

August Edition 2022

Rewind approximately thirty years ago, my sister, Kara, and her now, boyfriend, Greg, were in youth group and I was just the tagalong little brother as we would sit in those wooden pews waiting for any chance to sneak out of the beautiful sanctuary with Nathan. Of course, Nathan, was the associate pastor's son, who led us astray so that we could taste the delicious flavor of one of those individual ice creams with the wooden spoon attached. Kara can still hear the sound of Carol softly saying "Stand still...everyone ready?" as she faithfully not only sewed all the children's outfits but directed all the Christmas plays in the church basement each year. Greg had a huge grin still remembering the distinct smell of Rev. Dr. Teter due to his cigar breath. All three of us used a little imagination and could still see the church's layout and many of the old rooms throughout the south city church, including all the best spots for when we played capture the flag and hide-in-seek during the epic lock-ins. And, without having to say it out loud, we each knew that anyone who stepped foot in our old church could still feel God's love in their lives today. Kara, Greg, and I, had fun going down memory until Greg said the unthinkable, "We are old enough to be in the Seeker's Class." For the record, this would have been our parent's Sunday school class. My sister sarcastically went unglued and would have none of that quickly replying "Wait a minute, that is going too far!" Nonetheless, we all laughed as we noticed time flew by as we all yawned noticing the time was near 12:30am and went to sleep.

Time flies! Even more, going down memory lane with family or friends is a great paradox as people have aged, places have changed, and the times are definitely different. This was certainly true for the people of Israel as finally after 70 years of captivity and after being scattered in foreign land, they would return back home to Jerusalem. Although there was relief and celebration for being back in their own land, home simply was not quite the same. Home didn't look, hear, smell, nor taste the same. Nevertheless, I believe they could still feel that God was with them, would lead them through like a good shepherd, and provide for them as the classic hymn's title sums it up *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* #80 *Chalice Hymnal*. God would be with Israel in the transitioning times doing a new thing as well as going back to the beautiful older things!

Maybe you can resonate with Israel feeling both thankful, yet frustrated, or joyful, yet saddened that the church and other avenues in life are not back to "normal" or where you would have expected to be by August 2022. Throughout the next month, Steve W., our moderator and I, are going to form a dedicated team who will represent the congregation as we cautiously and wisely discuss the appropriate steps for the church. The team will primarily discuss worship, such as the possibility to include more elders/deacons in communion as well as the way the offering is handled. Secondly, we will prayerfully examine fellowship and dinner opportunities, and consider the right time to host potlucks, Well-Fed Dinners, and/or other events.



If you are a member of the church and would like to participate in this team, please let either of us know as we will present the members of this action team at the next board meeting, which is Sunday, September 18. Additionally, if you are a seasonal member and would like to participate, we are willing to make this a hybrid, zoom meeting(s) so that you can join. In the meantime, due to the rise of COVID in Lee County and the upcoming flu season, we are going to continue serving communion with the prepackaged communion cups, hold off on eating together, and maintain most functions the same.

Let's continue to worship and pray with one another "tasting and seeing that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).

**Prayers and Praise to God from the Past Month**

**Sydney D'Allesandro**, upcoming orthopedic surgery on August 1, Church Family  
**Linda Lee**, upcoming leg procedures for the next several weeks, Church Family  
**Laura Faber**, recent diagnosed with stage three lymphoma, Lori Summers (friend)  
**Shirley Fizer**, is blessed knowing she has a church family that she can turn to and ask for prayer, Church Family  
**Jerry Trousdale**, surgery last week to remove lipoma from his neck and praise it was not cancerous, Shirley F. (nephew)  
**Millie and Roy Dalrymple**, Millie moved to American House Senior Living, Church Family  
**Judee Buhlinger**, offers thanks for her church family's love and support for both her daughter and sister, Church Family  
**Mya Seitz**, severe dog bite to the forehead, Church Family  
**Scott and Kathryn Hamm**, both had COVID, Church Family  
**Jim James**, HealthPark hospital with COVID, Zach (friend in hidden harbor)  
**Family and friends of Nedra Myers**, in the death of Nedra, Shirley Fizer (friend)  
**David Weaver**, days are beginning to get more difficult with MD, Steve Weaver, (brother)  
**Rafael**, wisdom about upcoming next steps, Ircania Deneri (Frequent visitor's son)  
**Art Schaper**, recent stroke, Mary R. (friend)  
**Carolyn Babbs**, lung cancer and additional health complications, Sue F. (neighbor)  
**Ron Johnston**, praise for doing better after pneumonia, Church Family  
**Betty Johnston**, thanks to God for feeling better after bronchiolitis, Church Family  
**Linda**, recovering from major heart surgery, Sue Fink (friend)  
**Shirley and Kenny Runyon**, Church Family  
**BJ Turner**, diagnosed with cancer, Rubin (friend)



Ricardo Rivera will begin teaching at Oak Hammock Magnet School for the Arts and will be in charge of their vocal and drama departments. Ricardo is happy to sing with us for the next month. We continue to invest in young vocalist as they develop, gain confidence, and share their gifts and graces at FMCC.



**Quarterly Rice and Beans Bagging, Thursday, August 25, from 6-7pm.**



Christmas Jars Event! Special thanks to all these faithful ladies: Chana, Sue, Rita, Judy, and Mary.

**August Birthdays and Anniversaries**

*(Email the office if your name is missing)*

Logan Louderback	1 <sup>st</sup>
Mary Jane Ginter	6 <sup>th</sup>
Kathy Coates	8 <sup>th</sup>
Ruth Berry	9 <sup>th</sup>
Denny and Sherry Floore	14 <sup>th</sup>
Mike and Karen Burns	18 <sup>th</sup>
Harry and Mary Rubin	18 <sup>th</sup>
Hamlet Collier	21 <sup>st</sup>
Joyce Turney	26 <sup>th</sup>

**Outreach Corner**

It is time once again for us to collect needed school supplies for our friends at Tanglewood Elementary. This year they are in particular need of **backpacks, pencil boxes and water bottles**. Of course, other school supplies are always appreciated. A collection tote will be placed in the narthex for your donations beginning July 3.