

# The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | JULY 2026



## From Sally Ogburn

Lay Delegate to FLUMC Annual Conference 2026

As a life-long Methodist, I sometimes smile and say that I am a heavy-duty Methodist. My faith journey began in my UMYF group in Miami. I went to Florida Southern College, where I studied Religion! This year provided my first invitation to attend the Annual Conference. The days were packed with special experiences.

With the theme of “Faith Rising,” there were hours of worship in an auditorium with hundreds of people joining in songs of different styles and in different languages. Just to hear the whole auditorium sing the doxology with harmony from the musicians onstage was an elevated experience of worship. The messages from our Bishop, Tom Berlin, and others were inspiring and educational. And to say they were motivating would be an understatement.

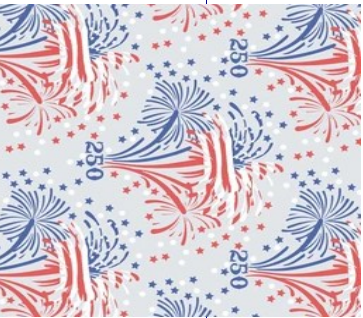
Noteworthy: The Conference celebrated the 70th anniversary of women being ordained as clergy in our denomination. I didn’t realize it had been that long.

There were updates on many aspects of our Florida Conference, and information on initiatives and ministry growth opportunities in the coming days. Reports were received, business was conducted, and votes were taken on 3 resolutions, with 2 passing and one referred to a committee. More detailed information on these will be available soon.

The final session on Saturday was for Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination. This gathering of clergy, with 27 men and women answering God’s call to dedicate themselves fully to his service, truly felt like standing on holy ground!

This is not a detailed report. There is a wealth of information to be shared as we go along. I will look forward to doing that. This describes just a small part of my experience as your delegate, and it was indeed a blessing!



| Sun                                                                                                           | Mon                                             | Tue                                                        | Wed                                                                                                   | Thu                                                             | Fri                           | Sat                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| July 2026                                                                                                     |                                                 |                                                            |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |                               |                                           |
|                            |                                                 |                                                            |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |                               |                                           |
|                             |                                                 |                                                            |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |                               |                                           |
| 5<br>9am Heavenly Hash<br>10:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Adventure Kids<br>11:15am Fellowship             | 6<br>7pm AA Meeting                             | 7<br>3pm Feed the Hungry                                   | 8<br>5:30pm Choir Practice                                                                            | 9<br>9:30am P/S Music<br>10am Christ Quilters                   | 10<br>1:30pm P/S Wild Wonders | 11<br>5pm Possibilities Plus Career Share |
|                           |                                                 |                                                            |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |                               |                                           |
| 12<br>9am Heavenly Hash<br>10:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Adventure Kids<br>11:15am Fellowship            | 13<br>7pm AA Meeting                            | 14<br>6:30 pm UWF—Unit Meeting<br>Hosted by Freedom Circle | 15<br>10am P/S Princess Program<br>3:30pm Worship Design<br>5:30pm Choir Practice<br>6pm Messy Church | 16<br>9:30am P/S Music<br>10am Christ Quilters                  | 17<br>1:30pm P/S Wild Wonders | 18<br>5pm Possibilities Plus Career Share |
| 19 ** Beam **<br>9am Heavenly Hash<br>10:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Adventure Kids<br>11:15am Fellowship | 20<br>7pm AA Meeting                            | 21                                                         | 22<br>10am P/S Princess Program<br>5:30pm Choir Practice                                              | 23<br>9:30am P/S Music<br>10am Christ Quilters                  | 24                            | 25                                        |
| 26<br>9am Heavenly Hash<br>10:15am Worship Service<br>10:30am Adventure Kids<br>11:15am Fellowship            | 27<br>7pm Congregational Care<br>7pm AA Meeting | 28<br>7pm R-Coordiators                                    | 29<br>10am P/S Chapel                                                                                 | 30<br>9:30am P/S Music<br>10am Christ Quilters<br>1pm Book Club | 31                            |                                           |
|                             |                                                 |                                                            |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |                               |                                           |

**CHRIST United Methodist Church**  
400 Penman Rd, Neptune Beach, FL 32266  
(904) 249-5370 • christumcnb.org

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Grow your faith and connect with our church family.

JULY MISSION HIGHLIGHT

## Supporting Special Families

Our Mission Highlight for July is The Developmental Learning Center (DLC) and PossAbilities Plus, two Jacksonville organizations that reflect God’s love by serving individuals with unique abilities and their families.

The DLC is a faith-based nonprofit preschool and childcare center where

children of all abilities are nurtured and taught at their own pace. Founded more than 30 years ago through the support of Murray Hill United Methodist Church, DLC continues to provide exceptional care and education in a loving, Christ-centered environment. PossAbilities Plus is a local nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives of adults with intellectual and

developmental disabilities through meaningful programs, community engagement, and opportunities to build independence, friendships, and purpose.

Thank you for supporting these ministries through your prayers and generosity!

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

## Summer Camp is Here!

Our campers head to Camp Warren Willis on Monday, July 20! Please keep our campers, counselors, staff, and families in your prayers as they prepare for a week of faith, fun, and growth.

A special thank you to our incredible Tetrazzini Ladies and everyone who helped make camp possible this year. Although Camp Warren Willis was unable to fully fund all

scholarship requests, the generosity of our church family ensured that all six CUMC campers will be able to attend!

If you’d like to help future campers, Camp Warren Willis accepts year-round donations to its scholarship fund at [campww.org](http://campww.org). Thank you for investing in the children of CUMC! Hanna Thomas, Family Ministry Coordinator

CALLING ALL LADIES

## Sew & More

The ladies of the Thursday morning “sew and more” group have crafted 20 patriotic-themed pillowcases for the veterans of Beach House in Jacksonville Beach. Every resident veteran will receive a beautiful patriotic pillowcase for their use. Also crafted were 8 patriotic quilted centerpieces for use in the dining room for all to enjoy. Thank you, ladies!

This group meets most Thursdays in the Wilson Hall multi-purpose room at 10 AM. If you enjoy sewing or quilting, come and be part of the group.



CUMC FAMILY

## July Celebrations!

**Birthdays**

- 2** Christina Roiz
- 8** Janet Friend  
Brian Land  
Virginia Sherrill
- 18** Hanna Thomas
- 21** Allison Duba  
Evie Munger
- 22** Cindy Kastner
- 23** TJ Trefry
- 24** Chris Thompson  
Mark Scott
- 25** Brian Walker
- 26** Johnna Ware
- 29** Tanya Roche

CALLING ALL LADIES

## United Women in Faith News

Summer is here, and we do slow down a bit! The Circles do not have meetings planned for July and August, with the exception of the Freedom Circle. Freedom treats us all to a delightful Social evening on Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 PM. Come enjoy cobbles, ice cream, and each other!

Susan Peters from Possibilities Plus spoke at our June 24th Unit Meeting,

where we presented her with a check. Indulge us in a plug for the lovely Cup of Dreams Tearoom at Possibilities Plus. Have you enjoyed it? If not, have a fun lunch with friends there this summer. The tearoom serves Tuesday - Saturday from 10:30 to 2:30....soup, salad, sandwiches.

On Monday, July 20, we will host a birthday party for Pablo Towers.

Helpers, please be there by 5:30 PM. And mark Wednesday, August 19, on your calendar. We will have a day trip and tour—more information to come.

Lastly, as many of you have been asking, Rummage Sale 2026 is September 11 and 12, so plan ahead! Unfortunately, we can not accept any donations until the last week of August.

SUMMER FUN

## Messy Church in July

The next Messy Church will be on July 15. Come out and have some summer fun while learning how much God loves you. Dinner starts at 6 PM, and word has it that we are having corn dogs! Yummy! Dinner, lesson, and fun activities all finished by 7 PM. Come on and join us, this event is for EVERYONE!

Questions or if you would like to volunteer, call:  
Sally Ogburn 904-703-3424  
Kathy Scott 904-612-4361  
Brittani Laski 402-305-2748

## VBS Thank You!

A big thank you to all those who helped make VBS “Hero Central” a success this year. So much fun was had by all, and our family-style, one-room, evening VBS is perfect for Christ UMC! Believe it or not, we are already looking forward to VBS 2027! Thank you, Hanna Thomas, Family Ministry Coordinator

## Book Club

Our next Book Club selection is The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. Join us on July 30, at 1 PM as we discuss this captivating historical novel. Then for August and September, we'll read The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson, a fascinating and highly readable non-fiction look at the events leading up to the American Civil War. We'll gather to discuss it on September 24. Happy reading!

FACILITATING FELLOWSHIP

## Help Keep Our Fellowship Table Full!

Don’t rush off after Sunday morning worship! Join us in Wilson Hall each week for a hot or cold drink, friendly fellowship, and a light bite to eat. It’s the perfect way to connect with friends, meet someone new, and enjoy some oatmeal or a sweet treat.

Help Keep Our Fellowship Table Full!  
Our Sunday fellowship time is made possible by the generosity of our church family. If you’d like to help, here are a few easy ways:

- Share a favorite homemade treat that you love to make.
- Contribute to the donation jar on the fellowship table.
- Purchase an item from our shopping list below.

Every gift, big or small, helps create a warm and welcoming time of fellowship. Thank you for your generosity!

Fellowship Shopping List:  
(Watch for sales and BOGOs!)

- Ground coffee (regular or decaf, unflavored)
- Refrigerated coffee creamers
- Chocolate chips (regular or mini)
- Freezer-friendly or shelf-stable snacks like muffins, cookies, crackers, etc.
- Fresh fruit (bananas, strawberries, grapes, and blueberries are always fan favorites!)

Label donations with “fellowship” and drop them off in the church office or bring them to the kitchen on Sunday morning. Questions? Contact Laura Williams by text or call at 904-614-1485.

SECURITY CORNER

## Door Locking Pain

Have you thought about how frustrating it is to arrive at the church only to find the doors locked when you’ve forgotten your key? Well, join the crowd.

The reason Christ UMC keeps all doors locked, except when monitored by ushers, is straightforward: our security policy prioritizes the safety of our congregants and facility. All entrances are monitored by security cameras, allowing staff to verify visitors before granting access. Furthermore, the Neptune Beach Police Department has trained our Security Task Team on lockdown protocols, confirming

that keeping doors secured is a best practice for deterring unauthorized access and maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

All doors are not only locked but monitored by security cameras, which record everyone who approaches an outside door. This allows employees to know who to let in and who we may not want in the building.

Locking doors is the primary deterrent for ensuring safety in both churches and schools. Documentation consistently demonstrates that securing not only entry points but also interior

classroom doors is a proven life-saving measure against active threats.

If you happen to forget your church keys or need access to the building without one, please head to the main office and press the intercom button. Our staff, who monitor the security cameras, will be happy to assist you and grant you entry.

Yes, door locking can be a pain, but not keeping doors locked can be very painful.

Stay Alert. Stay Alive