

August 2021 Edition

“Excuse me sir, but what restaurant do you own?” said a gentleman as I was standing in the loading zone at Sam’s Club with over 800 pounds of rice waiting for Bob’s pickup truck. I smiled back and shared that this was for our church’s ministry and invited them to come to the meaningful event. Well, this time I wasn’t standing alone but with Johnny B. and his awesome nephew Justin anticipating for John B. to pull up his truck so that we could load up 600 pounds of rice, 400 pounds of black beans, and a few cases of water. So what happens when we collect and purchase all of these bags of rice and beans? What occurs each quarter when the Gladiolus Food Pantry and Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) put their hearts and hands together? Three words.



Bag of Hope! In short, it’s a time we make a difference and it’s a concrete difference right here in the local community. It’s a way to put in practice John 13:35 or which is so eloquently expressed in a favorite camp hymn “They’ll Know We are Christians.” Or, just try to refrain from humming along as you read the following:

“We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride: And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love” (verse 3 and chorus).

This Sunday’s lectionary Gospel reading is the beloved story known from Sunday school and Study Bibles as the Feeding of the 5,000. Despite your Biblical interpretation or how you might slice and dice this story, we certainly know that there were a multitude of people hungry and Jesus filled with compassion made sure they were fed. Today there are still a multitude of women, men, white, black, Hispanic, children, adults, handicap, etc. who go hungry and without the proper nutrition in their stomach. At the same time, it’s our calling as the Body of Christ to show compassion and to make sure those tummies are not just filled but “satisfied.” As many of us move forward after the pandemic with our original lifestyles, remember there are thousands upon thousands who still suffer from hunger. The following is just a couple quick stats taking directly from an organization called whyhunger.org:

- Pre-pandemic, an estimated 2 billion people around the world were struggling to put food on their tables.
- Pre-pandemic, more than 35 million Americans struggled with hunger and over 12% of the population living in poverty. Due to the pandemic, that number has skyrocketed with more than 50 million Americans, or 1 in 6 (almost 1 in 4 children), projected to face hunger in 2020.
- 1 in 3 people who are food insecure are unlikely to qualify for most federal nutrition programs.

So mark your checks/envelopes as you give generously to the Bag of Hope. Furthermore, make sure you sign up in the Narthex and invite a friend to join us on Thursday, August 5, starting at 5:30pm as we share a rice bowl with each other and with volunteers from the Gladiolus Food Pantry. If standing up is an issue, there will be a table you can sit and contribute by putting labels on zip lock bags. The majority of volunteers will form an assembly line, scoop and bag the rice and beans to be distributed to the food pantry. Hope to see you then!

-Zach

Prayers and Praise to God from the Past Month

Baby Fletcher, Betty and Ron Johnston (grandson)
Bob Coates, beginning occupational therapy from fall, Church Family
Sam Blasi, fell and broke his hip and several ribs, John Blasi Sr. (brother)
Vicki, fell and will be bedridden for several weeks, John Blasi Sr. (Terry's cousin)
Jenny Frick, COVID and is expecting a baby next month, Kathy Harris (cousin)
Kenneth and Shirley Runyon, health issues, Ongoing Visitor
Tyler, currently at Tampa General and awaiting to go to Gainesville for a lung transplant, Peggy Roley (grandson)
Bonnie Solorio and her family, lost husband due to cancer and is now fighting breast cancer and her grandson has cancer, Shirley Fizer (friend)
Kate Seitz, bronchoscopy and other related breathing issues, Church Family
Jane Gearhart, in the passing of her husband Dr. Wilbur, Church Family
 Cards can be sent to: 162 Ameren Way Apt.508 Ballwin, MO

Sunday, July 4
 Ice Cream Social



Throughout most of the summer, we have been incredibly blessed with Susie as our primary vocalist leading our congregational singing as well as a few solos each week. I'm happy to share that both Lauryn K. and Ricardo R. will be recorded in the upcoming weeks to add to our worship. Additionally, Sophia will be our lead vocalist on August 8. Please know Grace A. is feeling better each week and hoping to soon rejoin the singing rotation.

August Birthdays

Logan Louderback	August 1
Mary Jane Ginter	August 6
Delores Bokmuller	August 8
Kathy Coates	August 8
Ruth Berry	August 9
Lee Camps	August 11
Hamlet Collier	August 21

Anniversaries

Denny and Sherry Floore	August 14
Mike and Karen Burns	August 18
Dr. Al and Mary Jane Day	August 18
Harry and Mary Rubin	August 18

Coffee Hour

Directly after worship in the fellowship on Sunday, August 1



Sunday, June 27
 1st Sunday with Congregational Singing