

Have you ever found yourself walking back to your car with a dear friend from a magnificent concert venue or your favorite Broadway production in complete awe and amazement? Do you remember a time walking down from the upper floor section of the bleachers at the ballpark happily conversing with other fans about the spectacular comeback and victory you couldn't have ever predicted? Or, do I dare to say, leave worship in utter silence or even with a tear drop running down the side of your cheek as the Spirit spoke a word deep down into your soul?

All of the above and much more couldn't come close to capture the emotions and feelings of the five thousand plus people who all were fed with merely five loaves of bread and two fish. Just visualize all of the commotion walking back from the desert area to their homes regarding what all just took place in front of their eyes. With just a tiny imagination one can see the cluster of groups walking back with a different kick in their step and their faces still glowing from pure astonishment. Some people couldn't stop from talking, I will not suggest any names from our congregation who this might possibly be...Others were so overwhelmed that they couldn't quiet formulate a correct sentence as they were so bewildered, yet in awe. Sure, there were an amply amount of the stubborn intellectual types who attempted to explain away, question every angle, and rationalize just exactly what "really" occurred. We all have friends like this, and we try to love them just as God created them. Nevertheless, as the majority of folks placed their spinning heads down for a good night rest, the world was more full of possibilities than any 21<sup>st</sup> century Disney movie could ever produce or your great grandchild might believe.



Yet, let's be careful to not overlook the not so minor detail and conversation between Jesus and his disciples. When the disciples suggest for Jesus to send the huge crowd home to get food, Jesus responds "You feed them." In sum, the disciples had to do their part. It might not seem like much, we might not think we have something significant to offer, and others might not seem capable, but we all have something to offer. We all have something to give. God gives us each a role to play. No matter how large or minor of a gift we offer, with Jesus' blessing we have an abundance. When we give back to God, Christ's church, and to others, we make the world a better place.

On Sunday, July 9, there will be a light luncheon and presentation in the fellowship hall after worship. (DAR) Daughters of the American Revolution will recognize both Rev. John Vickers and Jerry Hesse for their service to our great country. Additionally, this will be an opportunity to meet and connect with our Florida Regional Minister, Rev. Sandy Messick, who will be preaching and joining us for fellowship that day.

While there are all kinds of ways we can offer ourselves to God and give back, it's important to keep the temperature up in faithful giving during these summer months. Both known bills as well as a handful of unexpected larger expenses have occurred the past two months. Although nobody jumps out of bed and gets overly excited to pay the electricity bill, it's life-giving to be part of a church family that gathers weekly both in-person and online to draw close to God, follow Jesus, and serve others. Remember when we offer God our gifts and receive Jesus' blessings, the possibilities are limitless!

Thanks to your generous ongoing giving, we are able to address the following expenses as we continue to be faithful stewards and a shiny light in Fort Myers:

- Replacing panels and gutters from hurricane damage- \$8,068
- New motor for one of the AC units in the sanctuary- \$2,500
- New coil for the large fellowship hall AC units- \$8,000 (Coil has just been delivered and will be installed in the near future)

## Prayers and Praise to God from February

Prayers for our church families and their loved ones as they travel throughout these summer months.

**Hildur Skaggs and family**, in the death of Bob Skaggs, Church Family

**Ray and Linda Schneider**, Ray is home from rehab, Church Family

**Peggy Roley**, eye complications, Church Family

**John Blasi Sr.**, recovering from back procedure, Church Family

**Family and friends of Gail Aurand**, in the death of Gail, Weavers (wife of former pastor)

**Kenny Runyon**, waiting upcoming rehab, Church Family

**Martha Furrow**, back at home from the hospital, Church Family

**Shirley Fizer**, cataract surgery, Church Family

**Sue Fink**, successful hip surgery, Church Family

**John Battazzo**, good report from the MOFFITT Cancer Center, Church Family

**Pam Williams**, finished last round of chemo, Church Family

**Jerry Hesse**, praise God for a good recovery, Church Family

**Donna**, in the death of her husband and who is battling lung cancer, Gail Baumgarten

**Suzanne**, transitioning to hospice care, Gail Baumgarten (friend)

**Richard**, in the sudden death of his brother, Gail Baumgarten (high school friend)

**Robert**, gallbladder complications, Joyce Turney (son's friend)

**Blasi Family**, in the death of Michelle's uncle, Church Family

**Gina Polsinelli**, suffering pain from sciatica, Johnny Blasi (cousin)



### Join us on July 9

Rev. Sandy Messick  
Florida Regional Minister

### July Birthdays & Anniversaries

*(Name Missing? Email the office.)*

Michelle Cooper 9th  
Denny Floore 17th  
George Briggs 18th  
Leon and Mary Ann Beaty 18th  
Bob Coates 18th  
Sherry Floore 24th  
Johnny Blasi 26th  
Ray and Linda Schneider 27th  
John and Sharla Davidson 28th  
Ron and Mary Jane Ginter 30<sup>th</sup>  
Linda Lee 31st

### Outreach Corner

Happy Independence Day! In a little over a month the children will be headed back to school, and the parents will wonder what they will be doing with themselves.

We will be collecting again for the back to school time. Miriam, director at the Gladiolus Food Pantry, is in need of supplies for high school kids: pens, college ruled loose-leaf paper, and binders (1 1/2 to 2 inch). Also we will be collecting backpacks for children in grade school.

Miriam at the food pantry has requested our help on July 19. She would like helpers to assist the shoppers as they go through the pantry and pick up the food they need. We will also need help with grilling hotdogs. If you're interested and are willing, please let Zach or myself know. I will be out of town until July 15 but my email address is [loulee2@juno.com](mailto:loulee2@juno.com) to let us know.

Thanks to all the people who helped with the potluck dinner, and we look forward to several upcoming events at the church this month.

–Linda Lee (Outreach)



### Her Future is Bright!

Nicole, our spring vocalist intern, has graduated from Florida State University and will be returning to Tallahassee to teach music. We will celebrate Nicole's last Sunday in July with cake and refreshments in the fellowship hall. Date TBA.