

Mayflower Messenger

Community Congregational Christian Church Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2023

Bulletin Board

CHURCH WEBSITE information:

You can visit our website anytime to hear the audio of the latest sermon, to view announcements, to read our newsletter and more interesting things about what's going on.

www.citrusspingscongregational.org/

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY...

The choir rehearses on Friday mornings at 11am. If you like to sing and want to lend your voice please see Carol Baadte, choir director. We also welcome special music if you would like to share your voice in song or music.

ON THE RADIO...

Local radio for uplifting music, bible studies, talk radio and music from a Christian perspective:

91.1 FM Moody Radio

90.9 FM THE JOY FM

Community Congregational

Christian Church: 352-489-1260

Pastor's Ponderings...

Dear Congregation,

February 2023 is here! Now that all the celebrations and festivities of October through January are over, we come to February. But, February says, *not so fast...* I've got one too, Valentine's Day. Do you still love everyone after all that celebrating? Paul writes to the Corinthian church, *love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away* (1 Cor. 13: 4-7). Many of you who are married may have had this text read at your wedding. It is a staple in the wedding ceremonies I conduct. The thing to remember is, it was not originally used in reference to two people getting married, it was directed toward the church. Everyone. We often reserve kindness toward those we think deserving of it. And we forget, some folks are very good at hiding their pain. Jesus takes it one step further when He says, *by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* (John 13:35). And when folks tried to get him to quantify who the *other* was, He responded, everyone, even yourself. People think this makes life harder, actually it is the opposite. Being loving does not make you vulnerable, it makes you consistent in your actions toward others. You throughout judgement in favor of being compassionate. When Paul says love, *always trusts*, it means those in the church need to always be trustworthy. I think our church does well in this regard. We are a February church, a loving church. If it is your habit to express

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS...

Ron Andrews, Andrea Staiger Felt & Carolyn Zwaga...Happy birthday!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES...

David & Andrea Felt***

John & Debbie Wilson***

CHURCH FINANCES:

YTD: \$5,513.00

Expenses: \$7,446.82

Balance: \$131,031.37

Outreach: Citrus United Basket \$100

Trustees had carpets cleaned: \$500

NEW SIGN: The money has been raised for our sign through donations for the \$1,500 needed, Thanks to all!

VFW MENU...February

Feb. 3rd Fried Shrimp dinner 5pm

Feb. 5th Sunday Brunch

Feb. 10th Spaghetti Carbonara dinner

Feb. 17th Breaded Chicken dinner

Feb. 19th Sunday Brunch

Feb. 24th Shrimp Scampi dinner

Enjoy and blessings to all of you

PRAYER NEEDS...

Ray Ricca, Fred Gaumann, Don and Audrey Beck...

this toward others, great! If not, surprise someone and let them know you appreciate them. If you really want to surprise others, let someone outside the church know you appreciate them as well. And most certainly, let your loved ones know you love them by communicating it to them outright. If you cannot say it, write it. I certainly love each of you and appreciate being your pastor. And, I appreciate that you put up with me. If you get a chance to stop by and see the Chapel in the Pines, do so. It looks great and has a Valentine theme. Thank you to all who keep the Chapel in such good order. Our Bible Study is up and going and all are welcome. It is on Wednesdays at 10 am. Don't worry about doing the readings prior to the study, just come. The Ash Wednesday service will be on Wednesday, February 22nd at 4:00 pm. Ashes will be available to anyone wishing to receive at the end of the service when you depart.

Do enjoy and God's peace, Pastor Brian

The WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP news

On January 26th the group had their monthly meeting in the fellowship hall with a light lunch served and discussed the upcoming Fashion Show fundraiser to be held here on March 11th. Tickets are available for \$15. The program on the 26th was about pet rescue and adoption with Precious Paws located on Lecanto Hwy.

The next meeting is on Feb. 23rd at 12:30pm. The guest featured is an impersonator of Al Capone's girlfriend. All are invited to attend and it should be a hoot. Don't miss this one! SEE YOU THERE!

DEACON'S CORNER... To our Church family

Christmas and New Year's are over and it somehow leaves us drained. We are so blessed to know that Jesus still stays with us daily through all our ups & downs. May we all have a healthy and happy year as we go thru 2023 and if we all work together and invite people to our friendly congregation we will become "Fishers of men" for the LORD! God Bless...Linda Messenger, Deacon