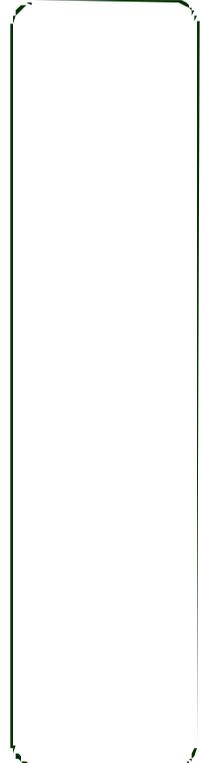


of Christ United Methodist Church
Pathways
July 2017



1475 Center Road, Venice, FL 34292
941-493-7504 / 888-833-9408
Website: www.christunited.org
Email: Michale@christunited.org



Or Current Resident

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PAID
MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT # 808

On the Go!

Once again we are on the move this summer. We have several teams on the Go!

Our youth are going hiking on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia and then on a mission trip to Orlando. We have a mission team headed to Panama the same week our Children's Ministry is hosting VBS. And, of course, we are moving our worship service into Memorial Hall while the bathrooms in the Sanctuary are updated. All this in the month of July!

But that's not all.

There will be an informational meeting for adventurers and anyone else interested in learning more about our 2nd Campus Launch. We are looking to start a small group Bible Study in the Laurel Rd/I-75 area that will grow to become a worshipping community by October 2018.

Our informational meeting will be Monday, August 7th at 7pm. If you feel the Lord leading you to be part of this adventure or are just curious about it, please plan to attend.

But wait, there's more!

I am hosting a trip to Israel March 6-15, 2018 through Educational Opportunities Tours. We will be touring some of the best sites from Galilee to Jericho and finish in Jerusalem. I am very excited to host this tour and hope you will considering joining me. The cost for the trip is about \$3500 and includes airfare, hotels, transportation, and most meals. **There will be an informational meeting with representatives from EO on Sunday, July 30th at 4pm.** You can pick up a brochure about the trip in the church office.

May the Lord bless our efforts as we go to make more disciples and glorify Him!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike



Mission to Panama

Dear Church Family,

Please pray for the ten church members who are going to work in David, Panama with Jerry and Susan Smith from July 8 to 15, 2018. We will be doing medical work, eyeglasses clinic, construction work, children ministry and various ministries including the flannel board ministry.

The members of the team will be Judy Obregon, Coordinator, Pete Obregon, Medical, Lulu Lopez Translator, Gary and Juli St Clair, Eyeglasses Clinic, Mike and Kristin Mikarts construction, Patsy Graham, Nancy Kinney, and Moriah Haley, general ministry. We will be working together with another medical team from Dallas, Texas. Judy and Pete worked with them two years ago in the same town in Panama.

From July 29 to August 11, Pete and Judy will be leading a surgical team with ten members back to Kibogora Rwanda, Africa where we have taken surgical teams for last 20 years.

We have also established a Short Term Mission Trip sub team within the Missions Committee to address the ongoing short term mission projects for our church in 2018. We need to pray how many teams we have to send out. If it's God's will, we hope to send out 2-3 teams next year in addition to the Youth Mission trip. We are considering Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Brazil and Panama etc. Please help us pray for guidance from the Lord and the church.

Again, we thank our church for its faithful support of missions. Let's not be just a sending church but a mission going church not just locally but throughout the world.

Blessings,

Dr. Pete & Judy Obregon

Faith Promise to Missions

Have you turned in your Faith Promise card yet? How much will you agree to share with our missionaries for this year. The needs are so great. Can't find your card? Just ask in the church office for a new one. The need for pledged giving: \$90,000.



Dieringer, Char	7/1	Geno, Lynda	7/17	Smith, Dwight & Cheryl	7/1
Hertzog, Luke	7/1	Kell, Paul	7/17	Lawhun, Ronald & Barbara	7/2
Kolling, Jane	7/1	Kennedy, Dave	7/17	McConaghy, Charles & Bianca	7/2
Matthews, Tommi	7/1	LeRoux, John	7/18	Skinner, Gerald & Angela	7/5
Smith, Beverly	7/2	Morley, Anthony	7/19	Dolebo, Susan & John	7/6
Klock, Tom	7/3	Panther, Pat	7/19	Baxendale, Paul & Esther	7/9
Oakley, Bud	7/3	Yerxa, Donald	7/19	Vis, Ken & Alicia	7/9
St Clair, Gary	7/3	Mitrushi, Peggy	7/20	Kurinsky, John & Judy	7/11
Cooper, Christine	7/4	Senior, Marilyn	7/20	Outerbridge, Kirby & Cheryl	7/13
Hall, Marty	7/4	Vanderploeg, Herbert	7/20	Reeves, Kendall & Janie	7/14
Pugh, Henry	7/4	Wooster, Carol	7/20	Farley, Denvil & Gwen	7/15
Flora, Sue	7/5	Hutter, Elaine	7/22	Kalkbrenner, Roger & Arlene	7/16
Knapp, Jean	7/5	Loud, Shirley	7/22	Peterson, Lane & Sherry	7/16
Watson, Randall	7/5	Mikarts, Zachary	7/22	Post, Blair & Karen	7/17
Herren, Laquita	7/6	Monroe, Bea	7/22	Orlando, Bill & Wendy	7/20
Freeman, Kelly	7/7	Rowe, Rich	7/22	Gardner, Todd & Rebecca	7/21
Gaylor, Bill	7/7	Boisclair, Nomand	7/23	Murdock, James & Marjorie	7/21
Outerbridge, Cheryl	7/7	Gore, Charles	7/23	Messner, Allen & Jeanne	7/22
Ruehr, Mark	7/7	Jacob, Joan	7/23	Boisclair, Nomand & Pat	7/23
Sledge, Livi	7/7	Ruth, Sonja	7/23	Hall, John & Marty	7/24
Reeves, Kendall	7/8	Burgess, Barbara	7/25	Griffiths, Ed & Louise	7/27
Collins, Harold	7/9	Vaswani, Kalindi	7/25	Palmer, Richard & Janie	7/27
Gish, Beryl	7/9	Drier, Nancy	7/26	Schoff, Rich & Sandra	7/27
Humes, Larry	7/9	Griffiths, Ed	7/26	Wilkinson, Brock & Meredith	7/27
Kinney, Nancy	7/9	Hoffman, Grace	7/26	Schuman, Marvin & Fay	7/28
Drobisch, Chad	7/11	Jensen, Warren	7/26	Luchs, Barry & Suzanne	7/29
Lorenc, Donald	7/11	Pugh, Gaylen	7/26	Hudson, Mike & Alyson	7/30
Berg, Debbie	7/12	Graves, Lynda	7/27	Johnson, Steve & Mary	7/31
Geekie, Mary	7/12	Jensen, Joyce	7/27	Yerxa, Donald & Lois	7/31
Schmertmann, Gloria	7/13	Martin, Roberta	7/27		
Strahlman, Mona	7/13	Kurinsky, John	7/28		
Dunn-Rankin, Katie	7/14	Cordaro, Samantha	7/29		
Moghina, Austin	7/14	Laursen, Gayle	7/29		
Roberts, Ron	7/14	Mikarts, Mark	7/29		
Smith, Brittany	7/14	Post, Blair	7/29		
Kapsch, Joe	7/15	Gop, Myrna	7/30		
Flickinger, Louise	7/16	McClellan, George	7/30		
Jewell, Douglas	7/16	Vandegrift, Nancy	7/30		

Please consider celebrating a birthday or anniversary by "gifting" the ChristVenice Scholarship Fund with a \$2.00 or more donation!

Sunday Worship Schedule

7:30 & 11:00am
Traditional

9:00am
Contemporary

ChristVenice 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

The Gideons International is an Association of Christians business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through sharing personally and by providing Bibles and New Testaments.



David, a young man in Russia, was growing up headed toward a life of crime following the steps of his father, a well known criminal. His father, gave David a Gideon testament that someone had given to him. He claimed that he could not live up to it and if David lived by it, he would have a different and better life.

His father died a year later. David eventually began reading scripture and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He joined a church and faithfully served as a Gideon. He now reaches others for Christ as Pastor of a church in Moscow - all because of a single New Testament.

The Gideons have distributed 52,043,896 scriptures in Russia. If you are interested in becoming a Gideon, please contact Ray Rodgers at 941-266-9703 or Joseph Daluz at 973-725-4735.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a thirteen week group that includes teaching from grief experts, small group sharing, and a personal workbook. It is an open group, specifically for those dealing with grief from the loss of a loved one, so you can join at anytime. Classes meet Thursdays at 1:00pm in Memorial Hall Room 22-23. If you are interested, contact Eleanor Montano 941-408-0239.

Habitat for Humanity needs Volunteers

If you have a few hours once a week, once a month or a few hours once a year, WE NEED YOU! Work in the ReStore, bake cookies, skilled carpentry or unskilled labor—we need it all! Many hands make light work. For more information, please contact Emily Shaw 941-493-6606 ext 228 or email eshaw@habitatsouthsarasota.org.

Music Notes!!!

SUMMER CHOIR IS HERE!!!

If you have always wanted to sing in a choir but never had the opportunity, and you love to praise the Lord, come check out our Christ Venice summer choir. ANYONE who is high school age (9th-12th Grades) or OLDER is invited to sing during June, July, August and September. There are NO weekly rehearsals for summer choir. Just come to the Choir Room at 10:15am on Sunday morning to sing through that day's anthem.

***DURING THE SANCTUARY RENOVATION,
CHOIR MEMBERS WILL ENTER THE CHOIR ROOM FROM
THE REAR SINGLE GLASS DOOR ON THAT SIDE ONLY!**

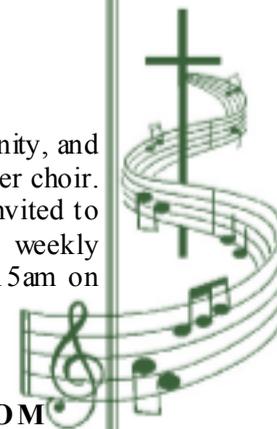
Please contact Cheryl Smith if you are interested in, or would like more information on, any of our music ministries, 493-7504 or Cheryl@christvenice.com



Joyce Clark Honored

Church Women United recently honored Joyce Clark as a "Key Woman" because of her service and leadership in her church and community. Joyce is very active in United Methodist Women. She was Chair of her Circle for many years and, for the last several years, has been the Membership Chair. She calls all new members to Christ Venice to welcome them and invites them to join in the service mission of UMW. Joyce spearheads the Stamp Ministry, works with Meals on Wheels, and heads the Venice Isles Singles. She is a tireless volunteer. Congratulations, Joyce!

Remember to keep collecting your cancelled postage stamps for Alliance Stamp Ministry. Stamps of every kind are needed, foreign as well as domestic, old issue or current. 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.





VBS Registration is Open Now

This summer's VBS program is "Maker's Fun Factory—Created by God, Built for a Purpose". It will be held in Memorial Hall Monday, July 10—Friday, July 14, 9am til noon. Registration for children age 3 - completed 5th grade. You can sign up by clicking the link on the Children's Ministry page of the church website.



&



SAVE THE DATE:

Youth and Children's Ministry Fall Kickoff August 20

Attention: Parents of Youth and Children, K-12th grades

Sunday evening, **August 20**, from 5:00-7:00pm, we will have our Youth and Children's Ministry Fall Kickoff Party in Memorial Hall. Plan on bringing your family to find out the many ways your students can get involved here at Christ Venice during the coming school year. Meet the staff of the Children and Youth Ministries, get to know other families, enjoy a meal, and gather lots of information to help you plan and stay informed.

We'll be covering the many opportunities for students to make friends, grow in faith, worship, serve, and have fun in a loving, supportive environment. Please mark your calendars now!

give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" After this Peter reached out to help him up and the man was healed. As he was praising God and celebrating, the town went crazy because everyone knew this guy and knew he was crippled.

I have always loved this passage not because I feel motivated to pray for healing everywhere but because Peter and John were obedient with what they had. The man asked for money and they said look at us. Rachael's commentary says it was because a simple inspection would reveal that these were not wealthy men. I can so relate. The gate in the Bible is believed to have been a truly magnificent gate. Mine not so much. When people come to our gate we give from what we have, because that is what God asks us to do. We do not always have money. Our amazing donors give faithfully and then we turn around and do the same. I have an illustration in my mind of water running through the fingers of a hand.

You give generously and it pours in, we give generously and it pours out. We are, more times that I would like, simply unable to help financially. Often times it keeps pouring out of our hands and we just do not keep enough back for our personal expenses and we find ourselves stuck having to find money where it just isn't. Sometimes at the gate we can only give what we have. We reach the end of ourselves and we look at the people at our gate and say, look at us, we are out of physical resource but God is not out in any department. Let's ask God together to meet your need. At those moments, and there are many, with tears we trust our God to meet needs only He can. We ask him to heal bodies and hearts. We give him the reigns again and are reminded that what HE has and who HE is, is the greatest gift we can give.

Like Peter and John gave from what they had, what is God asking you to give? Are you like us sometimes and you are being asked to pour finances into needs around you? Are you like us other times and God is asking you to surrender to Him the needs of others in prayer. Maybe you have access to another resource that you could never imagine would be a blessing to someone in need. I have an example. A sweet friend, who was in our youth group around 400 years ago, is in Veterinary school. She is someone I have connected to every so often with questions regarding our goats and such. I touched base with her a few months ago because I was in desperate need of medication for our fur babies here. I reached out to her looking for specific meds and she responded right away saying, "I happen to be standing at the table, in a veterinary pharmaceutical show, staring at one of the medications you are needing".

I wonder how often I miss the opportunity to serve because I am insecure about what I have to offer. So we find ourselves at the gate, hopefully for your sanity not 42 times a day. It may be ugly like mine or beautiful like the one in Bible but we are being given an opportunity to serve. Let's give from what we have, that is all God is asking. I will give from the gifts I have and the resources I have. That is all any of us can do.

Last parting thought. You cannot give to other people using other people's gifts. Meaning don't have skill and gift envy...like I do. Being transparent here. Really wish I was a Doctor some days. Really wish I was a CEO type other days. Instead, I am a MOM...like a boss. So when I go to minister, that is what I do, I mom...yes it is a verb! Quiet down. Here is the lesson I am screaming at myself, Don't be paralyzed by what you cannot do, be motivated to do what you CAN do. Excuse me, I have to run, there is someone at the gate and they may need me to mom.

The Gate, our gate. It is a rather obnoxious red and it causes a hernia every time it is opened because it weighs a ton. We open and close it a trillion times everyday. It begins every morning around 7, sometimes earlier and ends at sundown or a bit before. The familiar sound of a rock tapping to let us know someone outside needs to see us.

Sometimes it is Sherlande, Lydia's playmate. Her mom works all day 6 days a week so Sherlande, at 7 years old, entertains herself until she just can't stand it one more minute and she taps. Now listen folks, tapping DOES NOT STOP until the gate is answered so we run, and sometimes I desperately yell on the way there, "I'm coming!!!" Always perfectly civilly, I promise (fingers crossed). Sometimes Lydia can play and sometimes she cannot but everyday, a few times a day...she taps.



It's Etienne many times a week, coming because she is hungry. It is my neighbor who wonders if I could keep all my glass jars so she can have them to sell homemade peanut butter in. We are up to 10 so she will be tapping soon to pick them up. It is Apredye coming to pick up or drop off Jessie's Moto that he has borrowed and sometimes it is Jessie. It is Soucitha because her daughter is sick and it is Apredye because his niece died and he is humbly asking for help paying to move her body and prep her for burial. Many times people don't tap and they just yell, "tolbos!" to which Kris responds, "yea, yea!" It is Ludens or Sadak who so bad want to work with KONBIT that they stop by many times a week to remind us of their desire and willing hearts.

The taps keep coming. Some days many every hour. We are a small organization without the very common gate guard so the opening of the gate is done by us. I minister by that gate many times every day. Prayer happens at the gate. Conversations about the future of 2 bright young men happen by our gate. I receive requests for medicines, prayer, jobs, food, candy. A precious gaggle of children have been known to stop after school to see if they can say hi to our youngest. We give from what we have at that gate. As I was praying about sharing this gate blessing/curse today, I was reminded of a gate in the Bible. The gate beautiful.

Acts 3:1-6 "Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll

There are still openings for the upcoming Small Group Women's Fall and Winter Retreats. These little "get-aways" are designed for a small group of ladies who want to rest, reconnect with the Lord, get into the Word, and experience meaningful fellowship with each other.

Consider being a part of these great retreats at a beautiful resort and come away refreshed and renewed. For more information, pick up a brochure in the church office or call Lenee Schroeder at 941-497-1088. All women are welcomed!

October 2 – 6 at Daytona Beach
November 6 – 10 at Daytona Beach
November 13 – 17 at Daytona Beach
February 4 – 8 in Orlando

SAFE Joyful Outing

The SAFE ministry invites you to join us on Tuesday July 14th for this month's Joyful Outing. Our day of sightseeing and fellowship will begin here at the front entrance to Memorial Hall at 9:00am. After registration and prayer, we will travel to the Venice Art Center for a tour and lunch (Dutch treat). For more information, email SAFE@christvenice.com.

We hope you'll also mark your calendars for our exciting August outing, which will be on Tuesday August 15. Details will be provided soon!

SAFE is a ministry of Support and Addiction Family Education. Our confidential support group meets every Monday evening at 6:00p in Memorial Hall room 24. Childcare is available when requested in advance. Anyone who has an addicted family member or loved one is welcome to join us for sharing and support, education, prayer, and good fellowship.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Just a reminder. Our Stephen Ministers are commissioned to serve communion to you if you are homebound or in a nursing facility. You may request Holy Communion by asking any Stephen Minister or by calling the church office at 493-7504.

We are also available to listen, pray and share, in complete confidence, any problem you may be facing. To see how we may be able to help you please call a Stephen Leader, Don Paull 497-5597 or Jane Watkins 9989 859-0712 for more information.



Found a devotion I want to share with you. This is taken from the book, 101 Things Jesus Has Done for You. Just a little book that has many "nuggets" of hope and help as we do life.

Jesus Offers Us an Undying Hope

"In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I Peter 1:3b

"Any runner knows that finishing a race is mostly mental. Without the knowledge that he can complete the distance before him, his mind starts to weaken, and his body soon follows. Likewise, when our spiritual endurance is tested, the deciding factor is whether our hope will hold out. If hope dies, our spirits are crushed, and we lose the will to continue."

"Thankfully, the hope we have in Jesus will never die, because He lives forever. We know-beyond a shadow of a doubt-that He will ultimately triumph in our lives and in the world. Because He lives, we have hope." To claim that hope, we just need to accept Jesus into our life, and share a personal relationship with Him. Jesus is the gift that just keeps on giving!

Love you,

Nancy

ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

The Adult Ministry Vision Team has made much progress and you will be hearing more about it very soon! They have been diligently praying for the Holy Spirit's leading, meeting, and researching material since early this year.

NEED YOUR EMAIL

If you would like to receive the new Adult Ministry Newsletter starting with the September/October first issue, please provide your email address to Nancy Kinney, (nancy@christvenice.com).



ADULT MINISTRIES LAUNCH!

Here is the long awaited date for the Adult Ministries Launch!
Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7.
You do not want to miss it! More information next month.

UPCOMING EMMAUS WALK NEWS!



The calendar may say it is summer, fun and beach time, but we all know how quickly we will be shocked to realize fall activities choices need to be made! One such choice is signing up for an Emmaus Weekend!

The cancellation of last March's weekends at the last minute was a real disappointment, and prompted much review by the Emmaus Board. Several key issues were addressed and the Board is excited about the upcoming September/October Weekends.

The most positive news, I believe, is that Walks will no longer be held at the Bradenton Retreat Center. All upcoming Walks will be held at Dayspring Episcopal Conference Center, Parrish, FL (check the suncoastemmaus.com web site for map location). Dayspring property is more compact than Bradenton and has an attractive "in the woods" setting, welcoming a more private individual spiritual retreat experience. The Pilgrims do sleep in larger "bunk" room accommodations, rather than a two person motel type room at Bradenton. Many feel the larger "bunk" room experience helps to bring those in attendance together more quickly.

The other major change, in an effort to avoid last minute cancellations, is to tighten up application response time. The Suncoast Board is requesting all applications be received 3 weeks prior to the opening weekend date to allow for better planning and preparation. Preparing an application, coordinating with a Christ Venice Emmaus sponsor, processing and mailing can easily consume 3 to 5 days. Yes, last minute applications can be handled quicker, but not as a routine. Therefore:

2017 FALL WALK TO EMMAUS WEEKENDS

Men's is September 21-24 - Women's is October 10-15

All applications are turned in to the church office.

Any questions: Call John Brower 941-223-7130.

EMMAUS SUMMER FUN!

Catch up with some Emmaus friends at Community potluck Gatherings. The third Saturday of every month the Suncoast Emmaus Community hosts a community gathering at various Emmaus active churches. Potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish to share. Gatherings start at 5PM, casual time with music, food, renewed friendships from past Walks and always an inspiring 4th Day talk. Gathering information always available by checking the website at Suncoastemmaus.com.

The July Gathering will be Saturday, July 15th at Pine Level U.M.C.in Arcadia. Get a car full and check a Gathering out.