



# second thoughts

## Schools Out Forever

Yes, it's that time of year when we all use to sing that old rock song, "School's Out for Summer". Or, for those new graduates: "School's Out Forever". I can still remember with what great joy and relief I shouted those words after nine months of structured school days. It was a feeling of liberation that was almost unparalleled in my then brief life.

However, as I think back and compare my charmed existence (yes, the so-called "drudgery" of public school life) to so many other children in the world who struggle each day for a bite of bread, it was something approaching paradise. Likewise, it took me at least a decade after graduating from high school to adjust to the fact that a three-month vacation was not an entitled right for all human beings. Indeed, the biggest bummer after high school graduation is the sad realization that real life assumes that working 12 months a year is the norm.

Still, whenever Memorial Day rolls around, it causes my heart to beat a little faster with the anticipation of summer fun and stress-free living.

And living stress free has been on my mind lately as Christie recently told me about a John Ortberg sermon she had heard that note that one of the truly unique aspects of Jesus is that he never got stressed out. Indeed, the narrative of Jesus asleep in the stern of the boat while the seas raged with wind and storms and the disciples, most of whom were professional fisherman, were all in a panic. And yet, Jesus was so much at peace that they actually had to wake them up. And when he sensed the panic of the disciples, he rebuked them for being so worried and stressed out.

Thus, I have tried ask myself what would Jesus do the next time circumstances work against me and I am tempted to lose my cool and have a melt down from stress.

Thus, even though I am now a boring adult who has to work 12 months a year, I can still experience mini-jubilations of "school's out forever" when I refuse to lean into stress and instead lean into Jesus who showed us how to keep our cool even under the most adverse circumstances. So, this summer, let's be too cool for school and thereby, allow the peace of Christ to flow through us during these mini-vacations of the Spirit.

Blessings!

*Pastor Bob*



*Pastor Bob Zoba*

**MAY-JUNE  
2019**

**Sunday Services  
10:00 a.m.**

**Adult Sunday School  
9:00am**

**Sunday School  
PK-12  
10:30am**

**Choir Practice  
Thursdays 7:17 pm**

### **Weekly Activities**

Ladies Bible Study  
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group  
@ the Rivera's  
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast  
Wednesday 7am

Women's Bible Study  
Thursday 8am

Prayer Service  
Thursday 7pm

### **Second Union Church**

2109 Calle Mileto  
Guaynabo, PR 00969

**787-720-4423**  
**secondunion.org**

Rev. Robert Zoba  
Pastor

Gustavo Gonzalez  
Youth Pastor

# Second Union Church



THIS SUMMER KIDS WILL FOCUS IN ON SOME AMAZING, REAL-LIFE ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS AND DISCOVER THE MOST AMAZING TRUTH OF ALL—JESUS CHRIST IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, AND BY BELIEVING WE CAN HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME.

Vacation Bible School begins:

July 1-3rd, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

(date and time)

Second Union Church

(location name)

Urb. Alto Apolo en Guaynabo

(location address)

For more information, call:

787-720-4423

(name and telephone number)

secondunion@gmail.com

or email:

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! CONTACT SASHA SEDA.**



### Bible Study & Small Group Opportunities

Day and Study	Location	Contact
Sunday 9am Adult Bible Study <b>Matthew</b>	2UC Conference Room	Lizzette Kelley: Howard01@prtc.net
Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study (12-2) <b>The Seven Signs of Jesus - Lucado</b>	2UC Fellowship Hall	Christie Zoba: zoba129@gmail.com 787-717-4001
Tuesday Evening Bible Study (7-9pm)	Loraine and Luis Alberto Rivera's home in San Francisco	Loraine & Luis 787-370-2448
Wednesday Men's Breakfast (7-8am) Apologetics	2UC Fellowship Hall	Pastor Bob: PastorBobZoba@gmail.com
Thursday Morning Bible Study	2UC	Anita Rodriguez: anita009926@aol.com
Thursday Night Prayer Service (6-7pm)	2UC Conference Room	Pastor Bob or Anita Rodriguez

### Second Union Church Council & Staff

<p><b>Pastor</b> Rev. Robert Zoba</p>	<p><b>Outreach</b> Julio Rivera</p>	<p><b>Women's Ministry</b> Anita Rodriguez</p>
<p><b>President</b> Brian Tester</p>	<p><b>Property</b> Javier Rodriguez</p>	<p><b>Men's Ministry</b> John Alberts</p>
<p><b>Vice President &amp; Forward Planning</b> Humbelina Treviño</p>	<p><b>Christian Education</b> Joanne Gonzalez</p>	<p><b>Pianist</b> Luis Manuel Tirado</p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Stan Pinkerton</p>	<p><b>Staff-Congregation Relations &amp; Nominating</b> Lizzette Kelly</p>	<p><b>Choir &amp; Worship Leader</b> Jeff Penn</p>
<p><b>Secretary</b> Justin Mohler</p>	<p><b>Membership</b> Dely Seda</p>	<p><b>Youth Pastor</b> Gustavo Gonzalez</p>
<p><b>Worship</b> Michael Strong</p>	<p><b>Fellowship</b> Irma Torres</p>	<p><b>Office Manager</b> Mabel Varela</p>
		<p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> <b>Website Administrator</b> Christie Curie Zoba</p>

**John & Evelyn Alberts** are moving...but don't get sad since they are simply moving a couple of blocks from their Isla Verde condo.

**Brandy Hale** has taken a new job with a company based in Phoenix, AZ, but she will still do most of her work out of PR and husband Jaime is still straightening people out as a chiropractor. Son Emilio will be in world soccer competition in Portugal this summer.

**David Benson** sends his regards to all as he is hoping for the Boston trifecta this year; the Red Sox World Series, the Pats Super Bowl, and now, maybe, the Bruins Stanley Cup next. Of course, Steve Johnson, Pito Droz, Bill Franki, and Pastor Bob are pretty happy as well.

**Joey Calcolli** has been coming back to church more often and admits the his dad's words of wisdom still ring in his ears.

The word on the street is that **Maylie Colón** will be back to PR soon for a visit. It has been great to see Sammy at church of late.

**Sherry Davis** hopes to be back on the island this summer, but this time with her mom, Miss Mary, 2UC's best Amen-er ever!

**Tom Engfer** is in Bolivia visiting his mom for Bolivian Mother's Day and to bring comfort to his father who is declining in health.

**Brenda Ferrer** is back in Jacksonville helping with Mildred's surgery. But thanks be to God, her surgery went well.

**Muriel Frances** is traveling in New York, visiting her family.

**Mauricio Gomez** graduates from Medical School in June and will be joined by his wife, Danielle, son Lucas and family, including their newest addition, little Lucia.



Speaking of new additions, we have to believe that Bill Stowell is rejoicing in heaven as his daughter **Nicole and her husband Francisco** were blessed with a bouncing baby boy. Congrats Nicole!!!



**Carlos & Michelle Gonzalez** brought their wonderful son to church last Sunday. He lives in Houston, Texas.

**Dennis Gonzalez** and **Pastor Bob** are on a USTA tennis team together.

We had a great work day at Hogar Posada La Victoria disassembling beds and moving them to a new location. The hard-working crew included: **John Alberts, Mike LaLlave, Chris & Mike Strong, Pastor Bob, Gustavo and Dylan.** Thx guys!

**Jaime Irizarry** just returned from Sintra, Portugal where he participated in a world Tuna competition. His special flag invention allowed Portugal to win a world title. Congrats Jaime.

We are excited about the election of a new Council at our last Congregational Meeting. The newbie's include **Lizzette Kelly** - Nominating, **Joanne Gonzalez-Christian Ed.**, **Mike Strong-Worship**, and **Dely Seda-Membership.** Our thanks to all our outgoing Council members and out incoming ones as well.

**Justin Mohler** and the boys will be up in Indiana for the next two months as Justin will be helping his dad with the planting and maintenance of the family farm.

**Sylvia O'Connor** is up in the Big Apple helping her brother who has some health concerns.

**Pastor Daryle Parker** hopes to be back in PR this summer and back at 2UC as well.

**Jeff & Tamara Penn** are off to Alaska for a summer vacation and then Jeff will be attending a choir workshop at the famous King's College at Cambridge University in England.

**Edwin Perez** is a good son as he hosted his mom here in PR for Mother's Day and then took her back to her ancestral home in Costa Rica.

**Stan "The Man" Pinkerton** finally got some R&R and went back to Oklahoma to attend a couple of graduations of his far-flung family.



**Carlos Rivera** will be offering a bell choir concert at 2UC next weekend.

**Anita Rodriguez** was treated to a trip to NYC to attend the new Harry Potter Broadway production. Her nephew works for the production.

**Javier Rodriguez** and property have been very busy of late as the floor of our fellowship hall and hallways are now complete and they look marvellous. So too, he was able to repair and/or replace over 60 tiles that were either broken or loose in our sanctuary.



**Hector & Sarita Rodriguez** and the **Testers** recently returned from a trip to Machu Pichu in Peru.

**Ari Tester** was celebrated at her graduation from the University of Maine with a graduate degree. In between trips, **Brian** had to travel to Saudi Arabia on business. Wow!

**Livia Roman** is back in NYC and doing much better. Praise the Lord!

**Nilda Roman** is travelling back and forth between Orlando and Alabama visiting kids and grandkids.

**Fred & Iris Ross** are welcome additions to our church family, although Fred has been a long-time member of the Men's Breakfast. We are blessed by these wonderful folks.

**Christopher Strong** will be traveling to South Carolina where he will receive further chaplaincy training for the Mariner's Ministry.

**Risa Tobin's** tennis team will be going to Nationals... again!!! Congrats Risa!

**The Trivetts** are still awaiting the arrival of their next addition: twins! However, we are praying that their coming will hold off a few weeks longer. But they have been blessed with the good help of **Cadiz** and **Kara's** wonderful mom, **Tina**.

**Victor Moros** is recovering well from his chemo and radiation therapy and is almost as ornery as ever.

**Thomas & Ceci von Hillebrandt** have been enjoying their temporary housing in Dorado, but are looking forward to their new place in the metro area.

**Don Julio Rivera** and the Outreach Committee are grateful for all the donation of rice. Thousands of pounds of rice were collected for the Post Office annual food drive. Special thanks to The Learning Mall. They donated the first thousand pounds of rice!! Thanks to Chris, Mike, Pastor Bob & Julio for the heavy lifting!

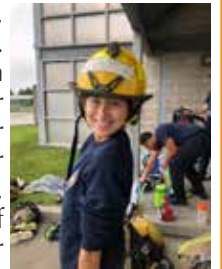


**David & Laurie Yost** are planning a trip back to 2UC in July...just in time to help us with our VBS program from July 1-3d. It will be so great to see these dear friends and 2UC family members.



We are sad to report, however, that **John & Tina Woodruff (and daughter Victoria)** will be relocating to Sarasota, FL. We will miss them greatly as they have been so supportive of 2UC for so many years and have been a part of our church family in so many wonderful ways. We will miss Tina at the bake table at the Bazaar and John's quiet counsel to all who meet him. We are sad for us, but we are happy for them, and the new possibilities that his presents.

**Humbelina Treviño's** daughter, **Sam**, recently graduated from the Fire Academy. She was the only woman to make it through to graduation. We have been praying for her and are so grateful to God for her achievement. Humbelina writes, "Dear Friends, On behalf of our entire family, I would like to say a very special word of thanks to each of you that prayed for our little Sammy while she was in the fire academy. For nine (long) months many of you received text messages or live updates about her on-going schedule. The academy was exhausting, both mentally and physically. She and the other cadets took fire science courses and endured gladiator-like-live-burns. None of this could have been achieved without your support. I've said this before about prayer warriors and I'll say it again because it's true. Prayer warriors are individuals who intercede on our behalf. To intercede means to come between, so prayer warriors are, in effect, coming between God and the trouble and or concern in another person's life. God's grace is the thing Samantha (and I) needed most to get through this experience. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Please continue to pray for this soon to be rookie, her fellow cadets and all our first responders. They are angles on earth. - Your sister in Christ, Humbelina.



**Christie Zoba** made a surprise visit to her mom on Mother's Day only to be surprised by her son, **J.J.** who flew to spend the weekend with her!!

Who's that on the Jumbotron? It's Christie's grandson, **Leo!**



## Did You Know?

Christopher and Becky O'Meara were back on the island to celebrate their anniversary! They are now living in Miami where Christopher is based with the Coast Guard.



2UC was blessed with a special performance in May of the UPR Carolina choir. What a privilege to hear their beautiful voices under the flawless direction of Carlos Rivera and accompanied by none other than Luis Tirado.



The Mohler men visited the Gan Eden Farms with Christie in May. Justin, whose business is farming appreciated the tour given by owner, Yoav Cohen, who so generously donates fruit and vegetables to the Backpack Program every week. But it was the younger Mohlers who really enjoyed themselves - you can tell farming is in their blood.



Though all of the money that was contributed to our Hurricane Relief Funds has been designated, not all of our recipients have been in a position to purchase items they lost during Hurricane Maria. In May, we purchased a living room set for Yari who finally moved into her renovated home in Juncos. Mar Azul assisted her with construction-related work, and we were privileged to purchase new furniture. She and her family have now living comfortably. Praise God!



May is always such a special month! Congratulations to all the graduates!!



Jason Duff and his new wife, Kathleen, were in Puerto Rico in May, and spent some time with the Zobas. Jason reports that Taylor, Shaely and Lexi are all doing great. We thank God for this family.



## Youth Group: The Road to Summer's Mission's Trip

This summer our church's youth will be partnering with our friends from Fuel International (Colorado) for a week-long mission trip to Juana Diaz. During this week a group of teens and young adults from three different churches are going to have a life-changing experience serving the community with beatification projects and ministering. Plus, they are going to be inspired, trained and equipped to reach their community once they are back home.



In order to get there, our ministry, with the help of the rest of the church family, started some fund raising efforts. We already had a carwash and a mother's day lunch. Both of which were a complete success thanks to the generosity of our church family and some neighbors too!



A shout out to the men's ministry for the great assist with the carwash (John Albert, Michael Strong, Christopher Strong & Pastor Bob) and to the "trooper" moms (Ana, Jasmine, Sasha & Mabel). Thanks to Cadiz for the amazing pictures.



From our Sunday School Superintendent and VBS Coordinator:

Children's Ministry at 2UC needs more teachers for our Sunday School program. Most months we don't have enough teachers for every grade. I am grateful to the teachers who have been serving and filling in for vacancies, but that means they miss out on the opportunity to be in the worship service.

It would be wonderful if there were more people willing to serve our kids. When we present a child to the congregation we make a commitment as adults and brothers and sisters to that child, to be a part of their spiritual growth. I think many times we take that commitment lightly. I hope you will consider serving as Sunday School teachers, and in this way being willing to teach them the way of the Lord and understanding of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian. I think we all agree education is very important in our children's life for them to have a better future, but think about how it is even more important to be trained and educated spiritually in the Word of the Lord. This will provide the foundation for our children to grow up to be better, braver, and more secure, well rounded human beings. I don't know a lot of things, but what I do know is that for me it is so much more important that my kids know more of the Bible and being true Christians than to have good grades.

I will be updating my list of teachers for the coming months. To sign up as teacher or teacher assistant just come to the Sunday School registration table and I will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Summer is around the corner and VBS as well! I'm still needing an assistant teacher, crafting teacher, missions teacher, music teacher, and a decoration team. Also we have started to collect donations for the snacks. Our first meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1st, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

God bless you.

-Sasha Seda

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SUNDAYS @ 6:00PM  
THE GONZALEZ'S HOME**

**Bring something to share  
(ej. cookies, sandwiches,...)**

**For more information  
contact Gustavo Gonzalez  
or Sasha Seda at  
787-425-7145**

During a time of sharing at a recent Bible Study session, I was shocked . . .no I was appalled to hear about the kinds of issues that teenage girls are facing these days. It wasn't all that long ago that my sons graduated from high school, but it is painfully obvious that in the last ten years, things have changed drastically . . . for the worse. With the proliferation of social media and the powerful influence it has upon our youth, our teens are faced with unparalleled pressure to conform to the expectations of their peers.

How much time do your adolescents spend on their smart phones? How aware are you of what they are viewing, posting, texting, etc?

A recent survey about the effects of social media on women aged 14-24 found that Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram all led to increased feelings of depression, anxiety, poor body image and loneliness.

Sasha Seda and her husband, Gustavo Gonzalez, our youth pastor, have taken the initiative to begin a ministry to our teenage girls, and I hope that everyone with teenage daughters will take advantage of this. I thank God for their desire to reach out to these young women with the message of truth that their identity is found in Christ and that they do not need to engage in destructive behaviors to fit in with worldly standards.

Blessings,  
Christie Zoba

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

It was a regular day, Friday October 17th, 2003.

A large scotch in my hand, I opened the door to a very good friend and let her into our home. That was the beginning of the end of a long and winding career of conspicuous consumption of alcohol and drugs.

My friend, MT, has been very close to me and my wife and had partied with us many times. Unlike us, she was, somehow, not addicted to substance abuse as we were. As she walked into my kitchen, she took the scotch from my hand and very firmly said to me: "This is it. You must stop this madness and go to a rehab, and so does your wife. If you don't, I've already talked to a judge friend of mine and your 9-month-old daughter will be taken from you. You are both irresponsible, reckless and dangerous parents to your daughter and you are killing yourselves"

Somehow, through the fog in my mind, I knew that was true and that it did have to stop. I had realized for long time that I indeed had a very strong addiction to alcohol and "recreational" drugs. Still, my mind told me I could somehow control it, even though it was clearly nonsense.

I started drinking at about 14, with the explicit consent from my parents. Such is life in the tropics. Rum & coke and slowly but surely, on to the rest of the nearly unlimited variety of liqueurs, wines and beers. At 16, I was introduced to marijuana and at about 20 to cocaine. That threesome stayed with me until age 47.

For me, of all three, alcohol was the worst by far. Too easy to get, legal and widely accepted socially. I drank and partied in what I believed to be a "normal way", but in retrospect I realize I pretty much always abused it. Drinking hard was "normal", or so I thought. You drink too much, you pass out. Car accidents, an arrest for drinking on the beach in Daytona, an arrest for possession of marijuana, all were part of the deal. There were more consequences. A water ski accident while thoroughly intoxicated led to my bad hamstringing injury, which follows me to today. A very bad car accident where I nearly killed my girlfriend-[wife today] led to a lot of pain and sorrow by the way I handled it. Too many bad decisions led to the loss of the confidence in me from family and friends, all part of the deal. I led my wife down this path of destruction and I did not seem to care.

In the back of my mind, I always knew I had a problem with alcohol and drugs. I even jokingly called myself a very well-known alcoholic, nothing anonymous about me. Everybody who knew me, knew I drank too much.

In the bitter end, at 47, with shaking hands and a mess of a life at home and work, my angel friend saved me and saved my family. I was beat. But I still believed I could manage it. Both me and my wife reluctantly went to separate rehabs abroad. I went convinced I could learn to drink in a controlled way.

We spent 28 days in what we thought was hell. It saved our lives. We both learned about the reality of alcohol and drugs and how addiction works in us. We learned that we had a solution, and that the solution was abstinence, and that for it to work, we had the 12-step program of Alcoholic Anonymous (AA).

Today, 15 years later, I live a sober, clean, serene life. I don't take that first drink, I go to AA meetings on a regular basis and I keep a conscious contact with my God, a spiritual connection that allows me to live a day at a time, doing my best to live a good life and help other persons along the way.

There is a solution. A simple solution for complicated persons such as I am.

That solution, for me, is the fellowship of AA with the 12-step program.

W

## AA Meetings at 2UC

Alcoholics Anonymous (commonly referred to as AA) is perhaps the most widely known program related to overcoming addiction or chemical dependency. For decades, AA meetings have helped countless men and women overcome their dependence upon alcohol and begin (or continue) their pursuit of a lifelong recovery.

Second Union Church lends its rooms for this great cause every Wednesday evening at 7pm. Together we share our experience, our strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others recover from alcoholism.



How can we best make our church a safe place for children to grow spiritually?

Emotional and spiritual safety is important. Meeting a standard for children's physical safety is not only a good thing, but it is also required by law! Safety in the emotional and spiritual realm is equally important. But it may be overlooked or minimized, even at church. However, it should be a priority, for it is an integral part of helping kids know Christ and grow in Christ!

Emotional and spiritual safety sends a message. Every child who participates in our children's ministries deserves and needs to know that he or she is valued, loved and protected. Everything we say or do as leaders and teachers should communicate that message. Our goal is not only that children gain "book knowledge" (know the Ten Commandments or the books of the Bible, etc.) but also that their lives be transformed through knowing God's Word, understanding what it says and then learning how to apply it daily. Because we have the world's highest goal, we must be sure that children receive the world's highest message by our behavior—a biblical message of love and care.

Emotional and spiritual safety creates an environment for growth. Children's lives can be hurried, complicated and confusing. They may come to our programs carrying far larger burdens than we imagine! The church should be a place where it is emotionally safe for children to talk about what is going on in their lives and where it is spiritually safe for them to ask hard questions and be heard, acknowledged and answered. When we are committed to children's emotional and spiritual safety, we nurture their growth into wholehearted followers of Christ. Core beliefs are the basis for providing safety. When adults hold the following core beliefs, they are ready to foster emotional and spiritual safety for children:

- Servanthood. Believing that we are all here to love and help each other.
- Value. Believing that each child is valuable as a person, both to God and to us. Children will know they matter to God only when they see they matter to us.
- Faith. Believing that every child can have a bright future in God's family. Children need for us to see their spiritual potential.
- Trustworthiness. Believing that a child's trust is a delicate gift that must be treated with care.
- Honor. Believing that when we honor a child, we honor Jesus.

Some actions that nurture emotional and spiritual safety:

- Placing oneself at a child's eye level.
- Listening with interest to what a child has to say.
- Giving frequent and genuine smiles and safe touches.
- Using a child's name lovingly and often.
- Telling a child, the truth and making truth understandable to him or her.
- Being honest when you don't know an answer by saying you don't know.
- Finding an answer and reporting it to the child.
- Giving a child a choice in activities.
- Phrasing directions positively so that a child knows what he or she can do.
- Helping a child take responsibility to change problem behavior.
- Helping the child find ways to change negative behavior rather than making negative comments about the child's character.
- Making sure no child ever feels he or she is a burden or a problem.
- Making sure no child receives a negative label but does receive words of love and blessing.

These actions flow from the beliefs above. Beyond being professional, Christian teachers are called to live in ways that genuinely display Christlike character.

Women's Ministry has several new service opportunities for the church to get involved in. One is part of our Chaplaincy Assistance Program, the Hope Totes we're making for the caregivers of patients at Centro Medico. We are looking for people to help pack them, shop for supplies, and pray over them. If you would like to get involved, please speak with Mabel Varela.



Another new program is the Embrace Grace Bible study for unexpectedly expectant moms. Our hope is as they work through the bible study they will chose to become a part of a church family. Our goal is to help them as they journey through motherhood. If you would like to help with this program, please speak with Dely Seda.



Our backpack program [Mochila Alegre] is celebrating six years! This is our ministry to help food insecure students at a local public school. We provide them with a backpack full of food to help them with meals for the weekend [and a little more]. We receive donations from Costco's bakery and from local produce farmer, Yoav Cohen. Such rich blessings we can pass on to these kids. There are many places you can get involved here, from packing the backpacks, organizing the food donations for easier packing, the weekly school drop off and praying to the students and their families. If you are interested in helping speak with Christie Zoba or Loraine Colon.



In other news from WM we have a new summer schedule crafting for the Bazaar beginning June 1st, Saturday!! We will start at 10 am and work until noon. If you've been wanting to craft but weekdays have worked out for you, now is your chance! We will keep the Saturday schedule throughout the summer [June 1 and 22, July 13 and 20] and possibly into August [TBA]. Remember that all the things we make at crafting and are sold at the Bazaar raise funds that allow us to support so many people on the front lines here in Puerto Rico and around the world. Come and be a part of something for the kingdom work. If you would like to join us for crafting please speak with Irma Torres or Colleen Comer.

Women's Ministry supports two Compassion International girls from the Dominican Republic. A monthly financial contribution goes a long way in helping them with their education, but our involvement should go much further. We can encourage them through sending letters, pictures, and small gifts at their birthdays, graduations or other special events. If you would be interested in being a part of this 'encouragement ministry', please speak to Christie or Mabel. Letters can be written in English or Spanish!

And last but in no way least are our Bible study opportunities available for women. We believe that reading, reflecting, and acting on God's word is vitally important for us to grow in faith. We believe that iron does indeed sharpen iron. So we meet to study His word to grow in faith primarily, for accountability, and for the fellowship and encouragement of other believers. Currently we have two class times available. Every Tuesday at noon we meet in the Fellowship Hall. Right now, we are studying Max Lucado's book, Anxious for Nothing. The discussions are invigorating and Max's teaching is very sound. Thursday mornings at 8:30am we are working through Paul's letters, we're beginning 2 Timothy on May 30. If you would like to study the Bible but these times do not work with your schedule please that there are other Bible study opportunities that are open to men and women [Tuesday evenings at 7pm at the home of Luis and Loraine; Sunday school for adults 9am]. If you would like to join a class or are interested in a new time speak with Anita Rodriguez.

**2UC Women's Ministry has this goal: to equip women with God's word in order to lead and serve. With Jesus as our example we serve where He has called us, leading the way to follow Him.**



**Sabrina Gonzalez: We Knew Her When . . .!!**

At our last Women's Ministry Team meeting, we were able to make a difference in the life of one small but mighty basketball player. Sabrina Gonzalez and her family happened to visit as we were meeting. Sabrina and her brother Dereck were participants in our Backpack Program and tutoring program two years ago. We have remained in contact with her family and we continue to help them. Sabrina has proven to have tremendous potential on the court, and she has been featured in magazines, articles, newspapers, etc. She is on the Junior NBA team and has been offered an opportunity to participate in special training camps in the States. Off the court she is just as gifted with a humble and sweet spirit.

Women's Ministry was able to provide for some of the financial needs and travel expenses. We'll be watching her on ESPN one of these days!





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This session starts on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

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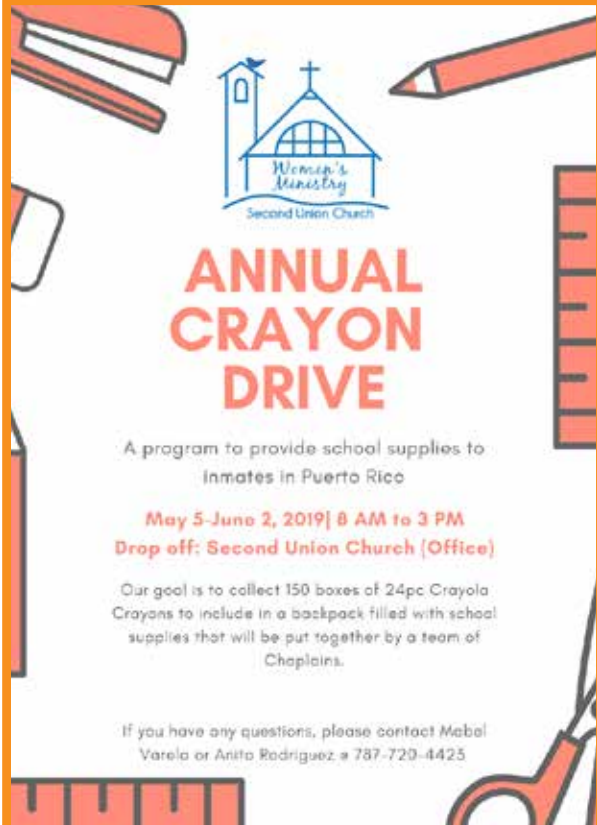


## HOPE TOTES

A ministry to supply care packages to care givers and patients in the hospitals

**ITEMS NEEDED**  
TOOTHPASTE  
TOOTHBRUSH/TRAVEL SIZE  
SHOWER GEL  
TOWELS  
SOCKS  
DEODORANT/TRAVEL SIZE  
SHAMPOO/TRAVEL SIZE  
CONDITIONER/TRAVEL SIZE  
PUZZLES/CROSSWORD/  
BLANKETS, ETC.

For more information please  
-contact Anita Rodriguez or -  
-Mabel Varela  
787-720-4425



Women's Ministry  
Second Union Church

## ANNUAL CRAYON DRIVE

A program to provide school supplies to inmates in Puerto Rico

**May 5-June 2, 2019 | 8 AM to 3 PM**  
**Drop off: Second Union Church (Office)**

Our goal is to collect 150 boxes of 24pc Crayola Crayons to include in a backpack filled with school supplies that will be put together by a team of Chaplains.

If you have any questions, please contact Mabel Varela or Anita Rodriguez • 787-720-4425

On May 4th we hosted our first Coffee House since Hurricane Maria. It was wonderful evening with good coffee, great desserts and poetry. Lots and lots of poetry, along with a fable and a folk tale thrown in for good measure. Many of our church family came out to read poems about the sun, the moon, and the stars, about the ocean and the wind, and about fire. Many more came out to listen to poems and stories being read.

A huge thank you to those folks that brought desserts [Christie, Nialah, Wanda, Connie, and Irma]. And an even bigger shout out to our readers! Silvette Candelaria gave us an excellent taste of two Julia de Burgos' poems about the sea. Anna Maguire-Johndrow graced our stage with her long missed presence jumping in to read as if she had never moved away! Irma Torres was a surprise as she read poems by Frost and Sandburg with such obvious delight. Connie Estades read a poignant poem by Mattie Stepanek that moved the audience with it's touching backstory. Thank you also to readers Fabiola, Laura Q, Christie, and Pete!!

The evening was rounded out by a folk tale from India read by Cadiz Rodriguez, Wanda Billoch and Anita Rodriguez, titled How the Sun, Moon, and Wind Went to Dinner. [It could very well be that this folk tale might be the basis of this Summer's Dinner Theater.]

When we passed the hat, a true coffee house tradition, we collected \$177 to buy bibles for Hope Totes and to give to the homeless. It was truly great evening.



Outreach Gala



Our Annual Outreach Gala was held during the month of May. Irma Torres, our Outreach Chair, and Julio Rivera put together an activity honor the different organizations that are supported financially by the church



Outreach is extremely important at Second Union Church. Ten percent of our tithes and contributions go directly to Outreach to the community and beyond. Throughout the year we raise additional money that is also designated for Outreach. Women's Ministry has a separate budget, the majority of which is also used outside the walls of our church. It is a blessing that we are able to participate in the efforts of those who are serving the Kingdom.

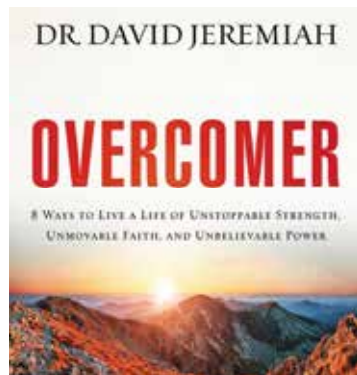
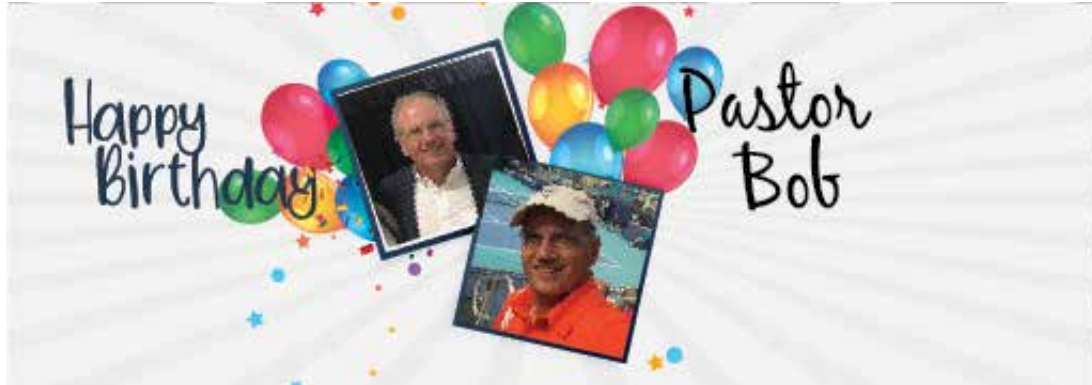


We thank all of the organizations for their dedication and commitment and we pray that the funds that we provide bring honor and glory to God.

Choir

Choir will be taking a break during the months of June and July. We will resume sometime in August to begin working on our Christmas program. We meet at 7:17pm on Thursday and are always happy to have new voices! Talk to Jeff if you have questions.

If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Cantata, we are already practicing. Jeff can provide you with some of the music so you can practice at home and be ready for prime time!!



## Tuesday Night Bible Study

7 - 9 pm

at the home of Luis & Loraine Rivera - Urb. San Francisco

5 minutes from church!

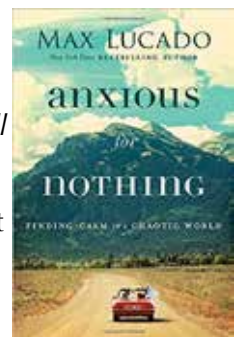
Our small group invites you to join us as we pray for one another, study the Word of God together, and share our lives in a relaxed setting of confidence and trust. Call Loraine for details: 787-370-2448

## Women's Bible Study Tuesdays: noon-2pm

Anxious For Nothing by Max Lucado

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:6-7

Does this describe you? For most of us worry and anxiety are a common part of life, but that's not what Jesus intended for us. Join our study and gain new strategies to deal with the stresses and concerns that threaten your peace. You'll be glad you came!



## Prayer Partners Needed!

Would you be interested in praying for one of these darling girls in our Backpack Program? To be a Prayer Pal, we ask you to pray regularly for the students and their families and to provide a gift on their birthdays. Please see Humbelina Treviño!

Men's Ministry has been active over the last month or so. We continue to have our regular weekly breakfasts on Wednesdays at 7:00 AM. Pastor Bob has been leading our discussions. We've explored ways that we can be assured of God's presence and participation in our lives, the signs of evil in our world, and ways in which we can let others know of the power of our Lord in our lives. Of course, we always enjoy a delicious breakfast provided by one or another of our brothers, and we take time for a few lighthearted jokes and a little sports talk. It's been a great way to start the workday.



Can't make it Wednesday mornings? Well, then watch the bulletin for notice of our monthly Saturday breakfast. We've been holding them the last Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. It's always great food, good discussion, and supportive fellowship.

The men of Second Union have also stepped up to help in some other projects with the church. On May 12, some of the men of Second Union assisted Gustavo Gonzalez and the Youth Group in their successful car wash.



A week later, on May 19, a group of eight guys helped Posada La Victoria, a rehabilitation center in Toa Alta, as they relocate to their new site in Bayamon. Mike LaLlave has been working with the director of Posada on this move for some time. He led a group of eight to disassemble bunk beds in the old facility and move them to the new. We will be following up with additional help for this move in the weeks and months to come. Thanks to Mike Lallave, Michael Strong, Christopher Strong, Jean Marco Montalvo, John Alberts, Pastor Bob, Gustavo Gonzalez and Dylan Gonzalez.



Mens Ministry is looking forward to more activities in the future, some work, some learning, and some just plain fun. Watch for our notices and be a part of the Action.



## Backpack Program



**Maundy Thursday Service**



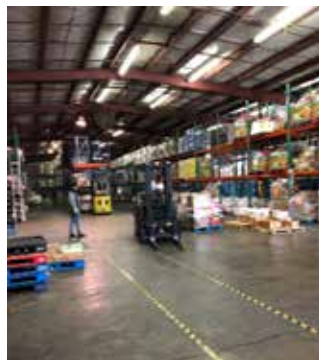
**Sunrise Service**

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**



**Backpack Students at El Banco de Alimentos**

Our Backpack Students had the opportunity to visit the Banco de Alimento (Food Bank of Puerto Rico) facilities in May. They received new backpacks which were donated by the Food Bank, and they were given a special tour by the warehouse manager.



We are grateful to God for the Food Bank and their staff. Each month we receive a large order of food for the Backpack Program free of cost which we in turn provide to our Backpack students at the Escuela Elemental La Urbana in downtown Guaynabo City!

# Second Union Church

