



Mayflower Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

October 2022

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Congregation,

I'd like to start by saying thank you. Thank you for being the church you are. We may not have the bells and whistles other churches have. We may not have the numbers or high tech gadgets. But, what we do have are genuine, caring people who move into action when there is a need. In other words, we have a community of servants. And when I say we, I mean we. I cannot think of anyone in our church that does not try to do something when issues arise. Everyone does what they can and what more can God ask of us. I hope you all enjoy being a part of such a rich community.

My time in Israel and Jordan was revelatory for me in many ways. Hopefully, I can articulate them as time goes on, but the one thing that stood-out more than anything was the community in which they exist. Or better said, communities in which they exist. What was once a bustling, commercial, society has reduced down to a fractured culmination of different groups. And the edges where those fractured communities, these shards, meet are sharp. They cut deep when encountered in the wrong way. It is so sad to see people living in ways, in conflict, with others which results in their own diminished life. When Jesus beheld this great endeavor of God, Jerusalem, knowing what would come of it, He wept (Luke 19: 41-42). God cares for us individually, but also corporately, our communities. One of the greatest things we can do for God is to uphold and maintain our

communities. To celebrate and enjoy them, because deep within them, there are great gifts.

October is the time of year when, especially up north, nature puts on it's own display of fireworks. All summer long the leaves on the trees paint the landscape with the same color of green. But within a few weeks, they emerge with vibrant colors of red, orange, and yellow. I see such a similarity between that and what people see when they look at our congregation. When they see us gather, they see a group of people, nothing more, nothing less. But, what they do not see is a community of people with different gifts and abilities who make up the community we are in Christ. What a sight to behold.

If you have not been out to see the Chapel in the Pines, it is worth a trip. It looks great. The Bible Study will start again on Oct 19th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying the book of Genesis. Come for the duration or, if you find yourself not doing anything on Wednesday morning, drop by, we would love to have you. Our theatrical group is back in action and will be doing a play this month, more details to come.

Do enjoy and God's peace,
Pastor Brian

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

October Birthdays

07 Nancy Homadue	21 Phyllis Thompson
09 Arlene Josefson	23 Brian Wininger
09 Sue Unsworth	23 Tom Green
15 Jeff Rossy	25 Clyde Powell
21 Ray Ricca	27 Brian Fertig
31 Marlene Bryant	

October Anniversaries

14 Slim & Anita Owen
18 Clyde & Phyllis Powell

Church Finances: As of September 23, 2022 the church has taken in \$58,739.36 in the General Fund and have spent \$67,295.05. We are maintaining a balance of \$135,336.51 in all accounts (checking, CD's, and savings).

Church Outreach:

In the months of September we donated \$100.00 to the Hospice of Citrus County.

Thank you to all who donated soap for the mission in Haiti recently. Another chance to donate soap is available until October 9. So bring in what you can for soap for the people in Haiti and you'll find a basket in the Narthex to put the soap donations in.

Please visit our new website!

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

Trustees News: Lots of work being done around the church by the Trustees: Hometown Lawncare is now taking care of the mowing and trimming around the campus. The air conditioner in Fellowship Hall has been replaced after a long wait due to supply shortages. Thanks again to all who donated so selflessly! The broken window in the Pastor's office has been replaced. Looking into ways to spruce up the sign in front of the church. Also looking into options for security around the church campus as there has been some vandalism lately.

Women's Fellowship:

September saw the start of the Women's Fellowship meetings again. They started off with a presentation from Lulu Fay's Country Suds in Dunnellon. The next meeting will be October 27th with a presentation from Comfort Keepers. All are invited to attend. There will be a No-Bake sale on October 16. A dinner theater outing is in the works for December 3 at the Suncoast Bay Dinner Theater in Hudson. Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex and are \$69.95 per person. The time of the play will be 12:00 noon and will be presenting the classic story White Christmas.

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.

Music Ministry: The choir is rehearsing on Fridays at 11:00am. If you like to sing - good, bad, or otherwise, and wish to lend your voice - please see Carol Baadte.

Deacons' Corner:

Hello from the Deacon Board. Your Deacons have been working through the summer months to continue the work of this church. I found no group of people can continue as a functioning body unless there are accomplishments.

The accomplishments this year include an upgrade to our web site. If you haven't checked it out, please do. The site is:

citruspringscongregational.org. The site opens with aerial drone footage of our campus. Also included are recordings of services and information on our various activities.



The next job we tackled was an effort to attract new residents to our church. Here again we relied on technology as with the web site. Through Welcome Wagon, post cards will be sent to new residents inviting them to our church. Starting in September new residents will receive these cards and as folks move in the cards will continue.

These two projects were made possible through a grant from the National Association. As always if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me or any of the Deacons. Respectfully,
Jerry Zwaga

**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!

Oct 07	Fried Shrimp
Oct 14	Pork Roast
Oct 21	Meat Loaf
Oct 28	Shrimp Scampi

NOTE: Brunch will be served on Sunday October 2nd & 16th 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.

You're Invited!

To: All congregants, friends and family!

You have been invited to a roast chicken dinner at the Community Congregational Christian Church Fellowship Hall to help solve the murder of Max Liter. The date will be Saturday October 22. Dinner at 4:00pm and an entertaining laugh-out-loud punny performance by the 4C's Troupe. Tickets will be \$12.00 per person.

Some background: The Grand Cru estate, situated on the fertile slopes of the Loire Valley in France, is a small family run vineyard with considerable rustic charm and appeal.

The owners of the estate, Max and Demi Liter, regularly host wine tasting evenings which allow their guests to sample the latest bottlings and place orders ahead of the big conglomerates.

Unfortunately for the guests, the vintage had more body than they were expecting. Max Liter has been discovered dead in a vat of wine!

Who killed him and why? Come and listen to the "guests" question each other in an effort to help the Inspector solve this mystery.

