



# 24-7 PRAYER

**7am April 30<sup>th</sup> – 7am May 7<sup>th</sup>**

## **24-7 Prayer Week**

Beginning April 30<sup>th</sup> and going through May 7<sup>th</sup>, we are going to keep a prayer vigil in our Prayer Room, 24 hours a day.

The scripture says, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." That's the goal of this week.

We are expecting God to show up and to experience His presence and power in our lives.

- You have several opportunities to participate in this week:
- ⇒ First, sign up to spend time in the prayer room. A sign up list will be in the lobby of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.
  - ⇒ Second, join us for a National Day of Prayer Service on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.
  - ⇒ Finally, just drop in to the Prayer Room (located next to the Library in the Sanctuary building) at any time during the week. You do not have to sign up to come spend time with the Lord and others.

This is sure to be a powerful week in the life of our church and we will celebrate it on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

If you have never done anything like this, don't be intimidated - neither have I! We will have prayer tools to help you as you spend time in the Prayer Room. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the Lord in a new way! I hope everyone will be part of this experience!

In Christ,

***Pastor Mike***

# “Ask The Pastor”

## Up-Coming Sermon Series

Have you ever had a question you wanted to ask a pastor, but never had the opportunity? For three Sundays, beginning May 21st, we will answer your questions.

Submit your questions by email and the pastors will choose three each Sunday to discuss during the worship services. Email your questions to:

**AskthePastor@ChristVenice.com**

This promises to be a fun series so get your question in and join us May 21st, 28th, and June 4th.

## New Role for Pastor Bob

The Staff Parrish Relations Committee is excited to announce a new role for Pastor Bob as the Congregational Care Pastor in addition to his administrative role. Since hiring Will Sledge as the new Media Manager, Bob is able to focus on other tasks. With his history and knowledge of the congregation and his gifts and graces, this is an excellent fit.



Beginning May 1st, Pastor Bob will care for you, our Christ Venice congregation, both as Administrator and Care Pastor. Please keep Pastor Bob in your prayers as he moves into this new role.



**Birthdays and Anniversaries are great! Please celebrate by "gifting" the Scholarship Fund with a \$2.00 or more donation!**



Seiders, Christian	5/1	Hawkins, George	5/12	Johnson, Steve	5/21
Ruehr, Sean	5/2	MacKay, Catherine	5/12	Jones, Barbara	5/21
VanAarem, Toska	5/2	Peterson, Lane	5/12	Collins, Penny	5/22
Whidden, Skip	5/2	Affeldt, Dawn	5/13	Noser, Brooke	5/22
Long, Carol	5/3	Flowers, Mary Lou	5/13	Gilmore, Elizabeth	5/23
Pack, Gaylord	5/3	Smith, Oliver	5/14	Griffiths, Louise	5/23
Pippin, Judi	5/3	Wolf, Karen	5/14	Kalkbrenner, Roger	5/23
Petty, Mariana	5/4	Collins, Johnalee	5/15	Schleutker, Earl	5/23
Stelmok, Heather	5/4	Hamish, Kay	5/15	Woodruff, Ken	5/23
Ahlbom, Fred	5/5	Sandilands, Gary	5/15	Klatt, LuAnn	5/24
Davis, Sarah	5/5	Whittemore, Edward	5/15	Weerasooriya, Lena	5/24
Decker, Arlene	5/5	Eaton, Tanner	5/16	Wilkinson, Bryce	5/24
Gradert, Penny	5/5	Susalla, Leon	5/16	Hunt, Gene	5/25
Hurst, Barbara	5/5	Blevins, Noah	5/17	Myers, Chris	5/25
Montano, Eleanor	5/5	Burns, Makenna	5/17	Vancura, Paul	5/25
Storm, Mel Jr	5/5	Gould, Meredith	5/17	Reiter, Edie	5/26
Thompson, Ruth	5/5	Shockey, Lisa	5/17	Wilson, Margie	5/27
Brooks, Ben	5/6	Stone, Charlie	5/17	Barrick, Gary	5/28
Dashiell, Jan	5/6	Thomas, Catherine	5/17	Booth, Betty	5/28
Ginand, William	5/6	Hertzog, Ann	5/18	Outerbridge, Janet	5/28
Kocher, Irene	5/6	Hoffman, Tom	5/18	Pfeiffer, Joan	5/28
Obregon, Dr. Pete	5/6	Kotkiewicz, Tommy	5/18	Canfield, Amy	5/29
Peters, Carol	5/6	Leisenring, Melissa	5/18	DeMike, Sarah	5/29
Schmidt, Bill	5/7	Sullivan, Patrick	5/18	Ginand, Lauren	5/29
Czajkowski, Donna	5/9	Hitt, Karen	5/19	Hadsall, Trish	5/29
McClelland, Richard	5/9	Smith, Patti	5/19	McCluskey, Ginny	5/29
Westlake, Grayson	5/9	Baxendale, Paul	5/20	Byers, Jerry	5/30
Wood, Jessica	5/9	Hunt, Mildred	5/20	Conover, Carolyn	5/30
Bibus, Mary	5/11	Robson, Dee	5/20	Farley, Jude	5/30
Hoffman, Donnabelle	5/11	Stelmok, Sydney	5/20	Quinn, Karen	5/30
Crotty, Frances	5/12	VanDyke, Thomas	5/20	Carpenter, Byron	5/31
Halpin, Rick	5/12	DeArk, Betty	5/21	Smith, JoAnn	5/31

## Sunday Worship Schedule

7:30 & 11:00am  
Traditional

9:00am  
Contemporary

## CUMC STAFF

### LEAD PASTOR

Rev. Michael Hudson

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Denvil Farley

### ASSISTANT PASTOR

Robert Haley

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Cheryl Smith

### ADULT MINISTRY

Nancy Kinney

### FAMILY MINISTRY

Jeff Dunn-Rankin

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Jonetta Halpin  
Marcia Schaberg

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Becky Diefenbach

### MEDIA MANAGER & CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Will Sledge

### TREASURER

JoEllen Whipple

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Michele Morley

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CTR

Anita Burton



Freeman, Terry & Kelly	5/1	Kotkiewicz, Tom & Donna	5/20
Garron, Glenn & Val	5/1	Leisenring, Andrew & Melissa	5/20
Kellogg, Jack & Joan	5/7	Thorne, Michael & Debbie	5/20
St Clair, Gary & Juli	5/7	Whipple, Bobby & Kyla	5/21
Crabbe, Larry & Marcia	5/10	Dashiell, Bob & Jan	5/25
Honn, Bill & Vicki	5/10	Hilbert, Larry & Edith	5/25
Ginand, William & Lauren	5/11	Wardell, Carl & Donna	5/25
Obregon, Dr. Pete & Judy	5/11	Knapp, Jack & Jean	5/26
Disler, Tim & Jackie	5/16	Sheets, Paul & Marie	5/26
Ott, Jerry & Rose	5/16	Montano, Rob & Eleanor	5/29
Eichert, Matt & Bert	5/17	Sadi, Ramsey & Susan	5/29
Draine, Walter & Carole	5/18	Gaylor, Bill & Phyllis	5/31
Rodgers, Ray & Jean	5/19	Thoennissen, Bill & Marge	5/31

The Gideons International, is currently operating in 32 of the 50 most dangerous countries in the world according to The World Watch List. In those countries, our brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering persecution, yet have continued as faithful Gideons to do the work God has purposed for every believer. To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who are lost so they would surrender their lives to His Lordship and experience the joy of a loving personal relationship with the Savior.



### Impact of Gideon Testament

**Sarwano** was terrified his father would find the New Testament he had received from a Gideon and destroy it. Born into a Muslim family he began reading it and he and his sister hid it so their father could not find it and tear it to pieces. But to Sarwano's surprise, he discovered his Islamic father was also secretly reading that life transforming New Testament. Their entire family eventually welcomed Jesus Christ into their hearts...and Sarwano is now a pastor in Sumatra, where 87% of the population is Muslim.

**If you are interested in becoming a Gideon please contact Ray Rodgers at 941-266-9703 or Joseph Daluz at 973-725-4735. For more information about the Gideons, visit [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org).**

## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our Children's Ministry had quite a busy April, as did the entire church, through the Easter season. We could not have done the Bake Sale or the Easter Egg Hunt without the help of so many of you - from purchasing baked goodies at our bake sale to donating Easter Eggs, baskets, candy, cookies, your time and more to the Egg Hunt!

I am thrilled to give an update on how these events went. At the bake sale, we raised \$488 to continue supporting our two Starfish Kids and we completely sold out of baked goods before the end of the morning!



For the Easter Egg Hunt, we had just shy of 100 kids hunting for eggs, which is incredible! I am so thankful we had an abundance of eggs and candy donated to share with

all the families who attended. A good handful of the families had no church home, so we were able to be a light for them and share God's love with them.

As we look forward to summer, our next big event is VBS. The dates are July 10-14 from 9am-noon and registration opens May 1. It is going to be a great week and we are excited for God to do great things through it! If you are interested in helping, we will be recruiting volunteers soon so keep your eyes and ears open for announcements about that or just contact Becky to sign up. ([Becky@ChristVenice.com](mailto:Becky@ChristVenice.com))

I love seeing what God is doing in and through this body of believers at Christ UMC and can't wait for what's up ahead!

In Christ,

Becky Diefenbach, Children's Ministry Director



## News from our Sister Church in Cuba, El Cocal

El Cocal has welcomed a new Pastor to their fold, Pastor Abelardo Hernandez and his wife, Irma. Pastor Abelardo was an assistant pastor at Mayari and now he will be leading El Cocal. We celebrate and pray with our brothers and sisters there as they welcome and get to know their new minister. El Cocal is a thriving joyous happy church.

Your giving helps support and make possible the great work God does in Cuba and in our sister church. Thanks to your support of missions, last year we were blessed to provide El Cocal with clean filtered water for drinking, impacting their entire community.

This November we hope to have a small group of members visit our sister church. You will come back inspired by the faith and love you are welcomed with. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Denvil.



## Even Stamps Are a Mission Project

At Alliance Women Stamp Ministry, used stamps are collected, processed and resold, creating funds that are then channeled to the support of overseas missions. The income from their sale goes to support the preparation, publication, and distribution of a Spanish-language curriculum for Sunday Schools in Latin America.

Stamps of every kind are needed, foreign as well as domestic, old issue or current. Please keep collecting. Neatly trim around each stamp about 1/4 to 1/3 inch, bring to church and drop in the collection boxes in either the Family Life Kitchen or Memorial Hall Kitchen.



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

**PICNIC**

**Manasota Beach Pavilion**  
**Sunday, May 28, 5 pm til Sunset**  
**Dinner at 5:30**

Join us for an evening of food, fun & fellowship  
Bring your own beach chairs  
and a side dish to share

Easter has passed and we may be thinking, ok now what? How am I processing this special time when we celebrate Jesus the risen savior. What does Easter mean to me now? Was this a special time for me when I entered into a personal relationship with Jesus? If it was, scripture has some passages about our decision for Christ.

Here are some to grow our faith on!

- *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2:20
- *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* Galatians 5:1
- *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!"* Philippians 2:5-8

Or how about this one that is an explanation of our transformation:

- *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* Galatians 5:22-25

What an awesome God, who really does love us in spite of our human, earthly and sinful nature!

Love you,

Nancy

PS: Happy Mother's Day!



## ADULT MINISTRIES

The Adult Ministries Vision Team will be getting down to work during the summer putting some shape to how Adult Ministries will begin to look at Christ Venice. Watch for information about a fall launch being planned for early November. Don't forget to keep praying for the team!

### Summer Choir is Coming!!!

On Sunday, June 4, 2017, CUMC summer choir will begin once again. If you have always wanted to sing in a choir but never had the opportunity and you love to praise the Lord, you are invited to sing in our summer choir. There are NO weekly rehearsals for summer choir. Just come to the choir room at 10:30AM on Sunday morning to run through the anthem for that day.

### Chancel Choir Update!!!

Our CUMC chancel choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:45PM in the choir room. We welcome any new singers that are interested in praising the Lord with us at the 11:00AM service each week. If you sang in your high school/college choir and are high school age or older, we would love to have you. We would like to have a music folder prepared for you.

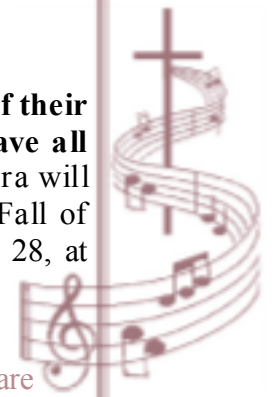
### Joyful Sound Singers!!!

Joyful Sound needs YOU! This dedicated group of "Early Risers" brings their praise to the Lord at the 7:30AM service each week, except the first Sunday of the month. We meet at 7:00AM on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary to run through the anthem for that day. Please contact Cheryl Smith and let her know if you are interested in singing with us.

### Praise Orchestra!!!

**A huge "Thank You" to our CUMC Praise Orchestra for all of their beautiful music played this past 2016-2017 season. You have all added so much to our worship experience!** The praise orchestra will play through Sunday, May 28, 2017. Looking forward to the Fall of 2017 when rehearsals will begin again on Thursday, September 28, at 11:15AM in the Sanctuary.

Please contact Cheryl Smith, Music Ministry Director, if you are interested in, or would like more information on, any of our music ministries, 941-493-7504 or Cheryl@ChristVenice.com



## GriefShare is Coming

You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. This program has helped thousands who have lost loved ones journey From Mourning to Joy. It consists of thirteen weekly sessions with teaching from grief experts, small group sharing, and a personal workbook. If you are interested in joining a GriefShare group when it starts in June or if you would like to be a part of the volunteer team, contact Eleanor Montano 941-408-0239 or Pastor Denvil 941-493-7504.

## SAFE

Alcohol and drug addiction can happen in the best of families, and it hurts. If it has happened in your family, you are not alone! SAFE is a ministry of Support and Addiction Family Education that meets every Monday evening at 6:00 at Christ United Methodist Church in Memorial Hall, room 24. Child care is available when requested in advance. SAFE meetings are strictly confidential and are geared to offer those with addicted loved ones a time of sharing and support, brief educational discussion, prayer, and good Christian fellowship with others who understand because they too are in similar situations. For more information, visit [www.christvenice.com/SAFE](http://www.christvenice.com/SAFE), email [SAFE@christvenice.com](mailto:SAFE@christvenice.com), or call Allen at 941-451-0964.

## SAFE'S "Joyful Outings"

The SAFE ministry has begun an exciting new program known as "Joyful Outings" because the outings are a time to enjoy new places, new friends, and good fellowship. Our first outing, which was in February, the group went to the Venice Audubon Rookery. On Thursday May 18, we will go to the North Jetty for sketching -- yes, sketching! For those of us who aren't quite that creative, instructions will be provided, and supplies will be provided for everyone! All outings begin with registration and prayer at 9:00a at the Memorial Hall front entrance. Everyone is invited to join us! Watch for our June Joyful Outing to Myakka River State Park -- more information to come!

Do you know that our Prayer Shawl Ministry currently has made over 550 prayer shawls of which 65 of them are now in 13 countries? They will soon have made over 600 in the five years they have been praying over yam and making new friends! Four different missions have been the recipients of their work since they started making them at Lay Academy 2012.



Did you also know that Janet & Jane Porter who winter here with us have started a Shawl Ministry in Standish, UK, using Christ UMC'S ministry organization to help them get going?

Sally Sandilands and Mary Geekie started the ministry together after moving here from Illinois. Sally and Gary just moved back to their northern area to be near family and Mary Geekie is ready for a much-deserved rest. If you have an interest in knowing more about how you can get involved and maybe take a leading role in the ministry, please contact Mary Geekie: 941-685-9985.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY: .... CANCER ...

The diagnosis can be frightening. The treatments difficult. The uncertainty draining. This disease affects the entire family and there are many emotional ups and downs for the patient, as well as those around him or her. If you are touched by cancer, wouldn't you like to have someone "walk beside" you to offer emotional support through the journey?

We can't cure the problem but our Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, encourage and be there for you as God's healing takes place. To see how we may help during this difficult time call a Stephen Leader, Don Paull 497-5597 or Jane Watkins 989 859-0712 or speak with any Stephen Minister with a blue name badge.

