

November Edition 2021

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year is a classic Christmas tune by the famous artist Andy Williams. My aunt and uncle would travel the 255 miles or should I say the three hours and 48 minutes to Branson, MO, from St. Louis, MO, each year to hear Andy and other artists during this season. A couple times my grandparents and parents went with them, twice my cousins and I went, and we even jammed out to Christmas music on the good, old cassette tapes. Over twenty plus years, my aunt and uncle have continued this trip as they love this time of the year and I couldn't agree anymore. Perhaps it's even better in Florida because we don't have to worry about the snow as we can potentially sip on hot chocolate together in the low 80s in a pool. How about that for a Hallmark Christmas card? We are definitely getting into, as the title of Andy's hit song says, "the most wonderful time of the year." The only thing better than this season is sharing it with family, friends, and neighbors. Or, take the opposite approach, the holiday season would just not quite be the same without sharing it. My aunt's and uncle's yearly Branson trip would actually be boring or sad if they had to experience it without one another or others. We are meant to connect and especially this time of the year!

Last year the pandemic prevented most of us from traveling and we didn't get a chance to participate in some of our favorite holiday traditions with loved ones and friends. While still being wise and cautious, this year we have some making up to do as we find ways to celebrate together the "most wonderful time of the year." Perhaps you can call me overly optimistic, but I believe people are looking for an opportunity to get out and be together. Therefore, I challenge everyone to invite, invite, and invite folks to something with the church. Share with someone about our beautiful church and invite them to attend worship with you during November, Advent, or Christmas Eve. More than our signage outside, *Facebook* page, or any newspaper add, people want a personal invitation from someone they know and trust. Hint, this is you! So I challenge you to invite two people to an upcoming worship service or fun event during the next two months.

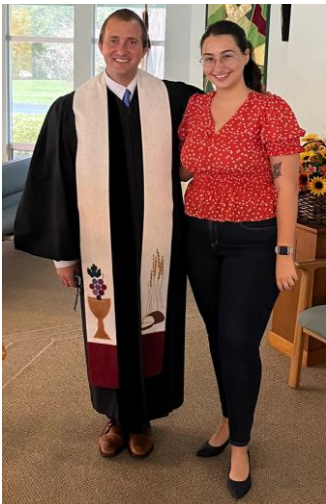
Who does not love beautiful music? Who does not cherish Christmas carols? Let me share a few key dates that you can use to invite a friend or neighbor to our church.

- On Wednesday, November 10, from 12-1pm, it's a privilege to have one of the finest vocalists in Fort Myers, Lauryn Kay, back with us. Pick up a flyer in the Narthex to read Lauryn's impressive bio. You will not want to miss (repeat, you will not want to miss) Lauryn Kay accompany by Dr. Asya in a spectacular concert. Lauryn's last concert at Fort Myers Christian Church left tears in individuals' eyes as we raised over \$600 for the Gladiolus Food Pantry. This time we will be accepting donations to raise money for our Christmas Offering which goes to Tanglewood Elementary School.
- Tentatively mark your calendar for Monday, December 13, from 4-5pm. Our talented Florida Gulf Coast University vocalists will have an evening of favorite Christmas Carols and a few selected songs. Throughout the past year, we have been blessed with alternating students from FGCU both singing solos as well as leading the congregational singing. This will be a special evening which we will have several of our students together at one time, singing both together and a few solos, Christmas music to get us in the Holiday spirit!



Prayers and Praise to God from the Past Month

Family and friends of Delores Bagent, who died, Church Family
Family and friends of Ruth Mason, who died, Church Family
Family and friends of Eric Clark, who died, Kate (step-brother)
Art Napoli, back in Gulf Coast Hospital with COVID, double pneumonia, Church Family
Darryl, released from the hospital with another GI bleed, Rita Azer (son)
Kate Seitz, bronchoscopy last week and upcoming Mayo appointment, Church Family
Nelly Sarkissyan, surgery last week and back home feeling better, Asya Teruni (mother-in-law)
Danny Trousdale, procedure on Friday, Shirley Fizer (brother)
Mary Lou Childress, Church Family
Tom and Dana, doing better after COVID, Joyce Turney (son and daughter-in-law)
John Blasi Sr., thanks to God for he is doing better after bronchitis, Church Family
(update) Mary Ann Beaty, having home rehab from her fall in August, Church Family
Shirley Fizer, prayers and praise for her new job, Church Family
Naomi Kratzer, in the death of her brother, Bob, Church Family
Susan Cusack, had test last week at John Hopkins Hospital, Church Family
Warren Thigpen, young boy battling both emotional and behavior issues, Johnny Blasi
Elizabeth Biggs, brain surgery last month, Katheryn Hamm (friend)
Johnny, had a cardiac cath and started a new job, Shirley Fizer (son-in-law)



Susie's last Sunday before starting at Sanibel UCC



Eleven new members in Oct.: Sharon, Inge, Jerry, Judy, Judee, Kenneth, Shirley, Linda, Don, (Charlie and Sue- not pictured)



In November, Outreach is collecting board games for Tanglewood Elementary to be given as Christmas gifts. Games should be age appropriate (5-11). This type of game promotes communication and social skills. There will be a bin in the narthex for you to place your unwrapped gift. **Last day for donations is Sunday, December 5.**

HOLD THE DATE: Salvation Army Bell ringing 12/4 from 10-12 at Walmart 9131 College Parkway.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Joey Lee	1 st
Mary Ann Beaty	2 nd
Chana Weaver	8 th
Sandy Shomper	19 th
Sharla Davidson	21 st
Johnny and Michelle Blasi	22 nd
Kate Seitz	23 rd
Chris Harris	26 th
Bob and Peggy Bruce	29 th



FGCU "Make a Difference Day" Sat., Oct. 23