

September Edition 2021

“Turn your head slightly to the right, chin up, and remember to keep your shoulders straight,” says the overly energetic photographer. After you follow all the instructions, you might hear “Wait, a little too much to the right. Now place your right hand down on your lap and your left hand behind their back. Perfect, now smile and act like you’re happy to be here! Looks terrific, but we need to try this again from another angle, besides your four-year-old is looking down and your son ran off.” Sound familiar? Okay, maybe a bit of an exaggeration but many of us have been down this road before. Although we might not all love the process of getting fall or spring school pictures, family picture, or some other formal pictures, most of us cherish the outcome as we proudly hang these pictures on our walls throughout our homes.

In today’s fast pace world and constantly ever-changing times, I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that the days of printing and distributing a church directory are far gone. Keep in mind, each time you print a directory it’s almost immediately outdated and this is especially true for churches in Southwest Florida, including Fort Myers Christian Church. From not only members leaving the church to new members arriving, but also to changing addresses, phone numbers, and/or emails. Additionally, there are new ministries, activities, staff transitions, and even part-time worship additions such as our students from Florida Gulf Coast University. In short, there must be a better way to keep an updated directory that is useful for the congregation.

In the past August board meeting, we voted to move forward creating an online church directory that will allow us to meet the above challenges and for this to be easily accessible for our church members as we stay current. By the end of September, we will have a user-friendly web software that allows members’ photos, addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, and anniversaries, all in one spot. Guess what? You will not even have to worry about the hassle of getting another picture as you can simply email a picture of what you want to be in the directory. If you have a smart phone, you will even be able to download a free mobile app so that you will have the directory wherever you go and pull up addresses in a flash. This will help us to put a face to one another whether we are praying or sending out a “thinking of you card” to one of our beautiful shut-ins or someone who is unable to attend worship during this season due to their health.



Let me answer two questions that might be on your mind and shared at our board meeting.

- First, you might be asking yourselves what about the safety of everyone’s information. Please note the directory will not be available for the “public” to view. Instead, there will be an online members’ directory website that you will go to, and we plan to have a direct link from our website as well as Monday email. Furthermore, each family will create their own unique login with a verified email address and password. This will operate similar to signing into your email. Therefore, from any computer, tablet, or smart phone, you can login with your username and password to access the directory.
- Secondly, a few people might be wondering what happens if you are unable to go online or just still prefer a hard copy of a directory to place on your nightstand. There is no reason to fret as there will be an option to print out a PDF of the online directory.

Within the next week, you should receive an email regarding a picture for the directory.

In Christ,
Zach

Prayers and Praise to God from the Past Month

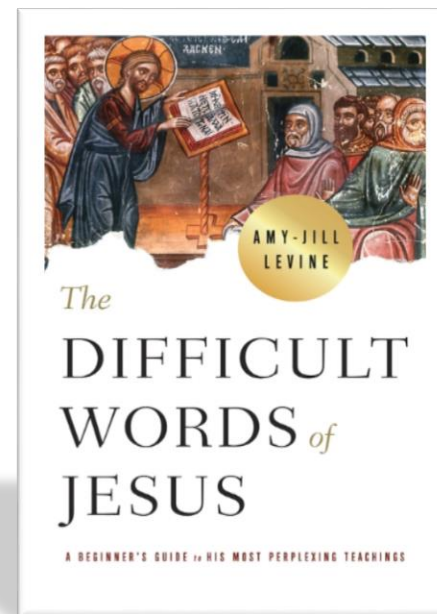
Kathy Coates, recovering from back surgery on Friday, Church Family
Kate Seitz, recent bronchoscopy last week as she is still having difficulty breathing, Church Family
Rev. Ed Bodanske, new tumor discovered and waiting for more test in October, Church Family
Mary Rubin, diagnosed with COVID, Church Family
Susan Cusack, will be having another CT scan as well as biopsy at John Hopkins Hospital in the near future, Church Family
MaryAnn Beaty, in rehab after broken hip as well as pneumonia, Church Family
Norman Morrow, in critical condition in the hospital with COVID, April and Chris Turton (employee/friend of Chris)
Ken Hill, in the death of his daughter Katherine, Zach (neighbor)
Joyce Turney, continuous pain in the back and had a recent MRI, Church Family
Ed Fox, Lori Summers (boyfriend)
Ruby Yohe, gall bladder issues, Deloris Bagent (friend)
Lisa and Marissa Hollinger, upcoming knee replacement and health complications, Deloris Bagent (friends)
Family of Minnie Crouch, in the loss of both Minnie and her sister, Shirley Fizer (friend)
Greg, prayers for comfort and peace as his cancer spread, Naomi Kratzer (son)
The Family of Judy Wray, Shirley Fizer (friend)
Ray, prayers for peace in his declining health and to rest in God's Holy hands, Rainy and Sal (cousin)
Prayers for everyone at Tanglewood Elementary School and for the family of Lou Quattrucci, died from COVID, Shirley Fizer (teacher in Lee County Schools for almost 40 years)
Evelyn Mieves, waiting for a lung transplant, Blasi Family (friend)
Nancy Vornold, being treated at Barnes Jewish Hospital regarding cancer, Betty Johnston (sister)
Joe and Sydney D'Alessandro, praise to God as they are both feeling much better after being diagnosed with COVID, Church Family
Art Napoli, Zach Taylor, and Family, in the death of Theresa Taylor, (Art's stepdaughter and Zach's mom) Church Family
Shirley Fizer, recovering from shoulder surgery and ill health, Church Family
Sam Blasi, fell again and in rehab, John Blasi Sr. (brother)
Vicki, fell and will be bedridden for the next four weeks, John Blasi Sr. (Terry's cousin)
Prayers for all the administration, teachers, and students as they begin a new school year
All the families in Afghanistan, those affected from Haiti as well as wildfires out West

Thank You Notes

I want to thank everybody at FMCC for all their thoughts and prayers during my recent accident and for all of those who visited me in the hospital and came to the house to help Kathy and Riley. Throughout this challenging time we have truly seen the love of God through the actions of the people in our church. It's an honor and a blessing to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. -Bob Coates

With heartfelt gratitude I want to thank my church family for the prayers, cards, calls and wonderful food from Karen Burns. Special thank you to Pam for the masks and Ensure. I so appreciate the prayers and Pastor Zach's visit bringing Communion. God bless each of you, and please stay safe. -Shirley Fizer

Upcoming 6-Week Bible Study
Mondays from 10-11:15am
Starting in September



We are starting a new outreach ministry in September. Ten folks have already joined the Caring Circle, a group committed to sending one card or letter to a homebound FMCC member each month. Cards will be provided to members of the Caring Circle. If you would like to join this ministry, please reach out to Chana at Weaver317@aol.com.

September Birthdays

Peggy Roley 10th
Colton Seitz 11th
Michelle Foo 13th
Rosie Langley 14th
Ray Schneider 15th
Barbara Peters 16th
Ronnie Ginter 24th
Zach Taylor 26th
Maxine Simon 30th