

# Faith's Happenings...

September, 2021

## *Happy Birthday*

Sam D'Amico	2nd
Dorothy Pecynski	3rd
Marcia Wilkins	6th
Sue Baran	7th
Cyndi Kussow	10th
Marlin Harris	13th
Stephen Armen	14th
Bobbie Myrick	19th
Barb Jones	20th
Jim Buroker	25th
David Montessi	26th
Gary Wilkins	27th
Charlene Howe	28th
Brian Lindhurst	28th

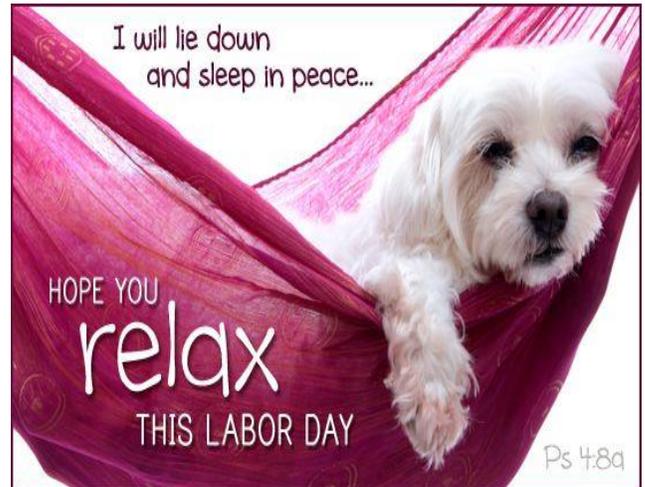
## *Happy Anniversary*

John & Linda Schleede	3rd
Jim & Allison Ward	5th
Bob & Ruth Ash	8th
Jim & Barb Buroker	25th

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

## **September at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!  
Men of Faith Breakfast: Sept. 7  
Coffee Social: Sept 12*



## **Coffee Socials**

Our coffee socials before worship will be the second Sundays of the month in September through November. Next one will be September 12 at 9:00 am.

## **Can You Help?**

We are in need of someone to coordinate our Greeters. We hope to be able to restart this ministry in the fall, so we need a volunteer. The job is simple, just contact folks willing to greet (you can do this any Sunday), assign them a week, and create a monthly form with the information. If you are willing to serve, tell Pastor Armen, or call Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

## Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.

## 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:  
Ralph Crites, Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, Greg Schultz, Scott Schultz, Sandy Honeycutt, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Barb Neilson, Jack Myers, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Glenna Seperic, Rick and Roberta Luckow, Ethel Hunn, Jackie Magee

## Electronic Giving

To contribute to support God's work, you may visit our web page <https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.

## Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)  
Stocks and bonds can be given directly to the church as part of your regular support, or for a special cause or fund. In making the direct gift of an investment, you base your deduction on the investment's appreciated value at the time of the gift.

**Be careful how you live; you may be the only Bible some people ever read.** William J. Toms

## Men's Breakfast

Men, we invite you to join us for our monthly breakfast at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, September 7. Please join us!

## Congratulations

Tom and Adrienne Bakker are pleased to announce they have 2 new great-granddaughters, Maci Michelle Fry (born June 17) and Ivy Rae Petty (born August 12). They consider themselves "very blessed."



*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12*

With the landfall of Hurricane Ida, the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, and the final pull out of our military from Afghanistan, God's word, in Ephesians 6:12, draws our attention back to the human struggle we face as we cope with bad things in our world. Shell Shock and PTSD are words we have heard in the context of those in the military, suffering the consequences of battle and war. PTSD has also informed care for and treatment of those individuals who have experienced violent attacks of every kind. In the wake of 9/11, that sense of trauma could be placed in a kind of national context. 1

Corinthians 12:26 tells us, *“If one member suffers, all suffer together...”* PTSD has a communal impact.

Hurricane Ida brings back memories of Hurricane Katrina. The pull out from Afghanistan brings back memories of Viet Nam. While the news reports these events and connections, those who lived through them can be traumatized again. We need to care for one another and be sensitive at all times.

There is a growing movement to understand how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) impact children and families. ACE is a way of talking about all those things that happened in the past which can negatively impact children for the rest of their lives. The point, however, is not to dwell on the negative, but to use those experiences as a starting point to bring help, support and healing to lives that are weighed down with burdens too great to bear. It is taking to heart Galatians 6:2, *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*

While 1 Corinthians 12:26 begins, *“If one member suffers, all suffer together,”* the verse concludes, *“if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”* As we look back at the events that have shaped our lives, it is in honoring the reality and genuineness of people’s pain, standing in solidarity with them, caring and supporting them, that we can move beyond that sorrow, sadness and heart ache, to a new day.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us plainly that our struggle is not about people, individuals or nations, but principalities and powers. As our awareness of the principalities and darkness are brought to our attention in the coming days, as we care for those who bear the burden of responding to conflict and disaster, and as we support those who still live with the effects of those events, maybe we do well to remember that God is still with us.

The words of Martin Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress” come to mind here:

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing  
We not the right One on our side, the  
One of God’s own choosing:  
Do ask who that may be? Christ  
Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to  
age the same,  
And He must with the battle.

As we deal with our own burdens, and bear one another’s burdens, every day we turn to God who will not fail us. “A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing, our helper, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.” Please think on these things as we hear about world events, honor those who have given so much for us, and work to support one another in faith and life.

+ Pastor Brian

### **Out Reach Ideas**

As a church, we support several area outreaches. In the narthex, there are boxes for your donations. Here is some information on 2 of those outreach opportunities:

#### *St. Frances Food Bank*

Faith works in association with St. Frances of Assisi Catholic Church to provide food for the needy in our community. Canned and packaged food is collected in our food pantry basket, then taken to the Food Bank for distribution. The organization offers assistance to those living in the Englewood and the Cape Haze Peninsula areas.

#### *Kids’ Needs*

Kids' Needs Greater Englewood FL, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to helping school children in our community. They collect and distribute gently used and new clothing, school supplies, items for personal hygiene, and much more.