

Whether you have grandchildren or if you are a Disney fanatic, you will definitely be familiar with the hit 2016 film Moana. In fact, you might discover yourself humming a few of the lyrics as you read from some catchy, upbeat song such as “How Far I’ll Go” and/or perhaps picturing Dwayne Johnson dancing to the song “Your Welcome.” Like many movies, Moana, who is the daughter of the village chief, goes out on an adventure and eventually things do not go as planned. In fact, at one point the young girl feels doubted, rejected, and alone. Towards the climax Moana finds herself at a pivotal moment of choice after facing setback after setback. While sailing on the ocean in the middle of the night she shouts “Why have you brought me here?” Suddenly Moana’s grandmother’s spirit, Gramma Tala, appears to her and eventually sings this opening line from another song: “I know a girl from an island, she stands apart from the crowd, she loves the sea and the people, and she makes her whole family proud.” Additionally, Moana has a vision of her ancestors who are encouraging and leading her forward in her future. In short, it’s the community that sparks love back into Moana! The community reminds her of her name, her people, her work, and most importantly that she is not alone.



The unknown writer of the Book of Hebrews was writing to a community that was feeling lost. They were a congregation feeling exhausted as they were facing persecution, social isolation, and beginning to drift aimlessly. So the writer offers some of the most direct and deeply pastoral words: “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds” or another popular translation, Common English Bible, states “And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of *sparkling* love and good deeds...encourage each other.” I love the idea of *sparkling* love in one another and to be agents of *sparkling* love. I think the author knew that there were no adequate words that could fix the problem at hand. Instead, knowing love is a verb, the author believed that they could spark love into one another! Like the 1969 hymn *Pass It On* goes “It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it...” In doing so, we continue to gather, pray for one another, worship, encourage, and help one another. Yes, this is what being a community is all about!

Although there have been no shortages of financial challenges, I have been much more impressed with the abundance of generosity and love expressed through our church. Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continues to step up in meeting new challenges and obstacles. Many families and individuals have already given towards the two new AC units for the sanctuary, and I want to say thank you. Yes, it is true we have two large and matching donors to get us over the mark to purchase the units. However, I want to encourage others to continue to give towards the church with earmarking checks for “building fund”, as we know the upkeep of our building is an ongoing expense. Furthermore, we still have other AC units from 1997 that will eventually need replacing.



Let us continue to spark hope in one another as we are faithful stewards in all that we do! In the meantime, as the writer of Hebrew says “Let’s hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparkling love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:23-25).-Pastor Zach Seitz

Last Month's Prayer Request

(The "FMCC Cross Connection" email contains the ongoing prayer list)

Carol Vickers, recovering from a recent fall, Church Family

Megan Beaty, recent major breast cancer surgery, Leon (granddaughter)

John Burns, upcoming foot surgery, Mary Burns (husband)

Asya Teruni, praise for successful procedures and she will return next Sunday, Church Family

Shirley Runyon, GulfCoast Hospital due to a fall and infection, Church Family

(update) Linda Garlow, praise as she is back home from being at rehab, Church Family

Joyce Turney, Church Family

Mackenzie Lee, praise God for a new and full-time job, Linda (granddaughter)

Katie, Dean Brown (friend)

Martha Furrow, praise as she has recovered from a fall, Church Family

(update) Howard, heart and lungs are looking much better and no surgery at this time, Linda Lee (brother)

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Mary Burns	15 th
Denny Floore	17 th
Werner and Treasure Beldo	18 th
Inge Stuart	20 th
Mike Burns	21 st
Sherry Floore	24 th
Johnny Blasi	26 th
John and Sharla Davidson	28 th
Joe and Sydney D'Alessandro	28 th
Linda Lee	31 st



Thank you for the shoe donations to Soles4sou! We received and donated 30 plus pairs of shoes.

It has been exciting to have a few children participating in worship from serving as acolytes, Scripture readers, and in the sound booth.



Upcoming in July

- 7.6- \$7 lunch and fellowship after worship. We will be serving hot dogs. Stay after for the movie *The Coat of Many Colors* and serve popcorn.
- 7.13- Board Meeting directly after worship.
- 7.8- Book Club 1pm in the fellowship hall.

Air Conditioning Update

We will have our AC units replaced next week. Worship will be back in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 6!

Outreach Corner

In the narthex there will be a sheet of paper with a list of school supplies as we support Unity Christian Church's back to school drive this year.

The next meeting of our book club is July 8, at 1:00pm.

We are reading *Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah.

Additionally, we are planning a luncheon and movie after worship on July 6 after worship. Once again I want to thank everyone for their support

.-Linda Lee