



Mayflower Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

January 2023

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Congregation,

Let me begin the New Year with an expression of deep appreciation and thanks to all of you. Your cards and gifts were warmly received. Being a pastor is a gift (Ephesians 3:7) which I am blessed to share with you. Thank you! And, by God's grace, let us press onward.

When January 1 comes around, we always talk about setting goals for the new year. Well ...at least some folks do. Some are still working on previous goals. Others are happy with life and see no need to mess with it. Yet, the actual term that is usually used is resolution. What are your New Year resolutions? I enjoy researching words. The word resolution means to make a firm decision to do or not do something. When used as an adjective, resolute, it means purposeful, unwavering, determined in an almost admirable way. Have you ever set your mind to doing something in a way that draws admiration from onlookers? I doubt I have. I tend to ease into things and then make adjustments along the way. When dieting, I enjoy the idea of having "flex days" to the point that I have a flex diet. "Flex days" are days you can eat more of what you want, actually they recommend a flex meal. Why stop at one meal when you can make a day of it?

In Acts 11:23, it talks about the reaction Barnabus had when he arrived at Antioch. There was such a spirit of revival there that he encouraged them to keep on and stay resolute, remain true as some Bibles interpret it, to the Lord. Barnabus (which in Greek means son of encouragement) was a great man of faith who was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:24). He rejoiced at what he found and encouraged them to press forward and not lose what they had gained. To think they did so

in the shadow of Stephen's martyrdom, adds a little to the significance of the event. Rather than shrink in fear, they surged forward in their faith in the Lord.

I know many stand on the cusp of 2023 thinking, with all the enthusiasm of Eeyore, I wonder what this year will bring? I realize, it can be a daunting thought. But, let Barnabus encourage you. He got his name because he was full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Meaning he was strong where he was strong; believing and striving where he was not; full of the Holy Spirit, regardless. He did not have a lot of "flex days" in his faith. He had made his resolutions and stayed steadfast in them and he was blessed by them. Make no mistake, his life was not easy. Our church history is not a melody telling of how things just fell into place. No, it is a story of men and women like Barnabus whose attitude and faith pierced through the perceptions and problems they faced to the glory of their God.

As we face 2023, there will be difficult and trying times, there always are. The question is, how will you meet them? How will we as a church meet them? With a spirit that is encouraged or a downtrodden spirit? Being encouraged doesn't mean you have to run around full of energy and enthusiasm. I do, but that is more a personality trait. Being encouraged is not an expression of your personality, but instead it is a matter of the heart. Not just your heart, also the heart of the community you keep. Barnabus kept company with God and the church. At CCCC may we stay steadfast and resolute in maintaining a spirit of encouragement and love as we make our way into the new year!

God's peace,
Pastor Brian

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

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. Or, if you'd like to do a special music - song or instrument, that would be great too!

January Birthdays

04 Peg Browne	27 Lana Rossy
09 Cyndi Kennedy	28 Joyce Goode
23 Lydia LePinnet	29 Audrey Beck

January Anniversaries

26 Jeff & Myong Wright

Church Finances: As of December 23, 2022 the church has taken in \$101,469.80 in the General Fund and have spent \$108,667.99. We have a deficit of **\$7,198.19** for the year so far. We are maintaining a balance of \$133,571.59 in all accounts (checking, CD's, money market).

Church Outreach:

In the month of December we donated \$750.00 to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. These folks help our church by supporting ministry and nurturing fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches in the name of Christ.

Please visit our new website!

<https://www.citruspringcongregational.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: As I continue to grow older and wiser I often reflect on the past. With the many happy memories there are also sad memories. Life is full of up's and downs. I can't fix anything that has past although I want to erase them if they're not happy. This is my life with plenty of things I can't change. Prayer helps ease the pain of living. God gives comfort to those who ask. Find time to pray for God's mercy in your life.

Trustees News: Looking to have both roofs inspected as they are nearing 20 years old. The hot water heater in Fellowship Hall is being replaced for the bathrooms. The water fountain in Fellowship Hall will also be fixed. Getting quotes to have the carpet in Fellowship Hall cleaned. Investigation is ongoing for repairing/replacing the sign in front of the church.

Women's Fellowship: January 6 will be the next meeting and will have a presentation from Precious Paws. The meeting will start at noon with lunch. March 11 is the date for the Spring Fashion Show featuring clothes from Wisteria Boutique in Hernando.

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!

Jan 06	Stuffed Peppers
Jan 13	Roast Chicken
Jan 20	Spare Ribs
Jan 27	Pork Loin

NOTE: Brunch will be served on Sunday January 1st and 15th 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.

Notes to the Congregation:

Dear Community Congregational Christian Church, Thank you for your recent gift of \$750.00 to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Your gift will be allocated to the Shared Ministries Fund Fair Share Program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. We appreciate your support and dedication to the Congregational Way. Your generosity helps individuals and local churches share the love of Christ in their communities and to the world. The NACCC remains focused on making a difference in the lives of our member churches through services, programs, financial support, and fellowship opportunities. As you know, we can only achieve these goals through partnerships and generosity. Blessings in Christ, Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Executive Director.

Dear CCCC, All of us at Chapters Health Foundation appreciate your kind gift toward providing quality end of life care and bereavement services in our community. Your donation will help ensure that seriously ill patients and their families continue to receive those services when they need us. Your gift stays in the community you live in to help your neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends. From are at home to crisis care in our hospice houses and from bereavement counseling to our annual camp for grieving children, our services benefit more than 1000 families every day. Generosity like your makes that possible. With Gratitude, Adam Stanfield, VP of Development & Executive Director.

