

MAY 2012



CLEWISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John C. Hicks - Senior Pastor



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

Office/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.
(Starting in September '12)



It's Time to Bother Jesus!

Stop me if you have heard this one: *"Christians are nice."* For many people in our century,

"nice" has become the defining characteristic of the followers of Jesus. Christians are polite, and that is what sets them apart in this rude world we live in.

The question we need to ask ourselves is, "When did this happen?" When did followers of Jesus quit being wild, radical, world changing and dangerous disciples and start being "nice?" And more importantly, how do we fix it? Or should we?

In Luke 8:40-56 we read the story of the Jewish leader Jairus and his daughter who is on the verge of death. Jairus has great faith that Jesus could heal her, so he goes to see Jesus to ask Jesus to come and heal his daughter. As Jesus begins to follow Jairus home they are interrupted by a bleeding woman who also seeks healing from the teacher. After the woman is healed, and they are about to continue their journey, word comes that the daughter is dead. The messenger ends with these words, *"There is no need*

now to bother the teacher." (Luke 8:49) It's a message that many Christians have taken to heart.

Too many Christians have quit being world changers in part because they have decided not to bother the Master. We concentrate on doing things we can do ourselves without bothering Him for the little things. After all, why should we bother the Creator of the universe or His son with things we can handle ourselves?

The reality is that Jesus not only doesn't mind being bothered, He LOVES it! Scripture supports this. Think about some of the people in scripture who went out of their way to bother Christ. Blind Bartemaus. The leper at the gate. Zacchaeus. The friends who lowered their paralyzed friend through the roof. Mary and Martha when Lazarus was dying. Nicodemus. The bleeding woman who grabbed hold of Jesus' robe. Jairus and his daughter (remember, *she lived!*).

None of these people were what we would call polite. None of them waited their turn. All of them practically screamed at Jesus for help. And Jesus did miraculous things in every case. Each of them decided that bothering Jesus was the only option they had left, even when others chided them to be quiet and to quit, they kept on even more for they were convinced that Jesus and ONLY Jesus could help them. And

help them He did.

It's time for us to put away a timid faith and bother Jesus. It's time to pray big prayers and dream big dreams. It's time to return to the faith of those first followers of Christ, who knew that in order to change the world they had to be radical believers. If we want to be like the church found in the book of Acts and turn this world upside down, we need to quit being so polite work on being more forward in our faith. We can't change the world on our own, but in Him great things can be done! It's time to bother Jesus with a bold faith and firm conviction of all that He is and not only can do, but wants to do in, through, and for us.

Pastor John



In Honor of Moms Everywhere

Many of us have had good mothers or mothering types who influenced us in a positive way. Some have not. But even those whose mothers weren't that great can still celebrate a great achievement of their mother – their birth!

We all can learn from women, mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives; even more so when these women are Christians. A godly mother is priceless.

In honor of mothers everywhere, of future mothers and mothers past, and of those special mothers with have no children of their own but are mothers to children anyway, I share these "mother" stories.

Some time ago there was a news story about a

family of ducklings that fell down a sewer grate in Vancouver. Their mother did what any parent would do. She got help from a passing police officer.

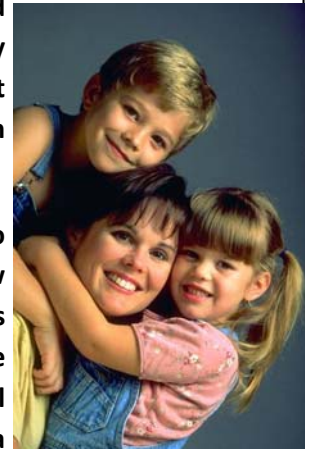


The mother duck grabbed the policeman by the pant leg while he was on foot patrol. The policeman shoved what he thought was just a goofy duck away, but she persisted, grabbing his leg again when he tried to leave, and then waddling to a nearby sewer grate where she sat down and waited for him to follow and investigate.

The policeman came to where she sat and saw eight little baby ducklings in the water below. Police removed the heavy metal grate with the help of a tow truck and used a vegetable strainer to lift the ducklings to safety. mother and offspring then departed for a nearby pond.

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?"

When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word "mother".





When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, a mother returned to her concert seat and discovered that her child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. To her horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit . . . Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played., only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own many times may not be all that noteworthy and the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of



the Master and His arms around us, what happens can be truly beautiful. Think about that the next time you are plunking on the keys of life, struggling

to make music. Listen closely. You may hear the voice of the Master whispering in your ear, "Don't quit . . . Keep playing."

May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn what you do into true masterpieces. Remember, God doesn't only call the equipped, He equips the called.

Be blessed and be a blessing,

Pastor John

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

In May 6:00 p.m.



Wednesday, May 2nd — Pizza

**Wednesday, May 9th—Covered Dish
Dinner Honoring Dave Sankey.**

**Wednesday, May 16th—Missions
Turkey and all of the fixings!**

Wednesday, May 23rd—Ham

**Wednesday, May 30th—Herb's Award
Winning Meatloaf!**



National Day of Prayer Program

Thursday, May 3rd

12 noon at Civic Park

Lunch will be provided.

Across from the Clewiston Inn

Sponsored by the Clewiston Ministerial Association

CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, May 26th

10:00 a.m. til ???

At the Stitt's lake house in Lake Placid (132 Lake June Road)



Go through Lake Placid under the overpass. Turn left (across from large church). House is on the left about ¼ mile. It will be marked, but if you reach the public Boat launch area, go back 4 houses. Sandy: 677-1489

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided. Bring sides, snacks, and desserts.

Also: Folding chairs, hats, sun screen, games , bathing suits friends, and anything else you may want!



Special Memorial Day Service,

Sunday, May 29th

We will recognize those who have served and are serving in our armed

services as well as their families. We invite you to wear your uniform or some insignia of your branch of service.

We will also remember those who have gone home to the Lord in this last year.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 11-15, 2012

5:30—8:00 p.m.

Are you ready for an **Adventures on Promise Island**, *Where Kids Discover God's Lifesaving Love?* Amidst the swaying palm trees, sandy beach, sunshine and exotic wildlife, kids will learn God's promises never fade, no matter what age we are.

Each day on Promise Island, kids will see God at work in the lives of Old and New Testament Bible people and realize that God's promises are for us too!

Adventures on Promise Island has a strong focus on living what you learn by serving others.

As Standard says, "God's promises never change, but your life definitely will!"

Theme Verse: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:23)

Invite friends! We have the program and are looking for leaders and assistants. See Kathy Hicks.



**Florida Annual
Conference of the
United Methodist
Churches.
June 14 -16**

Lakeland Convention Center

Keep your prayers flowing!



2012 SWEET TASTE OF SUGAR



We had a number of winners from our church family and friends! You'll find them "high-lighted". In celebration of our great cooks, these recipes are available free from the office, or get a recipe book containing all of the 2012 Sweet Taste of Sugar entries for a \$5 donation.

Early Bird Winner! — Andrew Blackwell

Cakes:

- 1st Butter Pound Cake**
by Elizabeth Germer-shausen
- 2nd Butter Pecan Cake**
by Kartice Greaves
- 3rd Key Lime Cheesecake** by Betty Ball

Best of Show Cake:
Three Layer Cake by LaFonda Stewart

People's Favorite Cake:
Red Velvet Cheesecake by Melanie Fletcher

Cookies:

- 1st Three Layers of Heaven**

- 2nd Bailey' Irish Cream Brownies**
by Dana Jo Alley-Vallejo
- 3rd Tie: Sankey's Chocolate Chip Cookies**
by Rachel Mendoza
- Chocolate Macaroons**
by Dave Sankey
- Chocolate Macaroons**
by Denise Hatton

Best of Show Cookie: Red Velvet Brownies
by Sharon Mendoza

People's Favorite Cookie: Three Layers of Heaven
by Dana Jo Alley-Vallejo

Pies:

- 1st Noelle's Banana Cream Pie**
by Noelle Folingno
- 2nd Coconut Cream Pie** by Denise Hatton
- 3rd Buttermilk Pie** by Donald Brady

Best of Show Pie: Coconut Cream Pie
by Denise Hatton

People's Favorite Pie: Quick and Easy Apple Pie
by Alice Whitt

Sweet Creations (any recipe using sugar)

- 1st Southern Sunshine Cheesecake**
by Tina Martin
- 2nd Tarragon Dressing** by Jennifer Bain
- 3rd Brown Sugar Meatloaf**
by Herb Whitt

Best of Show Sweet Creations: Southern Sunshine Cheesecake by Tina Martin

People's Favorite: Pepper jelly with Polish Sausage
by Betty Ball

Youth

- 1st Cream Cheese Banana Nut Bread**
by Alyssa Ralston
- 2nd Sprite Cake** by Madison Bain
- 3rd Apple Dip** by Jonathan Hatton

Best of Show Youth: Cookies and Cream Surprise by Madison Bain

People's Favorite: Apple Dip by Jonathan Hatton

Honorable Mention: Cherry Pie by Bryana Snelgrove

FAMILY LIFE MINISTER



What can we do better to meet the needs of our current church family?

What can we do to be faithful to making disciples for Christ?

In its history, First United Methodist Church has had youth ministers. God has led us to take a step of faith and focus our ministry not only on youth, but on families and young adults as well.

We posted the following job description:

First United Methodist Church of Clewiston is seeking a full-time Youth and Family Minister who can oversee (and to a large degree create) a family ministry. Our dream is to reach and minister to children, youth, and young adults along with their families. The youth and family minister will help create "community" for our families and create an invitational atmosphere.

The job will include hands on work with youth and the creation of a cohesive plan to develop youth, children, young adults, and their families into followers of Christ Jesus. The youth and family pastor will be responsible for developing, recruiting, training, and deploying teams of volunteers to help carry out the ministry.

Applicants must have a personal faith in Jesus Christ, maintain a Christian lifestyle, have strong people skills, excel at relationship building, and have a willingness to work as a team player with both staff and volunteers. Enthusiasm is a must!

The Family Life Ministry Pastor will be responsible for developing and executing a Ministry Program that will contribute to the spiritual growth of our church and will include, but not be limited to,

the execution and hands-on involvement in the following programs:

- ✦ A weekly youth program.
- ✦ Family Events.
- ✦ Singles and young couples events.
- ✦ Seminars or programs for parents and teens.
- ✦ Separate and shared service and mission projects for youth, adults, and families.
- ✦ Develop a Family based ministry.
- ✦ Help with the Children's Ministry as needed.

The Family Life Ministry Pastor will be supervised and mentored by the senior pastor with job description, encouragement, and direction being given by the Staff Parish Committee.

This is an exciting time in the life of our church! After receiving over 180 responses, God led us to bring David Berkley and his family on board as our new Family Life Minister.

David and his family will arrive the third week of May. Please continue to pray for God's anointing on this ministry! Feel free to send notes or messages of welcome!



David Berkley with his wife, Amoreena, and three sons; Josiah (6), Daniel (4) & Timothy (1) will be joining us from the Trenton, N.J. area.

David W. Berkley

91 Longwood Dr; Yardville, NJ 08620
(609) 752-4474
dberkley@liberty.edu

LOVE,CONNECT, EQUIP, SHARE —

these verbs describe

THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH!



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.

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

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God..." 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND CARE

When have you last looked around you in church and:

1) Missed someone who normally sits near you?

Why not call that person later to see if all was OK?

And don't forget to call the church office (983-5269) to let them know if there was a need!

2) There were people you didn't know?

It is out of many of our normal comfort zones, but blessings come from making the effort to introduce yourself and find out their names!

Other things we can do!

A) Introduce them to someone else.

B) Invite them to an appropriate Sunday School Class, or Bible Study, or to our Wednesday Night Dinner.

C) Express interest in worshiping with them again.
D) Ask if they are receiving or would like to receive the church newsletter (get their name, address, etc, into the red pad at the end of the pews!)

E) Invite them to join you for lunch.

It makes a difference when we let people know they are missed. It makes people feel special when someone welcomes them and genuinely reaches out to them.

Remember that we are ALL ministers. We are ALL greeters. We are a family, a church family, and we care!

Marci Propes, - Membership, Nurture, and Care

A NOTE TO WINTER RESIDENTS:

You are going to be sorely missed and we pray that your summer will be as special as you are! We enjoyed your presence this past winter and hope you return in the fall.

Go with God and His blessings!

YOU ALWAYS HAVE A HOME HERE!



United Methodist Women have a busy month planned with **TWO** events scheduled.

FIRST: The Unit meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Arlene Davenport, director of United Way, will talk about United Way and Salvation Army. Come to learn the scope of these programs and how the money you give is used. All women are invited. Friendship Circle will provide refreshments.

SECOND: We are the host church for the South West District UMW meeting on Saturday, May 19, beginning at 9 a.m. with registration and refreshments in the Life Enrichment Center. Nancy Vanderwall of Grace UMC in Venice will lead the morning program and Sissie Lumpkin of Clewiston will lead the afternoon program. Nancy's subject area is Social Action and Sissie's area is Program Resources (the reading program). Personal salvation involves Christian mission and service to the world. Social Action addresses the critical issues facing our communities, our nation and the world. The Reading Program gives us all an excellent opportunity to broaden our understanding of mission and to deepen our spirituality.

For lunch everyone is asked to bring a salad large enough to share. The meeting will conclude at 2-2:30 p.m. Please be praying about how you can help because lots of help will be needed that day.

MAY FLOWER DUTY: Morning Bible Study

ONGOING PROJECT: Remember to bring your "Labels for Education" and plastic bottle caps to each meeting.

OUR PURPOSE: *The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience*

freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

May Flower Duty is Morning Bible Study.

The District UMW Meeting will be hosted at First United Methodist Church in Clewiston, Saturday May 19.

Nancy Vanderwall, Coordinator for Social Action and Sissie Lumpkin, Secretary for Program Resources, are preparing a jam-packed educational and entertaining event. Please arrive between 9-10 a.m. for registration and breakfast. We are asking each lady to bring a salad to share for the luncheon.

June, July August lunches TBA.

On April 18 for Give Back to the Community Week, the Compassion Avenue Food Pantry served nearly 100 families. Volunteers from Florida Virtual School, Christy Anne Vaughan (1st UM) of Clewiston and Ashley Corbitt of LaBelle, served as stickers, backers and carryout service for families under the direction of Alice Whitt. Join us in the challenge to donate the cost of one meal for your family; then Compassion Avenue can feed three families. Compassion Avenue Food Pantry serves families in the surrounding communities with food staples and other assistance every Wednesday from noon until 2 p.m. call 863-983-5269 for more information.





May 6 Chapter 31 - the final chapter! Scott Jones, who has been leading the evening Precepts Bible Study on Revelation, will share the message from the Book of Revelation



Dear Congregation, Thank you for showing Carl the true meaning of community. Your unconditional acceptance helped him become the responsible young man he has become.

Sincerely,

Tom and Sheila Abbott

Pastor Hicks, Thinking of you with thanks to the Lord and praying He blesses you and your congregation always.

Sincerely,

Kathy & Phil Milton

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

Ralph Causseaux	May 2
Jade Galarneau	May 2
Hunter Galarneau	May 3
Martin Crawford	May 5
Katrina Vann	May 5
Ettienne du Plooy	May 6
Matthew Whidden	May 8
Crystal Cruz	May 10
Sophia Santamaria	May 11
Scott Jones	May 13
Nicole Barnes	May 14
Evelyn Jones	May 15
Knox Mack	May 15
Stephan du Plooy	May 18
Elizabeth Germershausen	May 22
Mary Ann Andrews	May 24
Audrey Mila	May 24
Katherine Fabian	May 25
Steven Rudd	May 25
Brandon Tritt	May 25
Robert Rush	May 26
Martha Campbell	May 27
Barbara Wiley	May 30



CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

May 6 – Karlee Lamb and Evelyn Jones
 May 13- Bruce Jones and DJ Adams
 May 20 – Andrew Blackwell and Jessiah Cruz
 May 27 – Evelyn Jones and Bobby Adams

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY

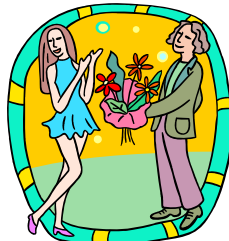


03-16-2012

AND IF IT BE YOUR WILL, PLEASE LET ME
 HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO YOUR RETURN TO
 EARTH ... THAT WOULD BE HUUUUUUUGE!

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Brenda Whidden	May 9
John & Grace Galarneau	May 11
Thomas & Laura Parry	May 11
Herb & Alice Whitt	May 13
R. Alan & Ardis Hammock	May 15
Vince & Lisa Santamaria	May 25



FLOWERS

May 6- Mary Fleming
 May 13- Scott and Laura Jones
 May 20- Open
 May 27- Mitchell and Mary Thomas



GREETERS

8:30 - Everyone
 11:00 - Everyone



REMEMBER, GOD LOVES YOU, AND SO DO WE!!!



*HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL OUR CHURCH SEAT?
INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH AND FIND OUT.*

You can say what you want about the South, but you never hear of anyone retiring and moving north!

May 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 <i>Pizza</i>	3	4	5
6 <i>Scott Jones sharing the Message</i> 	7	8	9 <i>Covered Dish Honoring Dave Sankey</i>	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Missions—Turkey</i>	17	18	19 <i>UMW District Mtg. Youth Day Away</i>
20	21	22	23 <i>Ham</i>	24	25	26 <i>Church Picnic at Lake Placid</i>
27 <i>Memorial Day Service</i>	28 <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	29	30 <i>Herb's Award Winning Meatloaf</i>	31		



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>



I LOVE TO LAUGH !

*He will yet fill your mouth with laughter
and your lips with shouts of joy.”*

JOB 8:21