

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord,” this is the opening refrain of the powerful communion hymn *One Bread, One Body*. It only takes a few notes into the melody that my mind transcends time as I find myself remembering an inspiring worship service from possibly one or even ten years ago, a General Assembly, or even a children summer camp-help me God. Furthermore, this much loved and deeply treasured tune reminds me why I’m proud of our rich mainline Protestant denomination as we are exceptionally ecumenical. Simply put, we recognize and value other denominations and traditions as part of the body of Christ and claim Jesus is Lord of all. Or, to quote from our Stone-Campbell tradition: “We are Christians only, but not the only Christians” or “In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things, love.” Today, on World Communion Sunday, you will have the opportunity to come forward to receive the Lord’s Supper from the one loaf of bread and chalice. As you come forward, simply open your hands to receive the bread which represents God’s grace which is freely given to us in the midst of our brokenness and sinfulness. Whether you come forward for communion through intinction or receive the communion package in the back of your pew, we come to Christ’s table with all our brothers and sisters of the faith throughout the world.

Throughout the summer months we have maintained a relatively strong worship attendance. It’s both exciting to see one another as well as “good to be seen” as Dean typically replies back to my greeting from inside the sound room. At the same time, I want to challenge us to be intentional this fall. Specifically, let us be intentional about having a prayerful mindset and attitude when worship begins. What might this look like? This can certainly begin as early as Saturday night or Sunday morning when you wake up as you are consciously aware that you will be attending Christ’s church and you just never know how God might speak a word to you or even transform your life. Whether it be a hymn, a friend, or hold your breath...maybe even a story or point from the sermon. At the very least, on Sunday at 10:30am I want to invite everyone to a time of quietness, solitude and prayer when the chimes begin as we prepare and make room for the Holy Spirit to move.



On the other hand, I want us to be intentional about using and bringing back the greeting time in the worship service. While before and after worship are fantastic opportunities for both meaningful conversations and catching up with dear friends, the greeting time is designed to be a friendly, subtle way of showing hospitality and God’s peace. In practical terms, to let someone know you’re happy they are here or shake a visitor’s hand letting them know there is always a spot for them at Fort Myers Christian Church. As you will notice in the bulletin, this will take place in the beginning of worship, directly after the announcements, and this will lead to a smooth transition as those who are able remain standing for the opening hymn.

This Sunday at 9:00AM we will begin our first official *Congregational Choir* rehearsal! Our director Ricardo is so excited to revive this choir and begin a more formalized congregational participation in the FMCC worship experience. As you may have heard, this choir will rehearse for 3 consecutive Sundays a month with their worship participation occurring during the 3rd Sunday of each month. Ricardo will approach this pedagogically by having the choir begin with some hymns, transition to unison (1 part singing), and then working into 3-part singing. Although we have a wide variety of choral experience in the ensemble, Ricardo will begin teaching from square one to lift up our new members and make sure everyone involved has an even comfortability. If you are still on the fence or have never sung before in a formal choir setting and want to join, you will be welcomed with open arms and will not feel behind in the slightest!

Prayers and Praise to God from September

Family of Shirley Ruynon, in the death of her husband Kenny, Church Family
Ron and Betty Johnston, Ron has been unexpectedly diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, Church Family

Mary Rubin, recovering from heart complications, Church Family

Maria Negron, stage four lung cancer, Shirley Fizer (extended family)

Carolyn Babb, lung cancer and upcoming medical decisions, Charlie and Sue Fink (neighbor)

Linda Schneider, fell and has pain in her shoulder, Church Family

Ray Schneider, out of the hospital with home health care, Church Family

Ricardo Rivera, recovered from strep, Church Family

Baby Gemme-Lyn, birth defects, John Blasi Sr. (friends' newly born baby)

Family of Jori Jones, 19 year-old Jori, died on a MN highway, Weaver Family (sister of one of their daughter's students)

Sandy and Dave Fitch, Sandy is on life support and Dave is recovering from multiple surgeries due to a motorcycle accident, Blasi Family (friends)

Kathryn Hamm, broke her right ankle, Church Family

Tom Trousdale, mental and emotional strength, Shirley Fizer (nephew)

George, mental health, Ann Chisholm (grandson)

Pam Williams, stage four lung cancer, Church Family

Elaine Maley, cancer has come back, Church Family

Ron Ginter, fell and broke some bones, Church Family

Kate Seitz, continued prayers for good health, Church Family



We are blessed to have the faithful and beautiful Anne Chisholm as our substitute pianist during the past six weeks. At the young age of 90 plus, you can always count on Anne wearing a hat, easily being the best dressed in the pews, and arriving early for practice with a gorgeous smile on her face. On behalf of the church and from the bottom of my heart, I'm thankful for Anne and happy she is part of our church family.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Susan Hanna 11th

Rev. Ed Bodanske 12th

Carol Kreuger 14th

Ulrich Knobel-Simonsmeier 14th

Donna Briggs 16th

George and Donna Briggs 20th

Bob and Janet Herbst 20th

Janet Herbst 23rd

Naomi Kratzer 23rd

Rita Azer 28th

Carlene Griggs 30th

Outreach Corner

By the time you read this we will have had our first potluck dinner. It was a huge success. It is a blessing to be able to share a meal and activity with our fellow church members. I would like to thank everyone who helped put everything together. If you were unable to attend, hopefully you can attend the next one. We are planning a get together every month. Here are a few things planned for the future:

November- Thanksgiving dinner 11/27

December - Christmas Eve sing-a-long 12/24

These are a few of the handful of things that have been planned.

We hope you are enjoying more fellowship events and your input and help is always welcome.

-Linda Lee (Outreach)