



336 South Halifax Drive  
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JULY 2023

I was having lunch with someone the other day, and they said August was their least favorite time of year because there aren't many sports in August. I told him that I loved August; it was my favorite time of year for sports. I am full of hope for my team is undefeated, and I know this year will be good. Of course, come Labor Day, that may all change.

I also loved the start of school. When I was a kid, it was exciting to get all the new school supplies, and I loved catching up with all my friends to hear about how their summer went and to share my stories.

We love telling people our stories. We show them pictures from our trip out west or wherever. We post what we like, agree with, or are angry about on social media. We really do share a lot of stuff about ourselves...

**Except for faith.**

We keep that to ourselves for the most part.

Take a look below at this social media meme that has been making its way through UMC circles.



Wow. I can only get 6%. An organized visitation team gets 6%. Our bridge signs, newspaper, and social media ads get 2%. When you are talking about your faith, your church, your passion for Jesus - now we're up to 86%

Do the math!  
Have a conversation today.  
Invite someone to church.

The August 13-27 sermon series is "Embraced by Grace." We are looking at John 8:1-11, the woman caught in adultery. It is a perfect time to invite someone to church.

Grace and Peace,  
*Scott*



## Youth Mission Trip to Brevard County



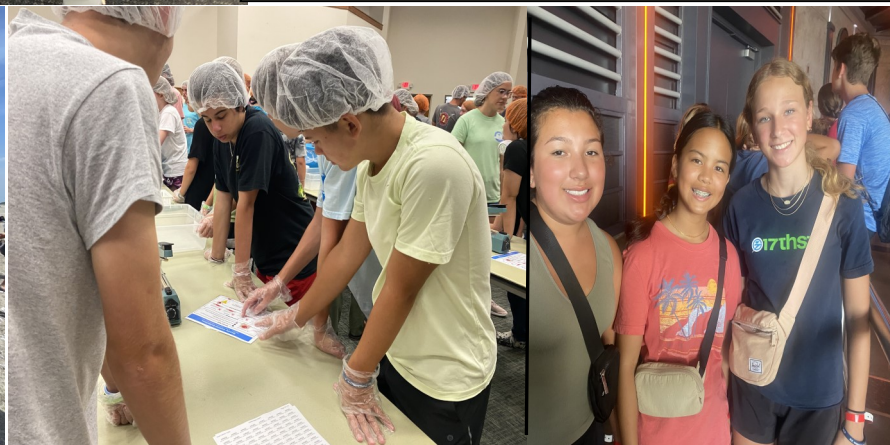
From July 9th to 14th, a group of fifteen young individuals from our church embarked on a mission trip to Brevard County, Florida.

In collaboration with five other youth groups hailing from Alabama, Virginia, and Florida, they formed a collective force of one hundred energetic youths. Their primary objective throughout the week was to lend a helping hand to the community by engaging in diverse projects at numerous non-profit organizations.

In addition to their charitable efforts, they undertook a beach clean-up initiative and contributed their time to pack meals for the organization called "Feeding Children Everywhere." Most of these meals were designated for families residing in the Ormond Beach area.

Their daily routine commenced with a wake-up call at 7:30 a.m. and a wholesome breakfast. Subsequently, the group split into smaller teams and dispersed to various worksites, where they tirelessly labored until 4:30 p.m. Each evening was characterized by shared dinners, spiritual worship, and a particularly memorable dance party on Wednesday night.

The youths would like to express their sincere gratitude to the members of our church family for their unwavering prayers and support throughout this endeavor.



### THE EIGHT DECADES CLUB

We are highlighting those wonderful seniors in our church that have reached that young age of 80 or over. Send them a card, or if you see them, wish them a Happy Birthday.

Jul 20—Linda Underwood—1412 Kilrush Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-2882

Jul 21—Coco Lewis—40 Spring Meadows Dr, Ormond Beach FL 32174-1541

Aug 1—George Smith—1033 Chaffee Pl, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3601

Aug 2—Dorma Stanley—53 Creek Bluff Way, Ormond Beach FL 32174

Aug 2—Pat Templeton—273 Braeburn Cir, Daytona Beach FL 32114

Aug 9—Tom Cartledge—417 Beach St, Ormond Beach FL 32174-5302

Aug 12—Jenny Pauley—1155 Ocean Shore Blvd., #501, Ormond Beach FL 32176-3747

Aug 15—Ann Oakley—221 Boylston Ave, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3323

Aug 15—Carol Dearth—3390 Ocean Shore Blvd, #204, Ormond Beach FL 32176-2140

Aug 19—Marge Lippert—336 Woodland Ave, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3344

Aug 26—Jerry Hiatt—290 Morningside Ave, Daytona Beach FL 32118-3318

Aug 30—Don Willis—3719 Longford Cir, Ormond Beach FL 32174-2805

Aug 31—Charmar Simes—636 Main Trl, Ormond Beach FL 32174-8510

If you know of a name that should be on the list, or if a correction is needed, please let Frank Johnston know at :

[fjohnston@firstunited.org](mailto:fjohnston@firstunited.org)

**Adventure Week 2023** proved to be an enormous triumph, as more than 108 children eagerly took part. Throughout the week of June 19th to the 23rd, nearly 100 adult and youth helpers generously supported and supervised their activities.

The financial objective for the week was to raise \$1500 to purchase car seats for the Ormond Beach Police program. These car seats are given to drivers pulled over for not having their child properly restrained but lacking the means to afford a car seat. Remarkably, one child was so deeply moved by this initiative that she selflessly donated \$120 to show support as she wanted the kids to be safe.

With the children's collective efforts, the fundraising goal was met, leading to Pastor Scott graciously accepting a pie in the face from Leah Bagwell. Family Ministries Director Caitlin Bookwalter joined the fun the following day by spraying his hair pink.

As the Adventure Week drew to a close on that Friday, additional volunteers gathered at the church to diligently clean up the elaborate decorations throughout the premises.

Caitlin extends her heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers and those who contributed financially to the Donation Wall. Their involvement has made a significant difference and is genuinely valued.



## Faithful Servants at First United

Periodically, we honor a church member that has contributed faithful service to the church over many years.

This month, we honor:

### Mark Whitehouse



**You've probably walked past him many times and yet, not known his story. He is truly a Faithful Servant in our church.**

**This is his story...**

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, as the second of two sons. My Dad, T.C. Whitehouse, was a Methodist minister. My mom, Libby Whitehouse, supported our family and also sang in the choir, where she was the soprano soloist. When I was five, we moved to Columbus, Ohio, where my Dad led the Third Avenue Methodist Church.

Looking back on my life, I can identify a multitude of events that I identify as "Acts of God," which had an impact on my life and the lives of others. Those acts range from the simple to the more complex. I was often not aware of what they were at the time or how the love of God impacts the lives of people. I have especially taken note of relationships that have evolved through the years.

How did I end up helping with the video camera for FUMC Sunday worship? My family had deep roots in media, starting in the 1950s. In addition to serving Broadway Methodist Church in Cleve-

land, my Dad also had a radio show called "The Pastor's Study."

When we moved to Columbus in 1955, in addition to serving the Third Avenue Methodist Church, he helped produce and host several TV shows.

He also received his Master's Degree in Religious Broadcasting. We moved to Massachusetts in 1959, where he became Director of Radio and Television for the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

My brother, Tom, also worked in the television field. The last thing he did before he died in 1977 was to shoot film of the America's Cup races in Newport, Rhode Island.

I had planned to follow a path similar to theirs in TV direction and production. At Centenary Methodist Church, which my family and future wife belonged to in Massachusetts, I produced videos of forums held after the morning service, as well as weddings and funeral services.

In the early 1970s, my career took a different path. Driving has always been one of my favorite activities, so I worked as a driving instructor. After I had been at it a while, the driving school where I worked wanted an instructor to teach people with disabilities. Now that was when folks with disabilities realized they needed independence to live and work to be more than second-class citizens.

I eventually developed a special division of the driving school that assisted individuals with disabilities to maximize their independence. The school was sold to a new owner who did not share my vision for my career. I left that school behind and started Adaptive Driving Program, Inc. It was the only driving school in Massachusetts (and later in Rhode Island) that specialized in working with people with disabilities or special needs.

My wife, Tricia, joined me in running the program, and we both instructed for almost thirty-five years. We transformed many lives for those with learning disabilities and restored the ability to drive for those who had sustained a stroke, traumatic injury, or progressive illness.

My parents were a significant influence in my choosing my career. They always supported me in what I wanted to do. From my early years, I always wanted to help people. I suppose it wasn't until I started teaching (driving) myself that I realized how teaching should work.

My parents assisted me in buying my first driver-training car. They knew that I, and later Tricia, saw what we did as a calling, not just a job.

Shortly after we retired and moved to Florida in 2019, I joined the choir at FUMC because I enjoy singing, as I had sung in two other choirs back in Massachusetts.

I was at choir rehearsal when Sherry Fisher said they were looking for people to join the tech crew, particularly camera operators. Wow! Yes! That would be me. I love it because while it is a worship service, it is like working in a live TV studio!

I relish my role in the life of FUMC. I love working with the tech crew, the clergy, and the choir.

Finally, First United has given Tricia and me opportunities to be of service by attending Beach Side Baptisms, volunteering with Reading Aloud with Partners at Westside Elementary School, helping out with the Easter Egg Hunt at Westside Elementary, Super Serve Sunday at The Beacon Center, grocery bag "building" with Halifax Urban Ministries, and the Blood One drives.

We love it here!

Scott Smith, Senior Pastor

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**We need your help** in providing suggestions for our newsletter. We will be publishing it each month and we need your help in writing articles and news stories. Contact Will McLaughlin, <willmcla@gmail.com>