

Faith's Happenings...

August, 2023

Happy Birthday

Janet Moynihan	3rd
Bob Ash	4th
Ellen Lindhurst	12th
Julie Petersen	14th
Ernie Ovitz	15th
Linda Schleede	19th

Happy Anniversary

Jeff & Julie Petersen	5th
Steve & Cyndy Hoops	7th
Jack & Kathy Myers	9th
John & Jean Matz	12th
Jim & Debby Porter	13th
Tom & Linda Jasper	26th

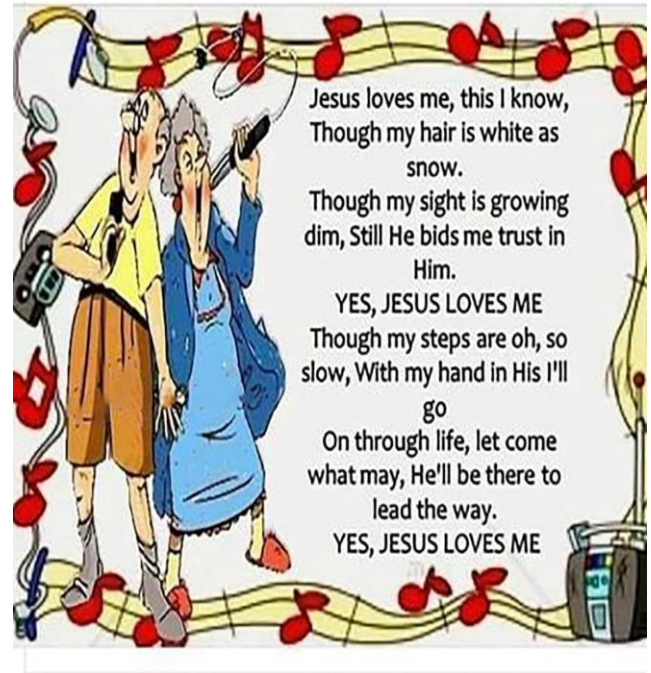
**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.
Please notify Barbra in the church office
to have your special dates added.**

August at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: August 1
Ladies Luncheon: August 16

Worship & Music Committee

Please note that the August meeting has been postponed until October 16 at 10:00 am.



Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as
snow.
Though my sight is growing
dim, Still He bids me trust in
Him.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME
Though my steps are oh, so
slow, With my hand in His I'll
go
On through life, let come
what may, He'll be there to
lead the way.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME

Long Term Prayer Update

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: Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Jackie Magee, Gary Wilkins, Neal Schattauer, Scott Schultz, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Dave Deitrich, Jack Myers



God's Work – Our Hands

As a church, and as people of Faith, we need to be present for one another and the people of our community. We have continued to support our local ministries with donations and volunteer hours, and will acknowledge that partnership on “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, September 10. The Camper Ministry, St. Francis Food Pantry, St. David’s Jubilee Center, Helping Hand, Meals on Wheels, Kids Needs, American Legion, Habitat for Humanity and Thrift Store, Suncoast Animal Shelter and Thrift Store, the Salvation Army, and the Englewood Community Coalition are among the many community outreaches we have supported over the years. As a part of “God’s Work, Our Hands,” we will communicate our community needs and invite you to respond with donations and opportunities to volunteer.

Welcoming new people among us is a way we experience becoming a new creation in Christ. Each new member brings talents, interests and experience that we can celebrate as an extension of our ministry and life together serving our community. Our key words remind us to Listen, Care and Serve, reaching out to and incorporating new residents in our community. This hospitality and welcome also is “God’s work, Our Hands”.

The specific details of how we will reach out to our community on September 10th are listed in the next column. I hope you will join us for this annual celebration of our work in the Rotonda/Englewood area.

Details of God’s Work – Our Hands

Sunday, September 10, is God’s Work – Our Hands Sunday. It is a time to collect items for some special community projects. This year we would like to help all four of the ministries we regularly contribute to with a special donation. These include Kids Needs, Meals on Wheels, the St. Francis food pantry and our campers ministry to the homeless.

Here's what we are asking you to consider giving that morning:

Kids Needs: children’s underwear, socks and tennis shoes.

Food Pantry: Your choice of food
Campers: quarters for laundry and detergent pods.

Meals on Wheels: Please consider volunteering as a driver.

We will also accept any monetary donations, which will be divided among all four outreaches. This is the perfect time to purchase children’s clothing while there is a tax break until August 7!

Ladies Luncheon

The August Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, August 16th, 11:30 a.m., at Mango Bistro. The restaurant, a favorite of just about everybody I know, is located at 301 W. Dearborn in Old Englewood. No worries, ladies -- we will eat inside in air-conditioned comfort! Their great luncheon menu features many items perfect for a hot day, and of course the lobster bisque is fantastic. Soups, salads, wraps, panini’s, smoothies and more. Separate checks for all, plus the enjoyment of fellowship. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, August 13th. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Need more information? See or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

A Letter to the Family of Faith

Several years ago, *Always Being Made New* was an ELCA campaign to increase support for existing and new ministries. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17 (“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!”) the theme invited us to see God’s reformation and renewal as a continuing work in our midst today.

In the aftermath of hurricane Ian 10 months ago, we witnessed both the destructive power of wind and wave and the resiliency of friends, neighbors and communities. If you haven’t personally experienced hurricane losses, financial hardship, the challenge of contractors, insurance companies, and soaring costs for labor, supplies and insurance, then you know friends and neighbors who have.

Many are well on their way to having their damage repair and restoration completed. Yet there are others who are still at square one, without utilities, roofs or insurance settlements. Some have chosen to move to be closer to family, or a community where future healthcare needs and support are more readily accessible. For those who live in homes or condos that have yet to be repaired, they may be approaching their second season of having to stay up north, not being a part of communities in our area.

Recognizing God is at work in us and through us, we affirm that we are “always being made new,” at the same time our community is being renewed. While we grieve the loss of property and family and friends who have moved away, we see the renewing power of God as new people move into our community. In Jesus’ name we are instructed to welcome them, support and encourage them, help them get to know our community and invite them to participate in our Faith community activities.

As we pass the mid-point of the calendar year, we celebrate God’s faithfulness in bringing us through the storm, renewing us, and using us to help support our neighbors. In the weeks following the storm, people in our community noted how quickly we cleaned up the church property and made repairs necessitated by Ian. Most of that work was accomplished by our volunteers who raked and raked and raked, and repaired lights and skirting on our fellowship hall. There is still work to be done, but the majority of the obvious work is complete. Unfortunately, supplies and contract work for tree removal, roof vents and gutter repair have exceeded \$25,000. Our income through July was \$90,245, which is comparable to last year. With hurricane recovery costs, our expenses this year are \$110,225, more than \$19,980 over our income for this year. Can you help cover this shortfall?

It is a testimony to your generosity and faithfulness that we have come this far. However, our shortfall is a concern. We know many of you have had extraordinary financial burdens due to Hurricane Ian recovery. We also want to be good stewards of the resources you and God have entrusted to us to do God’s work in this place. As we move into the second half of 2023, we ask for your continued prayers for our congregation and our community. We ask that you look for ways to contribute and volunteer in our community recovery efforts. And, as the Spirit leads and as you are able, please consider a special gift to help your Faith family continue our ministry of Listening, Caring and Serving.

God’s Peace,

Pastor Brian, your Congregation Council,
Stewardship and Finance Committees

As this letter was being reviewed by your congregation’s leadership a special gift of \$1,000 was received for congregation hurricane recovery.