

August 2022

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Congregation,

I was parking the car the other day in the church parking lot and when I got out I saw a marvelous sight. I looked up into the sky and there moving slowly to the east was this armada of large, billowing, tower clouds. Extending between two of the clouds, was a rainbow. It was not like others I have seen, a full arching bow that seemingly touches the ground on either side. This one only extended between two clouds. It was wider than the arching bows. I could easily see the vivid richness of the entire color spectrum displayed in it's design. A part of me wanted to move on and go inside. But I stayed and spent five or ten minutes just looking at it, watching it silently, but brilliantly, drift with the clouds. Its splendor was accentuated by the grayish backdrop. It kept my attention and I thought, wow, here this is for all to see! I wondered who else was looking at it. I did not notice the passing cars slowing, nor did I see anyone in the yards of the surrounding houses. I suppose folks could be looking out their windows. Not to mention, I could not see everyone who could see it. Psalm nineteen was the first thing to pop in my mind, "the heavens proclaim the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of his hands." And when you think that this event was in the works and part of the plan Jesus used when creating the earth (John 1:3), it takes you back a bit. Rainbows happen all across the globe. They help us understand who Jesus is a little better when we see one. And at that moment, I was viewing

one, a miraculous work of God which occurs in our midst on a regular basis. But, even more so in August when we get a lot of rain. It is easy to discount August. Usually, it is the hottest month of the year, but July is going to give it a run for it's money this year. There are no holidays in August, just heat. If you have kids, August means, back to school. Amidst it all, I hope you take some time this month to see the glory of God all around you, day and night. We have had some impressive supermoons this year. That is when the moon seems bigger to us due to it's orbit around the earth. The James Webb Space Telescope is showing us galaxies that are millions of light years away, thousands of them clustered in one spot. Make a point this month to experience that grandness of God's design and of God. All too often the nature of our circumstances squelches our experience of God and the power thereof displayed each day. At the church, we resumed the Wednesday Bible studies at 10:00 am. We are studying the book of Titus. We are also reading Faith Beyond Doubt, by Brian D McLaren. Our first discussion will be August 17th at 10 am. Feel free to come along and join in whenever you can, all are welcome.

God's peace, Pastor Brian

Notes to the Church:

Peg Brownes' new phone number is 571-365-6933.

Shawl Ministry: Good morning everyone, Sue Unsworth here. I would like to thank the Womens Fellowship and every ones support for Dave and I. I have had a lot of minor problems but we managed to get through most of them.

Now I am not the only one that has needed the support of our church family. You all know who they are from the prayer list. We give hand made prayer shawls and lap robes to each one who is in need of comfort. These are all handmade by you our members. They each have a cross sewn into the lower corner. I am now going to ask, as many of you that can, to help to restock our contribution to each and every person in need.

There are limited supplies in the shawl room. We can use size 11 or Size 13 needles and 2 skeins of Lion Brand Yarn. It is a simple stitch of Knit 3, Purl 3 with a total of 60 stitches. Now I can't crochet to save my live (and believe me experts have tried to teach me) so I do not know what the criteria would be for a crocheted item. I am sure you crocheters know as I have seen some beautiful ones.

Just a little codicil, I received a prayer shawl when I got cancer 13 years ago. It went with me everywhere to the hospital. I received another one a few weeks ago and it goes with me to the cancer center every time. I recycled my first one and gave it to a young girls in her 30's at the center and she was so pleased, especially when I explained the history.

By the way... men can also learn to knit. I have met a few men that say it is very calming and therapeutic. I will even teach you the basic stitches.

Ok, enough for now. Please get out those needles and yarn and get knitting! Love, Sue.

Please remember to pray for... Bill Browne; Brian & Maureen Wininger; Joan Noel; Sue Unsworth; Carol Chun, Joyce Goode's sister Garnet, Vera and Charles Murphy, Fred and

Gretchen Gaumann, the men and women serving our country in the military; first responders and police officers.

August Birthdays

03 Mary Prenaveau 21 Susi Taylor 06 Joan Cothern 22 Pam Evans 10 Anne Chapman 27 Jack Kervick 28 Gretchen Gaumann

August Anniversaries

06 Karen & Harley Frakes 09 Audrey & Donald Beck

Church Finances: As of July 25, 2022 the church has taken in \$48,577.19 in the General Fund and have spent \$49,227.84. We are maintaining a balance of \$141,327.16 in all accounts (checking, CD's, and savings).

Church Outreach:

In the months of July and August we are donating school supplies for the Citrus Springs Elementary School.

Please visit our new website!

https://www.citrusspringscongregational.org/ You can catch the latest sermon, announcements, and the latest issue of the Mayflower Messenger.

<u>Trustees News:</u> The Trustees will not be meeting over the summer but they are keeping things "upto-snuff" around the church. If you see anything that needs attention inside or outside the church, please get in touch with Jeff Rossy or Art Davis.

Deacons' Corner:

Good morning to you all. You probably noticed in the past months each Deacon has had the opportunity contribute to The Messenger. We believe the congregation needs to know what the Deacons are doing to keep our

Deacons are doing to keep our church viable.

You may have been aware that attendance on Sunday has been less than normal. It is summer and many folks have other plans which conflict with the timing



of our service. However, you may have also noticed the new home construction in Citrus Springs which can mean people searching for their next church family. To inform new residents about our church the Deacons have contracted with Welcome Wagon (yes, it's still around) to send out postcards to new residents within the Citrus Springs zip codes.

It is hoped that this approach will generate interest in our church and congregation. You know we are an extremely friendly congregation. Who wouldn't want to join our church family?!

As always, the Deacons are available for any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you and God Bless, Jerry Zwaga

Women's Fellowship:

Women's Fellowship is done meeting for the summer. Meetings will start again in September. Please consider coming to the meetings as they do lots of wonderful and fun things.

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.



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!

Aug 05 Fried Shrimp

Aug 12 Pot Roast

Aug 19 Spaghetti & Meatballs

Aug 26 Pork Roast

NOTE: 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.