



The CHIMES Newsletter

★ ★ H A P P Y ★ ★
4TH OF JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Pastor's Note

This month we celebrate the birthday of our nation, and this year July 4th happens to fall on a Sunday. Independence day is a wonderful opportunity to pray for our country and to give thanks for the many blessings we have received by living here. It also inspires a lot of article ideas – in this case, talking about freedom as Christians.

The topic of freedom in the Bible in general, and in the New Testament in particular, is not usually about physical freedom or governmental structure, but about being freed from the weight of sin or the obligations of Jewish law. If you want to see an example of this, look at Romans 6:15-18 where the freedom found in Christ is contrasted to slavery to sin and law, while at the same time saying that freedom in Christ means becoming a slave to righteousness.

Paul may present it in dizzying form, but his point is consistent.

We have something special as the followers of Christ, and the best described as freedom.

But in the very moment we are granted it, we have an obligation to use it in ways that honor God, just like every other part of our lives. Some of the early disciples thought their freedom from the law meant they could do anything they wanted, including breaking God's commandments. Paul teaches that this is the wrong way to think about it.

Our freedom is not license to do whatever we want, it is the means by which we are capable of living up to all that God asks of us in all areas of life, including relating to government. So our instructions, to quote scripture are as follows:

1 Peter 2:16-17: *As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*



SERVICE INFORMATION

Our Sunday service is at **10:00 a.m. with no limit on the number of people in the sanctuary.**

As we have been able to confirm that we have greater than 70% immunity for those gathering in the sanctuary, we are lifting remaining restrictions on worship. All who attend are welcome to worship without wearing a mask (if you wish to continue wearing a mask, you are welcome to do so).

Coffee fellowship has resumed.

For those who wish to continue worshiping with us on-line, services will continue to be steamed on Facebook and a copy placed on YouTube. Contact the church office to request an emailed copy of the bulletin prior to service.

PRAYER REQUEST

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Please pray for the following

- † Continued prayers for: Cubby (Robin Watson's son, nerve damage), Pam (Barbara Horn's sister, cancer), Vanessa (Robin Watson's friend, cancer), Bernard (Etiennes' brother, depression), Fran Phillips (back), Robin Watson (resources), Steven Musgrave (work), Bob Ritter (pain, health), Fredricka Hopkins (health), Rosa Doig (knee), Neil Carlon (spot on lung), Elvie Marshall (shoulder).
- † Patti Loyd is seeing a Doctor to address some ongoing voice issues. Please pray for wisdom, patience and good answers.
- † Terry Twardzik asks for prayers for her son-in-law, Scotty, who is battling cancer and recovering from surgery.
- † MaryLynn Yust asks for prayers for her friend, Kathryn, who is struggling with confusion issues, her sister-in-law, June, who is in Hospice care, and a friend, Larry, who is recovering from surgery for a broken collar bone from a bicycle accident.
- † Cheryl Evans asks for prayers for her mother, who is now living at home again after leaving the rehab center, and her son Neil, for guidance and protection
- † Vince & Sue D'Imperio 's friend Vivian had major surgery on her foot. Prayers for healing and pain reduction. Also, prayers for a friend, Ken, who is recovering from diverticulitis.
- † Mark Cather's sister Cathy who is battling a resurgence of cancer.
- † Judy Irvine asks for prayers for her friend, Joanne, at the loss of her mother, and another friend, Daryl, who has stomach cancer and will start chemo soon, and Scott, a friend with cancer.
- † Karola Deluca requests prayers for her granddaughter, Kirsten, who is still working with doctors on how to treat the lesion she has on her brain.
- † Bob and Joanne Ritter ask for prayers of condolence for friends Esther and Cleon, and prayers for a friend, Donna, who has COVID which has been getting worse.
- † Kathleen Kemp is at Melbourne Terrace for rehab. Please pray for her recovery and help once she returns home.
- † Gary Christenson's wife, Vicky, and her family who are mourning her Aunt Janet.
- † Connie, who is having eye surgery in July.
- † Phyllis Stone who has had a stroke and is now in rehab.



RESOURCES FOR YOU

We are providing several resources for you at this time.

- **Facebook:** We are also live-streaming Sunday worship services and occasionally have special videos.
- **Youtube:** Copies of our Sunday services are loaded onto Youtube in case you missed them on Facebook.
- **Website:** We are preparing to launch an updated version of our website that includes commonly-requested forms and information about our ministries and programs.



CHECK OUT OUR TABLETS!

The church has 3 tablets that are available to be checked out in order to watch videos of worship and other events without needing a computer. Call today to ask for one!

WORD FROM THE HERD

Monia was recently able to visit Marilyn McEachron and reports that she enjoyed the visit. Anyone who is fully vaccinated can visit, just stop at the front desk to answer questions and sign in.



WHY...Are We Asking About Inoculation Status?

For the past few weeks in worship, I have asked congregants to either speak to me or fill out a confidential survey regarding their COVID-19 status (whether they have had the disease or been vaccinated against it). This survey will be expanding to all members and friends of the church in the next couple of weeks, so I want to share more about why it is the church is asking this question.

We are attempting to calculate the percentage of people in the congregation who have either had and recovered from COVID-19 or received the vaccine in order to determine whether the congregation has reached a point of "population immunity." As defined by the CDC, this is when a sufficient proportion of a population is immunity to an infectious disease through vaccination and/or prior illness to make its spread from person to person unlikely. At this point, the benchmark of 70% has been established as being safe to resume all activity without restriction. While our county has not reached this benchmark, it is possible that as a congregation, we have met or exceeded this figure.

Already in the church, we have concluded the worshipping congregation and other small groups have met this benchmark and are foregoing the requirement for masks and social distancing in the beginning in July. We will continue to sanitize our seats and worship elements after use, offer hand gel to everyone coming in the building, offering individual communion to those not comfortable taking from a passed

plate, and providing masks for use for those who wish to still wear them.

Now we are expanding the survey to all members and friends so we can begin to make plans for future fellowship events, such as our postponed 40th Anniversary dinner and Christmas dinner.

I want to ask everyone to please answer the questions about whether you have had COVID-19 or been vaccinated against it, even if it is to say, "I choose not to disclose my status." Your answers will be shared with **no one in the church, nor will a record be kept anywhere in our computers.**

The only thing that will be reported to the congregation is the overall percentage of people who are considered immune and what the church is doing in light of that number.

Thank you for your patience and your care for one another in the past year. We have been able to continually provide worship opportunities for our community without any instance of spreading COVID-19 because of your diligence in adhering to the policies set by our session. We are ready to take the next steps forward with you in fully resuming worship and fellowship.

With confidence and love,
Pastor Debra



WHAT DOES 70% MEAN TO US?

In Worship

- Chairs in Rows
- No Masks Required
- Hymnals in Seats
- Communication in Trays (no more wafers!)
- Resuming the Use of Offering Plates and Attendance Pads



- Church Dinners
- Ice Cream Social

MISSION NOTES

We received a total of \$586 in donations to the Pentecost Offering. This offering supports children at risk, youth, and young adult programs of our denomination, as well as the Dorcas Outreach Center for Kids (DOCK) in our local community.

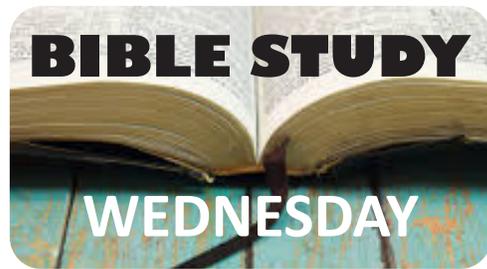
In June, we collected 16 box fans to take to Operation Hope in Fellsmere for their Father's Day celebration. This is a blessing to many migrant farm workers and their families. Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Special Offerings:

- Collecting school supplies for Operation hope (July 18th through August 1st)
- Shoe Mission (August 15th)



Thank you to all who came out to our June lunch - we had a lovely time enjoying food and one another's company at Makoto's Japanese Steakhouse. The Senior Luncheon for July will be held at Applebee's on Palm Bay Road on Thursday, July 29th at 11:30 a.m. Please call Marsha Carter at 321-917-2760 or email her at macarter1950@yahoo.com to sign up no later than July 25th.



Come join us every Wednesday at noon for our midweek bible study! Feel free to bring a packed lunch and study God's word with us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;
 For all of you who have been praying for my son-in-law Scotty - Thank You!. He had the kidney removed last week and he is home and doing very well.
 Terry Twardzik

*For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Galatians 5:1, 13-14



Gary & Vicki Christensen
 July 13

Won & BooCha Park
 July 13

Robert (Mike) & Celia Keen
 July 22

Jim & Betty Gaidry
 July 28

Richard & Heidi Edwards
 July 29

Fedmin & Kathleen Davis
 August 2

Delsol & Johanna Etienne
 August 6

Brian & Sue Clark
 August 9

The Church office will be closed Monday, July 5th in observance of the 4th of July holiday. Have a blessed and joyful holiday.



Betty Gaidry - July 1

Mavis Mattadeen - July 1

Sabrina Dalo - July 2

Virginia Corton - July 3

BooCha Park - July 3

Lunette Reid - July 5

Rose Fausey- July 6

Michael Field - July 6

June Johnson - July 7

Lauren Allison - July 9

Jamie Woods - July 10

Michael Doran - July 11

Amy Carter - July 12

Gary Yocum - July 12

Annette Anastasia - July 14

Dalip Singh - July 15

Molly Stone- July 15

Sue D'Imperio - July 18

Chris King - July 25

Don Weaver - July 29

Jan Enfield - August 2

Donna Yocum - August 3

Vincent D'Imperio - August 14

James "Jay" Klaasen -
 August 15



Central Florida Presbytery's Virtual VBS 2021

July 12 - 16th, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

For Completed 1st - 5th Graders

Supply Cost: \$10/child
(maximum \$20/family)

A variety of Christian educators from throughout the presbytery will lead the kids each day through a story about Jesus from the Gospels of Luke and John. Come to the Table invites children to see that God loves and welcomes all people and challenges them to share that same love and hospitality in their everyday lives. All lessons are held via Zoom. Please register by July 2nd at <http://www.cfpresbytery.org/connect.html>.

SESSION NOTES

The session had their stated meeting Tuesday, June 15th.

- † Session approved a motion from the Administration committee to change counter policy with an alteration. The new language states "When no counters are available, it is permitted to hold the contributions made for one week. They should be prepared as a separate deposit with the following week's contributions. As an added safety precaution, when this is to be done, a copy of the collector's sheet shall be made and placed in the bookkeeper's inbox in the office."
- † It was approved to table a motion from the Administration Committee regarding approving alternate counters with questions sent back to the committee for review before the next session meeting.

- † It was moved and approved to hold off on a change recommended by the Audit committee to alter the line items in the budget for the Pastor's Terms of Call as making such changes in the middle of the fiscal year is very difficult. When we begin preparing the 2022 budget, we will review the recommendation with the pastor and bookkeeper to find the best way to respond to the recommendation.
- † It was moved and approved to alter the list of check signers to include the current Admin chairperson.
- † It was moved, seconded, and approved to update the authorized credit card users to include the new Office Administrator.
- † It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve changed amounts for the rental of classrooms and office space for Lifeline Academy for the 2021-2022 school year.
- † Session heard a report of the ongoing Covid-19 survey and the plan of the worship committee to respond. So far, we are certain that we have responses that indicate we are above the 70% benchmark for population immunity in the worship service.

THINGS TO KEEP IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT!

- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Food (3 days of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight & Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Moist towelettes and hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Manual can opener
- Local maps
- Cell phone with charger/backup battery
- Prescription medications
- Copies of important documents, including IDs, bank account records, and insurance policies
- Cash
- Necessary items for infants (diapers, formula, wipes, etc.)
- Necessary items for your pets (food, water, litter, etc.)
- Necessary items for your glasses or contacts
- Books, puzzles, pencils

WELCOME JIM ELIAS!

Hello First Presbyterian Church! I'm glad to be working with you as your new Sexton. I have been in the Palm Bay area for about 30 years, originally hailing from Massachusetts. I worked at FIT for over 20 years helping with their maintenance, grounds-keeping and irrigation. When I'm not at work I like to relax at home with my wife, Ann. We have three grown children spread throughout the East Coast and 10 grandchildren. I look forward to seeing you around the property, say "Hi" if you see me!





JULY 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Lifeline Academy School Hours: CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER						
	29	30	1	2	3	

4  10:00 WORSHIP COMMUNION	5 12:00 AL-ANON 	6 NO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 BOY SCOUTS	7 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 BAND	8 6:15 NA	9 5:00 LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	10
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11 10:00 WORSHIP 	12 12:00 AL-ANON	13 NO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 BOY SCOUTS	14 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 6:00 ADMIN 7:00 BAND	15 6:15 NA	16 5:00 LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	17
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18 10:00 WORSHIP 	19 12:00 AL-ANON Chimes Deadline	20 NO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 BOY SCOUTS	21 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 BAND	22 11:30 SENIOR LUNCH 6:15 NA	23 5:00 LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	24
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25 10:00 WORSHIP 5¢ PER MEAL 	26 12:00 AL-ANON	27 NO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 BOY SCOUTS	28 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 BAND	29 6:15 NA	30 5:00 LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	31
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IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

July 1

Read Lamentations 3:24

What does it mean that “the Lord is my portion”? It means that the Lord is all that is required to get you through the day. If you had nothing at all, what would help you get through one day at a time?

July 2

Read Lamentations 3:25-26

The writer here is now explaining why his **confidence is in the Lord – he is good**, so seek him out. There is blessing and reward to those who will allow themselves **to trust in him, even in difficult days.**

July 3

Read Lamentations 3:27-36

Have you ever come through sadness or despair, and as much as you cannot rejoice in the cause of it, appreciated the growth or understanding you gained through it? Read this passage with that mindset.

July 4 - Sunday

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-10

This passage is part of the transition of power from Saul to David. Notice the way that the presence and direction of the Lord is woven into this story and David’s leadership of Israel.

July 5

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-2

The people want David to be their king because they feel connected to him. What **makes you prefer one candidate for office** over another? How do you help people in your life feel connected to you?

July 6

Read 2 Samuel 5:3

To be the king of Israel required that David make promises not to the people, but to the Lord. How often do you think of God’s place in the promises you make or the work you do?

July 7

Read 2 Samuel 5:4-5

While these verses seem simple statement of fact, they carry implications. Only the “good” rulers of Israel did so for forty years. In this case, longevity **indicates excellence. Do you find that common?**

July 8

Read 2 Samuel 5:6-10

David sets up his reign in the stronghold of ruler-ship, even though he was not welcome there. Why is it important to face those who do not like you? How can refusing to hide change things?

July 9

Read 2 Samuel 5:11-14

David begins to have the recognition and trappings of being a king, yet notice in **verse 12 the significance he places on them - God exalts David for the sake of the people. How do they benefit?**

July 10

Read 2 Samuel 5:12

It took a while for the truth to sink in for David that he was king. Why is it sometimes hard for us to believe that blessings we are given a real and not going to be taken away again?

July 11 - Sunday

Read Mark 6:14-29

This passage is the story of how John the Baptist died. The story includes grudges, spur-of-the-moment action, and lasting guilt. How have some of these things impacted your life?

July 12

Read Mark 6:14

What was it that Herod was hearing? It was about Jesus and the disciple’s ministry: healings, casting out demons and calling for repentance. What had Herod so interested and alarmed?

July 13

Read Mark 6:14-15

The reports of powerful deeds did not have Jesus’ name attached, so there were many stories of who was responsible. What do these men have in common? How do we make sure that Jesus’ name is known as we minister for him in the world?

July 14

Read Mark 6:16-20

Herod dwells on John as the responsible party. Knowing that what John said to Herod was not pleasant, why do you think Herod liked to listen to him, even as the people around him hated John and wished him to be silent, or dead?

July 15

Read Mark 6:21-25

Herod makes a hasty promise to impress others, and his wife is prepared to take advantage of this promise to force him to order John’s death. Evil is always prepared to take advantage in moments of weakness, doubt, or haste.

Prayer is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p><i>July 16</i> Read Mark 6:27-28 Herod made a public promise, and had to follow through or lose face with those he was trying to impress. Has there been a time you hurt others to make yourself look good?</p>	<p><i>July 17</i> Read Mark 6:29 John's burial sounds a lot like the events that occur after Jesus' death - his disciples collected and buried his body. How does the end of John's story help us understand Jesus better?</p>	<p><i>July 18 - Sunday</i> Read Mark 6:30-31 As the disciples report back to Jesus the results of their mission work, Jesus calls on them to come to a quiet place and rest. Why do you think Jesus felt it was important for the disciples to do this?</p>
<p><i>July 19</i> Read Mark 6:32 Jesus and the disciples went to a deserted place. Our work, family, and obligations make this impossible to do sometimes. How can we create time "away" with God even in our own homes?</p>	<p><i>July 20</i> Read Mark 6:33-34 Jesus had planned a quiet and isolated rest, yet he was followed. How did he react to the change in circumstance? Why did he begin to minister to the people instead of turning them away?</p>	<p><i>July 21</i> Read Mark 6:35-44 There are many wonderful details in the feeding of the five thousand. What is your favorite and what does that detail mean to you? How does this story help you trust in God's abundant love?</p>
<p><i>July 22</i> Read Mark 6:45-46 Notice Jesus does actually take the time to rest and recuperate after caring for everyone - he didn't ignore his own needs indefinitely. Do you make sure to reschedule rest when it is interrupted?</p>	<p><i>July 23</i> Read Mark 6:47-52 There is more to this story than Jesus walking on water - notice how he had intended to keep walking but detoured to the boat when the disciples cried out in fear. Why did he not stop beforehand?</p>	<p><i>July 24</i> Read Mark 6:53-56 When Jesus and the disciples reach the other side, their work picks right back up. How has the time of rest and isolation helped prepare them? Do you plan rests before a busy season, after, or both?</p>
<p><i>July 25 - Sunday</i> Read Ephesians 3:14-21 This prayer offered on behalf of the church in Ephesus is a prayer of abundance. What is the difference between subsistence and abundance? What does that look like in life? In faith?</p>	<p><i>July 26</i> Read Ephesians 3:14-15 What does it mean to take one's name from the Father? What does your family name mean to you? How does that name represent other things to you - values, habits, etc.?</p>	<p><i>July 27</i> Read Ephesians 3:16 God gives to us out of his abundance. How often do we do the same, or does it feel like when we give of ourselves to others, we are becoming depleted and starting to run dry?</p>
<p><i>July 28</i> Read Ephesians 3:17 Paul says we are being rooted and grounded in love. Think today about what that means - love holds us up and keeps us from falling over or flying away. It also nourishes us and helps us to grow.</p>	<p><i>July 29</i> Read Ephesians 3:18-19 Before we can fully engage in experiencing God's love, we have to have some grasp of how big it is. This is why Paul prays for the power to comprehend it's extent. This is how we can be filled with it.</p>	<p><i>July 30</i> Read Ephesians 3:18-19 It is possible to know something that "surpasses knowledge." We very often feel things that are bigger than our words can express. How can we apply that kind of certainty to Christ's love for us?</p>
<p><i>July 31</i> Read Ephesians 3:20-21 Paul never forgets that it is God who is able to accomplish what he has asked. This is both a reminder to us there are some things we have to trust God to do, but also to reassure us he is able to do so.</p>	<p><i>August 1 - Sunday</i> Read John 6:24-35 This passage struggles with questions of why people followed after Jesus. Were they hoping to see miracles? Did they want their stomachs to be full? Would they stick around if neither of these things was going to keep happening?</p>	<p><i>August 2</i> Read John 6:24-25 The first question asked is telling - why did Jesus move on? Things were going well where he was. The crowds were satisfied and happy. Why do you think Jesus would leave when everyone was content to have him stay?</p>