

October Edition 2021

Do you happen to know what national day is on the fourth Saturday of October? I'll give you two clues. First, you will not see any children walking the neighborhood dressed up like ghosts and goblins nor princesses and superheroes. Instead, women and men of all ages will be wearing charity, love, and compassion on their arms as they unite with one another to make some differences in their local communities. October 23 is Make a Difference Day (MADD) and this has been celebrated since USA weekend magazine created this day in the year 1992.

Since our church is a Florida Gulf Coast University Community Partner, we were able to sign-up with FGCU to host a site to participate in this event. Students will have the opportunity to pre-register so that they can volunteer at our Camps' Community Garden. Additionally, the Gladiolus Food Pantry volunteers will join us as we officially kick-off this year's garden season. We intend to top off and till each of the garden beds with new soil as well as begin planting. In the meantime, Bob Coates (property chair) and I have been in contact with Dan Lewis (garden coordinator) as we continue to take all necessary steps preparing the garden for this fun and meaningful gathering. If you or anyone is interested in participating in this event, dress up with your old clothes and gloves, and join us as we make a practical and impactful difference in our community.



Let's not allow any physical restrictions to prevent us from making a difference as we have plenty of other opportunities to do this in both large and little ways. I thought about this last week while reading the autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux called *The Story of a Soul*. From one perspective, it seemed like a short and sad life of a girl with so much devotion and passion for Jesus who dies in the Carmelite Order at the age of 24. "Oh, I love Him...My God...I love you" said Therese on her deathbed. I cautiously confess that it's not too much of a stretch that Therese did not have huge roles or jobs, accomplishments, travels, or that she influenced hundreds each day. It was quite the opposite, and perhaps this is why she stood out in her own unique and faithful way. In fact, Therese believed she could never live up to the other "saintly heroes" but she embraced small, daily hardships and tasks with a fervent love of God. In the autobiography, Therese writes: "I liken you, Mother, to the more valuable brush which Jesus lovingly takes up when he has in mind some great work upon your children's souls; I am the very little brush He uses afterwards for minor details." In her humility, devoted love, and servant attitude in all the little things, Therese became known as "the little flower" and according to the Catholic Church one of the greatest saints of modern times.

Friends, how might we be like a little brush? That is, how might we allow God to use us in ways to make a difference in the lives of people? Although we might not have the strength to do some mighty task due to health, age, or competence, each day we have opportunities to do little things for God and neighbor. From simply doing our daily work and home tasks with joy to lending a stranger a hand out of love for God and not asking anything in return. Let's make a difference in all we do!

In Christ,

Zach

Prayers and Praise to God from the Past Month

Deloris Bagent, began hospice and will remain at Gulf Coast Hospital, Church Family
Nancy Bagent, diagnosed with COVID, Church Family
Art Napoli, diagnosed with COVID, Church Family
Jim Day, recovering at home after being in the hospital for 10 days with COVID, Dr. Al and Mary Jane Day (son)
Nancy and Chris Young, in the death of their son who died of COVID at the age of 50, Joyce Turney (close friend)
Asya Teruni, in the unexpected death of her friend's mother, Sonia Ahmetova, Church Family
Martha Furrow, in the passing of her best friend, Margravel, Church Family
Rev. Dr. Jim Carpenter, continues to recover after being diagnosed with COVID, Church Family
Rev. John Miles, residents, and staff at Brookdale Independent Living, who recently have been diagnosed with COVID, Zach
Betty and Ron Johnston, prayers for their granddaughter and her boyfriend who have COVID, Church Family
Nancy Vornold, will begin both radiation and chemo, Johnston Family (Betty's sister)
The Family of Sean McDonald, Sean was only 27 years old and died in a motorcycle accident, April Turton (family friend)
Sue Fink, endoscopy, Church Family
Rainy and Sal, in the passing of Rainy's cousin Ray, Church Family
Ken and Sharon Royer, Naomi Kratzer (family)
Zach Seitz, exposed to COVID, Church Family

Worship Update and Changes

The Executive Team met to discuss not only the rise of COVID, but also the recent effect among members in our congregation and the best way to move forward. With that said, out of abundance of caution and love, we are going to have **online ONLY worship for the next two weeks**. A link will be sent out via email on Sunday morning.

In the church year, the first Sunday in October, October 3, is called **World Communion Sunday**. Apostle Paul writes "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). In the midst of such a divided world and harsh rhetoric, let this day be a reminder that we are One in the Lord. Furthermore, might we live each day as brothers and sisters in Christ as we embody the love of Christ.



The **Online Church Directory** will be available beginning **Monday, September 27**. There will be a link sent out with directions on how to access this calendar via online on your computer. Also, you can download the free app to access the directory on your smart device, such as phone or tablet. Don't forget you will have the ability to print a PDF of the directory or if you need assistance you can contact Pastor Zach or Charlie Fink.



Once again this year the Gladiolus Food Pantry will be distributing Thanksgiving food to their recipients. If you would like to help them purchase turkeys, please designate a portion of your FMCC October giving by writing a note on the memo line that says Food Pantry turkeys. Donations accepted through October 24.
-Chana Weaver (outreach chair)

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Susan Hanna	11 th
Rev. Ed Bodanske	12 th
Carol Kreuger	14 th
Ruth Mason	15 th
Donna Briggs	16 th
Mary Jane Day	16 th
George and Donna Briggs	20 th
Bob and Janet Herbst	20 th
Janet Herbst	23 rd
Naomi Kratzer	23 rd
Rita Azer	28 th
Carlene Griggs	30 th