

September 26, 2022

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A Message From Pastor Joe

Greetings Church Family!

It is Official

As of September 17, 2022, my request and application for Privilege of Call (POC) has been approved and finalized. In other words, I am officially recognized as a UCC minister. I was ordained in ministry in 1997 and most denominations have their own process to be licensed or approved for ministry in their local churches. The UCC has the POC for those ordained in other denominations. My process entailed a semester course, a couple of papers, psychological evaluation and assessment, biography with spiritual journey, references, several meetings and a final interview with the UCC Church on Ministry (COM). I chose to be a UCC minister. I wanted to be a UCC minister long before I received the call at UCC at The Villages. Prior to me accepting the call at our church, I have been in contact with Florida Conference Minister, Leslie, for over 3 years ago. It has been a long journey.

My Upcoming Installation

I do look forward to my installation at UCC at The Villages. An installation is a festive, welcoming ceremony to recognize the calling of the pastor to his or her new church. The installation is not an ordination or licensing but rather a ritual of formally and publicly acknowledging my reception as permanent pastor at UCC at The Villages. The date is set for Oct. 30th, and it will be held during our 10AM worship service. Conference Minister Rev. John Vertigan will be participating.

Welcome Our New Members

Many churches are still rebuilding from the pandemic and churches continue to struggle to experience pre COVID attendance and participation. Nationwide only about 60-65 percent are back in attendance. A high percentage have dropped out of church completely. We have been averaging better than this and have consistent attendance onsite and online. On Oct. 9 and 16 we will be receiving 17 new members into our church family. We are planning on offering Grief Support in the months of October, November and December. Mary Ellen Shea and I discussed a Grief Workshop and potentially offering ongoing Grief support at our church. Mary Ellen Shea has the education, training and experience along with a heart full of love to lead this ministry.

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 out a membership form (forms are on the blue table in the Narthex)
2. Give the form to Pastor Joe
3. You can now join online! Simply go to our website, click on 'About Us' or the "Become a Member" icon.

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We are also hoping on offering a day's long Women's Retreat led by Barb Teel which entails fellowship, spiritual nourishment and friendship. This will be planned after the Holidays.

Our Missions Committee and Billie are planning some wonderful educational opportunities that will promote education on creation justice, fostering peace during the elections, and other needed topics. Please do not forget that Stewardship is around the corner. Please be in prayer about your financial support of our church.

Blessings, Pastor Joe



New Sermon Series!

Did you know the words “one another” are used 59 times in the New Testament? “Love one another.” “Forgive one another.”, “Regard one another as more important than yourselves.” And the list goes on... Our new series will be #RelationshipGoals that will focus on some of the one another's found in Scripture. These are important instructions for us as a way to build relationships in our community and become people that really care about each

other. Jesus taught us that service over conversion and relationships over rituals are what our faith is all about. Join Senior Pastor Joe as he looks at some #RelationshipGoals in the Bible and the radical difference they will make in our lives, our church and even our world.

The 58 “One Anothers” of the New Testament

1. “...Be at peace with each other.” (Mark 9:50)
2. “...Wash one another's feet.” (John 13:14)
3. “...Love one another...” (John 13:34)
4. “...Love one another...” (John 13:35)
5. “...Love one another...” (John 15:12)
6. “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love” (Romans 12:10)
7. “...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
8. “Live in harmony with one another...” (Romans 12:16)
9. “...Love one another...” (Romans 13:8)
10. “...Stop passing judgment on one another.” (Romans 14:13)
11. “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)
12. “...Instruct one another.” (Romans 15:14)
13. “Greet one another with a holy kiss...” (Romans 16:16)
14. “...When you come together to eat, wait for each other.” (I Cor. 11:33)
15. “...Have equal concern for each other.” (I Corinthians 12:25)
16. “...Greet one another with a holy kiss.” (I Corinthians 16:20)
17. “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” (II Corinthians 13:12)
18. “...Serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13)
19. “If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other.” (Galatians 5:15)
20. “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.” (Galatians 5:26)
21. “Carry each other's burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)
22. “...Be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)
23. “Be kind and compassionate to one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)
24. “...Forgiving each other...” (Ephesians 4:32)
25. “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” (Ephesians 5:19)
26. “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)
27. “...In humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)
28. “Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:9)
29. “Bear with each other...” (Colossians 3:13)
30. “...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.” (Colossians 3:13)
31. “Teach...[one another]” (Colossians 3:16)
32. “...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
33. “...Make your love increase and overflow for each other.” (I Thessalonians 3:12)
34. “...Love each other.” (I Thessalonians 4:9)
35. “...Encourage each other...” (I Thessalonians 4:18)
36. “...Encourage each other...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)
37. “...Build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)
38. “Encourage one another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13)
39. “...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)
40. “...Encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)
41. “...Do not slander one another.” (James 4:11)
42. “Don't grumble against each other...” (James 5:9)
43. “Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16)
44. “...Pray for each other.” (James 5:16)
45. “...Love one another deeply, from the heart.” (I Peter 3:8)
46. “...Live in harmony with one another...” (I Peter 3:8)
48. “...Love each other deeply...” (I Peter 4:8)
49. “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (I Peter 4:9)
50. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10)
51. “...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...” (I Peter 5:5)
52. “Greet one another with a kiss of love.” (I Peter 5:14)
53. “...Love one another.” (I John 3:11)
54. “...Love one another.” (I John 3:23)
55. “...Love one another.” (I John 4:7)
56. “...Love one another.” (I John 4:11)
57. “...Love one another.” (I John 4:12)
58. “...Love “...Love one another.” (II John 5)



Char Davis

Dear UCC church family, As I write this, I have just finished worshipping with you as an online participant. It is a much-loved and important service we provide to those who cannot be with us in person. Barry and I were at our high school class reunion this past weekend. During conversations with friends, I discovered that not every church provides options for online worship. Of those that did, I heard many comments from classmates about how much they value it. One friend told me that it is especially needed when the weather is bad as she doesn't feel safe walking on slick sidewalks here in Illinois. Whatever the reason for our church family using the online service, know that the spiritual connection of those in the church building are felt over the streaming waves via You Tube or Facebook Live.

While I have appreciated having access to this while we have been traveling, I also am able to realize and experiences some of the "glitches" that occur due to our older system we use. I log in early and realize that I only see backs of heads since there is no view from the front towards the back. I can hear people's conversations because there is no opening music at this point. I sometimes experience volume going in and out when the liturgist is speaking. Many of these issues would be solved with an upgraded newer system. But I still find a worshipping spirit with you and love to see the end of service when each of you file out of the sanctuary. It is like giving a "virtual" Hi and wishing you blessings as we exit.

Message From Our Moderator

I thank Denny for his presentations on our audio-visual system. Sometimes it may seem to you that he is speaking Greek when he talks about monitors and syncing and even projectors, but know it is all needed and important to have current updated systems so that we may continue to provide this service of outreach to those who cannot attend in person. The Governing Board is waiting to approve proceeding with, at least, step 1 of this plan as soon as the bids are presented. There are enough funds to cover that portion.

That being said, if you wish to donate funds to the designated AV account, I ask you to support this in addition to your pledge, not in lieu of it. The church relies on pledges made to support the present budget and the monthly expenditures such as utilities, cleaning of the building, maintenance of both inside and outside areas, and salaries. Soon we will start planning for next year's budget. Perhaps we can include some of the phase 2 for AV in our Admin line items. The Admin Team has also been seeking bids to replace the AC system and the roof. Those will come in at a much higher cost than the AV plan. The Governing Board and I will be working with Finance to present a balanced budget to you this year that is realistic of our needs and the cost to cover those. If you have ideas or comments in this regard, please drop them in the Comment Box in the Narthex area or see me at church. Your support is needed and valued in meeting our mission and goals for UCCaTV so we can effectively serve our local and wider communities. Blessings to each of you.



**Follow us on
facebook**

Why should you follow us on Facebook? Go to our page at UCC at the Villages and you'll see inspirational postings, photos, and a live link to our worship service every Sunday. Don't forget to "like" our page so you won't miss out on a thing!

News from The Office

I was asked recently about the costs and procedures for the memorial services we hold. For anyone wanting to know more about these services, please check out the brochures in our literature holder on the wall next to the Fellowship Hall. It includes information about funerals, memorials, scattering garden, and more.

The signs for the arrival of autumn in Florida are not falling leaves.....it's the return of our snowbirds! It is



always a joyous occasion to welcome back old friends who are returning from their northern homes.

And I can see that October is already filling up with exciting new activities! Please be mindful of our procedures if you are planning

an event at the church. They are:

1. Clear the event with Pastor Joe to make sure it is appropriate for the church
2. Check with the church office to make sure the calendar is clear for your event so that it does not conflict with anything else already scheduled
3. Complete a Building Use Form (found in the forms holder on the counter outside the church office) and give it to the church office. Once this is done, your event will be added to the permanent church calendar and publicized. It is up to you to provide details to the office for publication.

For more information or questions about scheduling/planning events, please contact the office.

Get Involved!

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. 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 in the Narthex (on the blue table) for other events that need volunteers! Current needs (not listed on website) are:

1. **Kitchen Volunteers**—help setup or serve or clean up for coffee hour. Always looking for people willing to provide treats, too! See the sign up sheet.
2. **Garden Day**—the Administration Committee holds a “garden week” the fourth week of each month. We need weeds & vines pulled from the landscape, mulching, etc. You can come any day of that week and at any time. Contact Cherie Harrold caharrold@gmail.com for information or just show up!
3. **Communion**—help the Diaconate serve Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Joanne Lefevre, joannelefevre@gmail.com or call the church office.
4. **Altar Flowers**—donate flowers for the sanctuary in honor/memory of loved ones. See the sign up sheet.
5. **Committees** - start thinking about serving on one of our committees! The new year is approaching and we'll need people who would like to serve on Finance, Administration, Diaconate or Missions!



Welcome New Members!

We are welcoming a number of new members to our church family during the month of October! Pastor Joe will hold a couple of new member services as follows on October 8:



Nick Mainelli



Peg Mainelli



Frank Magrone



Kay Magrone



Clare Paryzek



A.J. Byro



Susan Gotesky



Mary Lou Skufza

On October 16, we will welcome:



Kim Kirkwood

Along with Melissa Bednarki, Sandy Alice Hass, Cindy Checke, David Whittaker, John Stavesky, Kathy Nichols, Jim Bodenner, and Sue Bodenner.

Get to Know Some of Our New Members

Meet Art (A.J.) Byro



Art, or A.J., that he prefers to be called, and his deceased wife Janice were some of the first to attend this building's opening service. He and Janice were married over 70 years and had been members of the Congregational and UCC churches in Malta, Illinois and Alexandria, Minnesota for many years. A.J. held many different positions in these churches to help them survive. Their North-South lifestyle eventually brought them to The Villages UCC church.

A.J. retired from his involvement in remodeling their different homes, and as a "professional gambler" or beef and grain farmer in Minnesota. In The Villages he could play his favorite game of golf! This came to an abrupt halt when he was forced to have back surgery. Then during recovery, he contracted COVID. So, it was months before he felt strong enough to return to church.

He and his wife sat in the same row when attending church for the winter services. When he returned alone, he found a new face in the seat next to him. That "good morning" to her is now an over 5 months relationship. At 89 and 92 years of age, he and his new friend count anniversaries by months not years!

(more new member bios on next page)

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Meet Suzanne Gotesky



I was born in Montreal, Canada. When I was a little girl, my father was sent to Beirut, Lebanon by his company and my family moved there. Two years later our family settled on Staten Island NY. I married my husband Sheldon in 1971 and we had a son, David, in 1976. In 1998 we were blessed with a grandson, Daniel. We retired and came to The Villages 19 years ago.

Around 6 years ago I felt the need to bring Christ back into my life. I tried a few churches but it was not until I found UCC at The Villages that I knew I had found a perfect fit. I believe in the power of prayer and am truly blessed

Meet Nick Mainelli



I'm so grateful to become a member of UCC. I grew up in a Catholic Church and School, and also served as an Altar Boy. After many years went by I started to drift away and wanted more in my life. Listening to Pastor Joe preach is something that I've been searching for. His weekly messages are inspiring and fulfilling, the singing led by Janice and music by George are second to none and the fact that they allow Everyone to be there is special and something I always wanted to be part of.

Meet Peg Mainelli



I have gone to church all my life and have only joined one other church. UCC is the kind of church I have always wanted to belong to. Not just because it's my brother-in-law & sister's church but I love how open & affirming it is.

I have been married for 25 years to my husband Nick. I have 2 children & 4 grandchildren. We moved to Palm Harbor last year in December to be with our Dad who is 93 years old. It's the best thing we have ever done! I thank God every day for our family and the friends that we have.

I love the online services. UCC has made it possible to go to church & be a part of something wonderful!

(more new member bios on next page)

Meet Clare Paryzek

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I became a member in a small Methodist country church in Northeastern Ohio. I started attending this church with my grandmother after I started first grade. I remember our whole family joining together and I was later married there. I remained a member until my life change of North-South living.

We were invited to the UCC of Vero Beach Florida. After the sudden death of my husband in 2003, I needed "joy" back into my life. I did this by getting involved in the many volunteer projects: ushering, greeting, heading up Helping Hands tasks, working in accounting every Monday for 10 years, heading up the jewelry department for years of rummage sales. I was involved there for 25 years until my sudden move to The Villages.

Then I looked for another UCC church and came here just after Pastor Joe arrived. I liked the smaller church atmosphere and Pastor's message. Just over 5 months ago, I met a gentleman who had just returned after a long absence. That "good morning" is still happening!

And, yes, I'm that crazy, tandem skydiver that plans another skydive in 2023 for my 90th birthday!

Meet Mary Lou Skufza



I am from Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. I was married for 43 years and have 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. I have lived in the Villages for 12 years and love to travel and play golf. I have attended UCC of the Villages for a few months and want to thank everyone for their kindness and for welcoming me into your church family.

Shepherds and Helpers Ministry

Happy Fall to all our UCC Family and Friends. Shepherds Ministry has its goals to foster spiritual care and connections of all the church family.

There are many new members to welcome into our groups. We are always looking for more men and women to join with our ministry. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact me or Pastor Joe.

We are planning a Soup & Bread Supper gathering on Oct 25th evening. Come and share your ideas and wishes for the coming year. Look for a signup sheet in the narthex beginning Sunday Oct 8th.

This fall, I'm also interested to hold a small group :a Meditation/Prayer Journey time. My idea is to do this every other Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:30 in the Memorial Garden. Just bring a chair and share a journey as we learn from each other. Wishing you. Blessings and Peace.

Jo Posillico- Coordinator jnp62@me.com



Jo Posillico
Coordinator



Happy Birthday To: Happy Anniversary To:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Joyce Christie (4) | Jean Christopher & Billie Navojosky (1) |
| Mick Robinette (10) | Jerry & Anna Darr (1) |
| Joe LeFevre (12) | Peg & Nick Mainelli (10) |
| Chris Janis (13) | Pete & Carole Winnen (11) |
| Lyn Echard (14) | Larry & Rachel Beam (17) |
| Pam Smith (16) | Jim & Judie Schnitker (26) |
| Art Byro (17) | |
| Kaye Phelan (24) | |
| Dorothy Felson (25) | |
| Beatrice Hester (25) | |
| Becky Dunning (29) | |

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

August 2022 Financial Report



	Current Month	Year to Date	Per Cent of Annual Budget
Total Income	\$20,679	\$215,028	72%
Total Expenses	\$27,785	\$210,736	64%
Audio-Visual Fund		\$4,969	

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. 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 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 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!



Administration Team



**Cherie Harrold,
Admin Chair**

The Admin Team met on September 13th at UCC. Present were Cherie Harrold, Jan Cope, Peter Winnen, Carole Winnen and Tim Phelan. Absent were Bill Richter and Barry Davis, Alex Mariano and Char Davis.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 3:30pm at UCC at The Villages.

thrived! Sadly! Your Admin Team is trying two new approaches to the gardens. beginning in October. First, we have a core group of gardeners who volunteer to help whenever they can. Jan Cope suggested - and the team thought it a good one - that we let these volunteers pick an area of the garden that they would like to "own" and concentrate on that area. They would be free to return whenever to work on their area - not just on garden week.

Completed Projects:

Angel Maids cleaned the sanctuary carpets on August 31st and washed/renewed the planked floors on September 9th. We had several volunteers to help move the furniture - and the Admin Team was very thankful for their help. It is a massive job but many hands do make it go smoother.

We have a volunteer to wash the outside windows and the glass both inside and outside the UCC sign. Thank you Doug White.

Water filters for the church have been changed for this quarter. Thank you, Bill. Bill was able to fix the slow leak under the kitchen sink.

Both sets of ovens are now working as they should. Apparently there was a quick power failure at one point which reset the control panels on both sets of ovens. We are not questioning why!!!

Doug White, who has been volunteering a few hours per week to help with projects, has completed organizing and neatening up all the closets at UCC as well as the cabinets that hold supplies. As always, we look for ways to create more space inside the church. Share ideas you might have!

Outside CPA Audit was completed as required once every five years by the Constitution. The report was very positive. According to the Constitution, an internal audit on practices and procedures is done by members once a year for the next four years.

UCC Monthly Garden Day

The Admin Team discussed the church's gardens. This summer was particularly brutal, hot and not conducive to easy gardening at UCC, mostly because the bulk of the gardens are in the sun most of the day. And with the open fields/meadows surrounding much of us, the weeds are airborne - and have

The other change we'd like to try is holding a **garden week - 4th week of every month**. Volunteers could come any day during that week or every day if they so wished. Choosing one day a month was not working well as folks have commitments and there were some who could not make the chosen day.

So for the month of October, the **UCC Garden Week will be from October 24th - 28th**. Come up as you can spare an hour or two, pick an area that you'd like to claim as your own and let a member of the Admin Team know which area that is and how you think that area can be improved. We hope to freshen up as many sections as possible - particularly for Pastor Joe's installation on the 30th.

Work in Progress/Planning:

1) UCC inventory spreadsheet is slowly coming along. We are researching current replacement value for as many things as we can find. This helps us know what we have and where it is as well as gives a true picture of what might be needed in the future for replacement on many things.

2) Pastor Joe's name is being added to the fire/alarm list that is kept by our alarm monitoring company. He lives closer to UCC than do the other names on the list and volunteered to get up to the church if needed; he can be here 10 minutes before either Cherie or Bill can make it. Jim Schnitker who does live close is being kept on as an alternative for the day times.

3) It's time to review our current contractors, make sure their services are what we need and we get what we are paying for. Tim Phelan will obtain quotes with other companies to make sure we are getting the best services we can for what we can afford to pay.

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Coffee Hour on Sundays

Thank you supporting our after-church socialization hour. And for bringing refreshments to share. Tom Fumicello can use one person's help in setting up before church services begin (9:15 - 9:40) and another one's help immediately after service to get the coffee and drinks out into the Fellowship Hall and a third one about 11:45 to help him clean up the dishes and put things away. In addition, we always need strong bodies to stack chairs and close up/stack the tables. See the sign-up sheet on the counter window outside the kitchen to sign up to help.

Just know that you and your help are appreciated - and

please continue to help as you can. Hearing the animated voices in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour shows that members are happy to be back socializing.

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. If not possible now, there is always the future.

Welcome back to our returning snowbirds who will be returning soon.

Audio-Visual Updates

We appreciate the many positive comments we have received about the direction of our AV initiative. The following is a summary of our plans going forward:

AV Updates (I) Top priority (approximately \$7,000.00)

- a. Purchase and mount a 75"ish monitor centered on the back wall
- b. Remove ceiling monitor for future use elsewhere
- c. Move, re-install and "sync" the projector for better performance
- d. Install control system for accessing video feed in multiple locations
- e. Repair the overhead speaker (right or north side)

NOTE: Significant funds (approx.\$5,000.00) have been already raised to implement many of these changes

AV Updates (II) Early 2023 (approximately \$6,000.00)

- a. Acquire 3 new rechargeable performance mics (to replace the current two)
- Acquire new performance headset for pastor

NOTE: Updates I & II will have their greatest impact upon "in-service" worship

AV Updates (III) Late 2023 or beyond (approximately \$8,000.00)

- a. New digital soundboard
- b. New streaming software system/license
- c. Higher performance joystick for smoother livestream camera control
- d. New choir monitors

2nd streaming camera

NOTE: Update III will have its greatest impact upon "live-stream" worship

Finally

- a. Many thanks for your patience as we continue to learn our capabilities and deal with our problems. **(TIME)**
- b. We encourage willing volunteers to learn the system and operate the equipment. **(TALENT)**

Many thanks for those that have provided donations and to those considering financially supporting this cause.

We still need about \$16,000 to meet our goals. **(TREASURE)**

I look forward to working on this for UCC at The Villages.



Denny Lawson
AV Team Leader

What's Your Grief...during this Holiday Season?



Thanksgiving and Christmas are holidays typically joyous and filled with treasured memories for many. However, there are those carrying around heavy loss, sadness, anger, and dread in their hearts. They wear a happy face, however, their hearts harbor a different story.

Their story may include

- Loss of a loved one, including pets
 - Estranged family and friends
 - Loss of a job
- Changes in health or the health of a loved one
 - Changes in way of life
 - Loss of family or faith traditions
 - And many others.....

They wish for a “place” to share the *real story* carried in their hearts during this holiday season. A “safe place” to express loss, receive companionship, validation, acceptance and love. And, perhaps a different way forward as they travel into the holiday season.

*Grief
Is like a wave
Or a rollercoaster
Taking us through different emotions
You have good days
And bad days
Although no day is the same
Everyone has to grieve
Know that you are not alone
And that you have a right to talk
There's always a shoulder to cry on
So Express Yourself
Through this ordeal of the holidays*

Adapted Mazza 2012, p. 446

UCC offers a special invitation for all to participate in this 3-part series prior to the holiday season. Please R.S.V.P. Mary Ellen Shea at CaseyShea3@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 12 to reserve your place.

Dates: Wednesday, October 19, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The workshop facilitator is Mary Ellen Shea, M.S., bereavement professional, workshop instructor, and facilitator for small groups seeking bereavement support. She is a member of UCC at The Villages.

Formerly, a hospice CEO, Mary Ellen made a shift from hospice administration to the field of hospice bereavement after the loss of two husbands and a son. She is a certified end-of-life doula specializing in grief. Most recently, she served as a hospice bereavement coordinator/counselor for three years where she discovered her calling to become a *Widow Mentor*.



Mary Ellen Shea

Missions

The Missions Ministry Team has been busy creating a calendar of activities and events, for the year. Upcoming dates to Highlight include:

Alzheimer's Walk scheduled for **October 8** at the Polo Field. All are encouraged to donate and/or register to participate. The link for registering is: alz.org/walk. Billie Navojosky is Captain of Team **UCC**. Be the Church & join us!



**Billie Navojosky,
Chair**

The **Documentary Film** "Purple, America We Need to Talk" will be shown **October 26**, from **3:00 to 4:30**. Addressing the divisiveness of interactions in our community and nation, Resetting the Table has filmed this documentary to teach us all alternative ways to communicate with those of opposing views. Invitations will be sent to Temple Shalom. A signup sheet will be placed in the Narthex the 1st of October.

Seeds of Hope Food Drive will be held **Sat. November 12, from 9:00 to 1:00**. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex late October. A second Food Drive is scheduled for February 11 from 9:00 to 1:00.

Missions has agreed to team with the social ministry team for all social events. A **movie** "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" will be shown on **October 21, 5:00** along with burgers on the grill. A can of food will be the ticket for entrance.

MLK Scholarship Breakfast tickets will be available in October. Price is \$18.00 to attend the breakfast awards. **Donations will be solicited beginning October**. Our goal is to raise \$2000. The Breakfast will be January 14, 2023.

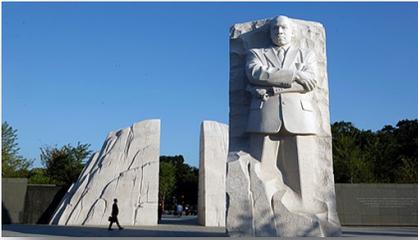
Prior to the Greening of the church a **Craft day** will be held Thursday, **November 17 from 10:00am to Noon**. Members will be taught how to make a Memory Star for Loved ones no longer with us, to be hung on Narthex Christmas Tree.

Lastly, the **Nextrex Plastic Film Recycling will begin November 1, 2022** and be coordinated by Maryann Harvey and Susan Sauer. Flyers about appropriate plastics will be available in the Narthex beginning in October. Everyone is encouraged to begin saving newspaper bags, grocery bags, bread bags, mailer plastic envelopes, ice bags, ziplock bags, and bubble wrap.

The following are **members of the Missions Ministry Team**: Jean Christopher, MLK; Bea Hester, Suitcase Drive & Shelter Christmas Gifts; Jim & Judy Schnitker, Food & Clothing Donations; Kaye Phelan, Prayer Shawls; Kathy Peters, Seeds of Hope; Maryann Harvey & Susan Sauer, Plastic Film Recycling; Jim & Sue Bodenner and Penny & Dave Zwicker, Little Free Library; Ann Berg & Suzanne Gotesky, Justice & Peace; Billie Navojosky, Missions Chair, MS & Alzheimer's Walk.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Committee



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are we doing for others?’”

If you were among the 600 people who were able to attend past year’s Martin Luther King Scholarship breakfasts, you could not help but be touched by the stories of hardship, survival, and the endless pursuit of excellence that those students exhibited. This year, with COVID19 vaccines now available, and the pandemic under control, the 2023 MLK scholarship recipient in-person breakfast will once again be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at the Savannah Center in The Villages. Catering will be provided by La Hacienda, and cost of the full breakfast is \$18.00. I will be selling the breakfast tickets later in October on Sunday after Church in the narthex. The tickets do go fast!

The scholarship committee is working tirelessly to create a quality program for those deserving students who will be chosen as the 2022- MLK 2023 scholarship recipients. We hope that you will be able to join us for the breakfast. Because we do not make any money on the breakfast, we as always grateful to have donors at the breakfast to support our students and to experience just how hopeful we feel about the future because of them.

As a congregation, last year UCC at The Villages contributed almost \$2,000 to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund. Because of our generous donation, we were able to play a part in helping twelve local students move closer to realizing their educational dream. Each student received a \$4,000 scholarship.

If you are moved to help our committee to fund these scholarships, please write your donation check to UCC at The Villages with “MLK Scholarship” in the memo line, and mail to UCC at The Villages P.O. Box 194, Oxford, Fl. 34484

We are also looking for corporate donors. If you are aware of some corporation that might be interested in donating to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund, please contact me.

Thank- you! Blessings!

Jean Christopher, Martin Luther King Committee
Scholarship Chairperson

330-770-8841



Got Can Tabs?

The Missions Team continues to collect can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. If you have tabs you’d like to donate, please bag them and place the bag in the wicker box under the small table next to the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

WISE Report



Our WISE spiritual support group is reminding everyone that October is Mental Illness Awareness Month. One aspect of this month's focus is the Mental health of older adults. The World Health Organization has offered the following thoughts.

Key facts

- Globally, the population is ageing rapidly. Between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population over 60 years will nearly double, from 12% to 22%.
- Mental health and well-being are as important in older age as at any other time of life.
- Mental and neurological disorders among older adults account for 6.6% of the total disability for this age group.
- Approximately 15% of adults aged 60 and over suffer from a mental disorder.

Older adults, those aged 60 and above, make important contributions to society as family members, volunteers and as active participants in the workforce. While most have good mental health, many older adults are at risk of developing mental disorders, neurological disorders or substance abuse problems as well as other health conditions, such as diabetes, hearing loss, and osteoarthritis. Furthermore, as people age, they are more likely to experience several conditions at the same time.

The world's population is ageing rapidly. Between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's older adults is estimated to almost double from about 12% to 22%. In absolute terms, this is an expected increase from 900 million to 2 billion people over the age of 60. Older people face special physical and mental health challenges which need to be recognized.

Over 20% of adults aged 60 and over suffer from a mental or neurological disorder (excluding headache disorders) and 6.6% of all disability among people over 60 years is attributed to mental and neurological disorders. The most common mental and neurological disorders in this age group are dementia and depression, which affect approximately 5% and 7% of the world's older population, respectively. Anxiety disorders affect 3.8% of the older population, substance use problems affect almost 1% and around a quarter of deaths from self-harm are among people aged 60 or above. Substance abuse problems among older people are often overlooked or misdiagnosed. Mental health problems are under-identified by health-care professionals and older people themselves, and the stigma surrounding these conditions makes people reluctant to seek help.

There may be multiple risk factors for mental health problems at any point in life. Older people may experience life stressors common to all people, but also stressors that are more common in later life, like a significant ongoing loss in capacities and a decline in functional ability. For example, older adults may experience reduced mobility, chronic pain, frailty or other health problems, for which they require some form of long-term care. In addition, older people are more likely to experience events such as bereavement, or a drop in socioeconomic status with retirement. All of these stressors can result in isolation, loneliness or psychological distress in older people, for which they may require long-term care.

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Mental health has an impact on physical health and vice versa. For example, older adults with physical health conditions such as heart disease have higher rates of depression than those who are healthy. Additionally, untreated depression in an older person with heart disease can negatively affect its outcome.

Older adults are also vulnerable to elder abuse - including physical, verbal, psychological, financial and sexual abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious losses of dignity and respect. Current evidence suggests that 1 in 6 older people experience elder abuse. Elder abuse can lead not only to physical injuries, but also to serious, sometimes long-lasting psychological consequences, including depression and anxiety.

Dementia and depression among older people as public health issues

Dementia:

Dementia is a syndrome, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is deterioration in memory, thinking, behavior and the ability to perform everyday activities. It mainly affects older people, although it is not a normal part of ageing.

It is estimated that 50 million people worldwide are living with dementia with nearly 60% living in low- and middle-income countries. The total number of people with dementia is projected to increase to 82 million in 2030 and 152 million in 2050.

There are significant social and economic issues in terms of the direct costs of medical, social and informal care associated with dementia. Moreover, physical, emotional and economic pressures can cause great stress to families and carers. Support is needed from the health, social, financial and legal systems for both people with dementia and their carers.

Depression:

Depression can cause great suffering and leads to impaired functioning in daily life. Unipolar depression occurs in 7% of the general older population among those over 60 years old. Depression is both underdiagnosed and undertreated in primary care settings. Symptoms are often overlooked and untreated because they co-occur with other problems encountered by older adults.

Older people with depressive symptoms have poorer functioning compared to those with chronic medical conditions such as lung disease, hypertension or diabetes. Depression also increases the perception of poor health, the utilization of health care services and costs.

From the Newsroom of the World Health Organization.

Submitted by Becky Dunning

TOGETHER
for Mental Health

Mental health is an incredibly important part of overall health. With a growing number of Americans experiencing mental health symptoms, we need to join together to advocate for improving our nation's mental health care system.

WISE Mental Health Group

The WISE Spiritual Support Group invites you to join their weekly Zoom meeting each Monday at 2 p.m. For more information call Becky at 612.281.1811 or Bev at 207.807.5896 (leave a message).



Men's Saturday Morning Study

The Men's Breakfast group that meets for study and breakfast each Saturday morning at 8:00am at church is on summer break. Watch your Enews/Reporter for information about their new study book and their next meeting date. If you would like more information or would like to join them, please contact Denny Lawson, dennylawson@hotmail.com

UCC Golf Group

The UCC Friday Golf Group welcomes all golfers at any level. 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



Department of Elder Affairs Can Help with Energy Bills

Having trouble paying your energy bills or know of a person over 60 who needs help with their bills? The Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP) assists low-income households, with at least one person age 60 and older, when the households are experiencing a home energy emergency. **Through September 30**, you can apply for assistance through Contact your local [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#) or call the [Elder Helpline](#) at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) for more information on additional eligibility requirements. You can also contact the local Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program for the Elderly providers.

[Click here for a list of EHEAP providers by Planning and Service Area.](#)

Member Only Website Pages



Members may access private pages on our website. Pages includes a photo membership directory, Meetings, 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 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

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 something for which you'd like to participate!





12514 CR 101
PO Box 194
Oxford FL 34484

Phone: 352-748-9199
Email: uccatvoffice@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

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.....	TBA
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. 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.

This week's Joys & Concerns:

Peter Winnen (surgery), David McClain (health), Healing Mercies for a friend of Rhea and Lorraine, Dot Powley (health), Beverly Kuhlewind (recovery)

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.

