

December Edition 2023

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas/Everywhere you go...” Michael Buble’s 2011 holiday hit is certainly true for around Fort Myers Christian (Disciples of Christ) campus. Both the sanctuary as well as fellowship hall are all decorated for Advent and Christmas. Additionally, this year, if you find yourself near the church in the evening, drive around and you will notice a few red and green spot lights that Bob Coates plugged in this year to get in the Christmas Spirit.



While we will continue a FMCC tradition of lighting luminaries around the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, this year we are switching things up a bit to have the service in the fellowship hall. For the first time in eleven years, the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas

Eve. Therefore, you can join us for a meaningful last Sunday of Advent in the sanctuary at the tradition time at 10:30am and subsequently in the evening at 6pm for a fun and also meaningful Christmas Eve Service. Christmas Eve will primarily be a time to sing a handful of Christmas songs with family and friends! There will be cookies, hot chocolate and other goodies as it’s an evening of joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. For my liturgical or just traditionalists, I’ll put myself in this category, the answer is a double yes to a question or two you are probably thinking about. Yes, we will still celebrate the Lord’s Supper and yes, we will lift those candles up high as we sing *Silent Night*. You can call me old-fashioned and whatever else you want, but it just wouldn’t quite be Christmas Eve without that ending touch!



Finally, I wanted everyone to know that throughout the four weeks of Advent, communion will be served from intinction to make this entire season extra meaningful. You will be invited to come forward with open hands, receive a piece of the *one* bread placed in your palms, and dip this into the *one* cup. If you are physically unable to come forward or prefer not to come forward for whatever other reason, please know the communion cups will still be in the pew rack.

A Special Note from Ricardo- Christmas Choir Cantata

We hope you have enjoyed our previous two choir anthems performed by our FMCC Congregational Ensemble; Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me and Lord, Here Am I. Every Sunday at 9AM there is wonderful laughter and music making occurring before our worship service officially starts at 10:30PM. Please come and join in the fun, all are welcome regardless of “musical knowledge.”

This December we have a special event occurring on December 17th, newly titled “Christmas Quintata.” Arrive on December 17th at 10:30AM for a special worship service containing two choir anthems and 3 of the ensembles’ (and selfishly my own) favorite Christmas hymns that are not traditionally performed too often. One of the Choir Anthems is titled Peace, Peace arranged by Fred Block. Beginning with a beautiful flowing piano prelude, the choir comes in with the inspirational yet familiar text: “Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all// This is a time for joy, this is a time for love” Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth”. Half of the ensemble then repeats the text while the other half overlaps with Silent Night. It is a calming, relaxing piece of music that will melt you into the “Christmas Spirit.” Come and join us on the 17th to learn of and experience the rest of the program!

Prayers and Praise to God from November

Blasi Family and Friends, in the death Saverio Blasi, John Blasi Sr. (brother)
Kim Blasi, in the hospital, John Blasi Sr. (daughter)
John Blasi Sr., upcoming appointment regarding siactica on the left leg and back,
Church Family
(update) Pam Williams, beginning a new treatment, Church Family
Donna, terminal cancer, Gail Baumgarten (friend)
(update) Ron Johnston, began hospice, Church Family
George E. Neal Jr., prayers over his bi-polar and his new mental health
facility, Anne Chisholm (grandson)
Herman, very sick with cancer, Gail Baumgarten (friend)
Harry Baumgarten, in the hospital at the age of 99, Gail Baumgarten
(brother-in-law)
Kayla and Tie, in the death of their mother Debbie, Pastor Zach (neighbors)
Sue Fink, Church Family
Wylie Scott Whipple, new born baby on a feeding tube, Elaine Maley (relative)
Justin and Jamie Edwards, praise to God for being one year sober and with jobs,
Pam Williams

Outreach Corner

We are well on our way to the Advent season. I want to thank everyone who came for Thanksgiving dinner and especially those who helped me. We had a wonderful time.

Onto things for December. On December 16 we will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Publix at Southpoint Commons. If you are available, we would love to have you join us. We will be there from 10 till 12. There will be a tree in the narthex with tags on it to donate for Gladiolus pantry for kids for Christmas. They are requesting that we buy socks, not tube socks, but the short socks and underwear for the kids. They also have requested towels; the kids would like to have their own personal towel.



God's Kingdom made a Splash!

On Sunday, November 26, we opened and poured water into the baptistry for the first time in over a decade. What initially began in the pastor's study with Pam inquiring about a baptism in front of a few close friends, transformed into four members of our church proclaiming their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior on Christ the King Sunday in front of the entire congregation. Rev. John and Carol Vickers asked me that glorious Sunday before worship "Zach, are you nervous?" I cannot tell you what I said. However, looking back, I wish to have said "No, because God's got this!" Yes, baptism is God's claim on us and Holy Spirit upon us.



Thanksgiving Dinner with Church Family and Loved Ones!

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Bob and Kathy Coates	4th
Gerald (Jerry) Hessee	5th
Harry Rubin	10th
Shirley Runyon	11th
Mya Jane Seitz	24th
Zach Seitz	25th