

# Faith's Happenings...

November, 2023

## *Happy Birthday*

Francine DeGroot	8th
Merrilee Warner	13th
Barb Buroker	13th
Dee Trethewey	13th
Mary Ellen McMahon	14th
Jerry Hebert	15th
Bruce Grosvenor	15th
Chuck Grosvenor	19th
Jim Hughs	21st
Linda Ovitz	21st
Steven Kiray	22nd
Joyce Schultz	28th
Thomas Bakker	29th

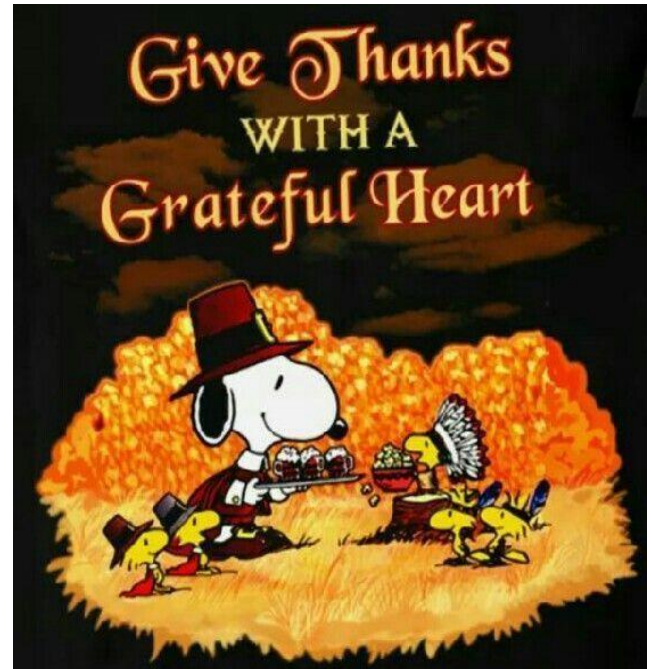
## *Happy Anniversary*

Jim & Linda Hughs	4th
Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald	6th
Tom & Linda Jackling	29th
Steve & Niki LeVasseur	30th

**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.  
Please notify Barbra in the church office  
to have your special dates added.**

### **November at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!*  
*Men of Faith Breakfast: November 7*  
*Ladies Luncheon: November 15*  
*New Members: November 19*  
*Thanksgiving worship: November 22*  
*Thanksgiving Day: November 23*



**Join us on Wednesday evening,  
November 22, at 6:00 for a service  
of praise and worship before  
Thanksgiving.**

### **Want to Join the Family?**

We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, November 19. If you would like to be included, call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313) or tell Pastor today.

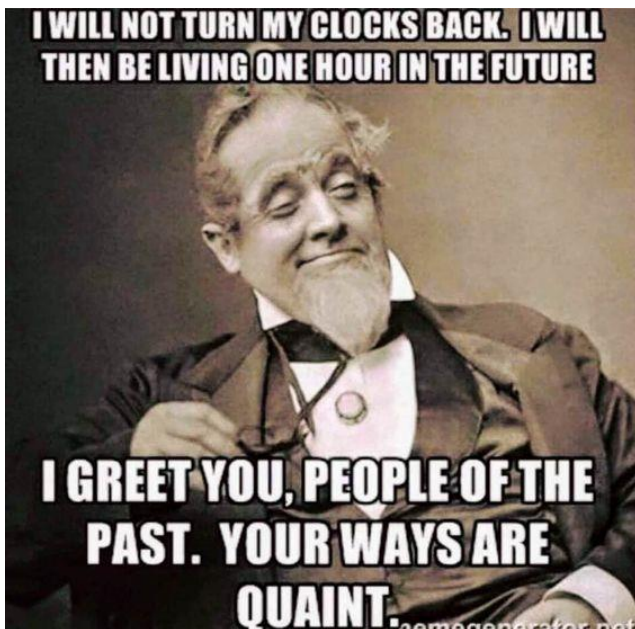
### **Looking Ahead**

We will celebrate Advent with Wednesday evening services on December 6, 13 and 20, at 6:00. Christmas Eve is a Sunday, and we will have a regular morning service at 9:30, as well as evening services at 5:00 and 7:00.

## Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, November 7, at Stefanos. We meet at 7:30 for some great food and fellowship. You can stay as long as you like and get to know your church brothers. No sign-up necessary.

## Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks BACK on November 4



## November Ladies Lunch

The Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. at Ken & Barb's. It is located off Placida Road just south of the Lemon Bay high school. Ken & Barb's has a great menu with lots of yummy choices for all tastes. There will be separate checks for all, which will INCLUDE an 18% gratuity. Come for the enjoyment of fellowship and laughter! Deadline is Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Questions? See or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

## Long Term Prayer

This prayer list is for those who need continued, long-term prayer. We try to keep the weekly prayer list short, so people named may be moved to the newsletter after a few weeks in the bulletin. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers: Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Jackie Magee, Gary Wilkins, Neal Schattauer, Scott Schultz, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Jack Myers

## Can You Help?

Have you ever considered being a worship assistant? Did you know that you can be an assistant and not read the morning scripture if you don't want to? There may be other details you don't know, so if you might be interested, then mark your calendars. There will be an informational meeting for ministry assistants (and anyone interested in the position) after worship on November 19. Why not come and learn more? Note: we especially need Assistants for the first service starting in January.

## 'Tis the Season

It's time to consider volunteering for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Christmas program, ringing the bell. Our dates are on Mondays, at the Publix at Merchant's Crossing, from 10 am to 6 pm. You serve in 2-hour increments, and we start the Monday after Thanksgiving. Dates are: Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance to love your neighbor by just giving 2 hours of your time. The sign-up poster will be in the narthex starting November first.

## Coming Soon...

Christmas is just around the corner, and we need some help decorating the church with seasonal flowers. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for our Christmas celebration, they are \$10 each, and there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you like, you may take the flower home after the second service on Christmas day. (Please write legibly as your name and any dedication will be listed in the bulletin.) You can place your checks marked "poinsettias" in the offering plate.



## Come Learn About Flower Arranging

On Thursday, November 9, Kathy Myers will be teaching a class on the basics of flower arranging. Class starts at 10:00 am and there is a \$10 charge for supplies. If you have some flower clippers, please bring them with you. You will take your arrangement home after the class. Class size is limited, so the first 15 to sign up will be included. If you are interested, sign up in the narthex as soon as possible.

## Church Use

If you want to use the church or doublewide for a meeting or event, please DO NOT assume it is available. All scheduling is done through Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313). Please be sure she OK's your event and puts it on the church calendar.

## Church Pictorial Directory has Arrived!

Special thanks to all who helped make this endeavor possible. The men who rearranged the sanctuary; Noma Schattauer and her team who welcomed and signed people in for their sitting; Bruce Grosvenor who assisted with the pictures and using photoshop; Pastor who provided the names and address listings, and a real big THANK YOU to Ellen Lindhurst who served as the graphic designer, putting in many hours to get all the pages just perfect.

We hope that this directory will be a valuable tool for you. Note: In the listing of names, addresses etc., the cell phone numbers are not designated by person. So, a hint: If the man's name is listed first then his cell is first. Since my listing is Fitzgerald, Mary Lou and Jack, my cell is under my land line and then Jack's.

If you had your picture taken for the directory your copy may be picked up week days in the church office from Barbra, or on Sunday in the narthex after church.

Until next time, Mary Lou Fitzgerald, Church Pictorial Directory Coordinator

## Grief Share

Are you, or someone you know, grieving a lost loved one? If so, you might benefit from a special seminar, "Surviving the Holidays." It offers encouragement, support and tools to help you get through the season ahead. The seminar will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1379 McCall Road, Port Charlotte, on Thursday, November 16 from 2-4 pm. To sign up, contact Nancy Ward-Snyder at [nws1944@gmail.com](mailto:nws1944@gmail.com).



**Matthew 6.10 “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”**

Last week these words from Jesus’ prayer, our Lord’s Prayer, showed up as my verse for the day. This started me thinking about our world situations and the season of the church year we are entering.

At the end of October, we celebrated Reformation Sunday. Describing Luther’s work and purpose today, we might say he had a laser focus on Jesus. This is one definition I found. *Laser focus is the mental ability to give 100 percent of your attention to the task you’ve prioritized in the present moment. It helps you put aside all the delicious unrelated thoughts and sustain the energy required to reach your goals.* Luther, for all of the issues he dealt with, found his center in Jesus.

This week we will celebrate All Saints’ Sunday remembering the faith and life of those who have died this past year, along with all the saints who have their rest in God. We remember how their lives found their center in Jesus, the promise of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and how they shaped our lives. In our remembrances, we should look for ways their lives helped make God’s kingdom more present here on earth because Jesus was a part of their lives.

We will move through November concluding with Thanksgiving and Christ the King Sunday. These days invite us to give thanks and glory to God for the blessing of the harvest in our national day of Thanksgiving, as well as thanks to God for the day when Jesus’ prayer is fulfilled, and God’s reign is fully and finally established “on earth as it is in heaven.”

So, as we pray our Lord’s prayer, may it keep us centered (laser focused) on Jesus. Remembering those who have shaped us, may we remember and honor the faithful departed. May we live each day with gratitude for what God has done for us and the world. And may our hope be sustained and renewed as we look forward to the kingdom of God coming into our world each day.

God’s blessing as we continue forward in Faith,

+Pastor Brian

