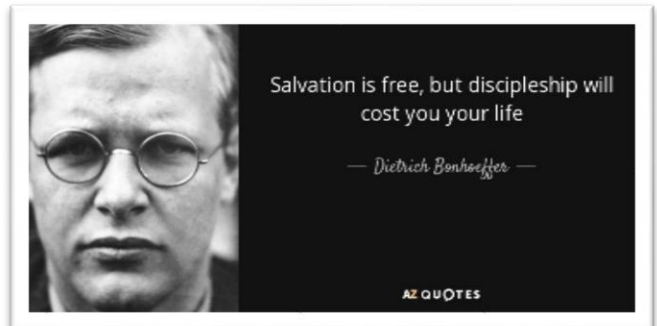


September Edition 2025

Not only did Psalm 56 grabbed my attention, but knowing a bit about the possible context, the superscript, (prior to the actual Psalm if you have a Study Bible) made this poem come alive speaking louder and even more powerful than ever before. The superscript notes that David was just captured by his enemies, the Philistines, in the town of Gath. Therefore, he writes the Psalm in response, “Whenever I’m afraid, I put my trust in you-in God, whose word I praise. I trust in God; I won’t be afraid. What can mere flesh do to me? (vv.3-4)” It’s important to acknowledge David did not write that he was never afraid. In fact, by using the word “whenever” proves he certainly has had times of being afraid. For the record, let’s not forget this is the same David whom we know would become Israel’s most known King, after Saul’s death. Even the mighty, beloved, future King David confesses he was afraid, and he unquestionably had plenty of reasons due to the Philistines.

As important it is to make room and acknowledge there are times in life that cause us to have concern (most of us are human, right?), it’s much more important and a better usage of our time to focus our attention on David’s next move. That is, he shouts with a megaphone that he will still place his trust in our Almighty God. Remember this was written to music, therefore when he pencils in “I put my trust in you-in God, whose word I praise. I trust in God; I won’t be afraid,” David cannot help from singing with joy. He is singing this in his own mind. David repeats these words until they move from his mind to his lips to his heart and eventually every tiny cell throughout his body. Therefore, David says it again and again and multiple other times throughout his life: “Whenever I’m afraid, I put my trust in you-in God, whose word I praise. I trust in God; I won’t be afraid. What can mere flesh do to me?” To set the record straight so there is no confusion, David certainly knew what the Philistines undoubtedly were capable of doing to him. In short, they would kill him limb by limb. So David had plenty of reasons to be afraid, he very well knew death was a high possibility, but he was still going to trust in God. In fact, trust God enough that even if he should perish by that he would be okay or to quote Julian of Norwich (1342-1416) “All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.”

Shoah, the Hebrew word, in what we refer to as the Holocaust was nothing less than the appalling and horrendous genocide of European Jews during World War II. Six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe’s Jewish population, were systematically deported to extermination camps to die from poisonous gas, others starvation, exhaustion, abuse, and other souls even being used as test subjects in inhumane experiments. While this raises many theodicy questions (why bad things happen), I cannot imagine the faith and courage both victims and the survivors embodied. And, thank God for those who pushed back against Hitler such as the famous theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In his 1937, modern classic book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, and other writings he contrasted cheap grace with costly grace. In Bonhoeffer’s words “Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.” Bonhoeffer would eventually be accused of the July 20 plot to assassinate Hitler, and eventually held in jail and subsequently hung.



I pray we can all have the bold faith like King David, the millions of Jews murdered, and German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Whether facing tough times and trials oneself or standing up for others-let us have the courage to know at the end we have no reason to be afraid. In the meantime, signup and join us on **Thursday, September 18**, to the Holocaust Museum and Cohen Education Center. This is a 90-minute private tour with the option of lunch. Please be sure to sign up in the narthex. -Pastor Zach

Last Month's Prayer Request

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

(update) Joyce Turney, recovering from surgery, Church Family
Shirley Fizer, blood pressure health issues, Church Family
Miriam Ortiz and Family, in the death of Miriam's mother, Director of Gladiolus Food Pantry
(update) Linda Schneider, recovering from COVID, Church Family
Sandy Shomper, recovering from TIA while up in PA, Church Family
(update) Donald Hamilton, had a quadruple bypass surgery and still in the hospital, Linda Lee (cousin)
Terry Garlow, praise God for a successful surgery on his retina, Church Family
(update) Sue Fink, praise God for good test results & cancer free, Church Family
(update) Megan Beaty, 30 radiation treatments, Leon (granddaughter)
Jim Brickey, ongoing cancer battle, Pam and Vicky (cousin)
Tammy, ongoing cancer, Vicky (daughter's close friend)
(update) David Baker, praise God back at home after two recent hospital stays, visitor from Brookdale Independent Living
Sandra Baker, prayers of comfort, David Baker (mother)
Craig Callahan, suffered a stroke, Barbara Wodarczyk (son)
(update) Henderson and Trousedale Families, Tyler has been moved to University of Alabama for further treatment, Shirley Fizer (nephew)
(update) Sherrie Dobson, out of ICU and home with therapy, and waiting 2 or more surgeries, Garlows (friend)

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

John Burns	7 th
Rev. Dr. Jim Carpenter	9 th
Colton Seitz	11 th
Michelle Blasi-Foo	13 th
Tama Knobel-Simonsmeier	14 th
Sydney D'Alessandro	24 th



Wednesday, August 27, potluck "greet and meet" with Full Gospel Assembly.

FL Regional Minister, Rev. Sandy Messick, with FMCC ministers: along with Rev. John Vickers, Rev. Ed Bodanske, and Rev. Dr. Jim Carpenter.



New Prayer Brochure

Please be sure each family takes home the new tri-fold prayer brochure. It will be posted on our website as well. This contains both the latest prayer requests for the month as well as some ongoing prayers. Let Linda or Pastor Zach know about any new/updates prayers or if someone wants to come off the list.

Outreach Corner

On Sunday, September 21, the movie *Noah*, is being shown at the Bell Tower Theater at 3pm. We are planning an outing with our youth. We will be paying the ticketed price for them. Any adult who would like to join us is welcome to attend as well.

Outreach Chair.- Linda Lee