



Mayflower Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

May 2022

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Congregation,

I hope your Easter Season went well last month. As we said, it seemed to come quickly this year. With all that is going on in the world, I think our focus on the day's events throws off our timing a bit. The weather is not helping much either. We go from cold to hot, raining to dry, everything seems to be struggling to find balance. Yet, our church is doing well. We had a great Work Day event where several showed up and got a lot done. I cannot express enough gratitude for those who came and worked. And yes, they worked! It shows we care and I know that those who did not attend, were with us in prayer... ;) Spiritual support is always needed :) Also, many thanks to those who helped with the Easter Brunch.

If you have not checked out the website please do so. Julie Rubacha did most of the photography and drone footage. Many thanks to her, and just so you know, she is a realtor. If you need one, we have her contact information included in this edition of the Messenger. The company doing our website is Ocoos. If you, or anyone you know is looking to build a website, let them know about them. They have done a good job for us. To find our website, just Google the name of our church and there it is! We will continue to post the worship services, weekly devotionals, Mayflower Messengers, and announcements there.

I know there is some hesitancy with doing things on the web. Being hesitant is not a bad thing in and of itself. It means you are cautious and careful about your daily activities; nothing wrong with that. But, hesitancy should be just that, a careful approach to an activity or situation. I see so many today rushing through their

day. They are not watching what they are doing or what is going on around them. And when the day is done, they do not reflect much on it. They are happy to get it over with and on to the next. God gave us better ways to live our lives. Jesus taught that the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).

What does that mean to you, here and now, to have life to the fullest? If you are taking a moment and thinking, rather than just rattling off a bunch of activities, that is the first step. A full life starts from within and manifests outward. How you perceive and think about yourself and the world is the wellspring of your life. For some of us, what we are pumping out of our life is not a pretty picture. We have allowed ourselves to wane away into negativity, depression, and fear. Rather than allowing that, make a conscious effort to sit and think, how can I make this summer more fulfilling. Then pray about it and start planning. Be careful not to fill your list with things to do but, inwardly, spiritually, what can you do there as well. In Psalms 4:23, the Psalmist warns us to, above all else guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. And, help others do so as well. If you are with someone who is forever bemoaning their circumstances, offer a word of encouragement and then leave it with them. You can do that with yourself too (1 Samuel 30:6). Whatever you do, plan to enjoy the Summer and thank you for all you do at the church!

God's peace,
Pastor Brian

Please remember to pray for... Bill Browne; Brian & Maureen Winger; Joan Noel; Sue Unsworth; the men and women serving our country in the military; first responders and police officers.

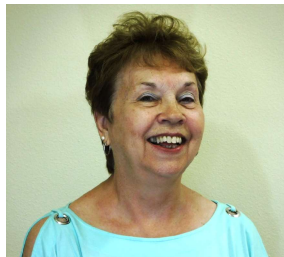
May Birthdays

13 Dennis Rubacha
 14 Nancy Castro
 20 Anita Owen
 24 Fred Gaumann

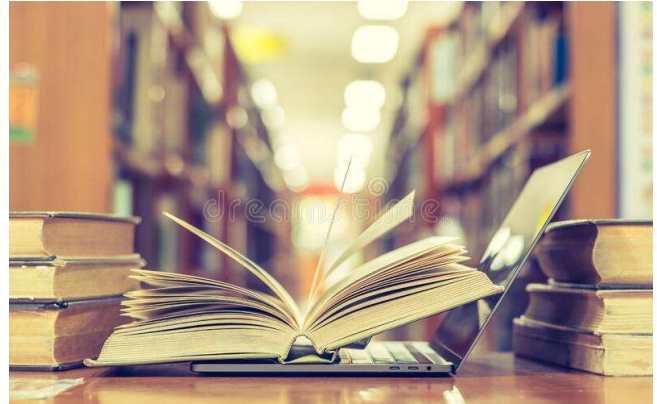
Church Finances: As of March 31, 2022 the church has taken in \$18,913.49 in the General Fund and have spent \$20,244.07. We are maintaining a balance of \$133,425.23 in all accounts (checking, CD's, and savings).

Deacons' Corner:

Hi, I am a newbie to the board of Deacons this year. I do not take being a Deacon lightly. I prayed about filling the position and feel the Holy Spirit is leading me to fill this request for this year. In Romans 16:1, Paul writes about Phoebe our sister and fellow believer as a servant of the church.



For example; one who serves or ministers in any way church related and is referring to a specific office - woman deacon or deaconess. I pray with your help I will be able to live up to this title in helping to make the right decisions for our church and church family alongside all our board of Deacon members. Thank you. In His service, Linda Messenger.



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 bookshelves 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. Trustees are: Jeff Rossy, Art Davis, Nancy Banta, Brian Winger, Jeff Wright, Charlie Homadue, and Ray Ricca.

Please visit our new website!

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

Do you have a business you'd like us to know about? Please let Mary Prenaveau know if you'd like us to print your business in the next issue of the Mayflower Messenger.



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Hi, my name is Julie Rubacha and I've lived in Pine Ridge for fifteen years. I assist buyers, sellers and investors in Pine Ridge, Crystal River, Citrus Springs, Beverly Hills, Citrus Hills and the surrounding areas of Citrus, Marion, and Hernando counties.

I have a background in technology, sales, and photography and my recent training has provided me with even more exposure to cutting edge technology and tools to effectively communicate and best serve my clients.

These days over ninety percent of all buyers start their search online and that is where my skill set comes into play in marketing and presenting your property in a way that will catch a buyer's attention quickly and bring the highest price possible. In fact, according to MLS statistics, homes with aerial images sold sixty-eight percent faster than homes with only standard images! I am a FAA licensed Drone pilot and I include this service along with professional photography and video for all of my clients.

I am proud to be a part of the team at EXIT Realty Leaders, a franchise of EXIT Realty Corp International, which has been owned and operated by the Wade family since 1999. I quickly learned how important it is to have a good support system in this business. I've surrounded myself with a network of trusted professionals to ensure that no matter what question or situation may arise, I'll have the best solution for my client.

I grew up in Rhode Island and then moved to Connecticut where I met my wonderful husband. We chose to move to Florida so that we can enjoy the natural beauty of this area all year long. When I'm not at work, you may find me hiking a nature trail taking wildlife photos, walking my two dogs, or kayaking down any one of the beautiful spring-fed rivers in this area.

To find out how you can own a piece of the Nature Coast just give me a call, text or email.



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!

May 06	Pot Roast
May 13	Fish Fry
May 20	Pork Loin
May 27	Chicken

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.

This background on the Christian origin of mother's day was compiled by Graham McDonald. He serves with Children of the World, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ Australia.

Mother's Day and the Christian Connection.

Celebration of Mothers over the centuries has appeared in varying forms and traditions since and possibly before Roman times.

In the 1600s' the Church of England instigated Mothering Sunday in recognition of Mary the Mother of Jesus. Later this religious celebration was expanded to include honouring all mothers. As time passed, this celebration slowly disappeared from the church calendar.

The seed for Mother's Day that we celebrate today had its beginning in 1858 with Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis a Christian lady who was working to heal the nation after the Civil War. Her strategy was to promote and elevate the important role of mothers and help them to create healthier and more hygienic homes.

From this she instigated a 'Mothers Friendship Day' which eventually developed into a national movement called 'Mothers Friendship Clubs'. At these clubs Ann would teach the mothers basic nursing and safe sanitation practices to be used in the home, which she had learned from her brother who was a famous M.D.

This resulted in many lives being saved and by offering this service to both sides of those involved in the Civil War it was instrumental in facilitating the reconciliation process between Union and Confederate neighbours.

When Ann Marie Jarvis passed away after a long illness, one of her two daughters, Anna decided to dedicate her life to her mother's dream of a Mother's Day to honour all mothers around the world.

Anna missed her mother greatly and felt children often neglected to appreciate their mother enough while the mother was still alive.

As a Sunday school teacher for twenty years at her church, she was very aware of the Fifth of the Ten Commandments, "Honour your father and mother" and no doubt would have taught this to her students.

She shared her desire to bring to fruition her mother's dream and it was readily accepted by her friends. The first such service was held at her church and she handed out her mother's favourite flower, the White Carnation. At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church and writing letters to their mothers.

After much letter writing and lobbying the Governors of Oklahoma and West Virginia in 1910 proclaimed the Second Sunday in May to be celebrated as Mother's Day. The acceptance of this celebration throughout the USA was breath taking. By 1911 there was not one state in the USA that did not have its own observance of Mother's Day. On May 9th 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, proclaimed the Second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and a national holiday. It was not long before the Mother's Day celebration was embraced by other nations as far away as Japan, China, Africa, South America and some Asian countries.

Within ten years, the rapid commercialization and exploitation of this sacred and joyous celebration for Mothers caused Anna much grief. She went on to spend her inheritance fighting against the abuse of this Christian based celebration and said that she 'wished she would never have started the day because it became so out of control...'

Despite Anna Jarvis's misgivings, Mother's Day has flourished all around the world. In the USA the Second Sunday in May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and the telephone lines record their highest traffic. However let us not forget the original intention as set out by God to celebrate and honor the mothers in our families, in our churches and in our society.

*Compiled by Graham McDonald
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