

Did you know Mariah Carey's highest recorded frequency is 3,135 hertz, which she recorded on her 1991 billboard smash hit "Emotions"? Bear with me, this is not completely holy week fatigue as this will connect. A dolphin can hear frequencies that top out at around 150,000 hertz. Therefore, a dolphin can hear thousands of sounds we cannot hear. Additionally, did you know buzzards can see a mouse from 15,000 feet above in the air? In typical preacher form, let's pause for dramatic effect: a bird approximately the size of a cantaloupe can spot a rodent the size of a lime just under three miles away. Keep in mind my son often cannot find his baseball cleats even when I lay them directly by his feet. In short, the way the buzzard experiences the world will be different from the way the dolphin experiences the world. Whereas the dolphin will be able to hear things the buzzard will never be able to hear, the buzzard will see things the dolphin will be unable to see. As Easter people we have the grace to see and hear much differently than others. Not only do we hear with a different set of ears, but also see with a different set of eyes. An awful and agonizing death, cold and empty tomb, fear and loss, all of a sudden are transformed and take on new meaning because God raised Jesus from the dead. Even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we can eventually count on hope and joy, grace and love, promise and victory at the end! Because of this deep knowing, we hear and cannot help ourselves each Easter season from sharing with others around the world those five life-giving words "Christ is risen. Indeed, alleluia!"



Since it was in Jesus' boundless generosity of giving his life that allows us to discover new, abundant and everlasting life, we are going to follow in his footsteps of great generosity this Easter. In a very practical and concrete way we are going to make a positive difference by giving away the entire Easter offering at the 10am traditional service towards outreach. Yes, this was not a typo but a statement of faith and trust in God. Specifically, the tithes and offerings will go towards the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to support the Disciples Mission Fund and general ministries.



While we will always have a passion to support local needs in the Fort Myers and surrounding areas, it's a blessing to be part of the greater church that together can make an even larger impact in ways that many of us are not always aware about. For instance, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, formation of new congregations, and much more. This Sunday, one of our very own, Rev. John Vickers, a former Regional Minister will not only share more about the Easter Special Offering, but also how far your tithes and offerings go in making a difference. This Easter let us be thankful not merely in words for Jesus and how God has blessed our congregation to be in a good financial position, but also we give thanks to God by sharing our blessings to others. For God so loved the world...He has called Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to embody those five surprising and beautiful Easter Sunday words "Christ is risen. Indeed, alleluia!"

## Updated March Prayer Request

*(The weekly "FMCC Cross Connection" email contains the ongoing prayer list)*

**Steve and Chana Weaver**, in the death of Steve's brother David, Church Family  
**Ingee Stuart**, Church Family  
**Harry Rubin**, heart valve replacement on 4.18, Church Family  
**Joyce Turney**, recovering from COVID, Church Family  
**Sandy Shomper**, recovering from COVID, Church Family  
**Alaina Eunpu**, leaving for training with "Youth with a Mission" and the mission is in the Pacific area, Dean Brown (granddaughter)  
**Bill and Linda Garlow**, in the death of Bill's cousin John, Church Family  
**Family of Sandy Joppa**, Sandy's father passed away, Chana Weaver (friend)  
**Linda Lee**, prayers for recovering after a fall, Church Family  
**Kathryn and Scott Hamm**, Hamm's are elated on the announcement of their seventh great grandchild in July, Church Family  
**Pastor Kathy Frumoff**, in hospice, Dean Brown (Associate Pastor at Faith UMC)  
**Betty Johnston**, in the death of her husband Ron, Church Family  
**Shirley Runyon**, praise God for being back home after a stroke, Church Family  
**Linda Schneider**, prayers for perseverance, strength, and comfort, Church Family  
**Jean Taylor**, transitioned from Brookdale Independent to Brookdale Assisted Living, Church Family  
**Rev. Ed Bodanske**, chemo treatments, Church Family

### **Outreach Corner**

Easter is officially here, and we will begin technically the "Season of Easter" throughout the next several weeks. We had a delicious spaghetti dinner on the 17<sup>th</sup> as we celebrated both our annual congregational meeting and Jean Taylor who was honored by the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution.) Thank you to all who attended and helped.

This past week, we had a beautiful Palm Sunday service outside and this wouldn't have been possible without everyone pitching in. We are looking forward to meaningful Good Friday and Easter services. I hope you have seen or new sign and our new banner.

Pastor Zach and Bruce have been working together on some upcoming meetings and plans to move the church forward in some exciting times this new fiscal year. This will include more intentional outreach projects, fellowship dinners, and overall communication. Just around the corner, on **April 22**, the outside of the church will be painted. Finally, thank you to Carol Krueger who has been making quilts and donating them to the local hospitals.

-Linda, outreach chair

## **Journey with Jesus...**

On Good Friday you will have the opportunity to walk the stations of the cross in the sanctuary from noon to 3pm. Also, the doors will be open one hour before Good Friday Service (6pm) and one hour afterwards.

We invite you to bring your cross you received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of lent (extras will be provided in the narthex), take a moment at each of the 14 stations to reflect on the picture, Scripture, and pray. If you would like further information and study on the stations of the cross, you can join our Eastertide Bible Study on the following Mondays from 10-11:30am: Apr. 8, 15, and 22.



### **April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*(Name Missing? Email the office.)*

Donna Fielding	Apr 6
Kathryn Hamm	Apr 9
John Battazzo	Apr 14
Ron Bly	Apr 15
Anna Comer	Apr 16

### **Upcoming Meetings After Worship**

April 7, Elder and Deacon Meeting  
April 28, Executive Team and Committee Chair Strategic Meeting (lunch provided)

### **Save the Date**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 4pm  
Ricardo Rivera will be having a fundraiser concert in the sanctuary!