



WHAT'S HAPPENING

First Congregational Church
of Winter Park

Visit our website: fccwp.org

Newsletter December 2021

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Christmas Eve Services

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

- 5:00 P.M. – Family Christmas Eve Service*
- 9:00 P.M. – Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight*

SUNDAY, December 26:

- 10:00 A.M. – Pajama Day and Carol Sing*

(*No Childcare will be provided on Christmas Eve or Sunday, 12/26)

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE?

Click the link below and let us know what board (or boards) you would be interested in serving on.

<https://onrealm.org/fccwp/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZGIxYjA5ODQtZmM5YS00MTJmLTk5NmItYWRkZDaxNThjM2Iw>

- This link will take you to an “event” that you will “register” for.
- What you are *really* doing is letting us know what boards interest you.
- Some of the boards have positions available for 1, 2, or 3 yr. terms.
- Even if you are currently serving on a board, let us know what other boards pique your interest (for future years 😊.)

Attached is a description of each board. You may prefer to print this out and turn-in the paper form.

[Click for Form](#)

Stewardship Campaign 2022

Be Part of the MIRACLE!

Have you noticed how our church has worked this past year in miraculous ways? Have you noticed connections between members that strengthened over the Covid-19 pandemic that you never expected? Have you seen creativity emerge in ways you never thought possible? Have you seen the behind the scenes work that has carried our church through unthinkable times?

FCCWP is alive and well and is part of a **MIRACLE!** We are the church! Be part of the future of FCCWP! Our pledging this year is more important than ever and is a huge way we can lead our church into the future. Let's work together to be God's presence in our world!

MEMBERSHIP BOARD NEWS

first congregational church
of winter park



The Board of Membership is looking for a few new faces to serve on our Board in the next year! Please let Lisa Rotenberger know if you're thinking you might like to help our church in this way! It is a great way to serve our church and meet new people.

For more information, please email Lisa Rotenberger at dlrotenwp@aol.com!



All active FCCWP Members are invited to join the Facebook page titled Member Group of the First Congregational (UCC) of Winter Park



W.I.N.G.S.

—
Worth Insight Nurture Growth
Spirit

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10:15am. Youth will be combining with all ages outside for the month of Dec. For those interested at 10:45 all will participate in the Christmas Eve pageant prep.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Dec. 26 & Jan. 2. Youth will stay in church for special services.

Youth - Sign up now to be part of the Christmas Pageant

O.W.L. - We have one gathering Dec. 12th 5-7pm

If you have any questions please contact Kerry Weisner at sunshineday365@aol.com.



Children Pre K - 5th JOIN US FOR CAMP SUNDAY SCHOOL. CAMP begins each week after young church about 10:15.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Dec. 26 & Jan. 2. Children will stay in church for special services.

If you have any questions please contact Kerry Weisner at sunshineday365@aol.com.



**All Church Christmas Party & Advent Workshop
December 5, 2021**

Celebrate Christmas together at FCCWP.

Two can't miss events have been combined into one festive celebration.

Lunch of Shephard's Pie, salads and dessert are FREE!
Dietary options will be available.

**All ages are invited to visit craft tables where
YOU make the crafts.**

Contact Kerry Weisner
Faith Formation Director at sunshineday365@aol.com if you are
interested in **running a craft table.**

CLICK HERE TO MAKE CHRISTMAS LUNCH RESERVATIONS



As we say our goodbyes to our Jeremiah Project, it's gratifying to receive kind reviews from our partners. Jeremiah Project Executive Director, Liz Kitchens received the attached email from the Caberbe Joseph (CJ), the art director of the Youth Arts Initiative through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

Letter from Boys and Girls Club

**FCCWP WOMEN,
COME ALIVE!**



Upcoming Events for Come Alive! Join us and bring a friend!

12-8-2021

Angel Tree Dinner and Donation Collection at Buca di Beppo in Maitland, 6:30-8:30PM. Please mark your calendars and save the date.

2-23-2022

Come Alive! celebrates it's 3rd anniversary! Be watching for special plans to be announced for February's event.



Come Alive! has had a busy year both online and in person! Perhaps you got to join in on the first day of Spring at Leu Gardens! Maybe you had a ball at the Summer Social at the Imperial Wine Bar or our Dessert and Wine Social on the church porch. This fall, perhaps you played a game with friends while enjoying pizza at the park, enjoyed the beautiful lakes on the Winter Park Boat Tour, or found your joy in buying a Thanksgiving meal for another family in Basket Brigade! And we end this beautiful year with our Angel Tree dinner on December 8th! We are thankful for this very amazing group of women. We wish you a very Merry Christmas. We rejoice in the friendships, the fun, the connectedness and the impact we can make when we work together in love! In the new year, we look forward to February when we celebrate the third anniversary of Come Alive!

With love,
Amy, Kathryn and Lisa



The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is a custom that FCCWP practices every year at Christmas. The tree benefits children living at the Great Oaks Children's Home and LGBTQ youth at the Zebra Coalition.

Great Oaks is a residential foster group home for children ages 6-18 who have been removed from their homes by the court. The facility is run by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services. Usually there are 40-50 children living in the home at any one time. We get a list of the children at Great Oaks that includes their age, their gender, the cottage they live in, and their top two gift wishes. Church members provide the requested gift for each child.

We also do gift certificates that the home is free to decide how these

gift certificates are best used. They may be used to help an aging out teen to set up a home or to help Great Oaks make acquisitions to better serve the youth. We are planning six Great Oaks Aging Out Baskets that include household items like kitchen towels, soap, dishes, cookware, etc. as well as hygiene items that are placed into the laundry baskets and given to teens aging out to help set up their new homes.

We are continuing a tradition started in 2019, providing \$25 gift cards for Zebra Coalition youth. LGBTQ youth ages 13-24 will be provided a gift card for the holiday. Zebra Coalition helps with housing for about forty youth, but the coalition also serves many more teens with counseling and other services. COVID 19 has put these youth at greater risk.

FCCWP Angel Tree 2021 and the Zebra Coalition Gifts will be virtual. All gift items are on Sign-up Genius for you to select one or multiple items that you will provide. Our ask is that the commitment is honored so that no child is left without a gift. Just drop off at the main office after church or any normal business day during business hours

(If you are hesitant about using the Sign-up Genius, contact Theo Webster with questions or for help 407 310-1174 or email twebster49@gmail.com .)

It's easy.

- 1. Sign-up on the Sign-up Genius or contact Theo for help. At this link: [Angel Tree Link](#)**
- 2. Get your chosen gift/s for the youth.**
- 3. Attach the e-mail confirmation to the gift from Genius and drop off at the First Congregational Church of Winter Park main office no later than December 19 during normal business hours or after church. We must have these gifts no later than *December 19 11:30 am.***

Merry Christmas!

SPIRIT KEEPERS

First Congregational Church of Winter Park Men's Group



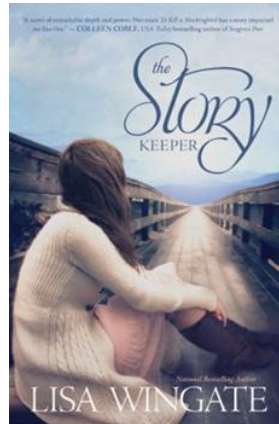
We have had a tremendous year with our intergenerational men's group, "Spirit Keepers". Our most recent project in conjunction with Sally McArthur's book philanthropy was assembling and painting 5 Little Free Libraries. It was a great project that included over 11 who helped in various ways. We are going strong and look forward to all the service, social and spiritual events coming in 2022!



Basket Brigade 2021 was a huge success this year and we want to thank everyone who helped with this collaborative project with Ward Chapel and FCCWP! We were also very excited to have participation

from Walker and Company and University Club of Winter Park. We collected 84 baskets, 3 gift cards, and a monetary donation. The drive thru event was a great showing and time to give a Thanksgiving hello despite the rainy morning. Thank you for the special emails and reflections shared as well.

For info about the Spirit Keepers mens' group contact David Rotenberger (D3) at 407-766-5558.



ELIZABETH HOOKER BOOK CLUB DECEMBER

The book club will not be meeting for December. The next meeting is January 23rd when we will be sharing Linda Sue Parks *A Long Walk to Water*.

A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

If you have suggestions for books for the group to read, please contact Amy Wareing (abwareing@gmail.com).

[Click here for Book Club schedule 2022](#)



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

LIVE STREAMING OF CHURCH SERVICES



READ THIS BEFORE UNSUBSCRIBING TO WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please note that if you unsubscribe to any Constant Contact emails from FCCWP you are unsubscribing from all emails from the church. For example, if you receive an email from Family Ministries that no longer applies to you and you no longer wish to receive, please call the church office to have your name removed from that particular list. If you unsubscribe to Family Ministries (or any other group), you are removed from all lists, including the What's Happening newsletters. Best to just delete the email that doesn't interest you.



UCC FLORIDA CONFERENCE

