

December Edition 2021

“Kara, what have you done?”, echoed my dad’s deep voice from three rooms away. Keep in mind he was only responding to *my* initial cry and panic that actually did not have anything to do with my sister (can I add... for a change?). When children use to actually play, not just stare at screens, I was playing with some action figures or trucks in our family room which had a railing that overlooked the basement. In short, one of those toys fell downstairs, tumbling down step by step until it landed into the basement floor. As I unwisely peeked my head through two of those tight iron railings to see my toy collapse to the ground, I screamed when I naturally couldn’t pull my head back out. Even if my older and stronger sister wanted to, this was a pickle that I could only get into myself. There I was panicking and stuck, and hearing my dad’s voice. However, the more appropriate question would had been “Zach, what did *you* do?”

This past week we celebrated Christ the King Sunday, and recalled the powerful scene from John’s Gospel of Pontius Pilate bouncing back and forth from speaking to the Jewish authorities and confronting Jesus. At one point, the powerful Roman Governor, who knew that he had the single authority to let one free or not, sternly asked Jesus “...What have you done?” (John 18:35). Pilate had every right to ask such a question because it was not the Romans bringing charges against Jesus, but as Pilate says earlier in the same above verse “Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me....” Therefore, Pilate cannot quite wrap his mind around what Jesus might have done for his own tribe, his own beloved people, to bring him before him with charges. So he asked “What have you done?”

As we officially close down the liturgical Christian year, and move into the beautiful season of Advent, let’s begin with reflecting on that pivotal question Pilate asked Jesus. It appears Jesus, the master teacher, answers in a vague way because it’s our duty to wrestle with the question and answer it ourselves.

- So what is it that Jesus has done throughout Scripture in the lives of His disciples? What about to those who were sick and all the marginalized?
 - The short answer- love.
- So what is it that Jesus has done throughout Scripture to those who appeared to oppose or challenge Him? From the Pharisees to the tax collectors and other sinners?
 - The short answer- love.
- So what is it that that the Risen Christ has done out in the world today through selected miracles beyond one’s explanation, but also through the everyday miracles that happen each day through ordinary women and men?
 - The short answer- love.
- So what is Christ’s Spirit, living in you, going to do this Advent season?
 - You can only answer this question, but I hope it’s bringing hope, peace, joy, and, yes, love in this world!

Sure, we quite often get ourselves in a mess, we get stuck, and we have all fallen short (Romans 3:23). However, the only thing Christ is guilty of is unconditionally loving us despite our shortcomings and whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. Guilty of offering us grace upon grace even when we stumble, when worries distract us, when we lose our way, and when we get lost in life’s journey through difficult times and trials. During Advent we remember Love comes down, sets us free, and even illumines us to radiate Christ’s light in our dark world.



Prayers and Praise to God from the Past Month

Prayers for family and friends in the death of Art Napoli, Church Family Funeral Service will be on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 12pm, here at Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Kate Seitz, will be at Mayo Clinic from Nov.30-Dec.1, for EDG, Church Family
Rev. Ed Bodanske, waiting results from previous outpatient surgery, Church Family
Christy, in the hospital with double pneumonia and COVID (husband has COVID also), Dean Brown (daughter)
Jaymie Lacombe, upcoming surgery to remove cancerous cells, Joyce and Sandy (niece/Mickey's daughter)
Sharon Grabowski, surgery on Dec. 7, Dean Brown (friend)
Don Moon, praise for a good biopsy report, Church Family
John Battazzo, praise for overall good report from Moffitt, Church Family
Joanne Minor, moved to North Carolina, Church Family
Rosie Langley, moved to Kentucky, Church Family
Howard Hein, new test/scans related to his lung cancer, Steve L. (friend)
Nancy, Betty Johnston (sister)
Alesia Clark, diagnosed with COVID, Shirley Fizer (niece)
Benik Minasyan, upcoming cancer surgeries, Asya Teruni (father)
Warren Thigpen, young boy battling both emotional and behavior issues, Johnny Blasi

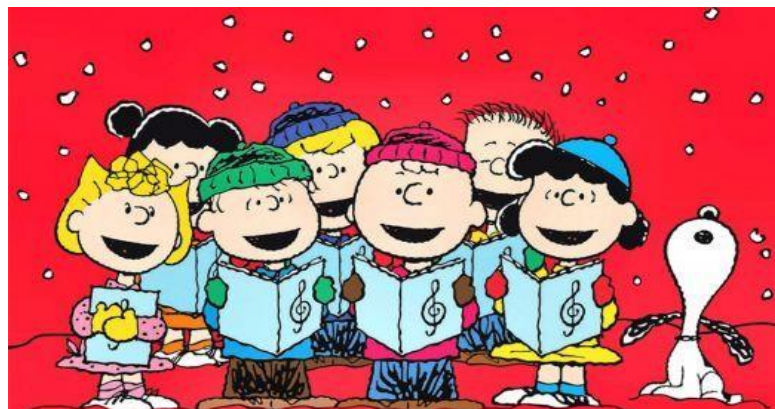


Please join us at the Walmart Neighborhood Market (9131 College Parkway) for Salvation Army bell ringing on Saturday, **December 4 at 10 a.m.**

This is a great way for us to share FMCC with the local community. Contact Chana Weaver with questions.



Welcome Kelsie Gibb, our newest vocalist from FGCU, who will sing once a month. Kelsie is a psychology major and participates in the chamber choir.



Join us on **Monday, December 13, from 4-5pm**, for your favorite Christmas Carols and more. This evening will feature Dr. Asya Teruni-Minasyan and several students from Florida Gulf Coast University who have sung at Fort Myers Christian Church throughout the past year.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Paulette Idol	1 st
Bob and Kathy Coates	4th
Harry Rubin	11
Butch and Carlene Griggs	13th
Mya Jane Seitz	24 th
Zach Seitz	25 th
Sharon Rimes	28