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The CHIMES Newsletter

May, 2025

Pastor's Thoughts

Preparing for Sabbatical and Renewal—what is going on and how will it work?

Sabbatical plans are very much underway, both at my home (we're breaking in new shoes for our trip) and here at the church. As part of these plans, we want to make sure the congregation is aware of the preparations happening now.

First, for those who are unsure what Sabbatical is, it is a practice related to keeping the Sabbath—much like we are supposed to put aside a day every week to connect with the Lord, Sabbatical is a leave taken approximately every seven years in which a pastor re-connects to the Lord, their sense of call, and re-commits to their ministry. It involves *ceasing* work and the need to accomplish, be productive, or be in control of things. Then, the pastor *embraces* time, rest, wholeness, inspiration, and hope as a means of renewing the self. Finally, it should lead to *feasting* - an ability to appreciate and be grateful to all that has led up to the present moment and joyous anticipation of the future God is planning. It's not a vacation; it is a ministry to the pastor so they can be all God intends them to be with and for the congregation.

The Renewal Team are meeting regularly with me working on the plans for the church for this summer. Our first priority was ensuring steady pastoral care for the congregation. To this end, we have brought in Rev. David Lindemer to be our Extended Pulpit Supply pastor. He will preach throughout June and July, provide pastoral care as needed, and will even have office hours on Thursdays from 9:30 until 12:00 in order to be available to the congregation.

The Deacons have worked with me to prepare a Pastoral Care plan, one that we want to bring into effect now, in the month of May, as a way of test-running the plan before my Sabbatical Plan begins. If anyone in the congregation is sick, hospitalized, or is otherwise in need of pastoral care, they should reach out to the following three people:

- Barbara Musgrave, moderator of the Deacons (727) 858-4121
- Marsha Corton, secretary of the Deacons (321) 917-2760
- Donna Aguilera, Office Administrator (321) 725-8484

These persons will be able to contact the rest of the Deacons and Rev. Lindemer in order to arrange phone calls, visits, or support as needed.

If there is anything we can do to help the congregation feel encouraged or empowered about the Renewal time coming up, please talk with me or a member of the Renewal Team (Marsha Corton, Barbara Musgrave, Sue D'Imperio, and Nancy Cox)!

Renewal Activity Timeline

June 1: Leave-Taking Celebration with Pastor Debra after worship

June 1-30: CAT Assessment portal open for members and friends to help our renewal process by answering questions related to the church

July date to be determined: Guest speaker focusing on about ministry opportunities as an older congregation

August: Pastor Debra will return to the office on the 11th and will share about her Sabbatical time during the month.

September date to be determined: Representative from Holy Cow! Will be sharing results of our CAT assessment with the congregation.

Spiritual Gifts: Manifestation

In last month's Chimes, there was an article about how to understand personal Spiritual Gifts – using the scripture in Romans 12:1 -8, it discussed identifying the things that you are passionate about and seeing that inspiration as motivational gifts of the Spirit.

This month, let's look at another list of gifts found in Scripture, this time in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, as a way of considering Spiritual Gifts through the lens of manifestation – outward expressions of God's presence and power working in the lives of believers. One way to think of them are like abilities, but they don't come from our own efforts or intentions, but rather are gifts given by the Holy Spirit that remind us and those around us that God is able to do more through us than we can accomplish on our own. These gifts exist to promote the common good, build up the body of Christ, help people grow in their faith, and demonstrate the power of God on earth.

Next month, there will be a breakdown of the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, but before sharing those descriptions, consider the following question: what have you seen or done that, if asked about, you would say, "It is definitely God at work, because there is no way I could do that in my own power!" That's the first clue to identifying these gifts!

Session Summary

The session met on April 15th. Matters discussed included the following:

- The session was introduced to David Lindemer and approved the Extended Pulpit Supply contract for June and July. This contract is for preaching, session moderation, and pastoral care while Debra is on sabbatical.
- Session approved the following pulpit supply preachers: Lucas Pina on April 27, Dr. Carmelo Mercado on August 3, and Olivia and Hoover Haney on August 10.
- Session reviewed, discussed, and approved policy updates, including an overhaul of our Employee Policies and Procedures, an update to our Sexual Harassment and All Forms of Harassment policy, revising our Policy for Guest and Pulpit Supply Preachers, and updating committee responsibility descriptions for the Fellowship and Buildings and Grounds (formerly Property) committees.
- Session approved a contract with Holy Cow! Consulting to run a CAT assessment with the congregation during June as part of the renewal activities planned for the congregation.
- Session approved a request from the Platinum Show Chorus to meet in the sanctuary for practices on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on a trial basis for 6 months.
- Treasurer's Report:
  - Average Monthly Expenses: $17,222.32
  - Actual Expenses in March: $16,820.65
  - Contributions in March: $15,050.12
  - Income year-to-date: $68,429.51
  - Expenses year-to-date: $47,484.76
  - Surplus year-to-date:
  - $20,944.75

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

Cheryl & Grady Evans
In memory of Linda Wilke.

Judy Rutter
In memory of loved ones lost and in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vicki & Mark Cather
In memory of Pat & Bob Cather and Laura & Calvin Ball.

Anna Wood
In memory of John Wood, Adian & Betty Oskam.

Clyde & Marylynn Yust
In memory of Charles & Jean Yust and James & Eleanor Berry.

Sue & Vince D'Imperio
In memory of Mary D'Imperio and Joann Warwick.

Judy Irvine
In honor of her family.

Inez Rose
In memory our risen Lord.

Cindi & Frank Cundari
In memory of their mothers.

Brian & Sue Clark
In memory of Spencer Rowan & Jack Clark

Evelyn Moon
In honor of the music ministry.

Glea Hale
In memory of Jim Hale.

Jack & Ronnie Dayton
In honor of Christ's Resurrection. Alleluia!

Heather Nokes
In memory of Charles Thomas Nokes.

Chris, Debra & Evelyn Cox
In honor of our Risen Lord.

May 1st is the National Day of Prayer

The first Thursday in May is an official day designated to be a National Day of Prayer. The theme for this year is "Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled" and is based on Romans 15:13 – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

On this day, it is particularly appropriate to be in prayer for the nation – here are some prayer prompts for your use in home or as part of a wider celebration of the day:

Prayers for the government and people in office: President, Congress, Supreme Court, Governors, State Congresses, Mayors, County Officials, and other elected leaders. You can pray for their wisdom, integrity, and servanthood.

Prayers for responsible citizenship, courts of justice, stewardship of the nation, reconciliation of divisions, educators and students, and safety of our military and first responders.

Property Work Day Heroes

It was a very warm day on April 5th, but that didn't stop members from coming out to help at the Property Work Day! Inez Rose, Sue D'Imperio, Mike and Susan Allison, Ron Neimeyer, Kent Duda, Debra and Evelyn Cox, Jack Dayton, Jim Corton, Nancy Cox, Barbara and Sam Musgrave, and Brian Young were all present and working hard both inside and outside! The entire sanctuary was mopped, dusted, windows washed, and chairs reset. Outside, there was a lot of edging and leaf blowing as we cleaned up the parking areas, as well as weeding, branch pickup, and repair of exterior lights.

Thank you again to all who came out, as well as to Judy Irvine, who did some gardening work beforehand since she couldn't be present for the work day itself. You all helped our sanctuary and grounds be ready for the celebration of Easter, and to be more welcoming every time someone comes into worship!

Imani Milele Choir is in town in May!

The Imani Milele Choir is preparing to begin their 2025 U.S. Tour, entitle, "Faith, Hope & Love." It is a powerful celebration of God's goodness and the resilience of His children. It will be beginning on May 3rd in Zephyrhills, Florida, and run for six months as the choir tours across the Eastern U.S.

The choir, a talented group of children from Uganda, Africa, uplifts hearts during their concerts, as well as building awareness and raising support for the Imani Milele programs, through promoting sponsorships of students. The choir concerts feature uplifting and inspirational songs that share stories of the joy they have received through God's love and songs that are an exciting blend of original compositions, praise and worship, and unique African drum routines and dance.

Attending a concert at Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd was a wonderful experience for our congregation. While they won't be in Melbourne this year, there are a few dates coming up where they will be nearby and you can see them sing:

Tuesday, May 6th they will be at Coastal Community Church in Sebastian from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7th they will be at Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Sebastian from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 8th they will be at Grace Life Church in Rockledge from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Word from the Herd

Osprey Cam Update: Some people are having trouble with the YouTube Link originally shared. John Yust let us know a more reliable way to see the live camera: Go to YouTube and search for "Brevard Osprey Cam". AS of 4/4, two eggs had hatched!

News from Blair and Lorraine: Their trip home was great, until they hit Canada and got some snow! They had a lot of variance in the weather in the week after getting home – snow, freezing rain, regular rain, then temperatures warming up again. Blair couldn't remember that kind of variance before. He and Lorraine are celebrating the news that her eye doesn't need surgery unless things get significantly worse – for now, drops should help with the inflammation. They appreciate all the prayers!

Sunday School Class—Joshua

The Sunday School Class is going to be finishing their study of Joshua in May! Trent Hunter's Study on the book of Joshua from the "Knowing the Bible" series continues to be a wonderful resource to learn about the leadership of Joshua and the claiming of the promised land at the end of 40 years wandering in the wilderness. The study also offers insights into the Bible's overarching story of salvation and the ultimate rest offered to all who trust in Christ for salvation, helping them apply its message to their lives today. On May 25th, the class will have an "end of study" pot luck breakfast and discuss the next book of the Bible they wish to study – if you have thought about participating in the Sunday School class, please come that day!

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study group is still meeting! We have resumed reading through the Gospel of Luke and discussing the actions and teachings of Jesus during the time of his ministry. We will be meeting each Wednesday at noon this month, so please consider joining us for a time of reading the Bible and learning about what it has to say.

The study will run through Wednesday May 28th. It will be on hiatus while Pastor Debra is on sabbatical and will resume in August after her return.

Derrick & Judith Fairman
May 7

Sam & Barbara Musgrave
June 3

Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for May will be held Thursday, May 29th at 11:30 a.m. at Yellow Dog, 905 S US Highway 1, Malabar, FL. Please contact Marsha Corton at *macarter1950@yahoo.com* for more information. Last day to sign up will be May 25th.

Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in April

Elder of Month: **Karola DeLuca**

Ushers: **Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Karola DeLuca, Mike Nardelli, Marsha Corton, Evelyn Cox, Jim Corton, Ron Niemeyer**

Flowers Donated By: **Judy Rutter, Mike Nardelli, Judy Irvine**

Nancy Hudack
May 5

Mason Carter
May 6

Edward Darcy
May 6

Marie Alexis
May 9

Rae Hudson
May 9

Maryssa Clark
May 10

Rev. Debra Cox
May 10

Michelle King
May 16

Blair Burns
May 18

Vicki Christensen
May 18

Dorothy Melbourne
May 28

Dennis King
May 30

Veronica King
May 30

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 4th.

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 25th through June 8th 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.

Pentecost Offering – June 8

On Sunday, June 8th, 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. Stay tuned for more information in the June Chimes!

A Note of Thanks from Central Florida Presbytery

Dear Rev. Debra Cox,

We are writing to you to thank your Congregation for their financial support for the ministry and mission of Central Florida Presbytery. We are also asking that you share this letter with your congregation by reading it aloud on a Sunday morning or publishing it in your church newsletter. We want the members of your congregation to know that their mission contributions and their faith are cherished by the members of the Council and our Presbytery.

We know that this is not an easy time for many of our congregations and yet you and many others are stepping up and showing your trust in the goodness and provision of God and offering your financial gifts with glad and generous hearts. Every financial gift to Central Florida Presbytery is a testimony of faith that you believe that God has a good plan for us and you are willing to show your support for that plan. Now more than ever - every gift from every congregation that is part of the family of churches that make up Central Florida Presbytery is needed.

As we approach the joyful celebration of Easter we are grateful to God for your faith and your generous support of the ministry of Central Florida Presbytery. We wish your congregation God's blessing this Easter.

In Christ,

Nicole Gower
Moderator - Central Florida Presbytery

John Rogers
Chair of Council – Central Florida Presbytery

Lenten Study Class – Thank you for Coming!

Thank you to all who attended and made the Lenten Study classes possible! We had big turnouts the first few weeks, even running out of soup at one noon gathering! Nonetheless, there were amazing meals and solid conversations each week, as we learned about and made connections to times when Jesus made possible, enjoyed, or taught about meals.

A special thank you to all those who made sure we had something to eat by making sure we had soup and bread: Barbara Musgrave, Marsha Corton, Judy Irvine, Judy Rutter, MaryLynn Yust, Anna Wood, Inez Rose, Terry Twardzik, Chris Cox, Glea Hale, Evelyn Moon, Ronnie Dayton, Vicki Cather, and Sue D'Imperio. Finally, a special thank you to Anna Wood, who organized all the soup and bread volunteers, and to Barbara Musgrave, Terry Twardzik, Marsha and Jim Corton, Nancy Cox, and Carolyn Teal, who all worked on setting up, making tea and lemonade, ensuring enough supplies, and cleaning up after study sessions!

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	2	3
4 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE OPERATION HOPE	5 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	6 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	7 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	8 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	9	10
11 10:00 am WORSHIP HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	12 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	13 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	14 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 5:00 pm ADMIN MEETING 7:00 pm BAND	15 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	16	17
18 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACON MEETING WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	19 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	20 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	21 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	22 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	23	24
25 10:00 am WORSHIP OPERATION HOPE-FAN COLLECTION 5¢ A MEAL	26 OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	27 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	28 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	29 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	30	31

May 1 **Read Revelation 1:5b-6** Everything that Jesus did for us: freeing us, making us one, giving us purpose—everything was done because Christ loves us. His love drives his actions, which then elicits our praise.	May 2 **Read Revelation 1:7** When Jesus returns, every eye will see him—there will be no doubt, no prevacation, and nowhere to hide from the truth, especially for those who have rejected Christ.	May 3 **Read Revelation 1:8** Does verse 8, spoken in God's own voice, ring differently than the same words from verse 4? How is it different to hear God proclaim he was, is, and is to come than to say it ourself?
May 4 **Read Acts 9:1-2** Saul passionately believed those who followed Jesus, known as followers of the Way, were offensive to God and actively damaging the community with their teachings. Is it any wonder he was eager to persecute them?	May 5 **Read Acts 9:3-6** As soon as the Lord's presence came upon Saul, he knew it and fell to the ground in reverence. But the voice he heard was Jesus' talking to him—not to condemn him, but to give him instructions on what to do next.	May 6 **Read Acts 9:7-9** Saul was the only one who heard Jesus speak and had this peculiar encounter. Do you think his subsequent fasting was from injury, penitence, preparation, or some other reason?
May 7 **Read Acts 9:10-14** God sends Ananias to heal Saul, giving Saul a vision of this event before he speaks to Ananias, who is not eager to heal, let alone come into the presence of a man who is hunting the disciples of Jesus. What would you say?	May 8 **Read Acts 9:15-16** God reveals that he has plans for Saul—rather than a threat, God sees him as an instrument to speak the Gospel message. God has plans for Saul, whose passion to follow God will lead him into danger.	May 9 **Read Acts 9:17-19a** Ananias is not going to argue further—God knows exactly whom he is saving. By the time Ananias meets Saul, he is ready to call him brother. Saul responds to his healing with baptism and a new purpose.
May 10 **Read Acts 9:19b-20** Paul's ministry and missionary trips are still a ways off in the future. But at this point in time, after his encounter with Jesus and a few days with disciples, he is eager to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues as the Son of God!	May 11 **Read Revelation 7:9** Can you imagine a multitude with people from all tribes and peoples and languages? What colors and outfits might you see? What sounds might you hear? In their many different way, all praise the Lord!	May 12 **Read Revelation 7:10** The one thing acknowledged by all is that God and Jesus are the only ones who determine and administer salvation—what does that mean for us on Earth as we try to teach people how to follow Christ?
May 13 **Read Revelation 7:11-12** It is not just the martyrs or the countless believers that worship the Lord in heaven—the angels, the elders (Saints? Patriarchs? Leaders?), and the "four living creatures" lay aside any honor or glory they have in order to praise the Lord on his throne.	May 14 **Read Revelation 7:13-15** When finished with their praise, attention is now given to the observer, John. He is checking to see how much John understands or what he needs explained—not for his own edification, but so that he can report this back to other believers.	May 15 **Read Revelation 7:16-17** The martyrs know that Jesus has saved them, and they praise him constantly for it, turning to Jesus to be their guide, protector, comforter, and friend. It isn't a reward, it is an extension of the way they lived their life on Earth.

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

May 16 **Read Acts 9:36-38** How much must have her community loved Tabitha, that they sent for Peter even after her death! What might they be expecting him to do—save her or help them mourn her?	May 17 **Read 9:39-42** Peter comes right away, and must pass by a line of people, showing Tabitha's impact on them. He doesn't even hesitate once he is in her presence to call her to wake up.	May 18 **Read Psalm 148:1-4** People used to imagine that God lived in the sky, so it makes sense to command the things closest to him—sun and moon—to praise. What would you command to praise God?
May 19 **Read Psalm 148:5-8** As the psalmist begins to think about the things God created, they encourage that creation to call out in praise both for making and directing them, even to this day.	May 20 **Read Psalm 148:9-12** The psalmist names large groups and specific examples to exemplify how God understands both the "big picture" and is still personally invested in every aspect of creation.	May 21 **Read Psalm 148:13-14** We should praise the Lord because he is worthy of praise—and he chooses to devote himself to the love and care of his people. Yet another reason to praise him!
May 22 **Read John 13:33** Jesus then tells his disciples he is going somewhere they cannot follow—they will have to figure out how to live, teach, and serve without him present to guide them.	May 23 **Read John 13:34-35** The last instruction Jesus has for them is not what to teach, how to teach, or who to teach. Rather, he commands them to love one another, with Jesus as an example.	May 24 **Read John 13:31-32** While washing his disciple's feet, taking the place of a servant, Jesus says that he has been glorified, and God glorified in him. What is it about serving one another that is glorifying?
May 25 **Read John 14:23** Jesus teaches that to love him is more than an emotion—it leads to action, in this case, obedience to his word. The reward is to have God and Jesus live in your heart!	May 26 **Read John 14:24** To not follow Jesus teaching is to reject relationship with him, even if you say you love him. Furthermore, it is rejecting God the Father, since it was God's word that Jesus was sharing.	May 27 **Read John 14:25-26** Jesus wants to reassure the disciples that they will not be without instruction, whether Jesus is there or not. The Holy Spirit taught them and continues to teach us today!
May 28 **Read John 14:27-29** Jesus gives his disciples one last gift—not another instruction, but peace, hope, and promise. They will always have a place with Jesus, he will never abandon them or leave them behind.	May 29 **Read Revelation 21:22-23** Do you ever close your eyes and lift up your face to the sun to enjoy its warmth and light? Imagine what heaven is like, where God's glory can outshine any sun!	May 30 **Read Revelation 21:24-27** God's glory affects more than nature—all peoples of the world will be drawn to it. God's kingdom will be filled with honor, and nothing that is evil, selfish, or destructive will enter.
May 31 **Read Revelation 22:1-5** Rivers usually represent life. This river flows from God's throne, securing life forevermore and feeding the trees that can heal pain of the past.	June 1 **Read John 17:20-21** Did you know that you are in the Bible? It's right here in these verses—Jesus himself prayed for you, that you would be one with him!	June 2 **Read John 17:22-23** Jesus values our unity with him and one another because it provides a witness to the world that all he said was true. How can we live up to this?