



The Beacon

August 2021

400 Penman Road—Neptune Beach, FL 32266 | (904) 249-5370 | www.christumcnb.org

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Worship Online
Anytime at
www.christumcnb.org

Worship In-Person
Sundays
10:15 am—Traditional
or 6 pm—RampUp

Pastor's Message

Dear Christ UMC Family,

I'm grateful that it's now been one full month serving as your pastor here. It has been a whirlwind, but I finally feel like I'm landing on solid ground the more I learn about this wonderful church and all the people who make it what it is. As many of you have also heard by now, I am a Jacksonville native, so it's wonderful to be back home.

While I have met most of you in-passing, I really do welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally. I want to hear your stories. I want to learn about what drew you to our church and what keeps you coming back. I want to hear how God is working to transform your life. Mostly, I want to get to know you! I'm a big coffee fan, so I welcome any opportunity to meet in a local café. If you would like to meet over Zoom, I also welcome that! Call the church office at 904-249-5370 or email us at christumcnb@gmail.com, and we'll get something on the calendar.

As this pandemic still rages on, congregations across the country are still trying to figure out how to "be" the church and how to "do" church safely. Yet, even in the midst of this chaos, God still calls us to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. I invite you to be praying about how (not "if") you are being called to serve God's people both inside and outside of these 4 walls. We'll soon be sharing opportunities for the various ways you can partner with us in ministry and mission. I look forward to all that God will do through us in the coming days, months, and years ahead!

Peace,

Pastor Nelson

www.christumcnb.org

Raise Up: Discipleship

Did you know that God's messages given to the Old Testament prophets almost 3,000 years ago contain truths that are applicable to us, as Christ's followers, in the 21st century? Come discover God's truths for today and how they can direct your living. The Monday night Bible study, beginning September 13 at 6:30 p.m., will explore this study as found in Disciple III. Everyone is invited! Registration will begin in mid-August. Pastor Carmen will lead the class and can give you more information (904-386-8950).

A teal-colored poster with white outlines of coffee cups and brown coffee beans scattered around. The text is in white and brown. The main title 'COFFEE IS BACK!' is in large, bold, brown letters. Below it, in white, is 'STARTING AUGUST 15 JOIN US AFTER THE 10:15 SERVICE IN WILSON HALL'. Further down, in white, is 'But it is coming back in a slimmed down form—just beverages and cookies. And they don't have to be homemade! We need 1 person to put up the sign-up sheet, and we need all of you to volunteer to take 1 Sunday to be responsible for the beverages and cookies. The sign up sheet will be on the Information Table. Questions? Call Cindy Kastner 904-221-4103.'

COFFEE IS BACK!

**STARTING AUGUST 15
JOIN US AFTER THE 10:15
SERVICE IN WILSON HALL**

But it is coming back in a slimmed down form—just beverages and cookies.
And they don't have to be homemade!
We need 1 person to put up the sign-up sheet, and we need all of you to volunteer to take 1 Sunday to be responsible for the beverages and cookies. The sign up sheet will be on the Information Table.
Questions? Call Cindy Kastner 904-221-4103.

Preschool Connection

Sonni McEvoy
Preschool Connection



Summer fun has been all around our preschool. If you are on the church campus during the week, you may see the Monday ice cream truck, children playing outdoors with water squirkers and sprinklers, children riding their bikes or scooters in the shaded parking lot or even caught a glimpse of the visiting animal show in Wilson Hall. The VPK class sponsored a trike-a-thon raising money for St. Jude's Children Hospital. We have very creative personnel and teachers in our preschool, and we are so blessed to have them at our preschool!

Considering the circle of life, our July theme for Preschool Connection time was the lesson of the Good Samaritan, loving our neighbors and helping others even though we may not know them or they may be different from us. As we ended our lesson, the children formed a hand-holding circle which ended with Pastor Nelson laying hands and praying over a quilt made by our quilters. The quilt was given to a hurting family, with a message of love and comfort during a difficult time. Maybe we too can look for ways to reach out to others; that's what we are all called to do, right?

Release: Mission Highlights



GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

This month our mission highlight is The Gideon's. Tom Trotta is our guest writer and you may recognize his name as someone who has addressed our congregation in the past. Please enjoy learning more about this important ministry.

Our Mission:

"Make every effort to live in peace with one another and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

Hebrews 12:14

Shirley Church
Sonni McEvoy

Release Coordinators

The Gideons were formed in 1898 to band commercial Christian travelers together. Traveling salesman had a terrible reputation back then and the association was designed to encourage men to keep their Christian testimony strong and pure at home and on the road. There were plenty of temptations as men went about their work. A few years later, the Auxiliary, wives of Gideons, was formed. The Gideons one objective was not to distribute Scriptures but to win men, women, boys and girls to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It remains the same today. It wasn't until 1908 that Gideons distributed their first Bibles, encouraged by a pastor.

Today we are an association of business and professional men and our member wives with that same objective. We are all members of a local church or assembly, believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God and must have our pastor's recommendation. We are the churches men and women taking the churches message to places where people may not hear a pastor's preaching, the teaching of a Sunday school or any Christian witness. We distribute Scriptures in designated traffic lanes of life: Hotels/motels, schools, hospitals jails and the military. Gideons are organized in 200 countries, territories and possessions and distribute Scriptures in over 105 languages. We have distributed over 2.5 billion Bibles and testaments since 1908.

There is a Gideon Card Bible program where Scriptures can be dedicated in memory or in recognition of a friend or loved one. Friends of Gideons was introduced a few years ago because we realize not everyone is a business or professional man but wants to keep up with what's happening in the ministry (e-news), pray specifically or participate financially. Just Google "Friends of Gideons".

Finally, a Gideon Bible app is available for free at the App or Play store. It contains over 1200 languages and many helps for private use or personal evangelism. Many have received Christ as savior through the Gideon ministry. One seventh grader writes, "Thank you so much for this free Bible. I'm only thirteen years old and this Book changed my life. I started reading it, and I started going to church. I also accepted Jesus Christ as my savior and got saved. I'm going to heaven! Thank you, thank you, thank you"!

"...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11 ESV

Tom Trotta
Local Gideon

Mission Updates

Surely, God is smiling on Christ UMC and we give Him all the glory!

Cuban Seminary

Our Cuban Seminary lunch fundraiser exceeded our goal of raising \$500. Combined with other funds, including a donation from the UMW, we were able to send \$1,500 in support of the seminary. Thanks to all who worked to make this possible.

Florida Methodist Children's Home

We received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Florida Methodist Children's Home for meeting our 2020 giving goal, which we exceeded. The goal was based on \$12 per member, and we had 187 members at that time. Donations from our live, drive-thru Nativity also supported the Home.

Security Corner

Security...and Safety

Christ United Methodist Church has invested time and talent to address what we should do in the case of an incident involving an armed attack on our church or pre-school grounds. Sure, this is not a high probability event, but we must have procedures in place and the Congregation must be familiar with them in case it happens. This is why the Security Task Team came up with our Security Action Plan in conjunction with the Neptune Beach Police Department, and why we periodically conduct refresher training.

However, it is more likely that we will experience a safety mishap, a medical incident, or even a fire than have someone attack our church. So while we must prepare for the worst, we should all think about our readiness to handle the more likely events.

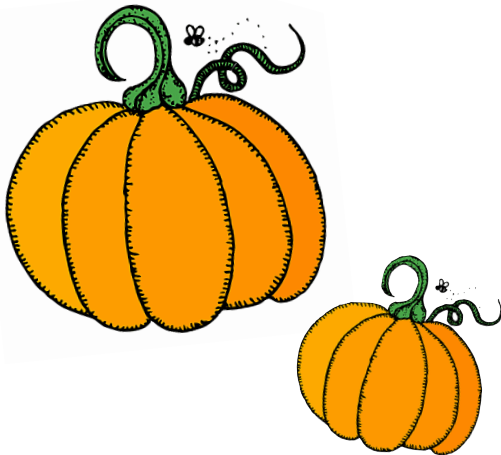
How can you help contribute to a safer environment at Christ UMC? By letting someone know when you see something that isn't right. Point out trip hazards and other unsafe conditions so they can be corrected. We all get complacent and become acclimated to conditions that may not be completely safe. When an accident eventually occurs, we think "Why didn't I do something about that before it came to this?"

So let's all reinvigorate our commitment to having a safe space for worship and fellowship at our church. Be aware, look for problems — even the ones that you may have walked past multiple times before — and say something to someone to help get it corrected. Thanks for your attention to safety!

Stay Alert Stay Alive

Family Ministry

BACK
-to-
SCHOOL



Hanna Thomas
Family Ministry Coordinator
904-612-7286

School starts August 10. Please be in prayer for all our kiddos and families. This year school still looks different, some still need to wear masks, distancing is still in place. Lift prayer to all the staff and teachers who continue to tread the tough waters caused by Covid-19. I'm looking to collect any and all school supplies for our kids and the kids at Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School.

We are still in faith partnership with the Middle school. I continue to hold the position of SAC chair. There have been huge changes for the better at Mayport. Keep on praying, it's working! We still maintain the Mayday Clothes Closet. I'm looking for volunteers to help me keep this closet updated. Volunteers should be allowed in the school this year. Contact the school to see how you can help! The specific needs for this closet have changed. Here is a list of what they could use:

- Girls panties sizes 10-15
- Duck tape of all kinds.
- T-shirts (not see through)
- Cash donations to the mayport middle fund at the church.

Children's clothing of all sizes is needed for the closet that supplies families in need. There is a donation bucket in the lobby of the church.

Thank you for all of your support to children and families. This is an area that is very dear to me.

Pumpkin patch is a go for this year!! The first delivery is October 2nd. The hours are 10am till 8pm. We need you!! I know October is a few months away, however, I would like you to make the room on your calendar to help. You can work a shift, clean the patch and turn pumpkins, definitely be in prayer! Families, bring the kids after school. You can bring dinner, they can do homework work, you can even bring the dog, if they are friendly! I will be reaching out to the preschool and scouts to help also. This is really a Christ UMC family affair. We all win from this adventure! A sign up sheet will be available soon. If you have any questions or a desire to be on the patch team contact me, I definitely can use your help.

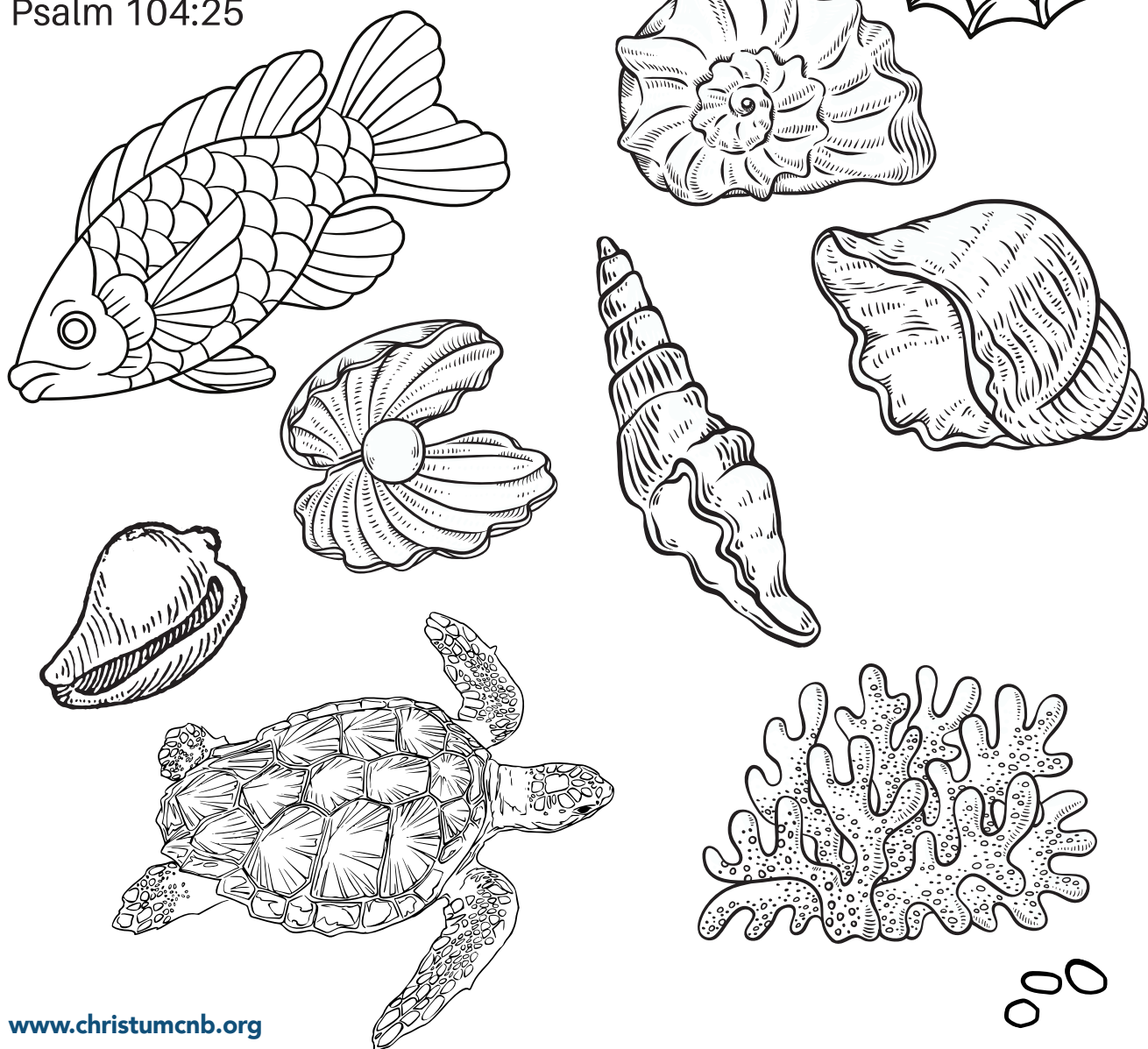
Ramp Up

With school starting and family schedules becoming busier after summer fun, I would like to remind you about the service on Sunday night. It's very informal with a kid friendly, all inclusive atmosphere. We are in the process of working out the details of providing dinner. We offer snacks at this time. The service starts at 6pm and lasts about 45 minutes. It includes live praise music and I have seen some dancing and singing that shows worship on a different level. I would love to see you there! If you have any questions or ideas that could help get you to this service, let me hear them. **Come check us out, you might be surprised!**



*There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.*

Psalm 104:25



THANK YOU!

We are very proud of and thankful for all the people who donated their time, talents, and sweat to painting, cleaning, and preparing the parsonage for the arrival of Pastor Nelson, Samantha, and Cameron. It was an outstanding display of what we can do as a Congregation when we put our hearts and minds together to do something good for others. Thanks to Nancy Rist, Kathy Sheets, Steffanie Stuart, Karen & Dan Long, Mike & Sonni McEvoy, Hannah Thomas, Wanda Lee, Carol & Fred Boyd, Eileen & Sven Sloth, Sandy Pavlick, Edith Jenkins, and Anne & Jim Ransom for all their hard work.



- 1 Chloe Austill
- 5 Hermine Joseph
- 7 Bob Webster
Jamie Zephyra Wade
- 8 Laura Adams
- 11 Zane Woods
- 15 Thomas Romano
- 18 Don Ames
Karen Long
- 21 John Nunn
- 23 Lori Swann

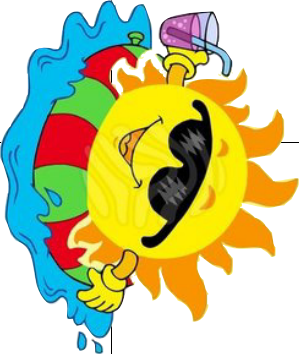


The choir is on summer break right now, no choir practice on Wednesdays, we will resume practice on August 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Lindita Kosova.



- 2 Richard and Cindy Hippensteal
- 4 Mike and Becky Chambers
- 12 Richard and Kathy Wallace
- 14 Joe and Linda Bryan
- 16 Mark and Kathy Scott
- 22 Don and Mimi Ames
- 28 Mary and Mike Muratore
- 30 Jim and Marilyn Porterfield

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Adventure Kids 9am Heavenly Hash 9am Sunday Hang time www.Christumtchb.com 10:15am Worship in Person & online 11:30 Ramp Up Praise Team Practice 5pm Ramp Up set up & Practice 6pm Ramp Up Worship	2 6pm BSA/CUBS	3 3pm Feed the Hungry 6:30 All Church Council meeting	4 6pm Youth Group	5 10am Christ Quilters	6	7 
8 9am Adventure Kids 9am Heavenly Hash 9am Sunday Hang time www.Christumtchb.com 10:15am Worship in Person & online 11:30 Ramp Up Praise Team Practice 5pm Ramp Up set up & Practice 6pm Ramp Up Worship	9 6pm BSA/CUBS	10 6:15 Operation meeting	11 6:30pm Choir practice	12 10am Christ Quilters	13	
15 9am Adventure Kids 9am Connect: Life & Faith 9am Heavenly Hash 9am Sunday Hang time www.Christumtchb.com 10:15am Worship in Person & online 11:30 Ramp Up Praise Team Practice 5pm Ramp Up set up & Practice 6pm Ramp Up Worship	16 6pm BSA/CUBS	17	18 6 pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir practice	19 10am Christ Quilters	20	21
22 9am Adventure Kids 9am Heavenly Hash 9am Sunday Hang time www.Christumtchb.com 10:15am Worship in Person & online 11:30 Ramp Up Praise Team Practice 5pm Ramp Up set up & Practice 6pm Ramp Up Worship	23 6pm BSA/CUBS	24 6:30pm Ministry Team meeting 10am Preschool Connection	25 6 pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir practice	26 10am Christ Quilters	27	28 10am Cub Pack Party
29 9am Adventure Kids 9am Connect: Life & Faith 9am Heavenly Hash 9am Sunday Hang time www.Christumtchb.com 10:15am Worship in Person & online 11:30 Ramp Up Praise Team Practice 5pm Ramp Up set up & Practice 6pm Ramp Up Worship	30 6pm BSA/CUBS	31 