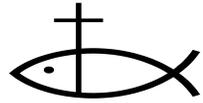




Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ



September 2018 Newsletter



From the Pastor's desk

Gospel of John 12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

I think that if we are totally honest with ourselves most of us would have to admit that we like being in command. We like making our own decisions and don't enjoy it when others tell us what to do. In the Gospel of John Jesus tells us that he is the light of the world and that whoever is willing to follow him, will never walk in darkness. Most of us have no problem accepting that Jesus is the light of the world. In fact, the majority of us depend on him to bring light into the dark places of our lives. How many times have you found yourself seeking the light of Christ, when life seemed very dark and hope seemed out of reach? While I don't think that many of us have a hard time accepting Jesus as the light of the world, I do believe that most of us have a much harder time following Jesus.

In the old Disney classic, "Peter Pan" there is a scene where the children play "Follow the Leader". As they make a long line and play this game, they also sing a song. The song states that they will follow the leader wherever he (she) may go. This passage from John reminds me of that song, for Jesus is telling us that if we follow him and allow him to be our leader, we will not

walk in darkness. While this sounds easy to do, we must all admit that being a “follower” can be challenging. We must be willing to trust and give up our authority. We must be willing to have faith that the path that the leader is guiding us down, is safe, secure and a healthy one. We must be willing to allow the light to guide us, even when that means we need to change course and redirect our thoughts, actions, and dreams. This is also true for a church. In order to grow, be disciples, and live out the teachings of the Gospel we must be willing to follow the light. We must trust that Jesus has a purpose for us and that Jesus will guide us in God’s ministry.

The world can seem like a very dark place. It can appear as though all the darkness has consumed the light. But this simply isn’t true. Let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are called upon to follow him and trust that he will guide us with his love, compassion, wisdom, acceptance and light.

Jesus is the light of the world, whoever believes in him will not walk in darkness! Let us welcome these words into our hearts and into the life of our faith community. Let us put aside our egos and allow the light of the world to guide us and lead us into the bright light of God’s love. - *Victoria*

Holy Spirit...On the Move!

This past spring Pasco County called a member of our Outreach Committee to ask if our church would be willing to allow the county summer food bus to use our parking area to provide lunches to children 18 and under. Without hesitation our church agreed to allow the bus to serve the New Port Richey community in this way. In addition, the Outreach Committee decided to offer lunches to adults during this same time. As the summer progressed, this lunch program has developed into a permanent free lunch program called “Love A Lunch”. This name came from one of our members who had offered a free lunch program in her store but was unable to continue this program when her store closed.

Then, just last week we received word that the Rotary Club had given us a \$4,000. check to help support our Pack -A-Sack school lunch program for those children who struggle to eat properly during the weekends and vacations. This \$4,000 check along with the \$2,000 dollar check we received for this program by participating in the annual hunger walk, will allow us to provide 70 packs of food for hungry students at Richey Elementary School, each week.

It is clear to me that the Spirit has called us, as a community of faith, to help feed our hungry brothers and sisters. I want to personally thank each person who donated food items, their time, ideas, and energy to these two amazing ministries. Jesus tells us, "Feed My Sheep". With the help of the Spirit and the faith of our members, we are doing just that! – Way to go Church!!

Bay News 9

Community Congregational Church In the News!!

Our new "Love A Lunch" program was featured on Bay News 9 in Tampa. I want to thank everyone who has helped make this ministry come alive!! Check out the news story at

<http://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2018/07/11/new-location--same-mission-for--love-a-lunch--program>

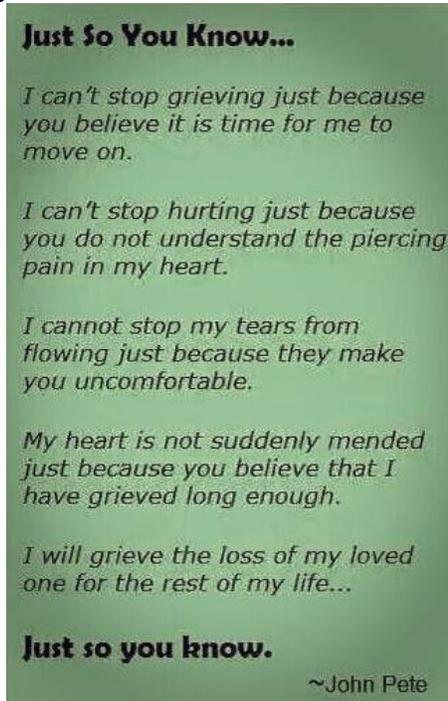
Deacons update, since Karen Duffy has taken a break from the church the duties of Chair of Deacons has fallen to Robin Kenna. We have several openings for Deacons and are actively looking for interested individuals to join us. If you are interested, please contact Robin ASAP 860-620-4425. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10am, location currently is in the Parish House.

Ecumenical Fund-Raising Out Reach

The Raffle tickets are now available for purchase! Ten dollars buys you a chance at winning a hot tub, a TV, a BMX bicycle (think Christmas or birthday gift for a grand kid), and gift certificates to various business' in our community. It is a wonderful way to support your church and only ten dollars! Every member of this Church can be involved, if everyone sells just one ticket we can sell them all. Dave Meachum has found that selling them is easy. The hardest part is having the confidence to ask your friends and neighbors to buy one or as Dave put it Five for Fifty dollars! Find, Robin, Sydney, Gloria, Angel, Linda, Faye, Kim, Ralph or Pastor to get your tickets. There are only 1200 tickets and they are selling. The hot tub has been fully donated and the cost of printing the tickets has also been donated! This is a win/win, lets sell those tickets! All you ***Snow Birds***, you can get a ticket too! Contact Robin at kenrom32@yahoo.com to request

your tickets! If you win the hot tub, you can always sell it donate it, or give it away, and it does include installation anywhere in Florida!

Grief Group Starting Again!



Do you ever feel like this...

Grief is something that many of us feel uncomfortable talking about. We live in a society that tries its hardest to avoid pain. We have don't like to acknowledge our pain and especially our grief. This causes many of us to carry our pain, grief, and suffering deep within ourselves. Many of us are afraid to share our grief and can't find a safe place to process our feelings. Beginning again in September our Good Grief Group will begin to meet in the Parish House on the last Tuesday of the month from 11:00-12:00. This is a safe and supportive place for all of us to share our grief and to learn to come to peace with the losses in our lives. I would like to personally invite all of you to attend this gathering. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Peace and Blessings: Victoria

Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited, and urged, to attend the September meeting. On Friday September 14, we will meet in Andrus Hall. Due to changes in the church schedule, we will not be meeting at 11am for business and lunch, as we have done previously. For this meeting, at least, we will meet at 1 o'clock.

It would be great if everyone would come with ideas for the new year. We have set the date for the Cookie Walk- December 8th. Also, in December

we will be hosting students from the Open Door School for a Christmas Party. We do plan to have a This 'N That sale, with the date to be decided.

In October Trinity UCC in St. Petersburg will host a full day program "In the Company of Women". The details are posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board. This is a great way to meet other women and learn what the State Women's Fellowship is doing. This meeting is for the West Central area.

Please bring your ideas for this group for the year. Pamela, the president, will be here in December. Hope to see you at the meeting! Elaine.

All Committees are starting their meeting schedules in September, Please check your calendars and be sure you know when and where your meetings are to be held and/or call your committee chair for that information.

If you are looking to get involved with the Church I urge you to join one of the committees and learn about what they do and if it would be a good fit for you. Each committee is always open to new members. The time commitment is minimal, please don't be shy.

Choir is starting again this month on the 5th, Rehearsals are on Wednesday in the Choir room at 5 pm to 6pm.

Pasco Pride Proud is celebrated this year on Oct 6th from 10am-4pm. There is no parade, but there will be a "March" around Orange Lake. We will be having a tent and table in front of the church, we are looking for volunteers to man the table to share information on our church and sell some raffle tickets. Please see Faye Hartman to sign up.

Junk in the Trunk will begin in October. Please contact Kim Hoffman or Maureen Lang for information.

We are all blessed with an Attitude, is yours one of Gratitude?

Just a note: Sometimes I feel like a broken record, repeating my self over and over as I am not sure you are all getting the message. I have had the pleasure to serve this Church in many ways recently, and I am “not tooting my own horn”. I filled in when Roy was on vacation, took Bob Riley’s keys while he was away, I took on the responsibility of lead Deacon when Karen needed to be away and last month sat in the office to handle phone calls, from people in need and to hear of the sick and dying. I visited some in the hospital, some at home, a few in rehab. facilities and answered many calls. I got a firsthand view of just what our Pastor does! For the second Sunday of Victoria’s vacation, with Karen’s guidance we planned a service that I think went pretty well. I know how long that last bit took! It is not an easy task I can assure you. I of course spoke to Pastor as needed and made sure that people I visited knew that she was on vacation but if they truly needed her present she would come. It is exhausting! I had my phone on 24/7. I used to do this for my job and I had forgotten how your sleep is interrupted just knowing you can’t miss a call. I retired and gave up the beeper and the work phone, I must say I do not miss them. I want you all to realize that even on her vacation she still handled the duties of the Web Master. This is a job that is time consuming and beyond my technical abilities! There are so many meetings, daily decisions and visits that take so much energy and love. It is astounding to me that there are still a few that feel it is a part time job! What would you do at 10 pm or later, if you suddenly found you were in the Hospital ER with a loved one or you yourself are in severe medical trouble, if our Pastor was “part time” and was not available to come? What if you were sitting on a committee at a meeting and you have something that needs the Pastors input and since the Pastor was only “part time” was not available to join your meeting? Honestly, a “part time” pastor would not work for us! I am tired of hearing the talk of well she is never here. Do you realize her job is portable? She can research from home, answer her phone, return calls. In short do her job off site as easily as being in the office, actually easier as she will not be interrupted as frequently with questions that can be handled easily by volunteers in the office.

This job, being a Pastor is a huge responsibility. It is time we realized what a Gem we have and treat her properly. She works hard to be sure to see to the needs of our church community. She grieves with us when we lose someone we love. She grieves when one of the church family passes

and they are out of state. We should be thanking her for giving us a message week in and week out that is relevant and caring, for giving us hope in this crazy world we are living in. We are Blessed to have this woman as our Pastor. Thank you God.

Out Reach News:

The feeding the children of Pasco County has expanded at our church and we have changed the name to “**Love A Lunch**”. Jessica Beebe’s New Port Richey Store was where this program started and when she lost her lease (for feeding the hungry), she asked if we would include the hungry, in the feed the children program. We had already committed to feeding the adults accompanying those children. Love a Lunch is now being served M-F 11:00 to 12:00 at the front doors by the Kitchen in Andrus Hall. We are so pleased to have this ministry continued as the need is great. Jessica, Gloria and Sydney are leading this program and request one additional person from the congregation to help with prep, clean up and welcoming the hungry to our doors, the signup sheet is outside the kitchen in Andrus Hall. On rainy days they are welcomed into the Hall to sit out of the rain to eat. Please check often to see what food items may be needed!

Pack A Sack: Linda made an announcement on Sunday, that we have received a grant for \$ 2,000.00 and a new grant for \$ 4000.00 from the Rotary Club for a total of \$6000.00! This will enable us to pick up the balance of the students in need at Richey Elementary School for a total of 70 students a week getting a pack a sack from our Church. Pastor Victoria commented following this news that this is “**our mission**” here in New Port Richey.

More Outreach news:

We are still collecting for the soldiers and first responders and a new list of items has been sent to Angel. Those items we are collecting to send to California for disbursement are:

All Purpose Wipes (single & 30 Ct. packs or less)

Batteries (aa or aaa)

Puzzle books (7x10” preferred size)

Sewing kits (travel size)

Deodorant (travel size non-aerosol)

Black Socks (crew length)
Drink mix (individual serving packs)
Sunscreen (travel size non-aerosol)
Gum
Hand Warmers
Jerky (individual bags)
Lip Balm
Pencils (mechanical preferred)
Playing Cards
Powder (travel size)

Home made items such as Cool Ties, and Paracord Survival Bracelets. You are also encouraged to write a note. Our men and women need to know that they are thought of and the thoughts of our love and support are always with them. The first responders fighting the fires also need to know we wish them a safe return home!

Coming Soon:

Plans are in the works for a *spaghetti super* for February, another opportunity to gather and socialize. More information will be available soon.

Speaking of Out Reach, Georgia caught up with me to Update her news! The Games Group is actively fulfilling an invitation from the Watermark Assisted Living Community in Trinity to volunteer to play games with their residents on two Tuesday afternoons a month. This is in addition to (and in no way alters) our usual Thursday Game Day here at CCC. This group has been active since 2011 with an effort to assist seniors in the community to socialize while exercising their brains. They welcome anyone to join them on Thursday afternoons 12:30 to 3:30 pm in Andrus Fellowship Hall and offer a variety of games and fellowship. For more information please call Georgia at 727-232-0537

The greatest advantage to being a part of the Games Group on Thursday afternoons is having such a great group of people to welcome you - just anytime you're able to attend. Andrus Hall is a perfect place to gather - the various games give one a choice and the ability to change to a different game when desired - and in doing so we meet and get to better know different people. All this in addition to being out of the house and in out of the Florida Sun and heat!

Please note that the Summer has come to a close and we are starting up our meeting schedule for the Fall.

The Semi-Annual Meeting was held on Sunday August 5th after Church where the budget was reviewed and voted upon. Ralph Stonier, the Assistant Treasurer presented the budget. He also presented a history of the last ten years of our budgets with projections. It is clear that this Church has run on deficit budgets for many years. The finance committee is working on how to solve this problem. There was some discussion and a vote was taken. The Budget passed.

I have been asked to request that all that wish to be part of the ***prayer chain*** via telephone rather than email please contact Beverly Dierking for inclusion 727- 844-0971.



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Food for Thought:

You all know me, I'm the guy in the back of the church that enjoys shaking hands and getting hugs. But lately some of those folks that I enjoy seeing aren't there anymore and I ask why?? Thank goodness they are just a few but none the less are equally important because they are a part of my family.

I like to consider this church more of a family than a church because church thinking has always let me down (it's more about "my way or the highway" structure than about us as friends and family joined by one common bond.) Don't get me wrong, church structure is a necessary evil but it's not the church fellowship.

I like to compare a church fellowship to my favorite sweatshirt that's all ratty, stained and torn but oh so comfortable to curl up in with a bowl of ice cream and watch a good schmaltzy movie. But what if –when I saw the first little stain or tear on my sweat shirt I just decided to throw it out. I wouldn't have that piece of comfort that I sure enjoy today. So, before I decide to throw out my spiritual family I stop and think, is it worth throwing out my future comfort just because I see a stain today or should I just hold on to what means more to me than the little stain, because there will be many more stains if I wear it a lot.

I know because I walked away from the church for over 20 years because all I saw was the stains and not the family.

So, I'd like to suggest that we try to practice that song we sing at the end of our service. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!!"

A Story to Ponder

Author Unkown and not a true story

In the darkest part of the night, a ship's captain cautiously piloted his warship through the fog-shrouded waters. With straining eyes, he scanned the hazy darkness, searching for dangers lurking just out of sight.

Then His worst fears were realized when he saw a bright light straight ahead. It appeared to be a vessel on a collision course with his ship. To avert disaster, he quickly radioed the oncoming vessel.

"This is Captain Jeremiah Smith," his voice crackled over the radio. "Please alter your course 10 degrees south! Over."

To the captain's amazement, the foggy image did not move. Instead, he heard back on the radio, "Captain Smith. This is Private Thomas Johnson. please alter your course 10 degrees north! Over."

Appalled at the audacity of the message, the captain shouted back over the radio, "Private Johnson, this is Captain Smith, and I order you to immediately alter your course 10 degree south! Over. " A second time the oncoming light did not budge."

"With all due respect Captain Smith," came the privates voice again, "I order you to alter your course immediately 10 degrees north! Over."

Angered and frustrated that this impudent sailor would endanger the lives of his men and crew, the captain growled back over the radio, "Private Johnson. I can have you court-marshalled for this! For the last time, I command you to alter your course 10 degrees to the South! I am a battleship!"

"The private's final transmission was chilling: "Captain Smith, sir. Once again with all due respect, I command you to alter your course 10 degrees to the North! **I am a lighthouse!**" *-Victoria*



**Kim Hoffman has a new phone number she would like to share:
727-857-3970.**

September Birthdays

Jessica Beebe	09/03	Ruth Estler	09/09
James Neal	09/16	Grover Ballou	09/18
Lee Robida	09/22	Theodore Kaduk	09/25
Sheila Bartley	09/26	Solomon Evans	09/29
William Henshaw	09/30	Marty French	09/30

September Anniversaries

Charles & Nancy Brown 09/09/1960 58 yrs.



Community Congregational Church, UCC

Please let the church office know of any changes or corrections needed. Thank you.
 (*denotes Choir Room)

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:30 – Activity Planning – NA – Choir Room 12:00 noon – NA - AH
2 10 am – Worship and Communion 11 am – Coffee Hour 7:30 - NA	3 LABOR DAY Church Office closed	4 10 am – Bible Study* 10 am – Knitters, Crocheters, Crafters 11 am - Fundraising mtg*	5 Noon – NA 5 pm – Choir Practice*	6 12:30 – Games Group 6:40 – NA - AH	7 7 pm - NA	8 Noon – NA - AH
9 10 am – Worship Family Sunday 11:30 – Finance Bd* 1 pm – District NA 7:30 pm – NA AH	10 10 am – Outreach Mtg – Pastor's Office 5:30 – Tai Chi - AH	11 10 am – Bible Study* 10 am – Deacon's Mtg – Pastor's Office	12 Noon – NA 5 pm – Choir Practice*	13 12:30 – Games Group 2:00 – Exec. Bd - PH 6:30 – NA - AH	14 1:00 – Women's Fellowship – AH 7 pm - NA	15 Noon – NA 7 pm – AA Mtg - AH
16 10 am – Worship 11 am – Coffee Hour 7:30 - NA	17 5:30 pm – Tai Chi - AH	18 10 am – Bible Study* 10 am – Knitters, Crocheters, Crafters	19 Noon – NA 5 pm – Choir Practice* 6 pm - I Group - AH	20 12:30 – Games Group 6:39 pm – NA - AH	21 7 pm - NA	22 Noon – NA
23 10 am – Worship 11 am – Coffee Hour 7:30 - NA	24 5:30 pm – Tai Chi - AH	25 10 am – Bible Study – PH 11 am – Grief Group - PH 6 pm – IAWT - AH	26 Noon – NA 5 pm – Choir Practice*	27 12:30 – Games Group 6:30 – NA - AH	28 7 pm - NA	29 12 noon – NA – AH
30 10 am – Worship 11 am – Coffee Hour 10:30 – 1 pm – Blood Drive in Parking Lot 7:30 - NA						

Love a Lunch has been moved to the Parish House, 11-12 daily M-F.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References September 2018 (Year B)

Sept. 1 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Hosea 3:1-5 John 18:28-32

Sun., Sept. 2 Song of
Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-
2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark
7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mon., Sept. 3 Psalm 144:9-
15 Song of Solomon 3:6-11 1
Timothy 4:6-16

Tues., Sept. 4 Psalm 144:9-
15 Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3
1 Peter 2:19-25

Wed., Sept. 5 Psalm 144:9-
15 Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 6 Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19 Romans 2:1-
11

Fri., Sept. 7 Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27 Romans
2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 8 Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31 Matthew
15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 9 Proverbs 22:1-2,
8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James
2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark
7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 10 Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 8:32—9:6 Hebrews
11:29—12:2

Tues., Sept. 11 Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 11:1-31 Hebrews
12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 12 Psalm 73:1-
20 Proverbs 14:1-9 Matthew
17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 13 Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17 Hebrews
11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 14 Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29 James
2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 15 Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17 Matthew
21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 16 Proverbs 1:20-
33 Psalm 19 or Wisdom
7:26—8:1 James 3:1-12 Mark
8:27-38

Mon., Sept. 17 Psalm 73:21-
28 Proverbs 22:1-21 Romans
3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 18 Psalm 73:21-
28 Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 19 Psalm 73:21-
28 Proverbs 29:1-27 John
7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 20 Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10 1
Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 21 Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33 Romans
11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 22 Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 Matthew
23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 23 Proverbs
31:10-31 Psalm 1 James
3:13—4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 24 Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27 James 4:8-
17

Tues., Sept. 25 Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16 James
5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 26 Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 John
8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 27 Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21 Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 28 Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23 Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 29 Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15 Matthew 5:13-
20

Sun., Sept. 30 Esther 7:1-6, 9-
10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James
5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50