

MARCH 2012



# CLEWISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John C. Hicks - Senior Pastor



**Building Location:**  
331 W Osceola Ave  
Clewiston, FL. 33440-3008

**Mailing Address:**  
352 W Arcade Ave  
Clewiston FL. 33440-2802

**Phone:** (863) 983-5269  
**Fax:** (863) 983-5269

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:**

**Sundays:**

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

**Mondays:**

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts LEC

**Tuesdays:**

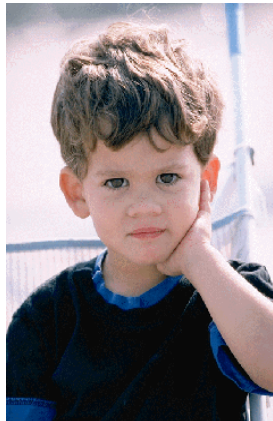
6:00 p.m. Art Class: LEC  
7:00 p.m. Hispanic Home Church (FH)

**Wednesdays:**

8:30 a.m. Prayer Team  
(in Sanctuary)  
12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Food  
Pantry Open  
6:00 p.m. Dinner (LEC)  
6:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids  
6:45 p.m. Youth and Adult  
Bible Studies  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Thursdays:**

Precept: 9:30 a.m.  
4:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m.



Mark's mother received a phone call one day in the middle of the afternoon. It was the teacher from her son's school.

"Mrs. Smith, something unusual happened

today in your son's third grade class. Your son did something that surprised me so much that I thought you should know about it immediately." The mother began to grow worried.

The teacher continued, "Nothing like this has happened in all my years of teaching. This morning I was teaching a lesson on creative writing. And as I always do, I tell the story of the ant and the grasshopper: The ant works hard all summer and stores up plenty of food. But the grasshopper plays all summer and does no work.



Then winter comes. The grasshopper begins to starve because he has no food. So he begins to beg, 'Please Mr. Ant, you have much food. Please let me eat, too.' Then I said, 'Boys and girls, your job is to write the ending to the story.'

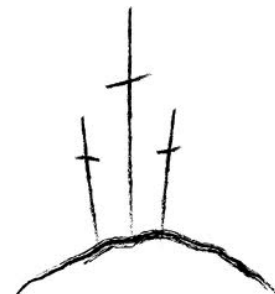
"Your son, Mark, raised his hand. 'Teacher, may I draw a picture?'

"Well, yes, Mark, if you like, you may draw a picture. But first you must write the ending to the story.'

"As in all the years past, most of the students said the ant shared his food through the winter, and both the ant and the grasshopper lived. A few children wrote, 'No, Mr. Grasshopper. You should have worked in the summer. Now, I have just enough food for myself.' So the ant lived and the grasshopper died.

"But your son ended the story in a way different from any other child, ever. He wrote, 'So the ant gave all of his food to the grasshopper; the grasshopper lived through the winter. But the ant died.'

"And the picture? At the bottom of the page, Mark had drawn three crosses."





## THE SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, is forty days, not counting Sundays, before Easter. This year, Lent began on Wednesday, February 22nd.

Lent is a traditional time for Christians to take special time to grow spiritually. Prayer is a vital part of this process.

As we go into Lent this year, I would like to invite and challenge you to take a closer look at your personal walk with our Lord. As we head towards Easter, may you experience more fully God's blessings for you and in you.

### FIVE STORIES WITH LESSONS ABOUT TREATING PEOPLE

#### 1 - First Important Lesson—Cleaning Lady.



During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one:

"What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

#### 2. - Second Important Lesson - Pickup in the Rain

One night at 11: 3 0 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm.



Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride.

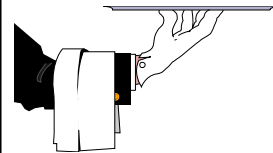
Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 19 60's. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's' bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

#### 3 - Third Important Lesson -

Always remember those who serve..



In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him..

"How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

"Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired.

By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.

"Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied.

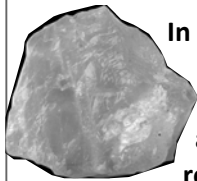
The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.

She realized he didn't have the sundae because he had wanted to have enough left to leave her a tip.

#### 4 - Fourth Important Lesson... -

##### The obstacle in Our Path.



In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about removing the obstacle.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and after much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded in moving the stone to the side of the road. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many never understand: Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition!

#### 5 - Fifth Important Lesson - Giving When it Counts...

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease.

Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a

blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her."



As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor. He thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.



### FROM THE HEART

I had forgotten about it until I came across some notes. Every now and then it's good to look back, reflect, and take note. Every now and then it's good to remember what has happened in the past to help make sure it doesn't happen again in the future.

It was 11 years ago. It began as a sharp pain in my chest; it ended with a day in the emergency room, 16 needle punctures in my arms, and an overnight stay in the hospital for observation. The diagnosis – pericarditis – an inflammation of the sack around the heart. It was probably caused by a virus.

The good news – my heart was in good shape. I still feel great. The reality check – I needed to do some things to make sure my heart remains in good shape. I still do.

The same is true for many of us. The good news is that many of us have good hearts! (emotionally and spiritually if not physically.) The reality check for many of us though is that we are going to have to do some things to make sure our hearts remain in good shape.

The Scriptures tell us that "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22) Here are some cheerful heart-good medicine questions for you to ask yourself:



- 1) What will make me happy?
- 2) How do messages or opinions of other people keep me from thinking big?
- 3) Do I think negative thoughts more often than positive thoughts? Do I spend too much of my time with negative people?
- 4) Am I giving myself a chance in new areas? What am I doing today to expand my horizons? What have I never tried that I might enjoy?
- 5) How would I live my life if I knew I could not fail?

We need to take care of ourselves. We need to do good things for ourselves. We need to say: "I will give my body the best care and feeding. I will program my mind with the most wholesome thoughts. I will take time to nourish my soul with good spiritual food. I'm going to call forth the best in myself in all situations."

Let us not wait for warning pains in our hearts before we act. Let us refocus ourselves and go forth to face each new day committed to God's plan of fulfillment and happiness in our lives. With good hearts, let us commit to treat ourselves and others as God treats us – with love!

Be blessed and be a blessing,

*Pastor John*

## Some Special Dates in March:

SUNDAY, MARCH 4— Communion Sunday. Free Health Fair until 4 p.m. at the hospital.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11— Daylight Savings Time begins Spring Forward!

SATURDAY, MARCH 24— "Sharing the Journey" Women's Spring Retreat at the Stitt Ranch. 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28— Youth Dinner and Dessert auction for youth ministries.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 & SUNDAY, APRIL 1 - Community Easter Cantata—location to be announced.



## Wednesday Fellowship Dinners in March:

Wednesday, March 7— Fun and Comfort Foods. Fried Chicken, Pulled Pork BBQ, Hot Dogs, Nachos, and more!

Wednesday, March 14— Breakfast for Dinner!

Wednesday, March 21—Missions Dinner!

Wednesday, March 28— Youth Dinner and Dessert Auction. Spaghetti.

***Easter Butterflies - We are planning to raise butterflies for release at our flower cross on Easter Sunday morning. Our heart is to have a butterfly for each child and youth to release. If you would like to order a butterfly to release or if you would like to provide a butterfly for a child to release, they are available for a \$3 donation. Please order butterflies by March 21<sup>st</sup>.***



Clewiston's **Local UMW Spring Retreat** will be Saturday **March 24<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the home of Sandy Stitt.** Led by Sandy and Kathy Hicks, the retreat will feature Okeechobee area Missions workers Debbie Clemons and Geri Wilson as our guest speakers. Lunch will be served. Mark your calendars for a spectacular, spiritual and fun filled day. If you would like to carpool, join us in the church parking lot at 8:45. If you need directions to Sandy's home, please call the church office, 983-5269.

The March **District** Spiritual Growth Day Apart is at Grace UMC in Venice and is also being held the 24th. Registration for this District event starts a 9 a.m. and the program is 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$8 lunch. RSVP to Emily Drake or Odessa York before March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please continue to collect Campbell soup labels, box tops for education and plastic container lids and bring to the Trinity Room or give to Judy Vann.

March flower duty: Beryle's Reading Circle.

The February dessert auction was a sweet success, raising \$1,355 for funding annual for funding annual missions including Compassion Avenue Community Food Bank, Palm Terrace activities, St. Matthews/Friendship House, Hope Hospice, Agape Home Inc. for women, Homeless Orphans Outreach, Inc. or HOOI (Dominican Republic), Child of God/Person of Worth COGPOW school (Haiti), and Delbert and Sandy Groves UM missionaries in Zambia. The delicious dinner was prepared by loving hands organized by chairperson Judy Vann. Thanks Judy!

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of missions through participation in the global ministries of the church.

**PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY  
WHAT YOU DID,  
OR WHAT YOU SAID  
...BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER  
HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.**

**Dial A Friend! Have you missed someone in Dial A Friend! Have you missed someone in church? Why not give them a call to check on how they are doing? Do you know someone who has been away for a long time? Why not take an opportunity this month to invite them back to church?**

## **2012 Sweet Taste of Sugar Contest**

**Calling all cooks! Make plans to be a part of the 2012 Sweet Taste of Sugar Contest at the Sugar Festival on April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**New rules, more prizes! 5 categories: Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Sweet Creations (any recipe with sugar!), and Youth (through age 17).**

**NEW! Enter as many entries in each category as you wish! Applications and instructions are available in the church office.**

**Deadline for entries is March 31st. Special prizes for early submittal of recipes by March 24.**



Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her. You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith,' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you.

I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find, I am wherever there is love.

Love, God



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

*One:* Don't miss the boat.

*Two:* Remember that we are all in the same boat.

*Three:* Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

*Four:* Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

*Five:* Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

*Six:* Build your future on high ground.

*Seven:* For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

*Eight:* Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

*Nine:* When you're stressed, float a while.

*Ten:* Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

*Eleven:* No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. Praise be to God!

## Looking Ahead .....



Every morning can be an Easter, celebrating another happy ending and a new beginning, Announcing that God loves us.  
- Thomas Carlisle

- 1) Community Easter Cantata  
March 31 & April 1
- 2) Resurrection Party and Easter Egg Grab  
Saturday, April 7, 10:00 a.m.
- 3) Community Easter Sunrise Service  
6:00 a.m. Sunday, April 8  
At the Clewiston Levee
- 4) Special Easter Sunday Worship Here!  
Easter Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 5) Easter Breakfast 9:45 a.m.
- 6) Flower Cross – In our Easter tradition, you are invited to bring a flower to put on our Easter flower cross!
- 7) Butterflies will be released at the end of each service as a celebration of new life we celebrate at Easter. Every child and youth will have a chance to release one!



## Love, Connect, Equip, Share



We reach out in love to others,



connecting with them and connecting them to Christ,



equipping them and ourselves in our Christian walk,



that we might share Christ and what we have with others through proclaiming the Gospel message for the glory of God.

## LOVE,CONNECT, EQUIP, SHARE –

Those verbs describe

## THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH!

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:19



## Books of the Old Testament



- |              |              |                 |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1Chronicles  | Ezra         | Leviticus       |
| 1Kings       | Genesis      | Malachi         |
| 1Samuel      | Habakkuk     | Micah           |
| 2Chronicles  | Haggai       | Nahum           |
| 2Kings       | Hosea        | Nehemiah        |
| 2Samuel      | Isaiah       | Numbers         |
| Amos         | Jeremiah     | Obadiah         |
| Daniel       | Job          | Proverbs        |
| Deuteronomy  | Joel         | Psalms          |
| Ecclesiastes | Jonah        | Ruth            |
| Esther       | Joshua       | Song of Solomon |
| Exodus       | Judges       | Zechariah       |
| Ezekiel      | Lamentations | Zephaniah       |
| Ezra         |              |                 |

TheBestBibleStories.com



“Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!”



(See Exodus 14) 04-20-1999

I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES



# THE STORY

## Sermon Messages For March

Date	Chapter	Topics	Focus	Bible References
March 4	20	With God, One can make a difference	Esther	Esther 1-9
March 11	21	Rebuilding Walls, Rebuilding Lives	Nehemiah	Nehemiah 1-2, 4, 6-8 Malachi 1-4
March 18	23-24	Behold the Lamb of God	The Word became flesh, Jesus revealed	Mathew 3-7, 11; Mark 1-3; Luke 8; John 1-4
March 25	25	Who do you say Jesus is?	Jesus proclaimed	Matthew 17:21; Mark 8-12; John 7-8, 11-12

## BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE

**Morning Bible Study (MBS):** Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, of each month at 9:00 AM in the Trinity Room of the LEC. Call Church Office 983-5269 for more information.

**First Monday Bible Study (FMB):** Meets 1st Monday of each month from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM (September through May) in the Pastor's office. Bring a sack lunch. *(They will meet in the LEC Trinity Room This month!)*

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study (WEBS):** Meets every Wednesday In the Trinity Room (after the Wed. Family Dinner-approx 6:45 PM) (Youth)

**Friendship Circle (FC):** Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at Noon. Location changes monthly. Call the Church Office 983-5269 or Ann Pearce for more information.

**Precept Bible Study (PBS):** A non-denominational Bible study open to everyone and participated by men and women from many churches. You have a choice of time: Each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., or 6:45 p.m., with the exception of holiday breaks. The same lesson being taught at all three allows you to be flexible with your schedule.



## BIRTHDAYS

Clint Drake	March 2
Natalie Roland	March 2
Joann Wilson	March 3
Roy Martian	March 6
Lynn Mila	March 6
Mile Russell	March 6
Robert Vann	March 7
Ona Herring	March 8
Jaxon Moss	March 8
Christy Anne Vaughan	March 9
Emily Drake	March 10
Emma Jane Helvey	March 10
Robert Adams	March 12
Jeff Caulkins	March 12
Olivia Guasp	March 12
Mary Ann Martin	March 12
Sara Mc Kown	March 14
Shelley Davidson	March 16
Paige Lazere	March 16
Emily Mila	March 16
David Vaughan	March 16
Janet Way	March 16
Danny Reyes	March 17
Bunny Griffin	March 18
Miranda Whidden	March 18
Beth Fabian	March 20
Ross Mack	March 20
Jackie Theobald	March 20
Bernice Christiansen	March 21
Joseph Harvill	March 21
Natasha Lazere	March 22
Kathleen Crawford	March 24
Jack Herring	March 24
Reed Galarneau	March 27
Bunny VanderWende	March 28
Kathlyn Belcher	March 30



## FLOWERS

March 4	Stacey and David Moore
March 11	Trish Adams
March 18	Open
March 25	Tim and Dolly Burke

## GREETERS

8:30 - Everyone  
11:00 - Everyone



## ANNIVERSARIES

Scott and Laura Jones	March 7
David and Trish Adams	March 13
Garry and Kathy Hall	March 18
Jim and Kathy Arnold	March 27

## ACOLYTES

March 4,	Bobby Adams and Brandon Caudill
March 11	Karlee Lamb and Michelle Mila
March 18	Ross Mack and Bruce Jones
March 25	Evelyn Jones and Jessiah Cruz



**You Might be a United Methodist if...**

... you say "trespasses" instead of "debts" in the Lord's Prayer and have no idea why

or

... there's at least one person in every church meeting who says, "But we've never done it that way before"

**More Humor From A Church Newsletter**

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow!!!!!!

# March 2012

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 6:00 pm Fun Food Dinner— Fun & Comfort Foods	8	9	10
11 Time Change	12 Trustee Mtng 5:30 pm (Trinity oom).  Finance Mtng 6:30	13	14 6:00 pm Breakfast for Dinner	15	16	17
18 	19 Staff Parish Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Pastor's Office)	20 Ad. Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.(Trinity Room)	21 6:00 pm Missions Dinner	22	23	24 UMW Unit and Zone Retreat's
25	26	27	28 6:00 PM Youth Dinner & Dessert Auction Spaghetti	29	30	31 Easter Cantata Mar 31 & Apr1 ----- Deadline for entries in Taste of Sugar Contest



First United Methodist Church  
352 West Arcade Avenue  
Clewiston, Florida 33440-2802

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 38

Visit Our Web Site At:<http://www.ClewistonUMC.org>

