



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Vol 30 . No. 1

January 2021

January is a Fifth Sunday Month

As 2021 provides a fresh start, we are excited to start off the new year with a Fifth Sunday Offering. Especially in the midst of a global pandemic, we rely on the generosity of churches and individuals to continue to support the ministry of the Children's Home as we seek to serve those who have experienced a variety of traumatic events. In our most recent Fifth Sunday video, which is available on our channel at www.youtube.com (search for "Florida United Methodist Children's Home"), Rebekah shines a light on the therapeutic work that both she and other Child and Family Therapists provide at the Children's Home. Not only does she share about the myriad of effects that trauma has had on our children, she also speaks to the ways in which God continues to use the Children's Home to transform lives. We ask that you share this video as a part of your worship service, whether you are meeting in-person or virtually, as well as on your social media channels. Whether you received printed supplies, electronic supplies, or a combination of the two, you can use these resources to help highlight the wonderful ministry of the Children's Home that your church continues to make possible. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children and families, and we are excited to see how God uses your support to change more lives in 2021!

Church Fifth Sunday Supplies: Your Response Is Needed

We are setting our plan for Fifth Sunday supplies for 2021, in an effort to be the best stewards of everyone's resources. With churches still operating on a modified schedule during this pandemic, we wanted to reach out and get updated order numbers from you. We recognize things will probably change yet again as the year progresses—hopefully for the positive! Rather than trying to reach out to 600+ churches every time we approach a new Fifth Sunday, our plan is to use whatever order you give us now for your future Fifth Sunday orders. Whenever things change and you would like to adjust your order, please just send us an email or give us a call and we will be happy to make the adjustment then.

We want these supplies to be beneficial to your church's needs, so there are options for you to customize the order. First off, we offer electronic versions of our inserts and posters on our website at <https://www.fumch.org/making-a-difference/church-relations/>. If you would like to switch to electronic supplies in lieu of receiving the printed ones, please let us know so that we can cancel your print order.

If you decide, instead, that printed supplies are beneficial for you, we want to get an accurate count of how many your congregation currently needs. We ask that you email ryan.frack@fumch.org to let us know how many of the following items you would like to receive: bulletin inserts, posters, and mailing envelopes. *If you do not respond, you will continue to receive the same amount of supplies as are reflected in our records.* We need responses by **January 29th**, as we place our order the following week. **Even if you responded to our request for order changes several months back, we need a response again to make sure our records stay accurate.** Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your response and all you do to support our children in need.

(More on back...)

Virtual LCR Workshop on February 25

To help Local Church Representatives (LCR) acclimate themselves to the role and to connect with one another, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home typically holds a number of in-person LCR Workshops at the beginning of the year. Instead of in-person, **this year's LCR event will be virtual**. We will engage with LCRs and share about the ministry of the Children's Home, discuss roles and responsibilities of the LCR in the church, and discuss the upcoming virtual Day on Campus event in March. Whether you are a new LCR at your church or a seasoned vet, this will be a great time for you to hear about the ministry of the Children's Home and learn about the expectations of the role.

The virtual LCR Workshop will be held via ZOOM on February 25 at 12pm. To attend, please RSVP to ryan.frack@fumch.org and you will be sent information and a link for the ZOOM event. For those unable to attend the live ZOOM, we will make a recording available for later viewing. We'll look forward to seeing you at the workshop!

Enjoy the Ultimate Giving Experience

Similar to finding your perfect coffee blend, there is a way to blend your personal philanthropy that is right for you. All of us have different situations and needs, so why should we settle on the idea that we all should give just the same way? Giving to the causes you care about, like the Children's Home, can be as special and unique as you. The idea is that you make a starting gift with a current gift of cash, securities or real estate. Then you find the planned gift method that works best for your situation, maybe a bequest or a charitable trust. With a planned gift, you set it up now and enjoy the benefits and security during your lifetime, and you get the satisfaction of knowing your planned gift will make a big difference by adding to the gift you already started.

To learn about the different ways you can create a custom gift, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at 386.753.2066, or at plannedgiving@fumch.org. You can also visit www.fumchlegacy.org.

Testimonial From a Child

"I just wanted to write a note of thanks to you for helping to make my Christmas a mere bit more enjoyable. I did not have a very wonderful Christmas. My family and I have been going through many months of pain. Due to these circumstances, I was unable to join my family at Christmas. This was extremely hard for me to deal with – being away from my family at Christmas. But the Children's Home stepped in during this difficult time and gave me strength.

The Children's Home has changed me so much and I don't think I could ever repay the caring and kindness that I have received while here. They've helped me realize that I do have a lot of strength on the inside. Through the rough times, the Children's Home stepped in and walked me through the rough spots. When I started to fall, once again they picked me up and carried my back onto the straight road. I know I would not be the strong person I am today if it was not for the Children's Home. I know that someday I shall return to give of myself to thank everyone so much for caring about me and always being there for me."

Save the Date: March 27, Day on Campus

One of the most special days in the life of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is our annual Day on Campus. We are excited to share that we will be holding a **virtual Day on Campus on March 27**, and we ask that you save the date. We hope you will plan to join us for this special event from the comfort of your own home. We will share more information as the date approaches.

Current Resident Needs

- Cantu brand shampoo and conditioner
- Cantu brand leave-in conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Male deodorant
- Boxer shorts (male sizes S and M)
- Bar soap
- Dish cloths
- Hair picks (male comb)
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Alarm clocks (no radio)