

On April 14th, the Florida United Methodist Church Children's Home sent the following letter.

Dear Friends,

As the days become longer and the weather is warmer, children everywhere are looking forward to playing outside longer, having cookouts and picnics, and going to the pool. Our children are no different, and your continued support makes it possible for them to enjoy these things as well. All too often thought, the children who come into our care need time to heal.

Casey is one of our children who has shown remarkable progress with your help. Because of an abusive situation, she came to us very withdrawn and untrusting. After a few weeks her teachers began to see her open up, especially in her art class at Legacy Scholars Academy. The teacher introduced them to Kintsugi, a ceramic art form from Japan. Students would break a ceramic piece into several pieces and then glue it back together. But the cracks in the pottery would not be covered. Instead, they're highlighted in gold. The children came to realize through this project that despite their 'cracks,' they can still be whole and beautiful.

As Casey came to understand that she could heal and get beyond her traumatic past, she became much more open. She began comforting and helping other children, especially those who were new arrivals to the Children's Home. Casey would sit and talk with them when they were anxious or saddened, and has shown considerable empathy toward others.

Progress like Casey's is only possible through your loving gifts, which translates into providing the children with therapy, education, clothing, and other necessities for a happy and healthy life. This is the king of unconditional love that Jesus spoke of to his disciples when he said, "this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

We greatly appreciate your congregation's recent gift of \$1,200.00. Your generosity is making an impact in the lives of our children.

From our children and staff, thank you for your continued love, support, and prayers.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer

May 1, 2022

Psalm 30

¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you have lifted me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

² **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you healed me.**

³ O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the pit.

⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

⁵ **Surely the Lord's anger is but for a moment;
the Lord's favor is for a lifetime.**
Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

⁶ **As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."**

⁷ By your favor, O LORD,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
**you hid your face;
I was dismayed.**

⁸ To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:

⁹ **"What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?**

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!"**

¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and girded me with gladness,

¹² that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

St. John 21:1-19

¹ After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”

They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.”

⁶ And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put

on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. ⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

¹¹ Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come *and* eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

¹⁴ This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. ¹⁸ Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.” ¹⁹ This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”