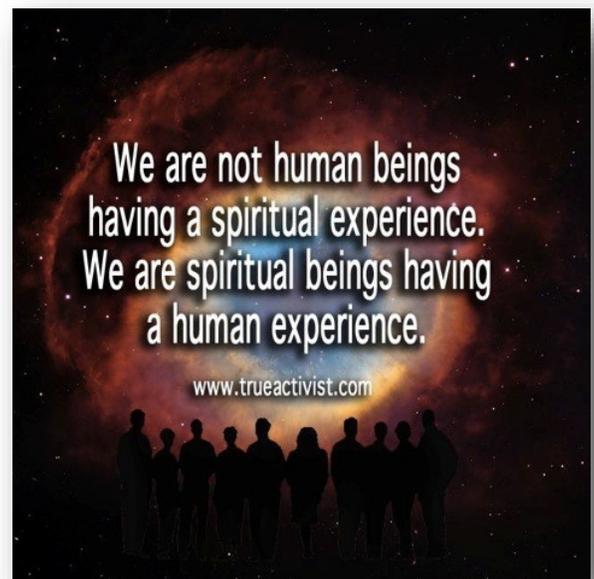
## *Message From Our Moderator*

this. Please help her if she asks so we can enjoy meeting new people and getting reconnected with members.

As always, I welcome your calls and ideas you drop in our new Suggestion Box.

Blessings,

Char



## *News from The Office*

### *Where are the Sign-Up Sheets?*

We often talk about signing up for an event, a luncheon, a committee, etc. If you are looking for the various sign-up sheets, they are located in the Narthex on the blue cloth-covered table. Take a few minutes on Sunday and stop by to see if there is there is something for which you'd like to participate!



Pastor Joe and the Administrator's offices just received new flooring! The offices feel much cleaner and even look larger! Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in making this improvement to our church.

### *Thanks for the New Floors!*

### *Speaking of volunteering.....*

It's often been said that if you really want to get to know people, volunteer! At UCC, we make it so easy to find out about volunteer opportunities.—and there is something available no matter what your expertise or lack there of may be. Find out more by visiting our website at [www.VillagesUCC.org](http://www.VillagesUCC.org). Look for the "volunteer" tab at the top of the page. Click it and you will find a variety of things that you can express interest in. Once you complete the form, your entry will be forwarded to the committees involved. This does NOT commit you to anything, but it shows an interest. The committee chair will contact you so that you can ask questions and then decide if this opportunity is for you. And don't forget to check out our sign-up sheets (mentioned above) for other events that need volunteers!



*Thanks to Glenn Kramer for today's inspirational images!*

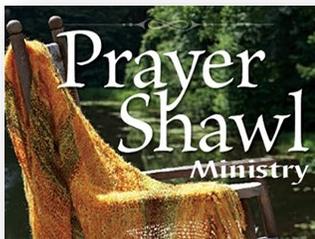


Did we miss your birthday or your anniversary? Help us update our files by emailing us the information or by calling the church office.

**Happy Birthday To:    Happy Anniversary To:**

Tom Ohlson (2)  
 Charlene Robinette (5)  
 Gail Richards (8)  
 Mabel Prescott (11)  
 John Allen (12)  
 Kathy Frey (13)  
 Thea Krauss (15)  
 Jan Schmeichel (15)  
 Laura Filipp (18)  
 Billie Navojosky (18)  
 Kenneth Boettcher (25)

Julie & Paul Kern (6)  
 Doug & Pat White (12)  
 Bob & Nancy Burbank (17)



Prayer shawls are free for anyone to take. Just sign the book and help yourself. A prayer shawl is the perfect gift for anyone who is ill, grieving, moving, had a baby or anyone who just needs a hug! Shawls are located in the Narthex in the wall unit under the TV. The knit and crochet group will resume meeting in October. Hope to see you there for refreshment, conversation, and fellowship (and a little needlework also). Questions? Contact Kaye Phelan, [kygrl123@aol.com](mailto:kygrl123@aol.com)

**Photos**

Here are a couple of images taken from Easter service! (Photos by Penny Zwicker)

We celebrated Pastor Joe & Janice's 1 year anniversary at UCC yesterday! (photos by Jo Posillico)



*Cross created and donated by Jack Chandler.*



*Easter lilies adorn the front of the sanctuary*



*Peace Pole decorated for Pastor's 1 year anniversary*



*Janice & Pastor Joe*

## Administration Team



**Cherie Harrold,  
Admin Chair**

The Admin Team met on April 12th. Present were Charlotte Davis, Moderator; Alex Mariano, Vice-Moderator; Cherie Harrold, Chair; Jan Cope, Barry Davis, Peter Winnen, Bill Richter and Carole Winnen. Charlotte Davis, Moderator, opened the meeting with a short prayer. Bill Richter made a motion to accept the March 2022

minutes which were seconded by Barry Davis.

### Completed projects:

- New flooring has been installed in the two offices: goodbye to worn and stained carpet that was the original. After church on the 24th, all electronics and several smaller pieces of furniture were removed from the two offices and stored in the sanctuary or little room. In prep for this, all the extra green chairs that were stored in the "little room" were moved to one of the closets at the end of the Fellowship Hall to make room for the boxes of flooring that were delivered on Friday, April 22nd. These were delivered before the installation to allow the flooring to acclimate to the temperature and humidity inside UCC over the weekend. Members of the admin Team packed all the supplies and what we could move out of both offices; the installers moved the heavier pieces of furniture out. All the furniture and supplies have been returned to the finished offices. John Dellacorta, our computer wizard, checked out the office computers to ensure they were set back up correctly.
- Security Alarm System - quarterly maintenance performed. All was well. Cost was \$255.
- Fire Alarm System - annual maintenance, testing and inspection of the system. New batteries were needed. A bad remote test station was deemed bad and replaced. Total cost was \$610.
- Quarterly irrigation system maintenance was performed - usual broken sprinklers were fixed. Cost was \$435.
- Seventy-five bags of mulch were purchased from Ace Hardware to enhance the look of the garden in front of the church. All were used and more

was purchased. Thanks to Jan Cope, garden planner for the team, who spent time weeding and spreading mulch as she had time. And thank you to Pete for using his truck and muscle to pick up the bags from Ace.

- Colorful flowers were planted in the two large planters in front of the portico. Thank you to whoever did that; the team has no idea who it was but the flowers look very nice.
- Pete secured two of the three gas grills in the dumpster enclosure. One has a grill cover; the other is covered by a donated tarp. In addition to securing the grills, the painted propane tanks are also secured.
- Tim Phelan and Barry Davis are conducting a full inventory of UCC: equipment, furniture, kitchen supplies, electronics, closets... both inside and outside the building. Everything is being documented along with serial numbers, age and cost if applicable. Pictures have been taken to go along with the inventory list.
- Pete fertilized all the palm trees. In addition weeds in all the cracks in the driveways have been saturated with Round-up in yet another effort to stop their growth and spread!

### Upcoming Projects:

- Bill Richter is looking into a non-working ceiling fixture in the Fellowship Hall. It most likely needs replacing.
- A new monthly garden day is being planned, starting in May - the last Thursday of every month. Weeding, mulch spreading, pruning, deadheading - all will be done as needed. Next Garden Day, as mentioned already in this article, is Thursday, May 26th at 9:30am. We concentrated on the very front of the church for Easter time but now it's time to branch out and help other areas. In particular, invasive vines need pulling as they have infiltrated most of the shrubs and some palm trees.

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- The Admin Team is getting AC replacement quotes. Currently our 5 AC's are doing well but we'd like a ball park figure of replacement cost for the future so it's known what to plan for and set aside. Tim Phelan had researched commercial AC companies had found 3 in this area who will come look at our system and give advice and an approximate price to replace in the future.
- Pete is looking into ways to treat the ant hills around the grassy areas. Some are fire ants; others are red pyramid ants which are predators to the fire ants.
- Rock Solid will be asked to trim the shrubs along the edge of the driveways so drivers don't have to pull out before getting a clear view.
- Denny Lawson has requested dimmable LED lights be put into the chandeliers in the sanctuary to reduce glare for the live streaming.
- External audit will happen in May for UCC's financials. This is required by our by-laws to happen once every five years.

**Got Ideas?**

The admin team is always willing to listen to any ideas you have for making OUR church look better and be more efficient. This includes ideas for both inside and outside. Budgets are limited so not all ideas can be implemented now. But there is always the future. Please let us know what you would like to see happen.

For those of you traveling for the summer, be safe and have a great time.



***March 2022 Financial Report***

|                       | Current Month | Year to Date | Per Cent of Annual Budget |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Total Income</b>   | \$24,236      | \$104,250    | 35%                       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | \$24,543      | \$73,661     | 22%                       |

1. You may support your church by placing your donation in the offering plate on Sunday OR by sending in your pledges/offerings to our mailing address: **United Church of Christ at The Villages, PO Box 194, Oxford FL 34484**
2. You can pay through our online donation system on our website, [www.VillagesUCC.org](http://www.VillagesUCC.org). Make a one-time or recurring donation to the fund of your choice.
3. You can use your own bank/credit union's Bill Pay systems which are usually free and easy to use! If you aren't using one, call your bank/cu for information.

***Amazon Smile***

Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, you can make a free donation to your church when you make a purchase through Amazon! To activate charitable giving through Amazon, you can either go directly to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and choose United Church of Christ at The Villages as your charity OR you can click on the link at the bottom of our website, [www.VillagesUCC.org](http://www.VillagesUCC.org) and it will take you to Amazon Smile. A small portion of your purchase will be donated to your church for participating products. This is at NO cost to you!



## A WISE Report

### In May we recognize Mental Health



#### What is mental health?

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.<sup>1</sup> Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Although the terms are often used interchangeably, poor mental health and mental illness are not the same. A person can experience poor mental health and not be diagnosed with a mental illness. Likewise, a person diagnosed with a mental illness can experience periods of [physical, mental, and social well-being](#).



#### Why is mental health important for overall health?

Mental and physical health are equally important components of overall health. For example, depression increases the risk for many types of physical health problems, particularly long-lasting conditions like [diabetes](#), [heart disease](#), and stroke. Similarly, the presence of chronic conditions can increase the risk for mental illness.<sup>2</sup>



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## Can your mental health change over time?

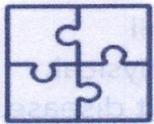
Yes, it's important to remember that a person's mental health can change over time, depending on many factors. When the demands placed on a person exceed their resources and coping abilities, their mental health could be impacted. For example, if someone is working long hours, caring for a relative, or experiencing economic hardship, they may experience poor mental health.

**1 in 5**

## How common are mental illnesses?

Mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United States.

- More than 50% will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>
- 1 in 5 Americans will experience a mental illness in a given year.<sup>4</sup>
- 1 in 5 children, either currently or at some point during their life, have had a seriously debilitating mental illness.<sup>5</sup>
- 1 in 25 Americans lives with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression.<sup>6</sup>



## What causes mental illness?

There is no single cause for mental illness. A number of factors can contribute to risk for mental illness, such as

- Early adverse life experiences, such as trauma or a history of abuse (for example, child abuse, sexual assault, witnessing violence, etc.)
- Experiences related to other ongoing (chronic) medical conditions, such as cancer or diabetes
- Biological factors or chemical imbalances in the brain
- Use of alcohol or drugs
- Having feelings of loneliness or isolation

Taken from CDC -



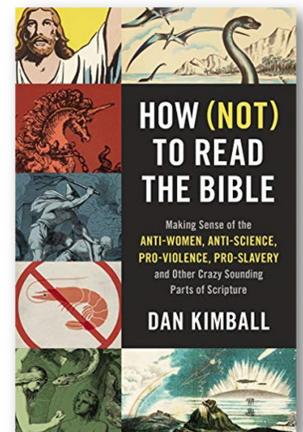
## Women's Spirituality Group

Our Women's Spirituality Group will meet on Wednesday May 4 from 2:30 to 4. We will continue to meet outside under the front portico. (yes we will be in Fellowship Hall if it is raining) We are going continue to read **The Gift of Years (Growing Older Gracefully)** by Joan Chittister available new and used on Amazon, Ebay or where ever you get your

Rev. Kathy Peters books. It's also available on Kindle. For our May 4 gathering we will read as much of the rest of the book as you are able (we have read talked about thru page 43). This book looks at aging from a spiritual aspect. Some of you may remember reading this book as a book study at UCC years ago. This will be our last gathering before our summer break. All women are welcome and as always please come even if you have not read all of the book. Please contact Kathy Peters ([revkathyp@comcast.net](mailto:revkathyp@comcast.net)) if you need more information. All women are welcome!

## Men's Saturday Morning Study

The Men's Breakfast group is starting a new study called "How (NOT) to Read the Bible" (from the description) *Is Reading the Bible the Fastest Way to Lose Your Faith? For centuries, the Bible was called "the Good Book," a moral and religious text that guides us into a relationship with God and shows us the right way to live. Today, however, some people argue the Bible is outdated and harmful, with many Christians unaware of some of the odd and disturbing things the Bible says. Whether you are a Christian, a doubter, or someone exploring the Bible for the first time, bestselling author Dan Kimball guides you step-by-step in how to make sense of these difficult and disturbing Bible passages. Filled with stories, visual illustrations, and memes reflecting popular cultural objections, How (Not) to Read the Bible is a lifeline for individuals who are confused or discouraged with questions about the Bible.* The group also enjoys a free breakfast during the study. If you would like more information or would like to join them, please contact Denny Lawson, [dennylawson@hotmail.com](mailto:dennylawson@hotmail.com)



## WISE Mental Health Group

May is Mental Health month. The WISE Spiritual Support Group invites you to join their weekly Zoom meeting each Monday at 2 p.m. A reading of interest this week is: "Blessed Are The Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family and Church" by Rev. Sarah Lund(Amazon). A video of interest is: Honest, Vulnerable Talk about Mental Health by Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund.(Google) For more information call Becky at 612.281.1811 or Bev at 207.807.5896 (leave a message).

## UCC Golf Group

The UCC Friday Golf Group has once again donated to worthwhile causes. We have recently donated \$100 to the Wildwood Food Bank and \$50 to the MLK Scholarship Fund. We would like to increase our donations and you can help by joining us as a member of the Friday Golf Club! Remember, no matter who you are, or where you are on your golf journey, you are welcome with us! Please contact Denny Lawson for further information at [dennylawson@hotmail.com](mailto:dennylawson@hotmail.com)





## *Member Only Website Pages*

We now have Member-Only access pages on our website. It includes a photo membership directory and the Annual Report. So, how do you access it?

### **YOU HAVE TO BE A CHURCH MEMBER**

Only church members will have access to the Membership Page. That means you should not share your registration with anyone else. This is private information for your use only. Each registration must be approved

before access is granted.

### **YOU MUST REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE**

- Go to our website, [www.VillagesUCC.org](http://www.VillagesUCC.org) and click on the **Registration/Log In** tab at the top of the page.
- When you click on the registration tab, a box will appear that will allow you to register. Fill in your name, email address, and a password that you can remember. Please note: we will not know your password and cannot retrieve it for you if you forget it. If that happens, you will have to retrieve the password on the site itself by re-entering information.
- Once you register, our administrator will have to give approval. This might take a couple of days, depending on when you register.

### **LOG IN TO SEE YOUR PRIVATE PAGES**

- Once approved, you can “log in” to the site. At that time, a box will appear showing you the private pages to which you have access. Click on the page you wish to view and it will appear.
- The Membership Directory can be accessed two ways. If you want a printable non-photo directory, click on the title “Membership Directory” at the top of the page and a pdf of the directory will appear. You can print this page. If you want to view the photo directory, it is listed in an accordion-style menu on the Membership page. Just click on the letter of the last name of the person you would like to see and all last names beginning with that letter will appear in a list.

### **KEEP IT PRIVATE**

Please remember that the information listed on these pages is for your personal use only. It is not to be used for any kind of solicitation, other than church business. Your password is yours only, so please do not share it with anyone else.

### **PROOF YOUR INFORMATION**

Don't forget to look at your own information in the membership directory to make sure it is correct. If anything needs to be changed or you have any questions, please contact our church office at [uccatvoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uccatvoffice@gmail.com)



12514 CR 101  
PO Box 194  
Oxford FL 34484

Phone: 352-748-9199  
Email: [uccatvoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uccatvoffice@gmail.com)

## We're on the Web!

[VillagesUCC.org](http://VillagesUCC.org)

## MAILING TO UCC?

If you need to mail your contributions/pledges or anything else to us, please remember to mail it to our **PO BOX**. Our mailing address is: PO Box 194, Oxford, FL 34484. **DO NOT MAIL** us at our physical location address. We want your contributions and communications to be safe. Thank you!

## 2022 UCC at The Villages Officers, Assistants & Chairs

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Moderator.....            | Charlotte Davis               |
| Vice Moderator.....       | Alex Mariano                  |
| Secretary.....            | Carol Wahlenmayer             |
| Recorder.....             | Jeff Osterman                 |
| Asst. Recorder.....       | Kathy Frey                    |
| Treasurer.....            | Jean Doyle                    |
| Asst. Treasurer.....      | Glenn Kramer                  |
| Membership Clerk.....     | Kaye Phelan                   |
| Administration Chair..... | Cherie Harrold                |
| Diaconate.....            | Joanne LeFevre                |
| Mission.....              | Billie Navojosky              |
| Finance/Stewardship.....  | Jack Chandler & Donna Herbert |



## Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests may be submitted to our Pastor through our website [www.VillagesUCC.org](http://www.VillagesUCC.org) . Prayers are held for one month only. If you need prayers to continue, please resubmit your request each month. To ensure we're not violating confidentiality, if you're submitting a prayer request for someone other than yourself, please ensure you have their permission to do so. Prayer recipients will be announced during our Sunday worship service.

## Discretionary Fund

The first Sunday of every month, we collect donations for the Discretionary Fund. This is a fund which our church uses to help local families in need who come to our church door. 100% of your donations go to aid those in need in our own community. If you are able, please consider giving to this important fund. Thank you for your continued support! ***Whether at our door or in our pews, this fund helps all those of our "beloved community!" You can make donations through our online giving on our website or mail your donations—just write "discretionary fund" on the memo line of your check. If mailing, make sure you only use our PO Box 194, Oxford FL 34484 address.***

