

April Edition 2026

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. It's the most amazing and sacred week of the Christian year. Jesus moves slowly into Jerusalem, humbly riding on a donkey so that we can be part of the Kingdom of God. Jesus rides in so that we can shout hosanna and He will save us. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest, blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Unfortunately, I know a lot of people around the world who will attend church on Palm Sunday and sing songs about palms, watch children wave palm branches, and then skip from celebration to celebration. They will skip ahead and come back only on Easter to sing *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. Indeed, I very much look forward to celebrating an empty tomb, victory of death, and a crucified, yet risen savior. However, often many do not reflect enough about what happens between the celebrations. They will not walk with Jesus each day as He is walking for them. While I understand many of us are constantly pulled in fifty different directions, let's try to not be one of those people.

I hope this coming week you intentionally commit to accompany Jesus throughout the week for each step He takes for you. From your own personal spiritual reading, maybe serving or helping out a neighbor, or one of the opportunities at the church. This year we have two meaningful ways to make the most out of Holy Week before we celebrate a stone that was miraculously moved. First, on Maundy Thursday, at 5:30pm there is a drama of some of the last events leading to the atonement (Or, best said "at-one-ment"). That is, Jesus bringing us back into relationship with God. Specifically, we will recall Jesus washing His disciples' feet, sharing a meal, praying at Gethsemane, and being led off to be crucified. I want to go ahead and thank Linda, Judy, and Karla for the countless hours and writing scripts and even rewriting on numerous occasions to make this upcoming evening incredible special. The program begins with finger foods and refreshments and then we will dive into the program, including taking holy communion as a church. Secondly, on Good Friday, the church sanctuary will be open from 5-7pm so that you can walk the stations of the cross. Whether you have walked the stations multiple times before or not, I guarantee each time is a powerful, prayerful moment that God's Spirit speaks to us. If you are unfamiliar with the stations of the cross, do not fret, please know pamphlets will be provided that have Scripture Readings on them to guide your journey throughout the 14 stations.



One of the promises of Easter is new life, new creation, and new possibilities! I am pleased to share about an outside, yet life-giving ministry that will be taking place at Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) around the corner. A beautiful couple named Jon and Ann, who have been frequent visitors of our church, are not only looking for a new church home but also a new location for the second oldest alcoholic anonymous chapter in Fort Myers. Leadership from the church has been working with Jon and Ann to make this possible. Whether you or someone else has been part of A.A., you would know A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a set of spiritual principles that have changed thousands of lives and we are happy to host this group for the community. I am a firm believer that resurrection is not simply a one-time event. However, still today God rolls back the heavy stones that imprison us at different times in our lives. When we are despairing, when the world is full of grief, when we see no way ahead, and when it appears our hope has gone away... God still rolls back the stone offering new life. For others of us it might be change, change that we are not ready for, change we would rather weep and sweep under the carpet or run away from... God still rolls back the stone and we move forward to new and abundant life! Friends, I look forward to celebrating Easter with each of you. In the meantime, let us make the most out of the days ahead. – Pastor Zach

Recent Prayer Request

Mary and John Burns, in the death of Mary's cousin, Fred Poliziano, Church Family

(Update) Family and friends of Millie Dalrymple, in the death of Millie, Church Family
Memorial Service held at the church on Sat., April 4, at 11am.

Ingee Stuart, Church Family

(Update) Pam and Vicki, in the death of their brother Les Rogers, Church Family

Shirley Runyon, procedure on Monday, Church Family

Donaldson Hamilton, possible eye transplant, Linda Lee (cousin)

Family and friends of Larry Stoup, in the death of Larry, Jon and Ann (frequent visitors)

Donna, stopped experiential treatment, Gail Baumgarten (friend)

Werner Beldo, Church Family

Billy, Church Family

Dan and Melanie Davidson's son, William, 22 year-old with depression, John Davidson (nephew)

Vicki Iorio, praise as she is doing better after health park rehab, Church Family



After worship on this Sunday, March 29, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt! Fun for children of ALL ages!



We are going to miss these three beautiful, faithful families as they move up north: Bill and Linda Garlow, Charlie and Sue Fink, and Shirley Fizer.

April Birthdays

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Kathryn Hamm	9 th
Charlie Runyon	10 th
Debbi Morrison	16 th
Jill Theos	22 nd
Treasure Beldo	24 th
Wally Swartz	29 th

Mark it Down!

4.2, Maundy Thursday
5:30pm Drama in the fellowship hall

4.3, Good Friday
Walk the stations of the cross anytime between 5-7pm

4.5 Easter Sunday
7:30am Sunrise Service outside
8:15am coffee and light refreshments
10am Traditional Worship

4.19 Potluck after worship