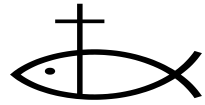




Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ



April 2018 Newsletter



Gospel of Matthew 28: 1-9

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' Now I have told you."

So, the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid, yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him...

Happy Easter to you!

The season of Easter is finally here! The tomb is empty! Our Lord is risen! This is the very heart and soul on which our faith takes root. The cross was not the end, but rather a glorious, mysterious, wonderful beginning! Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

Now here comes the hard part. Are you ready? Now is the time for you to believe that the tomb is empty. Not by believing with your mind, but truly believing with your heart. Now is the time for you to allow the Easter miracle to transform you, renew you, and bring you out into the light. Now is the time to stand boldly on your faith and invite the good news to speak to you! Now is the time to proclaim the good news! Shout with joy and open your hearts.

This Easter Season—and beyond—I'm going to do my very best to praise God and live out the good news each and every day. I'm going to resist the temptation to plant my Easter Lily in my garden and forget about it. I'm going to put a daily reminder on my cell phone so that I won't forget that Jesus is alive and that He is working through us to bring us healing. I'm going to make room each day to welcome the Holy Spirit into my life and welcome the Spirit to speak to me and guide me. I'm not going to be silent. I'm going to join my voice with those faithful women who experienced the empty tomb. I'm going to shout with joy and let my joy be heard. Won't you join me?

Christ our Lord is risen today!! The tomb is empty! Death has been defeated! Our sins have been forgiven! Our God is an amazing God!

Blessings,

Victoria

Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

We are all blessed with an Attitude! Let's keep ours one of Gratitude!

Did you Know?

We have a church family member who suffers from touch-phobia and germaphobia? Do you know what that is? We sat down together to talk about it. Sherry is a lovely intelligent woman who suffers from an acute fear of both touch and germs. She developed the fear of touch after being physically abused in her twenties. Over time she developed the acute fear of germs, worsening after her own surgery! Think about it: most people fear exposure to germs to some extent. We all shy away from someone who is sneezing or coughing, especially during flu season. Now, multiply that by a billion! The fear of touch; if I had been abused physically when I was young, I probably would be extra cautious around people, too! The combination of these two can be devastating.

I did some research on germaphobia. Commonly, people that develop this phobia are people that are or have been in the health care field—an over saturation phenomenon. The second most common reason for germaphobia is mental illness. Sherry was an LPN working in many locations including hospitals, nursing homes, and VNA's. She worked in post-surgical care and did dressing changes, wound care and general nursing care. She certainly was over exposed to germs during her career!

When she gave up nursing, she returned to college for her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and went on to have a successful career in business. Today, following a stroke, Sherry is on disability retirement. She found our church and decided to join us. She says "people don't know how to relate or relax around me. I just don't want people to touch me. I can't explain it; some people don't bother me. I have to be able to trust the person; it is a protection of my mind that takes over. *Please don't take it personally.*" This can be difficult at this church because we are a hugging congregation! Sherry said: "I know, when I get to know you all it will be better. Pastor can hug me, and Ben. I took Karen Duffy's hand when we sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" on Sunday. Of course, I had to use hand sanitizer after, but that is just me!"

The moral of this story: Let's all try to be sensitive to Sherry's needs and chat with her after church! I think you will be glad you did. I know I am.

A word from Our Military Service Personnel

Angel Bartley has been sending handmade crosses to service people overseas for a year. She prayed to God that she would hear from at least one person that received a cross. This week, she did, and shares this note with us:

Dear Mrs. Sheila Bartley (Angel),

First, I would like to thank you for the wonderful card and the handmade cross. These last few weeks have been a struggle for me being so far from home. You have touched my heart and I will carry this cross with me everywhere I go. I will make it my mission to trust in God that He will guide me safely back home. Please continue to reach out and touch many more hearts as you have mine. Many of my brothers and sisters over here could really use it. If there is anything that I could possibly do for you from 6000 miles away, please let me know. I will be here 'til July 2018. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Alex Johnson, Vehicle mechanic, USAF

If you would like to write to Alex to continue what Angel has begun please contact Angel for Alex's address.

Just as a reminder: these are the items that Angel and Faye are collecting to send to our service men and women: black cotton crew socks sizes 6-12, pocket-sized hand sanitizer, mosquito bracelets, pocket-sized sun screen, chap stick, ear plugs, foot and hand warmers, and single-use pocket-sized hand wash packets.

Faye Hartman wishes to thank all for the generous donations for the Hunger Walk.

Helping Our Neighbors

A member of our church, Jessica Beebe, is the owner of Sugar Darlings Cupcakes. Jessica has been giving out free lunches in her shop in Downtown N.P.R. to anyone that is hungry. She asks no questions and refuses no one; unfortunately, many of the people are homeless. Jessica

does this kindness out of the goodness of her heart. Some of us at church would like to help her offset the cost in some way. If you would like to join Jessica in helping our less fortunate neighbors, *we've placed a box in the kitchen marked "Sugar Darlings"*. We are collecting any non-perishable food items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Individual boxes of Raisins, Granola Bars etc. We're collecting anything that could be placed in a lunch bag. Thank you in advance for choosing to help. If you have any questions please contact Connie Diel 862-4452.

Jessica told Pastor Victoria that one of her business neighbors at Sugar Darlings is not pleased that she is doing this outreach and has managed to get her landlord to begin proceedings to evict her business. Please add prayers for her and her business to remain right where she is!

Elsie Norman's Memorial Service: On Sunday, April 15, following our worship service, we will have a Memorial Service for Elsie Norman. This service will begin at 11:15 a.m. and will be an opportunity to honor the life of our dear sister who is now in God's eternal keeping. All are invited to attend. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Victoria.

Elaine Carter and the Women's Fellowship thank everyone who helped with the "This 'n That" Sale. It was a great success. To those who donated items, the dedicated workers, and those who shopped, we say: "Thank you."

Women's Fellowship will meet on April 13th at 11:00am for its final meeting until the fall. In May we will "dine out" and have installation of officers.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Stephen Diller	4/1	Edward Espisito	4/16
Pat Kovaleski	4/1	Irene Ballou	4/20
Cindy Madden	4/3	Bill Farris	4/21
Mary Dunblazier	4/4	Ben Smith	4/22
Maxine Wheeler	4/9	Elizabeth Sardis	4/24
Beverly Hess	4/10	Pastor Victoria Snow	4/24
Beverly Lodge	4/12	Stone Diel	4/25
Don Smith	4/14		
Daniel Van Winkle	4/15		

ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

Dave & Suzanne Meachum	4/06/1957	61 yrs.
Henry & Janet Steiger	4/15/1961	57 yrs.
Kevin & Barbara Slattery	4/16/2016	2 yrs.
Dave & Nancy Marsh	4/16	
John & Lois Boyer	4/21/1955	63 yrs.
Frederick & Betty Lake	4/23/2016	2 yrs.
Marty & Patti French	4/29/1994	24 yrs.

On Sunday April 8 at 1 pm, the Spring Hill UCC at 4244 Mariner Boulevard in Spring Hill is having a special fund-raising event hosted by **CYNTHIA HARING & WORLD NATION** celebrating 90 years of doo wop, pop, soul & swing. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Spring Hill UCC office between 9:30-12:00 Monday through Friday at 352-683-4870. Tickets may also be purchased or at the door. The World Nation music group is excited to host a Music Tribute to the Greatest Generation. The group will perform popular songs from the 40s, 50s, and 60s by the Beatles, Patsy Cline, Frank Sinatra, the Chordettes, the Everly Brothers & Elvis, as well as classics from World Nation's new album, "Walking in a Memory". All guests are invited to sing along as the spirit moves them!

Stewardship Corner

I pledge to give _____ hours a week to God in prayer... in Bible study...in volunteer hours...and in church participation. This should be our mantra. We should say it often. As stewards, we are Easter people who live in the light of Christ's resurrection. We all have gifts from God who asks us to do God's work on earth. **Stewardship involves a need to give rather than giving to a need.** Remember: we are stewards of what God has provided to us. We are not owners. We are stewards!

Reminder: The 2nd Saturday dinners are on hold until further notice.

Our Gifts to God

	February	YTD
Budget	13,418.00	27,236.00
Received	20,108.50	36,684.25
Difference	6,690.50	9,448.25

The pledges received year-to-date include over \$4,000.00 in prepaid pledges. The Loose Plate Offering has been well over budget. The church did very well with the February fundraiser as well as the Memorial Gifts to the Bell fund. A big thank you to *Della O'Shea and Nancy Cox* for all their efforts with these two projects.

Our Expenses

	February	YTD
Budget	12,778.00	25,556.00
Paid Out	38,420.17	51,847.05
Difference	-25,642.17	-26,291.05

The payment of \$25,176. for the second half of the air conditioning replacement was made in February.

Thank you: A very special Thank You to Pastor Victoria, Karen Duffy, Lloyd Hunter and Bob Robida for their assistance with this month's Newsletter. It is greatly appreciated.



Mr. Lucky

And his Big Band are back!

Saturday, April 28th 3:00 to 6:00 pm

If you can play an instrument, sing a tune, or just like the Big Band sound, please join us at:

Community Congregational Church

6533 Circle Blvd

New Port Richey, Fl 34652

Free will offering and refreshments.

727-849-1943

<http://www.cccnpr.com/>

Daily Lectionary Scripture References

Sun., Apr. 1, Easter

Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Mon., Apr. 2

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 Genesis 1:1-19

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tues., Apr. 3

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Genesis 1:20—2:4a

Wed., Apr. 4

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Song of Solomon 3:1-11 Mark 16:1-8

Thurs., Apr. 5

Psalms 133

Daniel 1:1-21

Acts 2:42-47

Fri., Apr. 6

Psalms 133

Daniel 2:1-23

Acts 4:23-31

Sat., Apr. 7 Psalms 133

Daniel 2:24-49

John 12:44-50

Sun., Apr. 8

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1—2:2

John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 9

Psalms 135 Daniel 3:1-30

1 John 2:3-11

Tues., Apr. 10 Psalms 135

Daniel 6:1-28 1 John 2:12-17

Wed., Apr. 11

Psalms 135

Isaiah 26:1-15

Mark 12:18-27

Thurs., Apr. 12

Psalms 4

Daniel 9:1-19

1 John 2:18-25

Fri., Apr. 13 Psalms 4

Daniel 10:2-19

1 John 2:26-28

Sat., Apr. 14 Psalms 4

Acts 3:1-10

Luke 22:24-30

Sun., Apr. 15

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Mon., Apr. 16

Psalms 150 Jeremiah 30:1-11a

1 John 3:10-16

Tues., Apr. 17 Psalms 150

Hosea 5:15—6:6

2 John 1-6

Wed., Apr. 18

Psalms 150

Proverbs 9:1-6

Mark 16:9-18

Thurs., Apr. 19 Psalms 23 Genesis 30:25-43

Acts 3:17-26

Fri., Apr. 20 Psalms 23

Genesis 46:28—47:6

Acts 4:1-4

Sat., Apr. 21 Psalms 23

Genesis 48:8-19

Mark 6:30-34

Sun., Apr. 22

Fourth Sunday in Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Mon., Apr. 23

Psalms 95

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Peter 5:1-5 **Tues., Apr. 24**

Psalms 95

1 Chronicles 11:1-9 Revelation 7:13-17

Wed., Apr. 25 Psalms 95

Micah 7:8-20

Mark 14:26-31

Thurs., Apr. 26

Psalms 22:25-31 Amos 8:1-7

Acts 8:1b-8

Fri., Apr. 27

Psalms 22:25-31

Amos 8:11-13

Acts 8:9-25

Sat., Apr. 28 Psalms 22:25-31

Amos 9:7-15

Mark 4:30-32

Sun., Apr. 29

Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Mon., Apr. 30 Psalms 80

Isaiah 5:1-7

Galatians 5:16-26

APRIL 2018

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.

April 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter 7 Sunrise Service Sims Park 10 Worship 11:15 Coffee 7:30 NA - AH	2 5:30 Tai Chi AH	3 10 Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10 K&C AH	4 Noon NA – AH 5 Choir 6:15 Bell Choir	5 12:30 Games Group 6:30 NA-AH	6 7 PM NA - AH	7 Noon NA - AH
8 10 Worship 11:30 Finance Board 12-5 ASC-NA-AH, 7:30 NA-AH	9 No Tai Chi Class	10 10 Deacons – Parish House 10 Bible Study - Choir	11 Noon NA – AH 5 Choir 6:15 Bell Choir	12 12:30 Games Group 3:30 Executive Board 6:30 NA-AH	13 11 Women's Fellowship – AH 7 PM NA - AH	14 Noon NA - AH
15 10 Worship 11:15 Elsie Norman's Memorial 7:30 NA - AH	16 5:30 Tai Chi AH	17 10 Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10 K&C AH	18 Noon NA – AH 5 Choir 6:15 Bell Choir	19 12:30 Games Group 6:30 NA-AH	20 7 PM NA - AH	21 Noon NA – AH 7 PM AA - AH
22 10 Worship 11:15 All Church Finance Info. Mtg. 7:30 NA - AH	23 5:30 Tai Chi AH	24 <u>Pastor Victoria's Birthday</u> 10 Bible Study PH 6 IAWT - AH	25 Noon NA – AH 5 Choir 6:15 Bell Choir	26 12:30 Games Group 6:30 NA-AH	27 7 PM NA - AH	28 Noon NA – AH 3:30 PM <u>Mr. Lucky & Big Band - AH</u>
29 10 Worship 11:15 Coffee 7:30 NA - AH	30 5:30 Tai Chi AH					