

the Pine Cone

A Monthly Publication of Killian Pines United Methodist Church

Welcome! Welcome!! Welcome!!!

Dr. Ed Brown, Worship Committee

The year 2020 is ending and we are excited to be presenting a new beginning of *The Pinecone*, Killian Pines' very own monthly newsletter, our way of keeping you, our members and readers engaged, informed, and inspired. *The Pinecone* will be a vehicle of communication for church news and timely articles. This publication should provide glimpses of the upcoming month's activities, worship schedules, devotionals,

prayer requests, and include serving and stewardship opportunities. We are a church that values and encourages diverse voices. In addition to the reflections from our Pastor and church leaders, *The Pinecone* will welcome your input and views on various topics. *The Pinecone* will also highlight important milestones, and inspirational messages. We want it to be a mix of the serious

and the light-hearted. We sincerely hope that you will find *The Pinecone* engaging, informational, and uplifting, in other words, a **must-read**; one that you will proudly share with others. Again, we welcome you to this newsletter, another enthusiastic endeavor of KPUMC.

Reopening Taskforce Update

By Dr. Sharon Rodríguez, Church Council Chair

The Reopening Task Force continues to meet to assess the Covid-19 situation in regard to the opening of the church for in person worship. Currently the positivity rate is climbing in Miami Dade County and throughout the United States. Depending on what the positivity rate is in January, we will consider in person worship in the sanctuary at that time.

In the meantime, we hope that you are taking the opportunity to worship with us via Zoom on Sunday mornings with Pastor

Wilma. It has been wonderful to at least see each other and socialize before and after the service.

We are hoping and planning to have an outdoor Christmas Eve Service for anyone that would like to attend. More details to follow.

It has been a challenge for everyone during this pandemic and everyone is suffering from the loss of being together physically. We pray that God will continue to give us strength, to keep



November BIRTHDAYS

Patti Stone	11/4
Tiffay Christopher	11/6
Angela Garrick	11/6
Mason Porter	11/21
Joseph Sarnack	11/22
Karlene Sturgis	11/26
Capt. Mike Cundle	11/27
Janice Brown	11/29

everyone safe and to help keep our spirits up through all of this.



Send your prayer requests to
benitezlmhc@aol.com

YOU CAN ALSO JOIN OUR PRAYER MEETINGS

Wednesdays from
11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Just email us for the Zoom link

2021 Service Opportunities

By the Nominations Committee

Following our church's tradition of volunteer lay service, the following positions for 2021 are still open. Would you dare to answer God's call to lead?

Finance Secretary: receives, records, and deposits all funds, and reports to the treasurer. With the new church management software, you can enter deposit information from home!

Money Counters: at least three individuals needed who will rotate on a weekly basis to count the money at the office. Counters report to the Finance Secretary. Counters cannot belong to same household.

Lay Member to Annual Conference: attends annual conference sessions as a member of the local church and interprets the actions to the congregation. This person sits at the Finance, and Nominations committees.

Audio Visual Technician: At least three individuals are needed to run the audio and camera equipment to live stream services online. Training will be provided.

Because A Thankful Heart Is A Happy Heart

When my children were growing up they loved watching the Christian cartoon show called *Veggie Tales*. And they weren’t the only ones. I loved—and still love—the catchy songs and quirky characters; Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber, and many others who put together a “show” from their set on a kitchen counter.

On one of their episodes they showcased a character called Madame Blueberry. She was a very “blue” berry, and sung about how “blue” she was. The interesting thing is that Madame Blueberry had everything someone could need, and even want. But somehow, no matter all she had wasn’t enough, and this made her sad.

The show was written for children to learn that happiness was not defined by the things we have, but by our ability to be thankful for what we already have. We live in a culture that is obsessed with acquiring

more and more, and in order to do so, it demands we engage in a work ethic of constant going and going to fulfill that obsession. But no matter how much we acquire, the less happy we are. Just ask the families who before the pandemic hardly saw each other over the week and are now enjoying—even in the midst of these extreme circumstances—their time together.

I think we need to take on Madame Blueberry’s teaching that says... because a thankful heart is a happy heart. When we trust God and give thanks for everything provided, our hearts become filled with joy. There is no stress when we know God will provide for every single one of our needs. And in that joy, we find happiness.

During this month I have so many things to be thankful for. And one of them is for God’s gift of allowing me to be part of

Killian Pines UMC. From the welcome drive-through to the pastor appreciation drive-through, and all your cards and calls when my family went through our recent loss, and my daughter’s cancer scare, I cannot stop but to thank God for allowing me to be part of a congregation that is so loving and giving. Plus, how can I not rejoice when even through these hard circumstances you continue to support the church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

I pray and hope that this month, we are able to count all the blessings God has bestowed over us, and as we give thanks realize that God has given us more abundantly that we could ever ask for. And perhaps this will help us realize that we do not need much to be happy, just a thankful heart.

Pastor Wilma

COMING SOON...

11/22 **Deadline for Florida Children’s Home Gift Cards**

11/22 **Charge Conference (Zoom)**

11/28**Deadline to bring in Youth Homeless Drive Items**

11/29.....**First Sunday of Advent**

12/12 **MDPD Pick up Bears**

Our Youth Serving in Christ

By Cindy Sarnack, Children & Youth Director

The youth at Killian Pines have been collecting for the homeless at Christmas for the past six years. The response this year from the congregation has been overwhelming. We have met our goals and the surplus of items will be given to First Kendall UMC to distribute throughout the year.

We have also participated in making sandwiches and packing lunches to be given to the homeless. We plan to continue with the lunches and helping with the shower program in 2021.



Thank You For Joining Our Annual Teddy Bear Drive

By Pastor Wilma Reyes

We would like to thank from the bottom of our hearts every one who participated in our annual Teddy Bear Drive for the Miami-Dade Police Department. Thank you for providing a means of comfort for the children who will receive a bear during

police interventions where they are involved. And remember, you still have time to be a part of this! The deadline to drop off bears is Wednesday, December 9th as the MDPD will pick them up on Saturday, December 12th.



OCTOBER Financials

Income..... \$8,350

Expenses \$10,340

Income less Expenses – \$1,990

Checking Account Balance \$67,622

Savings Account Balance \$84,158

TOTAL FUNDS\$151,780