



Mayflower Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December 2022

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Congregation,

December comes to us each year with mixed messages. It is the month with the shortest day of the year (December 21st), but that is a good thing. Because from then on, the days get longer. We like the festive nature of December, but it also marks the end of another year in our life. Biblically, in December we celebrate Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem at a time of controversy and fear. Yet, Mary was pregnant and they would soon celebrate the birth of their first born child. For some, holidays also are filled with conflicting emotions. We know we should be happy, but, because of this or that, we are not and that makes us feel sad. We cover it, so as not to squelch anyone else's fun, but deep down we struggle. If you are having one of those years, be inspired by Mary and Joseph and how they handled their situation. God was telling them one thing. Caesar was telling them another. They had their own problems... Mary was pregnant as they traveled, most likely, by foot. They would not have been able to afford a donkey and certainly not a camel. But, God was with them, Immanuel, and they knew it. They reached their destination. The Child was born. They got what needed done, done. Even though their lives were in an upheaval, they knew God was with them and they stayed close to God. As the apostle John described it, the Light shone into the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it (John 1:5). Oftentimes, we try to make things better, and that is all well and good. But, if

you are struggling, rather than trying to stifle it, try to find time to express it. Maybe you can do so with a friend who understands or someone else who also shares your struggle or one like it. Or, find time to be alone, and let the emotions and memories flow, free of shame. Grief is normal, no need for excuses or explanation. Find a way to acknowledge what is going on rather than avoid it. And, share it with God. Don't worry about how, just open yourself, use words, use silence, knowing God understands and will give you the strength and support you need to carry on. Never forget the good that God has already done for you and what that means (Romans 5:1; 8:1-2, Philippians 1:3; 4:13, and John 15:5). As December marks the season of Light, let more Light into your life.

If you are up for caroling, a group from our church will be doing so on December 9th. All are welcome to join in. We will be having our Christmas Program on December 18th. After our church service there will be a program and meal. Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year. We will have our candlelight service at 4:00 pm and forgo our service on Sunday. New Year's Eve is also on Saturday, but we will have our service the following Sunday, on January 1. See you all then!

God's peace,
Pastor Brian

Please remember to pray for... Bill & Peg Browne; Joyce Goode's sister Garnet; Fred Gaumann; Lloyd Nell; Connie Robbins; the men and women serving our country in the military; first responders and police officers.

Christmas Program at the CCCC

Sunday December 18th after church services will be a Christmas Program in the Fellowship Hall. Ham will be served. A sign up list in the Narthex will be available to bring side dishes and desert.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00pm on Saturday December 24th. **There will be no church service on Sunday December 25th.** There will be a church service on New Years Day, January 1, 2023.

Music Ministry: The choir is rehearsing on Fridays at 11:00am. If you like to sing and wish to lend your voice - please see Carol Baadte. Also, we are preparing for the Christmas season, so if you'd like to lend your voice for even a short time, please come and join us.

December Birthdays

08 Jerry Zwaga
17 Art Davis
29 Tootie Robbins

December Anniversaries

17 Kris & Art Reinhard

Church Finances: As of November 22, 2022 the church has taken in \$91,491.79 in the General Fund and have spent \$100,773.02. We have a deficit of **\$9,281.23** for the year so far. We are maintaining a balance of \$130,750.57 in all accounts (checking, CD's, money market).

Church Outreach:

In the month of November we donated \$100 each to Mission in Citrus Homeless Shelters and Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County.

Please visit our new website!

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

On the radio:

Check out these local radio stations for uplifting bible studies, talk radio, music, and local news from a Christ followers perspective.

91.1 FM Moody Radio

90.9 FM The Joy FM

Deacons' Corner:

Hi Folks, recently I went to use my Kindle Reader. It didn't come on, it had been sitting and had gone dormant. In the past when this happened I looked up Kindle and they helped me instantly at no fee. This time I did the same thing. I looked up Kindle on the internet, found one that had pictures of new Kindles and so I called. I explained my situation and they said they would help at no charge. That is when the SCAM started... these people are professionals at their business. Before I knew what was happening the first gentleman sent me to HIS supervisor. This man told me I had 18 very bad virus that needed to be removed at once. BUT, they would be glad to help and it would cost \$39.00 per virus!!! I finally saw the red flags and shut down the computer. I pulled all the plugs from the computer, called the police, and they gave me a Federal number to call. I called my bank, called my credit card companies, and called myself names. Everything is OK now. Lesson from this is that not all sites on the internet that look official are what they say they are. Be VERY careful.



Trustees News: Lots of work being done around the church by the Trustees: A big THANK YOU to Art Davis for trimming the bushes around the church property. Hard work and it looks wonderful! Other items being worked on: replacing the hot water tank and the drinking fountain in the Fellowship Hall; investigating whether we should paint the sign out front of the church or replace with a new sign from Curt Bond Signs in Dunnellon; Handicap signs in the parking lot need attention; investigating costs to have the carpets cleaned in Fellowship Hall; replacing the light fixture in the men's bathroom in the church.

The Fire Inspector stopped by and inspected our facility to make sure we were up to code. Unfortunately we are not up to code and we have had to replace some items totaling approximately \$3500.00.

Women's Fellowship: Women's Fellowship had their latest meeting on November 17th and had a presentation from Citrus County Blessings. Next meeting will Sunday December 18th Christmas program with a presentation from The Sweet Adelines. Items of note:

1. Thanksgiving Basket brought in ~\$300.00:
2. Fri Dec 9 all are invited to go caroling at Rosecastle. Meet at the church at 2:00pm.
3. Dec 14 is the church outing to see White Christmas. All tickets have been sold. Meet at the church at 10:00am.
4. Dec 18 is the Christmas Program after Sunday service.
5. The no-bake sale brought in over \$300.00. Thanks to all who participated.

Library News: Did you know we have a church library? It is at the far end of the hallway on the right. **WANTED:** Someone who would like to help take care of the library - finding a home for newly donated books, replacing returned books back onto the shelves, etc. Please see Nancy Banta.



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!

Dec 02	Spaghetti & Meatballs
Dec 09	Pork Roast
Dec 16	Roast Chicken
Dec 23	Fried Shrimp
Dec 30	Pot Roast

NOTE: Brunch will be served on Sunday December 4th & 18th 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.



The Taylor's wish to each and everyone blessed, healthy, and happy holidays with family and friends. Susi & Wick

May you all have a blessed Christmas with family and friends. God Bless, Donna Carpenter

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to one and all. Blessings, Pat Robinson.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all. Love, Maureen Carlson

Merry Christmas to my church family - I am grateful to have each and every one of you - you are my church family.

To our church family: We pray you all have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. With God's Blessing, Linda & C. J. Messenger.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas. Love and hope and good health for the coming year. Love to each and everyone of you. Love, Carol Chun.

Happy Holidays to all my church family. God bless you and have a Happy New Year. Tootie Robbins.

Merry Christmas to my church family. Wishing you all a Healthy Happy New Year. Carlene Sproul.

Wishing all a blessed holiday season and a healthy & happy New Year. Blessings, John & Debbie Wilson

May God bless us all and let us praise the Lord. Happy Holidays, Don & Audrey Beck

Merry Christmas to all our church family and a Happy New Year. Nancy & Charlie Homadue.

Peace and love. Harley & Karen Frakes.

Keeping in mind the reason for the season we say Merry Christmas and to all a better New Year! Our love, Kristen and Art Reinhard.

I would like to wish my church family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Brenda Naylor.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and a safe holiday. God bless, Clyde & Phyllis Powell

From Ella and Art Davis - Best wishes to our loving congregation this blessed season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. Have a very blessed holiday. Barbara Mazur

I want to not only wish all members of Community Congregational Christian Church a very Merry Christmas but also thank you, everyone, for welcoming me into your congregation. I am now home! Lois Thomas

May you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with family and friends and tell them about his saving grace. Jim & Mary Prenaveau

Hope and blessings to all for a great holiday season. Ray Ricca

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. God bless you all! Slim & Anita

Merry Christmas to our church family! We are a blessed congregation and truly God's children. Enjoy the holidays and here's to a blessed New Year! Carolyn & Jerry Zwaga

Christmas blessings to our church family. Nancy and Gerry Banta