



March 2021

The BEACON

400 Penman Rd, 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
Drive UP

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Do you remember all the way back to first grade math? For probably anyone reading this that was a very long time ago. Let me refresh one thing that you may have incorporated into your everyday life or may not have – the symbols for greater than and less than. The symbol $>$ is greater than. The symbol $<$ is less than. And you all, I would presume, know that the symbol $=$ is equals. So $2 > 1$ and $1 < 2$ and $1 = 1$ are all true mathematical statements. Perhaps like me you learned that the gator wants to eat the bigger number so the opening should always be to the bigger number.

Why am I reminding you of math? We can and do apply these symbols to our spiritual life. The goal for us this Lent is Jesus $>$ me. We want Jesus to increase in us. This means we first must realize that Jesus is IN us. In Christianity we tend to talk about becoming Christ like. This isn't actually the aim of Christianity. Christlike, represented in mathematical symbols would be $We = Jesus$. When you see it presented this way it may cause you to pause – at least I hope it does. We do not desire to $=$ Jesus. In an equation with the $=$ symbol both sides have to be exactly the same or it's not a true mathematical equation. And in the crazy-up-side-down economy of God, Jesus said that his desire is that we would do GREATER things than Jesus. Jesus said in John 14:12, "I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even **greater** works than these because I am going to the Father."

Continued next page

PASTOR'S MSG. cont.

Jesus' preference is not for Christians=Jesus, but rather Christians>Jesus – meaning we do greater works. This is only possible by Christ in us. And when Christ indwells EACH ONE of us there is a multiplying effect. God, through each one of us, can do unimaginably more than you or I could ever hope or imagine.

So the math we apply this Lent is for us to decrease (me<Jesus) and as we decrease Jesus increases in us. As this happens in each of us it multiplies so that Jesus is multiplied to the ultimate power as he works through us so that we might do those greater works. It's a paradox, less of us gets us to more of Jesus and as Jesus increases in us we are able to do more than Christ.

And the simplest explanation of all of this is for us to pray as John the Baptist did, "He must increase, and I must decrease." (Jn 3:30) Let that be our prayer this season.

Amazed by Grace, *Pastor Bridget*



WORSHIP OUTDOORS 3/14

Ready to sing a few hymns?? The March 14 Traditional Service will be held in the south (shady) parking lot at the regular time (10:15). Bring your beach chairs or use one of the Wilson Hall chairs and spread out under the shade of the trees. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Park in the front or north parking lots. There will be a couple of Handicapped spaces available in the south lot, at the end closest to the road.

If the weather is not suitable for sitting outside, we will stay in our cars, park in the south lot, and hear the service broadcast over FM radio. The Worship Team will be under the portico. That way, we can still sing!!

Song sheets will be available either way. There will not be an indoor service that day.

**Mar. 14 Daylight Savings Time
begins! Spring Forward!**

Holy Week Services

March 28th 10:15 am Palm Sunday—Passion Play in Sanctuary

April 1st 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"

April 4th Easter Sunday—

Sunrise 6:30 am at the end of Atlantic Blvd.

Traditional 10:15 am in the Sanctuary

No Ramp Up service on Easter

You are invited!
9 am Adult Sunday School in person in the Parlor.
OR—via Conference call. 717-275-8940 to join. The Access Code is 655-4436.

Church Women United—March 5th 10am

Program will be World Day of Prayer. All women are invited and bring a friend. Christ UMC is hosting in Wilson Hall. Masks and social distancing will be observed. No food or drink will be provided. Bring a snack if desired. Look forward to seeing you!

UMW Mission Study Continues

This year's Study is the book Finding Peace in an Anxious World and also uses the Book of Proverbs and The Serenity Prayer as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry and fear and move towards God's peace, which surpasses all understanding. This study is open to everyone and although there are multiple sessions, each session is complete. You are invited to attend as you are able. The study will be Wednesday, March 24th and April 28th at 10:00 -11:00 am in Wilson Hall.

TETRAZZINI TIME!

The ladies of Circle One are planning their annual fundraiser. For several years our chefs have created delicious Chicken Tetrazzini Casseroles for you to purchase and enjoy!

The order form is here for you to place your order—available online at the church website, www.christumcnb.org, in the lobby or the church office.

Please consider ordering some for enjoyment now and to freeze for the future.

Pick-up will be on Sunday, March 14 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Wilson Hall parking lot entrance. You will not have to get out of your car.

We are ready to make our shopping lists!

Chicken Tetrazzini Takeout
United Methodist Women
Circle One Fundraiser
Order yours now. Last day to order is
March 7th.

Drive up to pick up Sunday, March 14th
Wilson Hall parking lot entrance 11:30—12:30

Proceeds support Missions.

Delicious, homemade
CHICKEN TETRAZZINI

Pre—order and pay for yours today.
7" casserole.

2 generous servings for \$10.00.

Take and heat, or freeze for later.

**(Please complete and return the form below with
your payment to the church office or offering plate.)**

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Casseroles ordered: _____

Paid Cash: \$ _____ or Check: # _____ \$ _____

Make checks to: CUMW-Circle One Tetrazzini

LENT 2021

Lent begins February 17. Lent is a 40 day period of reflection, not including Sundays. This year I encourage you to join me in using the book **40 days of Decrease** by Alicia Britt Chole. Every day of Lent there is a daily reading and a suggested fast. For those who don't want to or can't buy the book here are the daily readings and fasts:

DAY	Reading	Fast	Day	Reading	Fast
2/17	JN 12:1-11	Fast Lent as a project & enter Lent as an experience	3/12	JN 18:1-11	Premature Resolution
2/18	JN 12:12-19	From Regrets	3/13	JN 18:12-14	Sound
2/19	JN 12:20-28	Collecting Praise	3/14	SABBATH!	FEAST DAY
2/20	JN 12:29-36	Artificial Light	3/15	JN 18:15-18	Fast from believing Jesus
2/21	SABBATH!	FEAST DAY!	3/16	JN 18:19-24	Neutrality
2/22	JN 12:37-43	Not having perfect	3/17	JN 18:25-27	Denial
2/23	JN 12:44-50	Speeding past sorrow	3/18	JN 18:28-32	Comparison
2/24	JN 13:1-7	A Meal	3/19	JN 18:33-40	Discontentment
2/25	JN 13:8-17	Fixing "It"	3/20	JN 19:1-6	Formulas
2/26	JN 13:18-30	Rationalism	3/21	SABBATH	FEAST DAY!
2/27	JN 13:31-36	Avoidance	3/22	JN 19:7-16	Intimidation
2/28	SABBATH	FEAST DAY	3/23	JN 19:17-27	Pride
3/1	JN 14:1-14	Underestimating people spiritually	3/24	JN 19:28-37	Mocking Jesus
3/2	JN 14:15-22	Isolation	3/25	JN 19:38-42	Addition
3/3	JN 14:23-31	Stinginess	3/26	JN 20:1-9	Willful Sin
3/4	JN 15:1-17	Spectatorship	3/27	JN 20:10-18	Criticism
3/5	JN 15:18-16:4	Spiritual Self-Protection	3/28	Sabbath!	FEAST DAY
3/6	JN 16:5-16	False definition of holy	3/29	JN 20:19-23	Seeing God/Faith as a
3/7	SABBATH	FEAST DAY	3/30	JN 20:24-31	Withholding
3/8	JN 16:17-33	Apathy	3/31	JN 21:1-9	Speaking
3/9	JN 17:1-5	Hypocrisy	4/1	JN 21:10-14	Escapism
3/10	JN 17:6-19	Revisionism	4/2	JN 21:15-19	Shame
3/11	JN 17:20-26	Leavened Bread	4/3	JN 21:20-25	Fasting



RELATE

SOUP LUNCH=FUN

The Soup Picnic held on Valentine's Day was BLESSING to us all. Ten varieties of soup (equivalent to 12 crock-pots) were prepared, beaucoup cookies were baked and bagged, and crackers were packaged. Seven volunteers delivered forty-one soup meals to eighty Christ UMC members/constituents. Forty-plus in-person worshipers stopped by Wilson Hall to partake of hot soup and fellowship. Rev. Eileen found she could still Hula Hoop (a 14-second video to prove it). Thank you, thank you, thank you Christ UMC for your generosity and service to make Valentine's Day HAPPY!

Shirley Van Duzer, Relate Coordinator



Who Would You Rather Be With?

He was waiting for a call from the hospital about his wife, so he left his cell phone turned on in church. Yes, he saw the notice "please silence your cell phones", but this was a special time. Sure enough, right in the middle of the Lord's Prayer, after "thy kingdom come", it started to ring and he could not get it out of his pocket. So, it rang and rang. He got dirty looks from the people sitting around him. One of the ushers approached him. And on the way out at least 3 people told him he should not have had his phone on, and that was very disrespectful to God. He apologized but he still got dirty looks.

On the way home from the hospital, he stopped at his local pub. He was feeling stressed and spilled his beer on the bar. The bar tender got him a replacement beer –free, and mopped it up. Some beer spilled on the man next to him and he offered to have his clothes cleaned. The man said "no thanks", and started talking to him, and listening to his problems. Another man at the pub asked whether he needed a ride home.

Who would you rather be with –the church goers or the pub patrons? Are there ways we can improve our hospitality?

Cindy Kastner, Relate Coordinator

MISSION AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES—JUMP-IN!

VOLUNTEER

Call the church office to volunteer:

- ♦ Become a weekly office volunteer
or
- ♦ Learn a few ProPresenter tips to help with minor changes just before a worship service. This would require you to show up about twenty minutes early for worship—either Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon, or both!

USHER & GREETER TEAMS

We all owe the Longs and the McEvoy's a big thanks for faithfully ushering ever since we resumed live worship services in September. Even as some of us are able to get the vaccine, we will continue our activities and services with masks and social distancing. If you would be willing to join the usher or greeter teams now, or in the near future, please contact Nancy Russell at midd-kid69@gmail.com or (904)249-7320. Leave a message if I'm unavailable, and I'll get back to you. Thanks for considering gifting your time for these important roles. We really need you. Nancy Russell, Raise-Up

MCSMS FAITH PARTNER SCHOOL

School of the Month in January

Middle School Region:

Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle

Principal Chris Koek

The school was credited for the teamwork between the teachers, administration and counselors to identify students, as well as strong family outreach to provide support and resources that impact attendance.

So proud of our Faith Partner School. They have come a long way! You are invited to attend the SAC committee meetings. Contact Hanna Thomas, Family Ministry, for more information. (904) 612-7286

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen delivery dates are March 15, 17, and 19. Meals are prepared at Beach Church and are ready for pickup at a side street door at 10:30 am. (Across from 7North) North route is usually 8 clients in Atlantic, Neptune and Jacksonville Beach. South route is to Pablo Hamlet and Jacksonville Beach.

Call Edith Jenkins to volunteer to take a hot meal to a beaches area shut-in, (904) 610-4107.



ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH



March 23rd Randy and Cindy Kalar

Birthdays

1 Jim Ransom
4 Daniel McHugh
4 Delrose Burke
6 Richard Wallace
16 Beth Buswell
19 Aaron Brunner
21 Ann DeVane
24 Karen Lagitch
24 Kathy Wallace

26 Addison Varnes
26 Aubrey Varnes
29 Mary Laseter
31 Reese Hazlewood
31 RJ Adams



CHILDREN'S CORNER



God in heaven,
hear my prayer.
Keep me in thy
loving care.
Be my guide in
all I do. Bless all
those who love
me too. Amen.

**“Even a child is known
by his doings.”
Proverbs 20:11**

**"I fear nothing,
because of the
promises of Heaven;
for I have cast
myself into the
hands of Almighty
God, who reigns
everywhere. As the
prophet says: Cast
your burden on the
Lord and he will
sustain you."**

Patrick of Ireland

c. 386–461



Reach Lenten Challenge

As we journey through the season of Lent and beyond, let us REACH out to those in our community who need a smile, a friendly greeting or a reminder that God loves them. Challenge yourself to complete the following tasks:

Week 1: Send thinking of you cards to TWO people you would like to build a relationship with, each of whom are NOT members of the church.

Week 2: Call TWO people you know who used to attend church but currently do not and check in with them.

Week 3: Deliver ONE homemade "treat" to a neighbor (cookies, brownies, bread, etc.). Include an invitation to our Easter services (invitation cards will be available on the table by the office).

Week 4: Invite at least ONE person to watch one of the church services online. (This is also a great way to begin a "Watch party" if you would like to do so.) Remind them of the upcoming Easter Services and invite them to attend or watch online.

Week 5: Greet at least THREE strangers and hand out Easter invitation cards while you are running errands. Try wishing them a blessed day in whatever way is comfortable to you.

Week 6: Send a letter to an old friend you haven't seen or spoken to for a significant time. Let them know you are still thinking of them, maybe even that they are in your prayers.

Week 7: REACH out to ONE person on the prayer chain and let them know they are not forgotten.

How well did you do? Has it gotten easier to speak to others, even those you may not already know? Who might you invite to one of the Easter services?



RELEASE—MISSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

Greetings from your new Release Coordinators, Shirley Church and Sonni McEvoy. As Release Coordinators, it is our duty to release what has been given to us into our community and the world. In this effort, each month, we will highlight a mission which is supported by our church. This month, we are highlighting three, long-time local missions close to our hearts. These are BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), Mission House (Feed the Hungry Program) and the Beaches Community Kitchen, operated through Beach Church.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR & SUPPORTING OUR MISSION PARTNERS



First BEAM. It was established in 1985 by representatives of local churches who received many personal appeals for emergency financial assistance. BEAM is a coordinated way to prevent duplication of services by our local churches. It is supported not only by folks in the faith community but

individuals, businesses, local organization and foundations. It is a 501(c)(3) organizations serving zip codes, 32233, 32266, 32250, 32082, 32224 and 32227. To prevent homelessness, they provide emergency assistance to cover overdue rent and utility payments. They operate a food pantry, a grace garden supplying fresh produce, back-to-school supplies, and some supportive counseling to those in need. Christ UMC supports this mission through our on-going food collection, in addition to participation with school supplies. We have placed two food baskets, one in Wilson Hall and the other in the narthex for food collection. We have also supported BEAM with special monetary giving as well. Shirley Church is our point person for questions on BEAM.

Second, Mission House is the only day facility at the beach to meet the needs of the homeless adults. They address basic needs of this population through meals, showers, case management and medical programs. We at Christ UMC support this mission through monthly meal preparation (first Tuesday of the month) and delivery to the facility. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have shifted meal preparation to Wilson Hall. We fund this mission through your monetary donations, as well as hands-on meal prep. Mike McEvoy is our lead for this mission.

Continued next page

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH, continued

Lastly, the Beaches Community Kitchen is operated by Beach Church on Third Street. Three days a week, the Beaches Community Kitchen prepares and delivers meals to needy, elderly or disabled people struggling to maintain independent living. Christ UMC previously supported the Meals-on-Wheels program; however, that program ceased to operate at the beach a couple of years ago. We now support this ministry through meal delivery from the Community Kitchen on an eleven-week rotation along with other churches and individuals. The 2021 meal delivery schedule for Christ UMC is March 15, 17 and 19; May 31, June 2 and 4; August 16, 18 and 20; and November 1, 3 and 5. Edith Jenkins is our point person to sign up for meal delivery.

As you can see, these are opportunities for your hands-on participation in the local community. Consider how you may want to be involved. Next month's mission highlight will focus on the Beaches Boys and Girls Club.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words of speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

SECURITY CORNER

The Security Team recently met to discuss the "state of security" at Christ UMC amid the continuing Covid 19 campus restrictions.

We discussed the need to again bring Security to the conscious of not only the congregation (in person and on-line) but within the team itself.

It is easy to let your guard down when normalcy seems like a thing from the past but EACH OF US needs to remain vigilant to those situations that can put us at risk.

Church activities or daily errands provide an opportunity us to be aware of our surroundings. Take a look around before you exit your vehicle to assure it is safe to exit. Know where your first and second exits are whether at church or at the grocery store. REMEMBER your RUN, HIDE, FIGHT training provided at church last year or the training you receive at your job. Keep your doors locked at home and your vehicle if it is parked or your travelling in it. Be sure Campus doors are locked when you leave a church function. These are but a few.

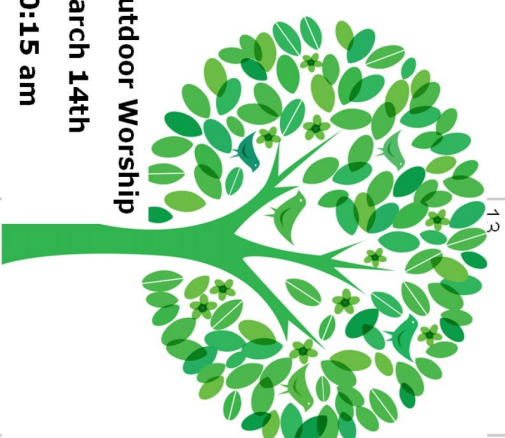
Your Security Team will be bringing a brief security update to the Sunday service soon. Please be sure to keep safety up front in your minds wherever you are.

Stay Alert - Stay Alive

March 2021

Forty Days of Lent

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 9 am Adult Sunday School, in person and via conference call 10:15 am Worship—in person and online 6 pm RampUp Drive Up Worship</p>	<p>1 10 am Disciple II 6 pm BSA/CUBS 282 6:30 pm Disciple II</p>	<p>2 3:00 pm Feed the Hungry</p>	<p>3 10 am UMW Board Mtg. 5 pm Youth Group ZOOM 6:30 pm Chimers Practice</p>	<p>4 10 am Pastor's Bible Study 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight Chess 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>5 10 am Church Women United—Wilson Hall</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>8 10 am Disciple II 6 pm BSA/CUBS 282 6:30 pm Disciple II</p>	<p>9 10 am Circle One Mtg. 7 pm Freedom Circle</p>	<p>10 10 am Hope Circle Mtg. 1 pm Worship Design 5 pm Youth Group ZOOM 6:30 pm Chimers Practice</p>	<p>11 10 am Pastor's Bible Study 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight Chess 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>14 9 am Adult Sunday School, in person and via conference call 10:15 am Outdoor Worship—in person and online 11:30 am Tetrazzini Pick Up 6 pm RampUp Drive Up Worship</p>	<p>15 10 am Disciple II 6 pm BSA/CUBS 282 6:30 pm Disciple II</p>	<p>16 17 St. Patrick's Day 5 pm Youth Group ZOOM 6:30 pm Chimers Practice</p>	<p>18 10 am Pastor's Bible Study 10 am Christ Quilters 11 am Congregational Care 5 pm Knight Chess 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>21 9 am Adult Sunday School, in person and via conference call 10:15 am Worship—in person and online 6 pm RampUp Drive Up Worship</p>	<p>22 10 am Disciple II 6 pm BSA/CUBS 282 6:30 pm Disciple II</p>	<p>23 6:15 pm Operations Team Mtg.</p>	<p>24 10 am UMW Mission Study and Unit Mtg. 1 pm Worship Design 5 pm Youth Group ZOOM 6:30 pm Chimers Practice</p>	<p>25 10 am Pastor's Bible Study 10 am Christ Quilters 5 pm Knight Chess 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Palm Sunday 9 am Adult Sunday School, in person and via conference call 10:15 am Passion Play—in person and online 6 pm RampUp Drive Up Worship</p>	<p>29 10 am Disciple II 6 pm BSA/CUBS 282 6:30 pm Disciple II</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 5 pm Youth Group ZOOM 6:30 pm Chimers Practice</p>	<p>32</p>	<p>33</p>	<p>34</p>



Outdoor Worship

March 14th

10:15 am

