

May 2023

Being a child of the 80s, yes I admitted it, this past week I felt like I was in some mix of the shows *Matlock and Ghost Busters*. If it was not for over a dozen phone calls, hours on the phone, weeks without internet, I might have had more enjoyed assisting the technician who finally addressed the outage issue. For approximately three solid hours we had gadgets in our hands as we were searching the church grounds for the lost signal in the cable. The hunt began in the electrical room which one gadget beeped to inform us the lost connection was approximately 470 feet away. The search was on, and of course, Johnny Blasi contacted me and kept it light by texting “Who are you ‘gonna’ call?”

Unfortunately, there were no Ghostbusters besides our friendly technician and myself as next we discovered an electrical box outside that showed the issue was now 140 feet away, then finally 40 feet. Yes, we were getting closer! Subsequently, sooner than I could blink, we were out on the street, a few houses down the road, and diagnosed that there were multiple cut wires due to the construction on Winkler Rd. While it will still be a few more days until our provider can officially fix and replace the wire, I helped our technician run a temporary one to get us back running in the meantime. For the record, I am beginning to seriously think about writing all mainline protestant seminaries to highly suggest some mandatory course of studies on this for clergy. Well, maybe the class “Power Lines Down” is saved for the doctorate of ministry studies or perchance only taught in the Catholic academia. Finally, after working mostly from home and partially at Starbucks to use their internet, which I cannot afford any more of their coffee, this past Tuesday afternoon I finally setup shop back at the church. Yes, deep breath.

Power! Perhaps you can argue what some Christians lack is not so much faith in Christ, but the power that comes from fully leaning into and trusting in our crucified and risen Savior. Like the disciples who initially felt drained, exhausted, and powerless after Jesus’ death, we can quite often feel the same way. Society can test and trick us to thinking we can tackle life alone or by following some new guru’s 7 step process. Well, how do a bunch of faithless deniers and betrayers go from locked doors to literally giving their lives preaching and living out the good news? One word. Power. That is, receiving the power from the One greater than themselves. However, it begins with waiting. Furthermore, they waited together. We will go in further detail fifty days after Easter.



On Pentecost Sunday the wait will be finally over, and we will not only remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, wear our red shirts and dresses to worship, but also have a potluck afterwards. Be sure to mark your calendar already for Sunday, May 28, to join us in the fellowship hall. The church will provide chicken from Publix, and we ask for members to bring side dishes that will go along with the main dish. This is a fantastic day to invite a friend to worship and to lunch.

In the meantime, this Sunday, April 30, we are having a celebration for our very own, Kelsie Gibb. Kelsie has been one of our primary vocalist for the past year and a half, including singing in the Easter cantata.

A note from Kelsie:

“I have recently been accepted to Simmons University’s masters in applied behavior analysis program in Boston. I plan to move sometime in August, as I am currently looking for apartments for my best friend and myself. I am excited for these next steps towards my goal of being a behavior therapist and look forward to all of the lives I will get to impact with through this field of work. I appreciate all of your support for me through my undergrad at FGCU. I have enjoyed being able to create beautiful music for service with Dr. Asya especially through my first Easter service with you all. Thank you again for being so welcoming to me at the church. I will miss you all!”

## **Prayers and Praise to God from February**

**Hildur Skaggs**, praise for Hildur to make it back home from the hospital, Church Family  
**Shirley Runyon**, in and out of the hospital, Church Family  
**Jerry Hesse**, hospitalized last week and back home, Church Family  
**Diane Bodanske**, recovering from a recent fall, Church Family  
**Sue Fink**, successful hip surgery, Church Family  
**Larry Ferandiz**, after having blood clots in lungs he is doing much better, John Blasi Sr. (sister-in-law's husband)  
**Kate Seitz**, lung procedures in Chicago, Church Family  
**Ray and Linda Schneider**, Ray is back in Ambassador Healthcare, Church Family  
**Linda Lee and Family**, in the death of Roman, Linda (great grandson)  
**Family of Bob Hockenberger**, tragic sudden death of his grandson-Jake, Dean Brown (best friend)  
**Nicole Parra and Family**, family member passed away, Music Intern  
**Pam Williams**, undergoing chemo related to lung cancer, Church Family  
**Bob Skaggs**, rehab at The Preserve, Church Family



On Easter we celebrated Christ is risen with more lilies than ever! Additionally, during the month we had two families join the church: Bruce and Debbie Morrison as well as Werner and Treasure Beldo.

### **Outreach Corner**

We are well on our way to nice weather. I hope you all are enjoying it. We will be missing the folks who have gone back home up north, but they will be back to join us and we will welcome them with warm, open arms. We are looking at tentatively having a coffee hour every other month and a potluck dinner every other month as we get back in the swing of fellowshiping and creating new ways to serve as well as get to know one another.

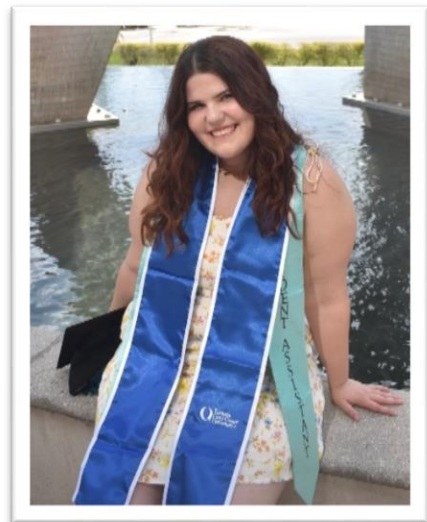
With summer coming up on us and the kids being out of school, the Gladiolus Food Pantry can use kids' cereal, juices, pancake mix, and anything else that would help the mothers with their children for the summer.

**-Linda Lee (Outreach)**

### **May Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*(Name Missing? Email the office.)*

Charlie Fink	May 5
Pat Watts	May 7
Hildur Skaggs	May 13
Martha Furrow	May 16
Dr. Asya Teruni	May 19
Rev. Zach and Kate Seitz	May 21
Rev. Ed and Diane Bodanske	May 28



### **Congratulations and Blessings to Kelsie!**

We wish Kelsie the very best as she will graduate from FGCU this spring, and continue her education in Boston!