



# The CHIMES Newsletter

MAY 1, 2023



## Pastor's Thoughts



In recent years, there have been a lot of articles that have come to my attention during May about navigating Mother's Day in the church. Those articles talk about how our customary greeting of "Happy Mother's Day" on the second Sunday in May can encourage some, but leave others feeling left out. There are a lot of reasons why this may be – someone may be grieving a mother they have lost. Some mothers may be grieving a child. Others may be struggling with becoming a mother and feel that pain more acutely on the day. Still others may have made a decision not to become a mother, but feel ignored for their contributions to the lives of nieces and nephews, mentoring, teaching, and more. These differing experiences of Mother's Day are important to acknowledge as a church, because we are made up of a great many people whose life experiences are not the same, and because we believe that these differences help us to be a stronger body for the work of serving Christ and supporting one another.

For this reason, in worship, we sometimes combine the traditional day of celebrating moms with the practice of celebrating the gifts of women in the church, and, in similar fashion, combining the date of Father's Day with an opportunity to celebrate the gifts of men. In doing this, we acknowledge that for all those different names or titles women may carry, they point to one truth – that women make a difference in the lives of others, particularly children. In doing the best we can with the influence we carry, we can build up the next generation in ways we may not fully appreciate in the moment, but will be felt by them for a lifetime.

On May 14th, if you are able to celebrate your mom's presence in your life, that is wonderful. If you are remembering your mother or women who helped shape you into who you are but are no longer with you, I hope you will have opportunities to give thanks for them. If you are feeling left out or an outsider to the day, I hope you know that you are seen, appreciated, and prayed for. For all of us, I hope we can give thanks for women in our lives who loved us, influenced us, and helped us to become who we are today.

### Did you know?

Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Mother's Day on May 9, 1914. He asked Americans on that day to give a public "thank you" to their mothers and all mothers. From the earliest celebrations of this day, it has been traditional to give or wear carnations in honor of mothers – red flowers indicate that one's mother is living and white flowers indicate that one's mother is deceased. In recent years, some have tried to expand the flower spectrum to acknowledge women who may be grieved on the day, giving blue flowers to women who have lost a child, yellow for those who have lost a teenager. Orange flowers are given to mothers who suffered a pregnancy loss and purple plants given to moms who experienced a stillbirth. Pink flowers are given to women who are hoping (and perhaps struggling) to become mothers.

# May 4th is National Day of Prayer

The first Thursday in May is an official day designated to be a National Day of Prayer. For those who wish to participate in a local observance of this holiday, there will be a gathering at Palm Bay City Hall Thursday, May 4th from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. Even if you are not able to attend this event, you can pray for our country at home, and if you wish, use the prayer written by Kathy Branzell, president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force:

*We come with fervent hearts to praise You Lord. You are The Word, the Way, Truth and Life. The Alpha and Omega, Lion of Judah, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come. You clothed Yourself in flesh and dwelt among us, to remove our sin and clothe us in Your righteousness that we might dwell with You forever and ever.*

*With broken, humbled hearts we repent of our sins. Confessing to You our faithlessness, prayerlessness, and disobedience. Forgive us for our doubt, our prideful and quarrelsome words that reveal our unclean hearts.*

*Cleanse us and renew a right and steadfast spirit within us we pray.*

*With grateful hearts we thank You fervently for the blessings in our life and throughout America; they are more than we are able to count. We will remember Your grace and testify to Your goodness in all generations. Help us to refrain from complaining, but instead be prompted to pray faithfully in every circumstance. Teach us to have a content heart knowing You are always enough for our every need.*

*As the Church we commit to pray and love our neighbor and nation as You loved us, that our reputation in*

*this world would be rooted in Your love. Holy Spirit work and overflow through us in every prayer, thought, word, and deed. May our character, conversations, and conduct reflect the righteousness in which You clothed us and command us to live.*

*With an obedient heart we put on the full armor of God; Your breastplate of righteousness guards our heart from which flows the springs of life. We pray fervently for our communities and country; the people who are in the Church, Family, Education, Business and Workplace, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media. Every person is Your workmanship, fearfully and wonderfully created and loved.*

*With hopeful hearts we pray that all would choose to receive Your love and follow You. We pray that America would confess, "Jesus is Lord" and reflect Your righteousness in every sphere of influence, and every aspect of our lives. We ask that heavenly hope would flood our hearts, silence hate, and that You will heal our land.*

*Believing You; all You are, all You said, and all You have promised, we pray fervently in righteousness and avail much. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!*



**SOUTH BREVARD  
SHARING CENTER**

The Sharing Center is once again accepting donation of non-perishable food, clothing, and items for their thrift shop. We have a donation box in the sanctuary and office.

In particular, the following food pantry items are needed:

- Baby Formula
- Powdered Milk
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Canned Fruits (even better if pop tops)
- Peanut Butter
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Canned Veggies
- Rice
- Canned Meat & Fish
- Crackers
- Canned Beans
- Canned Soup
- Instant Tea
- Drink Mixes

**NATIONAL DAY  
OF  
PRAYER**

2 Corinthians 3:17

# A Prayer of Blessing for All Mothers

By Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Dear Lord, Bless every mother and every grandmother with the finest of your spiritual blessings today. Confirm in her heart and spirit the work of her hands and the love that she has so freely given to those children under Your care. Validate her worth daily so she has no reason to doubt whether she is loved, valued, and cherished in the eyes of her Heavenly Father.

Create in her a deep sense of your protection and trust, so that worry and fear will disappear as she places her loved ones into Your care. Let her know that every prayer she has prayed and every encouraging word she has spoken on behalf of her children/grandchildren has been transformed into sweet, fragrant offerings before Your throne.

Whisper deep within her spirit the sweet words she longs to hear from You—that nothing can ever separate her from Your love. Help her to nestle daily into the promises of Your Word, standing with faith on the things You declare are true. Let her know that You reward faithfulness, but that true success doesn't lie in her accomplishments or accolades. Let her rest in the knowledge that she has done all she can—and that she and those she loves—truly belong to you. Bless her with a servant spirit so she can teach her own the joy of hearing one day, "Well done!"

Let her joy be contagious; let her passion be pure; and let her life overflow with all the blessings she deserves—on special days, and on every day of her life. In Jesus's name,  
Amen



# Special Offering for May Operation Hope

In May, June, and July, we will have special offerings that support the work of Operation Hope in Fellsmere, Florida. Fellsmere is a smaller town to the south of Palm Bay and has a high number of families that work in the agricultural companies there, many of which are farm laborers. They organize fundraisers, hold community-building events, and train volunteers to help build up the community in Fellsmere to make it a better, happier place.

During May, we collect items that help mothers feel special – jewelry, soaps, perfumes, things of that nature. We also collect gift bags so that these items can be wrapped up and given out to moms for mother's day. This year, we are collecting items through May 7th.

Once we finish collecting items for Mother's Day, it will soon be time to bring in box fans for Father's Day in June. We will be taking in donations of box fans from Sunday, May 28th through June 11th before taking them to Fellsmere for the Father's Day celebration.

Later in the summer, we will collect items to help with Operation Hope's Back to School event, including backpacks, pencils, paper, folders, and everything needed to help children get a good start on the school year.

Through all of these programs, we help make the community of Fellsmere a place of hope, love, and joy. All of our donations help make a difference in the lives of people who are our neighbors.

## Road Runners Adventures

John and Monia are on the road again! The Road Runners are back on the path of volunteering at State Parks and experiencing more of the country. They left home March 29, and in the last month, here's what they've been getting up to:

Enjoying the colors of Spring – daffodils, dogwoods, and red clover started the trip. Trees blooming with flowers have been a mainstay. Other plants mentioned included forsythia and violets, trilliums and yellow violets. They are seeing signs of more trees coming to life every day, so it sounds like spring is going to be beautiful!

- Talking with fishermen in 38 degrees – trout season started and nothing was going to stop them from fishing, not even just-above-freezing temperatures!
- Seeing lots of wildlife – prairie dogs, sparrows, marmot, loons, geese and more birds than Pastor Debra knew existed!
- Visiting Parks and Landmarks – Ohio Pyle State Park and Ohio Pyle Falls, Cucumber Falls, Baughman Rock, Mt. Davis, several covered bridges, Fort Necessity have all been visited, and many miles of hiking trails have been explored.
- Ice Cream and other Treats – John and Monia manage to find great ice cream places wherever they travel, and this time is no different! They also visited a "sugar shack" where maple syrup is made and have enjoyed hot chocolate on cold days. Recently, they built a campfire at 10:30 in the morning to roast marshmallows – clearly, they are working hard!
- Celebrating – John and Monia both celebrated birthdays and their anniversary!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School class is in the midst of their study on the New Testament book of Galatians, one of Paul's most impassioned and eloquent letters. It warns Christians of the dangers of both legalism and lawlessness, calling believers to live gospel-shaped lives. The study book walks readers through the promises, warnings, and gospel declarations found in Galatians, and the class discussion adds insight and personal application, as well as laughter. All are welcome to come at 8:45 Sunday mornings to participate!



The Wednesday Bible Study group is still meeting! We decided to do a study of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament during the month of May. We will be meeting each Wednesday at noon except for May 31st this month, so please consider joining us for a time of reading the Bible and learning about what it has to say.

### EASTER LILY DONORS

Inez Rose  
Mark & Vicki Cather  
Clyde & Marylynn Yust  
Evelyn Moon  
James Corton  
Judy rutter  
Vince & Sue D'Imperio  
Anna Wood  
Grady & Cheryl Evans  
Terry Twardzik  
Debra, Chris and Evelyn Cox



Sam & Barbara Musgrave  
June 3

### The Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for May will be held Thursday the 25th, 11:30 a.m. at First Watch, 1900 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Carter at [macarter1950@yahoo.com](mailto:macarter1950@yahoo.com) for more information. Last day for sign up will be May 22nd.



<https://www.firstwatch.com/locations/melbourne-square>

Thank You to those who blessed us in worship in April

Elders of Month: Cassie Clark and Sue D'Imperio

Ushers: Mark & Vicki Cather, Carolyn Teal, Brian Young, Judy Rutter, Elvie Marshall

Flowers Donated By: Judy Rutter, Sue & Vince D'Imperio, Donna Aguilera, Judy Irvine



Nancy Hudack  
May 5

Mason Carter  
May 6

Edward Darcy  
May 6

Marie Alexis  
May 9

Maryssa Clark  
May 10

Debra Cox  
May 10

Michelle King  
May 16

Blair Burns  
May 18

Vicki Christensen  
May 18

Lynda Dussler  
May 22

Dorothy Melbourne  
May 28

Dennis King  
May 30

Veronica King  
May 30

Lewie Schaaf  
May 31



# Pentecost Offering

On Sunday, May 28th, we will be taking up the Pentecost Special Offering. This is a PC(USA) special offering that helps local churches and the denomination encourage, develop, and support youth, young adults, and the needs of at-risk children. Where does this money go?



- 40% of this offering is retained by individual congregations to support a local organization that supports at-risk youth. In the past, we have supported organizations that include Nana's House, the D.O.C.K program, and Children's Hunger Project.
- 25% of donations will be used to support the young Adult Volunteers (YAV) program, which placed young adults in service positions in communities around the world, blessing others and growing the volunteers as leaders through transformative Christian service.
- 25% of the offering supports PC(USA) Mission Board's Ministries with Youth programs, including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a gathering that introduces youth to the importance of mission work at home and overseas, inspiring many participants to find a calling as a missionary or become involved in local mission opportunities.
- The remaining 10% will be used to support denominational programs that target children who are considered at-risk, to improve education and provide safe havens through the PC(USA) and partner organizations. One such safe haven is Thornwell, located in Clinton, SC, which has grown from being an orphanage opened in 1875 to an institution offering a continuum of care for children and families. They still offer traditional residential care for some children, but they also foster children, help with transitional living (helping young adults aged 18 through 23 navigate becoming an independent adult), arrange for in-home counseling of families throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina so that they can stay together, run retreats to strengthen families, provide academic services to children, and even run a pre-K Child Development Center.

## Word from the Herd

Thank you to all of those who have been helping Danny Paul to be able to get to dialysis three days a week. Danny is very grateful to all of those in the church who have shown up for him, and the drivers have commented on how improved he is compared to when these appointments first began. Danny's wife picks him up, so drivers are only needed in the mornings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to get him to the dialysis center near Palm Bay Hospital before 10:30. Judy Rutter is organizing the schedule with Danny's wife, Pamela. You can reach Judy to sign up as a driver by calling her at 321-543-3190.



# Session Summary

The session met on April 18th. Matters discussed included the following:

- Recognized the reception of Elaine Moore as a member into the church.
- Approved a motion from the Administration Committee regarding funds currently in a money market account at PNC. The Session approved a motion last month to transfer these funds, but the bank we chose does not allow business accounts. The session approved opening a money market account at Truist, which does allow business accounts and will offer us a better interest rate than the current account.
- Approved a request for baptism for Rae Marie Hudson, great-granddaughter of Clyde and Marylynn Yust.
- Treasurer's Report: The quarterly property insurance bill hit in March, and income was lower than average, so our surplus was wiped out. We will monitor expenses carefully in the coming months.
  - Average Monthly Expenses: \$19,718.35
  - Actual Expenses in March: \$24,765.70
  - Contributions in March: \$11,377.46
  - Income for 2023: \$53,770.22
  - Expenses for 2023 \$54,759.19
  - Deficit year-to-date: \$ 988.97



happy  
mother's  
day!

happy  
mother's  
day!

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>2</b> 10:30 pm DAILY BREAD 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>3</b> 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 1:30 pm CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 pm BAND	<b>4</b> 6:15 pm NA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY OPERATION HOPE ENDS	<b>8</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>9</b> 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>10</b> 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 6:00 ADMIN 7:00 pm BAND	<b>11</b> 6:15 pm NA	<b>12</b> 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	<b>13</b> 9:00-11:00 am SESSION TRAINING
<b>14</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	<b>15</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>16</b> 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION	<b>17</b> 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	<b>18</b> 6:15 pm NA	<b>19</b> 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS MEETING	<b>22</b> CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>23</b> 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>24</b> 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	<b>25</b> 6:15 pm NA SENIOR LUNCHEON	<b>26</b> 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP PENTECOST OFFERING 5¢ A MEAL	<b>29</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>30</b> 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>31</b> 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND			

# IN THE WORD

## First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>May 1 <b>Read Acts 2:44-45</b> The selling of possessions and communal support was a sign of faith and commitment in the early church, and that supporting one another more important than personal care.</p>	<p>May 2 <b>Read Acts 2:46-47</b> The believers' lives were marked by praise, worship, generosity, fellowship, prayer, and community. They inspired others around them and were attracting others to join.</p>	<p>May 3 <b>Read 1 Peter 2:19-20</b> Peter offers a teaching on how to understand persecution from others rather than approbation. We need to seek to do good, not to be popular with others.</p>
<p>May 4 <b>Read 1 Peter 2:21</b> Peter says that Christ set before us an example of suffering for righteousness. Is this something you have ever thought about? What does it mean to be willing to live that out?</p>	<p>May 5 <b>Read 1 Peter 2:22-23</b> This description of the way Christ suffered is more than a list of his experience - it is the way in which he handled it. Jesus responded with trust, not anger or vengeance.</p>	<p>May 6 <b>Read 1 Peter 2:24-25</b> Peter calls everyone sheep who had gone astray, whose sin Jesus took from them. What are we supposed to do with our freedom? What does it mean to live for righteousness?</p>
<p>May 7 <b>Read Psalm 31:1-2</b> This Psalm begins with a plea to the Lord to be a refuge, a place of safety. Have you ever called out to the Lord to protect you? Why and what from?</p>	<p>May 8 <b>Read Psalm 31:3-4</b> The Psalmist is asking that the Lord protect him from "the net that is hidden" - there is some kind of plot that has been put in place.</p>	<p>May 9 <b>Read Psalm 31:5</b> We are used to hearing these words from Jesus' mouth. What does it mean for a person to trust their spirit to the Lord, despite their fears?</p>
<p>May 10 <b>Read Psalm 31:7-8</b> The Psalmist does not trust in the Lord without reason - he has had experience of the Lord being faithful and providing for his needs. What would you thank the Lord for?</p>	<p>May 11 <b>Read Psalm 31:9-12</b> The Psalmist feels broken, abandoned, and scorned. Have you ever felt like this? What does it mean to have an advocate in those times - someone on your side?</p>	<p>May 12 <b>Read Psalm 31:13-14</b> No matter what others whisper, the Psalmist has made their choice to trust in the Lord, and will not turn to another in worship. This is no fair-weather friend.</p>
<p>May 13 <b>Read Psalm 31:15-16, 24</b> Having made a choice to trust the Lord, the Psalmist now asks the Lord to be faithful in return, and tells others to similarly take courage and trust in the Lord.</p>	<p>May 14 <b>Read John 14:15-16</b> As part of Jesus' last instructions to his disciples, he tells them to keep his commandments. Jesus also asks the Father to give the disciples help - the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>May 15 <b>Read John 14:17</b> The Holy Spirit is not inherent in people - the Spirit's presence in each of our lives is a gift of God, one that not everyone will understand, accept, or follow for themselves.</p>

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

# First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>May 16 <b>Read John 14:18-19</b> The assurance that Jesus gives that he will not leave his disciples as orphans is powerful - knowing we are not alone is one of the most encouraging gifts we can be given.</p>	<p>May 17 <b>Read John 14:20-21</b> Have you ever worried that someone won't like you? Does it help when you know beforehand that you share an acquaintance, loved one, or interest? Jesus does this for us!</p>	<p>May 18 <b>Read Psalm 66:8-12</b> The imagery here is that of metal being tested and refined - what remains is recognized as precious and valued. This is the way that God sees his people and cares about us.</p>
<p>May 19 <b>Read Psalm 66:13-15</b> This section of the psalm is a commitment of the worshiper to honor God and do what is promised and right when coming into his presence.</p>	<p>May 20 <b>Read Psalm 66:16-20</b> The Psalmist now addresses everyone else - to let them know they can approach God in a similar way to be forgiven and accepted when they show God a humble heart.</p>	<p>May 21 <b>Read Psalm 68:1-2</b> This Psalm starts out with a voice of anger and vindication - cries that the enemies of the Lord be defeated and the wicked punished. Have you ever wanted to pray something like this?</p>
<p>May 22 <b>Read Psalm 68:3-5</b> This is the other side of the coin - the righteous are called upon to rejoice, celebrate, and sing praise to the one who conquers, and to be joyful rather than fearful before him.</p>	<p>May 23 <b>Read Psalm 68:6</b> There is a statement in this verse that those who are most vulnerable or hopeless can rely on the Lord to be good to them, and to care about their pain and circumstance.</p>	<p>May 24 <b>Read Psalm 68:7-8</b> This depiction of the Lord's protection says that he goes out before his people to protect them and to make the way they were traveling open to them when they got there.</p>
<p>May 25 <b>Read Psalm 68:9-10</b> The blessings of the Lord are abundant, and his restoration complete. Those who seek a home find one in the Lord, and those who are in need find sustenance.</p>	<p>May 26 <b>Read Psalm 68:32-33</b> Everyone in the earth, from individuals to nations, from lowly to heroic, is called upon to praise the Lord and recognize his power and worthiness to be worshiped.</p>	<p>May 27 <b>Read Psalm 68:34-35</b> All are called on to recognize that the Lord is mighty and powerful, worthy and wonderful. He always is, but we need to open our eyes and hearts to acknowledge that truth ourselves.</p>
<p>May 28 <b>Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6</b> Paul is experienced with the habit of people to find ways of dividing themselves. He wants to be clear that the gifts of the Spirit are given to unite the church and make it whole.</p>	<p>May 29 <b>Read 1 Corinthians 12:7</b> The purpose of Spiritual gifts is to build up the church - not buildings or institutions, but people - for the purpose of fulfilling the mission Christ has given us to share the Gospel.</p>	<p>May 30 <b>Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10</b> The list of gifts that Paul gives here is descriptive rather than exhaustive - examples of there being a variety of abilities and strengths. Do you have one of these? A different gift?</p>
<p>May 31 <b>Read 1 Corinthians 12:11</b> Paul reiterated the unity again at the end of the list - all are given by one Spirit, so we are all pieces of one whole work rather than being separate entities in competition.</p>	<p>June 1 <b>Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13</b> The types and distribution of gifts is not the only potential distinction within the community - the origins of the members are also not a reason to divide the body into factions.</p>	<p>June 2 <b>Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13</b> Paul uses the image of a body and its parts to explain how the Church can be unified yet hold differences together. Do you think the Church today does a good job of this?</p>