



# Mayflower Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

April 2022

## Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Congregation,

I hope you are all gearing up for a great Summer! Even if everything is not back on line, much is, and what is, can be enjoyed! I think we need to push ourselves and get back into the spirit of things. With all that is going on, as Christians we keep our spirits strong and positive. So often Paul was in dire straits spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ but one thing he never did was let the situation claim his soul. Because of his relationship with God, he always had an answer for the difficulties he faced. In his second letter to the Corinthians he penned; ..."we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed". We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body (2 Cor 4: 8-10). Don't get me wrong I know the hardships of life are hard and the pain and suffering can be overwhelming. But don't let the hardship have the last word. Have a response to it. And not just an answer but a heartfelt response with clear determination full of spirit and life. To ignore the hardship or try to avoid it will only lead to more difficulties; rarely have rose-colored glasses ever worked when dealing with the struggles we face. But let us take some advice from our forebears in the faith, like Paul, and use a different approach. They brought the hardship into their relationship with Christ. Take for example, one of my favorite quotes of Paul found in the same letter mentioned above; ...

"we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10: 5). The fact that we have our thoughts about a situation, or are dealing with the issues of others, either way, we do not give it the last word. No, we submit it before Christ and let Christ lead us through the situation. Of course, this may mean we need to be reading our Bible and praying as we make our way along. So many have adopted the idea they can pray about things and go on without ever reading their Bible or building a relationship with God. It doesn't work that way. One of the blessings of walking with God is the companionship God provides during hard times not just for you but also for your loved ones. So stay upbeat about life. Don't worry about the trials of life... let them come but then have a response. If you need a few things to be upbeat about, look to our church. We are continuing to do upgrades on and around the building. If you have any ideas be sure to let us know. A few things to add to your calendar are on April 14th at 4:00 pm we will have a Holy Week service. It will be a combination of the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. On Easter Sunday, April 17, we will have our Easter celebration with a service at 9:00 am and Brunch afterward, come and join us!

God's peace,  
Pastor Brian

### Notes to the Congregation:

*Dear Citrus Springs Community Church, we would like to say "Thank You" for your generous donation of tables and chairs. We pray God uses them to do His will for our family and especially for our kids! We also want you to know we appreciate y'all simply as you. We also pray God blesses you as y'all grow with us into the likeness of His son. In Jesus name. Love Chik & Street Life Family, Beverly Hills, FL.*

**Please remember to pray for...** Bill Browne; Arlene Josefson; Brian & Maureen Winingler; Joyce Goode's family; the men and women serving our country in the military; first responders and police officers.

### April Birthdays

06 Carlene Sproul  
08 Russell Clites  
20 Ed France  
21 Linda Messenger  
24 Harley Frakes  
24 Eileen Razinha

### April Anniversaries

05 Julie & Dennis Rubacha

**Church Finances:** As of February 28, 2022 the church has taken in \$13,605.09 in the General Fund and have spent \$15,439.34. We are maintaining a balance of \$133,954.49 in all accounts (checking, CD's, and savings).

### Deacons' Corner:

Hi folks, I thought I'd drop you a little note to explain the reason why I really enjoy being on the board of deacons. It is an opportunity to help the church grow and learn from each other.



Each month our leader, who is Jerry Zwaga, asks us for reports from every committee within the church. We get to hear what all of the individual

committees have done. Capital may be, at this time they need approval from the board of deacons then we take a vote on it.

There is always a report from our pastor about anyone that's ill or needs help. He talks about things that he would like to do and what the consensus of the group seems to be. He always tells us if he's going to be on vacation and away for any days during the week.

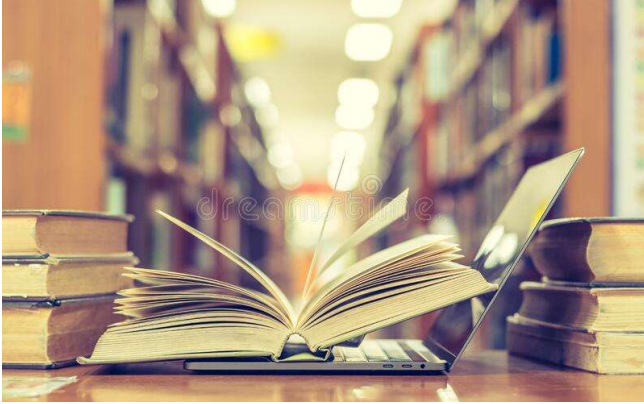
I will say farewell for now and in Christ we can do all things. Your servant, your deacon, June Hunte



**Friday Night Dinners at the Citrus Springs VFW!!** Friday dinners are from 5 PM to 6:30 PM (but I recommend you come early). The price is now **\$12.00** per person, but that includes dinner, salad or coleslaw, dessert, and free coffee. You will not leave hungry!

Apr 01 Baked Ziti  
Apr 08 Fish Fry  
Apr 15 Roast Chicken  
Apr 22 Meatloaf  
Apr 29 Stuffed Shells & Meatballs

Sunday morning brunch is also being served at the VFW the first and third Sunday from 11:00am until 12:30pm and is **\$10.00** per person. All you can eat biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, desserts and various casseroles.



**Library News:** Did you know we have a church library? It is at the far end of the hallway on the right. The ladies have done a fabulous job rearranging books and getting them into book shelves so that they are easy to browse through. You'll find books of fiction, mysteries, faith, and much more. Please feel free to borrow any book and return as soon as you finish. If you'd like to donate books to the library, you can do that as well.



**Trustees News:** Do you see anything around the church that you think may need fixing or updating? Please don't hesitate to mention this to one of our Trustees so that they can add it their list of items they are working diligently to complete. Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> many folks turned out to do some much needed "spring cleaning". Wrought iron was painted, walkways washed, closets cleaned, yard work done. It was a lot of fun and a lot of work got done! Trustees are: Jeff Rossy, Art Davis, Nancy Banta, Brian Wininger, Jeff Wright, Charlie Homadue, and Ray Ricca.

## Guidelines for the Memorial Garden

The Chapel in the Pines Memorial Garden committee met recently to discuss updates to the garden and to establish rules for its use. The committee is made up of Carol Baadte, Linda Messenger, and Art Davis. Be on the look-out for some wonderful changes to enhance our garden.

Please note below the new rules for the gardens use and if you have any questions, please let one of the Deacons know.

1. Any request for putting in any memorial for a loved one must be okayed by the Deacon Board, e.g: planting, digging, etc.
2. You can bury or scatter ashes but cannot bury actual urns.
3. No headstones or grave markers. There are memory bricks and if you are a member of CCCC our church will provide the brick.
4. A tube will be provided for you to place flowers but, it will be up to the family to remove old flowers.
5. Small plants can be planted and a special memorial item can be placed but must be approved before doing so. Please note that there is no sprinkler system for keeping plants alive.

We believe these rules will help everyone when we are grieving to know what we can do without adding additional stress for the church. We want your loved one to have a special place where you can visit whenever you like. We think our garden will provide that for you.

Respectfully, The Board of Deacons.



Easter is a time when we celebrate God's love and sacrifice for us. As you prepare your heart for Easter, find renewed meaning in these verses and insight from Billy Graham:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:55–58

Easter is a season of great gladness for those who know Christ. But for those who are without “the light of the knowledge of God's glory” (2 Corinthians 4:6), there is nothing to rejoice over.

Jesus left us with the great hope and certainty that He is going to return to bring a new Heaven and a new earth where, we are told, there will be no more sorrow, trouble, or death for those who have believed and followed Him. There will be trouble, sorrow, and suffering for those who have neglected or rejected Him.

As Christians, our great task is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again. My prayer for you during this season of the year, when we meditate on our Savior's great sacrifice for us on the cross, is that you will be filled with great peace and hope, because “He is risen!” That is the Good News.

As you follow Christ, are you obeying His command to tell others that He is risen indeed?