



The CHIMES Newsletter

AUGUST 1, 2023



Right now, in the Cox household, there is a song that we hear nearly every single day. Evelyn is currently enamored

of *The Mary Ellen Carter performed by the Longest Johns* (written by Stan Rogers) and requests it be played as often as possible, singing it on her own as well. The song is about a fishing boat, the Mary Ellen Carter, which was sunk in a storm due to the reckless actions of the skipper, then abandoned by the company for lost in favor of an insurance settlement. The rest of the crew refuses to give up on the ship, however, for her 20 years of service, her value as a fishing boat, and their fondness for the way the ship protected the crew through many storms and brought them safely home. They make plans through winter and in the spring, borrow a barge to dive to the wreckage, patch the holes, seal off the ship, tie on lines, and plan to pump in air and float her back to the surface. Part of their joy is proving the company wrong in saying she was a loss, and their desire for money over the ship itself.

The chorus is catchy (Rise again, Rise again! May her name not be lost to the knowledge of men (All those

Pastor's Thoughts

who loved her best and who were with her 'till the end will make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again!), the verses are compelling storytelling, but my personal favorite part is the final verse, which changes the perspective from the ship to the world at large:

And to you, for whom adversity has dealt its mortal blow

With smiling bastards lying to you everywhere you go

Turn to and put our all your strength of arm and heart and brain

And like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again!

Rise again, rise again!

Though your heart it be broke and your life about to end

No matter what you lost, be it a home, a love, a friend,

Like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again!

There's a lot I appreciate about the story in this song (the melody is enjoyable too). The boat is definitely sunk and has been given up for lost. It's the love and devotion of the crew that cause them to see the situation differently and leads them to put in a lot of work and personal risk to raise her the 60 feet to the surface.

There's a refusal to buy into the greed and callousness of the company officials, and there is an unwavering optimism that through hard work and devotion, nothing and no one is ever completely lost.

May we, who follow Christ into the world, have the heart of the people in this story, and never look at the world or anyone in it as a total loss. May we be willing to believe in the possibility of redemption, gather fellow believers around us, and put the work in to help heal wounds, steady hearts, and inject hope, praying always that the grace of Christ and the work of the Spirit lead to the fulfillment of all our efforts. May we see hearts rise in faith, and to see lives redeemed from the depths.



Going Further to Help Children

We will continue to focus on supporting the needs of children in the area through our special offerings in the coming months:



- Our upcoming Special Offering for August is the Shoe Mission program. This is a unique mission project, started by First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay more than 40 years ago, and directly impacts the lives of children and families in Palm Bay. Each year, we contact guidance counselors and social workers at local Palm Bay elementary schools and ask them to identify a number of

students in their school who need help obtaining shoes for the new school year. Their families are sent a letter and permission form to participate in the program, and when signed up, receive a gift card from the church that allows them to go to the shoe store and pick out shoes and socks. For the last few years, we have partnered with Shoe Carnival in Hammock Landing, who has not only helped us to obtain the gift cards, but provided a special coupon for families participating in the program to be able to make the shoes even more affordable.

We will be taking up a collection on August 13th in support of this program and ask that you consider supporting this special offering. It truly brings joy and pride to the children who receive help, as well as encouragement to their families, who feel seen and cared for, and school officials, who appreciate having the agency to direct help to those who need it most.

- On September 3rd we will take up an offering for the Children's Hunger Project, a local initiative that is partnered with United Way to ensure that children have sufficient food to get through



the weekends and when school is not in session. By addressing hunger and malnutrition, there are positive results in children's lives, including improved attendance at school, better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, and improved health. This program has grown a great deal since its inception, from serving 27 children in 2010 to over 3900 children at more than 50 schools in the last school year.

Looking for Blank Christmas Cards



Do you have any blank Christmas cards around your house (something that has no pre-printed message on the inside)? Or maybe some festive paper or cardstock that is taking up space? Please consider donating it to the church for so that we can once again send Christmas messages to active duty members of the Armed Forces. There was a wonderful response last year of people donating and writing cards, and we want to bring back the practice again this year, which

means we are on the hunt for cards now. Please bring them any Sunday and they will be collected at the table on the West side of the Sanctuary.

Thank You from Operation Hope

Thank you to everyone who brought in school supplies for our July Special Offering in support of Operation Hope in Fellsmere. Here is a word from Jesse Zermano, President of Operation Hope, about the impact of this mission:

"Every year, our Back-to-School Event supplies an average of 800 children with the supplies they need to succeed. Imagine how it feels for these precious children! If you have seen their excited, happy smiles, you know how important your gift is. You have truly made a lasting difference. Thank you for all you do, my heart is full of gratitude. You really are the BEST!"



Mango Thumbprint Cookies

Make mango jam by combining 2 ripe mangoes, peeled and diced into small pieces, the zest of ½ of a lime and 1 tbs of sugar



in a saucepan. Mash a few times to release juices and simmer 20-30 minutes, mashing halfway through.

Whisk together 2 ¼ cup flour, 2 teaspoons cornstarch and ½ teaspoon salt in bowl and set aside.

In a separate bowl, take 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted, room temperature butter and beat (use stand mixer or hand mixer) until creamy. Scrape down sides of bowl, add 1/3 cup each of regular and tightly packed brown sugar. Beat mixture, gradually increasing speed to medium-high until well-combined. Add 1 large egg yolk and ¾ tea vanilla extract and beat well.

With mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture to wet ingredients until completely combined. The dough may seem dry and crumbly, this is okay.

Scoop cookie dough into 1 Tablespoon-sized balls and roll very well. (Optional – roll ball in ½ cup sugar). Place on a wax-paper covered plate or small cookie sheet. Use your thumb or rounded back of a teaspoon to press and indent in the center of the dough. Transfer pressed cookies to freezer and chill 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 375F.

Spoon jam into thumbprint (if difficult, microwave jam 5-10 seconds to loosen), filling indent to brim. Place cookies 2" apart on lined cookie sheet and bake for 11 minutes or until edges are just beginning to turn golden brown. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet before serving.

Prayer for a New School Year

It's time for a new school year already! For Brevard County Public Schools, pre-planning for teachers begins August 2nd, and the first day of classes for students is Thursday, August 10th. As schools prepare for the beginning of the year, please be in prayer for students, teachers, administration, and other staff:

Holy Lord, we pray for all children and young people as they begin a new year of school. We pray for their playfulness, their curiosity, and their joyfulness. We pray, as they study at home or in schools, that they will find strong and true friendships and support for their minds and spirits. We pray for the times when they test boundaries and question authority, that they find opportunities to understand others, to find adults to be trustworthy, and they receive compassion and guidance. We pray for all those who teach and lead, who serve food, clean classrooms and have opportunities to impact the lives of children. We ask that you inspire them with creativity and commitment. Give them energy to continue teaching and bringing forth the best from students. Help them find opportunities when a smile or encouraging word can make a lasting impact. Grant opportunities for their refreshment and renewal. Help us to appreciate their efforts and treat them with respect.

Holy Lord, author of all wisdom, bless this year as one of growth, in knowledge and in maturity of all those who are in schools. Let the campuses be places of safety, of nurture, of friendship, and of imagination. This we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.





Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study group is meeting and looking at ways of studying and meditating on Scripture through intentional study and practices like Lectio Divina. The study meets at 12:00 each Wednesday, and participants are welcome to bring a bag lunch or snacks to enjoy while we delve into scripture together. We hope you will join us!



Sunday School Class

The Sunday School class has begun a study of the Book of Acts using a 12-week resource written by Justin S. Holcomb, an Episcopal priest and professor of theology, philosophy, and Christian thought at Gordon-Conwell and Reformed Theological Seminaries. The study chronicles some of the most important events in Christian history: the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the early church, the scattering of Jesus' disciples, and more. The class will explore the Biblical text, discuss the historical events and how they tie in with the whole story of Scripture, illuminate doctrines taught in the passages, and invite participants to consider practical applications and better understand God's Word. The class meets at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays.



Fedmin & Kathleen Davis
August 2

Brian & Sue Clark
August 9

Joan & Michael Doran
August 12

Jack & Ronnie Dayton
August 13

Seymour & Clysen Sailsman
August 26

Errol & Carol Gardner
August 27

The Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for August will be held Thursday the 31st, 11:30 a.m. at Sonny's BBQ, 1020 Malabar Road NE, Palm Bay. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be August 27th.

Second Quarter Giving Statements

If you would like a copy of your second quarter giving statement, please contact Terry Twardzik, our Receiving Treasurer, or Donna Aguilera, our Office Administrator, and we will print a copy out for you!

Thank You to those who blessed us in worship in June

Elders of Month: Clyde Yust, Karola DeLuca

Ushers: Elvie Marshall, Ron & Georgia Shane, Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Evelyn Cox, Marsha Carter, Judy Rutter

Flowers Donated By: Jim Corton, Donna Aguilera, Inez Rose



Jan Enfield
August 2

Vincent D'Imperio
August 14

Ron Niemeyer
August 18

Art Irvine
August 23

Christopher Cox
August 28

Marilyn McEachron
August 28

Patty Darcy
August 30

Nichole Karnetsky
August 30

David Collins
August 31

Betty Stavely
August 31

Seymour Sailsman
September 1

Inez Rose
September 2



Session Summary

Session did not meet in July but did discuss several repair needs of the church and make arrangements for them.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses in June were high, due largely to the quarterly insurance payment. Contributions for the year are at 108%, and expenses are 91%.

- Average Monthly Expenses: \$19,718.35
- Actual Expenses in June: \$22,328.25
- Contributions in June: \$11,865.93
- Income for 2023: \$100,484.76
- Expenses for 2023 \$108,134.98
- Deficit year-to-date: \$7,650.22



Word from the Herd

We have several members and friends of the church in need of prayer at this time: Fredricka Hopkins is preparing to have knee surgery to help her with mobility and pain. Judy Quirco and Molly Stone are recovering from surgeries and need continued prayer for healing. Finally, David Collins' wife, Lynda, passed away in late July, and David asks for prayers for her as he plans a memorial service up north.



What is With All of This Hot Weather?

It has been very hot lately, and the news has been full of "record-breaking" temperatures in many places. Part of the reason for these hot temperatures is that the world is currently in an El Niño phase, which has to do with ocean temperatures and weather patterns, including heat and rainfall. The good news is, it usually means less or less severe hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. The bad news is, it means generally hotter summer temperatures.

Hot Weather Safety Tips

- Drink water and beverages that contain electrolytes even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Stay indoors and in air-conditioned areas.
- Cool off by taking a bath or shower.
- Wear light-weight, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing.
- Limit physical activity during the peak heat hours of 10 am - 3 pm.
- Never leave children or pets in a parked car.
- Wear sunglasses and sunscreen with SPF 15+.
- Check on older adults including family, friends, or neighbors often.

The Office of Strategic Management
Workplace & Business Learning & Support

- Hurricane Season has been around for a couple of months now, but with the hotter temperatures it is important to consider the plans you already have and take into account heat safety as part of them:
- If a hurricane were to come this way, are you able to secure your hurricane shutters all in one attempt or will you need to break it up to give yourself a chance to rest and cool off? If you are someone who will need breaks to put up your shutters, you should take this into account when making a decision when to start putting them up.
- Is there anything you can do to make preparations easier on yourself? Perhaps there pieces of yard furniture you are not using because of the heat at this time of year, and they could be pulled closer to or into more secure areas (like a porch or the garage) until it cools down, reducing the amount of outdoor work you would need to accomplish.
- What is the state of your emergency kit, and does it need stocking with any supplies? You may need extra water in these conditions, and non-perishable foods that don't need as much heat to prepare or consume. You might even consider picking up some cold-packs or cooling bandages from the store that could be used to help cool down in case of a loss of power.

It always helps to go over your hurricane plans in advance of a storm, but is even more important in light of how the heat can impact your ability to carry out those plans. Prioritize what you can safely accomplish on short notice, and reduce the strain of your preparation list in reasonable ways. Keep staying safe and praying for an easy hurricane season.





August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 am DAILY BREAD 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	2 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	3 6:15 pm NA	4 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	5
6 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY	7 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON—LADIES ONLY	8 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	9 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	10 BACK TO SCHOOL 6:00 pm ADMIN 6:15 pm NA	11 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	12
13 10:00 am WORSHIP SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SHOE MISSION WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	14 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON—LADIES ONLY	15 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION	16 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	17 6:15 pm NA	18 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	19
20 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS' MEETING	21 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON—LADIES ONLY	22 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	23 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	24 6:15 pm NA	25 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	26
27 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	28 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON—LADIES ONLY	29 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	30 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	31 SENIOR LUNCHEON 6:15 pm NA		

IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>August 1 Read Romans 8:31 Consider a new question – if God, who is great, and has done so much for us, is on our side, what do we need to be afraid of in this world?</p>	<p>August 2 Read Romans 8:32 We should be confident in this world, because God has proved himself as great, but also loving, in that he gave Jesus for us – will he hold back otherwise? No.</p>	<p>August 3 Read Romans 8:33-34 Who are the accusers in your life or in your mind? Remember who it is who has the ultimate right to hold you accountable – a loving God.</p>
<p>August 4 Read Romans 8:35-36 There is no outside force that can cause God to stop loving us. Nothing is stronger than God, and no one can convince him to give up on us.</p>	<p>August 5 Read Romans 8:37-39 Try adding any adversity to this list, then take your name and place it in the part that says “able to separate ___ from the love of God”.</p>	<p>August 6 Read Matthew 14:13 The reason Jesus is withdrawing is because he just heard of John the Baptist’s death. He is mourning, yet the crowds still follow.</p>
<p>August 7 Read Matthew 14:14 Jesus does not respond to the crowd’s persistence with anger or resignation, but with compassion, choosing to care for their hurts.</p>	<p>August 8 Read Matthew 14:15-16 The disciples point that this area does not have food available, but Jesus makes it their responsibility to provide for everyone.</p>	<p>August 9 Read Matthew 14:17 The disciples see the five loaves and two fish as “nothing”. They have a mindset of scarcity – how much they lack to meet the need.</p>
<p>August 10 Read Matthew 14:18-19 Jesus sees the food as an abundance, able to provide. He doesn’t ask for a miracle, he thanks God for the blessing already given.</p>	<p>August 11 Read Matthew 14:20 The miraculous blessing of this food is more than enough to meet the need – all are able to eat their fill, with leftovers even!</p>	<p>August 12 Read Matthew 14:20-21 The math truly does not add up, which is why this story is so miraculous. It was truly an abundant moment of blessing.</p>
<p>August 13 Read Matthew 14:22-23 Finally, Jesus will have a chance to have some quiet time. He sends everyone away, crowd and disciples included, so he can pray.</p>	<p>August 14 Read Matthew 14:23-24 The disciples were trying to wait for Jesus but the weather was against them. Have you ever felt worked against when trying to do good?</p>	<p>August 15 Read Matthew 14:25 Jesus was walking on the sea is presented so matter-of-fact, yet is amazing and miraculous, how does this compare to Jesus’ ministry?</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>August 16 Read Matthew 14:26-27 The disciples panic, and Jesus immediately reassures them. Notice how he does this: "It is I." We should expect Christ to do amazing things.</p>	<p>August 17 Read Matthew 14:28-29 Peter's actions are both an act of faith and a test – "If it is you." In what ways do we test God to confirm what we know we can (or should) do?</p>	<p>August 18 Read Matthew 14:30 Peter wanted to go to Jesus, but couldn't handle the environment he had to go through to get to him – how are we similar?</p>
<p>August 19 Read Matthew 14:31-32 Notice the irony of the doubt and faith presented here – Peter gets called out for doubting, but he's the only one who got out of the boat!</p>	<p>August 20 Read Psalm 67:1 What would it look like for God to fulfill all the prayers in this verse in your life? What do these requests mean to you?</p>	<p>August 21 Read Psalm 67:2 Do we connect the blessings that God gives us with means to have him be glorified in our communities and around the world?</p>
<p>August 22 Read Psalm 67:3 The praise of the Lord is the work of the people of the earth – what makes us eager or resistant to praise the Lord at any given time?</p>	<p>August 23 Read Psalm 67:4 What nations around the world do you hope to "be glad"? Is it all of them? Some of them? God loves all peoples and nations, shouldn't we?</p>	<p>August 24 Read Psalm 67:5 The psalmist again urges all the peoples to praise the Lord – the focus has shifted from home and community to the world to define all peoples.</p>
<p>August 25 Read Psalm 67:6 The reason for this ode of praise is given – the Lord has blessed his people and the earth thrives with his provision.</p>	<p>August 26 Read Psalm 67:7 The hope of the author is that this blessing continue – what do you think is needed (or not) for this prayer to come to pass?</p>	<p>August 27 Read Romans 12:1 When you think of the word "sacrifice," what images come to mind? Does it seem painful? How might it become a joy to be a living sacrifice?</p>
<p>August 28 Read Romans 12:2 Implied in this instruction is that the more we conform to this world, the less we are able to discern God's will – which is more important?</p>	<p>August 29 Read Romans 12:3 Paul here warns about ego – perhaps we think we are able to handle the world, when it actually changes us more than we think.</p>	<p>August 30 Read Romans 12:4-5 It's not just our abilities we need to consider thoughtfully, but how others around us are necessary for our survival and success.</p>
<p>August 31 Read Romans 12:4-5 What does it mean to you that we all belong to one another? In what ways does this seem intrusive, and in what ways empowering?</p>	<p>September 1 Read Romans 12:6-8 Paul points out that our gifts are in proportion to our faith – why would it be important that they are given with this condition?</p>	<p>September 2 Read Romans 12:6-8 What gifts do you have that God has given you? Did you want something different? Does it affect how you use your gifts?</p>