

GraceFull Visions

JUNE 2019

From the Deacons' Desk

The hurricane season is here again. Are you prepared? Ready? Every year we take precautions: buy batteries, canned food and water, install shutters, trim trees, etc., etc.

We try to get ready for the possible storm, hoping we are not in the cone. We will get a warning, giving us more time to prepare.

But are we prepared for the other "storm" coming, the second coming of Jesus? Jesus said he'll be back, didn't say when, but said we should be ready, be prepared.

There will be no "weather forecast" telling us that He is coming. But if there is one, what would you do? Ask for more time? Buy more bibles? Light a candle? Say a prayer? Forgive our neighbor? Ask for

forgiveness? Repent?

Jesus gave us the blueprint on how to be ready with just two things: one easy, one not so easy. The easy one is to love God. The not so easy one is to love our neighbor.

It can be said that it is only one thing, one command, to love God. If we truly love God, we try to do what He asks of us, and He wants us to love our neighbor. Love does not mean hugs and kisses. Love is forgiving others, asking for forgiveness for our short-comings, helping our neighbor up, accepting others for who they are, different from us. Love is kind words, kind acts. Love can mean just letting our neighbor be. Jesus told his disciples, when He sent them out that, if you are not welcomed in a town, to kick the

dust off themselves, their sandals and move on. Sadly, it can be the same with our "neighbor".

But by focusing on the first command, love God, the second, loving our neighbor, should become easier. June 9th this year, the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension.

(John 14:26) "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." The Holy Spirit will walk alongside and guide the followers in the way of the truth."

So, prepare yourself. Be ready.

When my time comes

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to go to my Maker, be it by the Second Coming, or returning to the dust I came from, I would like to be in a position to say "Here I am Lord, your humble servant and a sinner. I tried my best, well, not my best all the time, to do as you ask. When I failed, I asked for forgiveness, and you forgave me. The times that I succeeded, I asked to be humble, and you kept me humble. Here I am, Lord, our humble servant, BUT a sinner no more.

- Deacons Susi and Frank

Your Special Hymns Coming in July

In July and August, you will be invited to select a favorite hymn for us to sing during

our services. But we also ask before we sign the hymn that you share with the

congregation why that hymn is important and meaningful to you. You may share this

with the congregation yourself, or designate another to make the presentation.

Mission and Ministry

From the Stewardship Team

“We make a living by what we get: we make a life by what we give.” Sir Winston Churchill.

If we feel good when we give, or do something for others, or put another’s needs ahead of our own, then why don’t we do it all the time? Churchill is right. We have two sides: the getting side and the giving side. Jesus spoke mostly about the giving side. Our secular world is more con-

cerned with the “getting”.

“Getting” is in front of us everywhere: bargains, discounts, coupons, BOGO. In one sense this is a good thing - how we perform as stewards of our finances and take advantage of offers provided to us, a wise use of our money matters,

But when our monetary ambition exceeds a careful approach to getting, then we can be victims of the wrong side

of this. (remember, “the Love of Money----”).

The giving side brings out the best in us. Anne Frank in her diary wrote, “No one has become poor by giving”. If we follow Anne Frank’s observation, then in a kind of “backhanded way”, our goal might be- to never become poor.

- Richard Duncan, Stewardship Team

Faith Community Nursing

Over the past year, multiple counties in Florida have reported an increasing number of hepatitis A (HAV) infections. Since January 2018 up to March 23, 2019 there have been 1166 cases of HAV infection reported statewide. Most Florida counties have reported Hepatitis A infections. Over 90% of these cases have been acquired in Florida. A majority of these cases have been occurring in males (66%), and have been white, non-Hispanic (78%). The median age of cases is 39 years. **Fifty-two percent** of cases had a history of any **drug use**. Twenty-four percent have a history of chronic hepatitis B or C infections. Recent homelessness was documented for 17% of cases.

Hepatitis A is transmitted per-

son-to-person primarily through the fecal-oral route, which may include some types of sexual contact, poor hand hygiene after going to the bathroom or changing diapers, and/or handling objects such as intravenous needles. Hepatitis A can also be spread through food or water contaminated with fecal matter. While most patients with hepatitis A will fully recover, 80% of cases in Florida have required hospitalization.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends hepatitis A vaccination for the following people:

- All children at age 1 year
- Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common

- People who are experiencing homelessness
- Family and caregivers of adoptees from countries where hepatitis A is common
- Men who have sexual encounters with other men
- Users of recreational drugs, whether injected or not
- People with chronic or long-term liver disease, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- People with clotting-factor disorders
- People with direct contact with others who have hepatitis A
- Any person wishing to obtain immunity (protection)

Advocates for World Health

Have you asked yourself, "What do I do with these medical products or equipment (including CPAPs/Oxygen Concentrators or Surgical Supplies)?" If you happen to have any of these, don't need them any longer, and they're not expired, you

can donate them to **Advocates for World Health** (<http://awhealth.org>). They are a not-for-profit corporation that recovers surplus medical products and distributes them to hospitals and surgery centers worldwide, providing health care services

to underserved populations in the developing world. Advocates for World Health is located at 13200 Belcher Rd S, Largo, FL 33773. You can call (813) 889-0290. Feel free to contact Sunday Falco for any questions about her experience at 727-455-2528.

Sunday Falco's Recent Activities

- Getting the different renters in a good system per week for helping with tables and chairs as we have events and church service.
- Handling problems for our seven paying tenants.
- Providing hospitality and setting up on Sunday morning for the second service, setting up cookies for both services and organizing volunteers.
- Helping Cindy, our new office manager.
- Making appointments with people outside our congregation, walking them through the property, discussing prices, rules and times available.
- Managing cleaning people.
- Setting up for congregation events when needed.
- Tasks specific to the Adaptive Service.
- Talking with multiple assisted living facilities to set up regular outings to the Adaptive Service.
- Talking with the media, including local newspapers and Channel 10 News.
- Updating the Calendar on the Church Website Daily. - Check our Church Website calendar for all Events during the Month! (www.graceclw.com) Stay connected!
- Helping to organize school lunches for the community and the Kids' Camp this summer.
- Connecting with Florida Sheriff Youth Ranch to invite the Children to Events and Church.
- Connecting with HUG Team/connecting people with disabilities through social events and activities. We are now on their event calendar for our second service on Sunday morning. (www.hugtampabay.org)

Retired Pastor's Luncheon Update

The latest Retired Minister's luncheon was held in our Fellowship Hall recently. They always seem to have a great time with their wives and friends. They gave a \$100

donation to Lydia's Closet. This money has already been spent on toiletries and backpacks.... Many thanks to Jill Grote and Virginia Dittmer for lending a hand at the last

luncheon... Their next lunch will be on Wednesday, Nov. 13th. - Florence and Deacon Frank Bencivenga

Men's Appreciation Baseball Game

On Sunday, June 2nd, we will be attending the Sunday Brunch event at the Clearwater Thresher's game against the Dunedin Blue Jays. This is an annual event to honor

the fathers and other men of our congregation who make such a difference in our lives. It's great fun, food, and fellowship! Please pay by May 24th so we know how many

group tickets to order. These advance tickets are \$17 each and includes the buffet, excellent shaded seats, and access to a clubhouse. For more information, contact Pastor Jeff.

Regular Event Updates

Men of Grace

This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, **June 6th**.

Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet

The Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet will be held on Saturday, **June 8th** at 9 am. However, we may need to consider moving the date of our breakfast again, since the Mt. Zion UMC and First UMC now provide a free community breakfast on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month in downtown Clearwater. We will have a short meeting after the June breakfast to talk about our options.

The Next Person You Meet In Heaven by Mitch Albom will be the topic of June's book club. We will meet on June

Young at Heart

Our next Young at Heart meeting, on Thursday, June 13th, will be held at Queens Pizza. It's our "free" pizza day. Come around 11:45 a.m. for a great time!

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 11th** at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.

Children's Church

Children's Church will be on hiatus during the summer.

June Book Club

5th at 10:00 am. Please come and join us. The discussions are lively and the treats are sweet! Contact Vicki with

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Thursday, **May 23** from 1pm-3pm. We meet in the Garden Room and the gate will be open for access and the door unlocked. Our study is from the current issue of "Gather" magazine. If you do not receive Gather magazine, call Connie Puls at 446-4091 and she will get the study information to you before the meeting. All women are invited, coffee and desert will be served. If you need a ride call Connie.

questions at veis49@yahoo.com.

Recipe Corner

What a great time we all had at our Cinco de Mayo Picnic. And with all the great food that was served, there were many requests for recipes.

This brought to mind a great opportunity for a monthly newsletter article. So, if you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, send it in and we

will add it in a future newsletter. Something to look forward to! - Lorraine Bickell

June Birthdays

6/02	Anne Cousins	6/20	Notty Kennon
6/03	Sue Cooperrider		Ellen Duncan
6/04	Iris Valentin	6/25	Joe Adamitis
6/06	Vicki Eis		John Johnson
6/07	Dale Davis	6/26	Connie Puls
6/08	Carol Smitley	6/30	Tyson Hauschild
6/09	Nicholas DeTrano		
6/18	Pr Jefferson Cox		

June Anniversaries

6/06	Bob & Darby Graves
6/07	Nova & Lorraine Bickell
6/08	Steve & Dale Davis
6/26	Tony & Pat Falco
6/28	Jim & Maureen Bjorgo

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the Prayer Chapel. Submit prayer requests through the Communion Record Sheets.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Linda Almond, Stephanie Adamitis, Pastor Lou & Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Kathy Falco, Pat Hudson, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Ralph Burson, Jean Schlegel, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Tom Stanziano, Larry Timmons, the family and friends of John Eis (Vicki's and Jordana's father/grandfather respectively), Andy Ohayon, and Muriel Deering, & those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (including those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson

-Seaman Third Class Kyle Wassen, grandson of Connie Puls,

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne Hauschild is in the Air Force

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinhart's grandson. He had been redeployed to the Middle East.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony's granddaughter, was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting—June 30th

The June Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting always includes election of new Congregation Council members. It may also have additional action items on the agenda. According to the Grace's constitution, new action items may be placed on the agenda for voting consideration by the Council up to five (5) days before the meeting.

This meeting will also include an update (non-voting) on the Adaptive Service. The exact time and place of the meeting will be announced later in June.