VOL 35. NO. 1 JANUARY 2026

THE LINK

LCR SPOTLIGHT ON JULIE RATLIFF FROM BURTON MEMORIAL UMC

Burton Memorial has been supporting Residing Hope for a very long time - for over 60 years. I have been blessed to be a third generation LCR (Local Church Representative) for 22 years, following in the footsteps of my father and grandfather before me. It's an honor and a blessing to serve as LCR here in the Florida Keys.



My earliest memories of Residing Hope are from when I was a child growing up in Tavernier in Burton Memorial UMC. On Sunday mornings during assembly time before Sunday School, we would sing happy birthday to anyone celebrating a birthday from the previous week or upcoming week. During the song, the birthday person would put their coins in a coin bank in the shape of a church; one coin for each year of their age. These coins would go to Residing Hope. It was a great way to learn about the importance of this ministry as a child and to also be able to support it with our coin offerings.

I remember that Fifth Sunday offerings were important to our congregation then just as they are now. We start promoting the wonderful work and life changing ministries of Residing Hope and Madison Youth Ranch on the fourth Sunday so that our congregation comes prepared the following week for the Fifth Sunday offering. The inserts are in both Sundays' bulletins so that everyone can give, even if they are not present on one of the two Sundays. The informative and moving videos of the personal stories of the children and youth are appreciated by our church members; thank you to our Residing Hope team members for producing these great videos!

As you can see in the picture, we have a "penny jug" for donations for Residing Hope that is always present and visible at the front of our sanctuary. It is moved to a more prominent place on the first Sunday of every month as we walk up to partake in Holy Communion. We put our coins and dollars in the jug as we receive Communion. Children love to drop their coins in there before and during our worship service and listen to the sounds the coins make as they are dropped in!

We have a long and rich history of partnering with Residing Hope and we look forward to continuing to partner for many more years to come as we share the transforming love of Christ with all God's children.

Julie Ratliff, Local Church Representative, Burton Memorial United Methodist Church

THANK YOU!

We have had another phenomenal Christmas season due to your amazing generosity! Mere mortal words really cannot adequately express our love and appreciation for you all! You certainly traveled that extra mile with our children and youth as you self-sacrificially gave from the depths of your hearts. Thank you for all the gifts, gift cards, goodies, meals and special events throughout the Christmas season!

DAYS OF HOPE ARE COMING SOON!

Join us for a Day of Hope on Saturday, February 21st or Thursday, March 19th. This year we are giving you two options to join us! Each Day of Hope is an opportunity for you to connect with Residing Hope, learn about the impact you are making possible, and engage with our youth. This year, there will be multiple walking tours to see residential cottages and other sites around our campus, so wear comfortable shoes. Golf carts will be available to assist those with mobility issues. There will also be two rounds of breakout sessions again, as well as a closing program. **Be sure to complete the RSVP form online, including which of the breakout sessions you'll be attending.**

A few noted changes for this year include opportunities to participate in projects typically done by our volunteers. We have also eliminated the award portion of the closing ceremony. Instead, the awards will be presented at the respective churches associated with the awards so congregations can share in the celebration.

Schedule of Events

10:00 Gates Open
10:15 Walking Tours Begin
10:30 – 11:00 First Round of Breakout Sessions
11:15 – 11:45 Second Round of Breakout Sessions
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch in the Gym
12:30 Program in the Gym featuring our Youth

Round One Breakout Sessions

What makes a Trauma Informed Ministry?
Foster Care Services as Residing Hope?
Getting Involved?

Round Two Breakout Sessions

What makes a Trauma Informed Ministry?
Foster Care – Panel Discussion with Foster Parents
Planned Giving 101

For more information and to RSVP, visit our website.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Noise-canceling Headphones,
towels, and washcloths

Residing Hope

Transforming young lives through the love of Christ



Congratulations to Yolaine, our new Director of Clinical Services. Yolaine started with Residing Hope as a therapist in 2010, later becoming responsible for all of our admissions. Along the way she earned her MA in Counseling as well as becoming a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC). Now that Yolaine has taken over Clinical Services, we are looking to hire an Admissions Specialist. Until that time, all admission questions should be directed to placements@residinghope.org.