

One has to be fully out of touch with reality to not recognize the great division in our world right now. This must break God's heart as Jesus' prayer before going to Gethsemane to eventually be arrested, trialed, and crucified, was for His people to be one just as He and the Father are one. We must be cautious to avoid the naïve view and temptation that Jesus is suggesting that we are to all think the same and simply agree with others (uniformity). Quite the opposite, Jesus is hinting and taking a more mature view that we must be in one accord in love and kindness (unity). I might be setting myself up for some readers to roll their eyes, but hopefully nobody will go quite as far to toss me down a well or put me in prison for the following. To the contrary, I am trying to highlight beautiful aspects of both sides of the political spectrum and how love is wider and deeper than any disagreement. Nevertheless, this is the very least I can do after our weekly Bible study as we have collectively been reading and discussing the prophets, what they stood up for, and their perseverance of not being afraid to back down. Additionally, as we enter this time of Thanksgiving and all the Holidays, we need to have love and kindness on our sleeves as the classic camp song goes "They will know us by our love."



With that said, in my opinion, I stumbled upon a beautiful Youtube short clip that illustrates how we can hold onto our own beliefs while respecting and even befriending others who might share opposing views and beliefs. Instead of painting someone as the "radical other", we can still wrestle with opinions and still share common ground in love which according to Paul is what remains at the very end (1 Corinthians 13). The following statement is regarding two United States Supreme Court Justices who most often disagree with one another as they stand on the opposite end of how they interpret the Constitution and Law. Nevertheless, the kind words from Justice Sonia Sotomayor about Justice Clarence Thomas gives me hope: "I suspect but maybe it's not true anymore but I have probably disagreed with [Senator Thomas] more than any other Justice. That we have not shared one another's opinions. And, yet Justice Thomas is the one Justice in the building who literally knows every employee's name. Every one of them. Not only does he know their names, but he remembers their family's names and history. He is the first one who will go up to someone when you are walking with him and say "Is your son okay? How is your daughter doing in college?" He was the first one when my stepfather died sent me flowers in Florida. He is a man who cares deeply about the court as an institution, about the people who work there, and about people. He has a different vision than I do about how to help people and about their responsibilities to help themselves. I've often said to people 'Justice Thomas believes that every person can pull themselves up by their bootstraps. I believe some people cannot get to their bootstraps without help. They need someone to help them lift their foot up so that they can reach those bootstraps.' This is a very different philosophy of life. But, I think we share a common understanding about people and kindness towards them. This is why I can be friends with him and still continue our daily battles over our difference of opinions in cases."



10.24 Youth Lock-in! Learning the Books of the Bible by crafting their own. Thank you Linda, Karla, and Mackenzie for helping.

The ending brought warmth and hope to my heart, and maybe this can to you as well. Further, as most of us know the next couple of months fly by with so many activities, parties, travel, and squeezing in a few cups of pumpkin spice coffee. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, let us remember to have love and kindness

in our hearts. As we celebrate those who walked faithfully before us and completed their race on All Saints Sunday on Nov.2 as well as the commitment and service of our veterans on Nov.9, perhaps all of their love and kindness can rub off just a bit on us. In fact, Gail B. recently said about Jerry H. "Jerry was a quiet, steady presence for all of us and he will be remembered for a long time." Yes, and in his own quiet manner showed love and kindness. Finally, let us not forget that around the corner we will all fall to our knees like the magi who gave thanks for the Christ child whose name is Love.

## Last Month's Prayer Request

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

**(update) Mary Rubin**, home from hospital after heart complications, Church Family

**(update) Mary Burns**, praise God for a successful knee replacement, Church Family

**Jason Burns**, heart attack at Health Park Hospital, Karen and Mike Burns (son)

**(update) Scott Fizer**, recovering from several heart attacks and they put in a stent, Shirley Fizer (son)

**Bill**, heart complications but praise God he was released from the hospital, Rev. John Vickers (son-in-law)

**Barbara Snyder**, back home from the hospital after a spider bite and infection, Church Family

**Linda Schneider**, Church Family

**Savi and her family**, in the unexpected death of her son, Randee, Regular Visitor

**Sandy Shomper**, joy to see Sandy back in worship and feeling better, Church Family

**(update) Joyce Turney**, asking for continued prayers as she hopes to get back to her home soon for more rehab, Church Family

**Linda Lee**, praise God for a wonderful trip to Indiana visiting family, Church Family

**Bruce and Debbie**, praise God for their trip to Ireland and for being back, Church Family

**Doreen Kall**, praise God for safe travels and back home from safe travels to Portugal, Church Family

**Dean Brown**, in his move to Brookdale Independent Living, Church Family

**(update) Betty Johnston**, praise for good doctor's report, Church Family



### **Make a difference Day**

Grilling hot dogs at the Gladiolus Food Pantry for the FGCU volunteers on 10.25.25  
(Thank you Chris, Kathy, and Tim for serving)



Rev. Dr. Jim Carpenter talking at our Joint Potluck on 10.19.25

## **November**

### **Birthdays/Anniversaries**

*(Name Missing? Email the office.)*

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Terry Garlow              | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| Kerry Runyon              | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Doreen Kall               | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Kaiden Runyon             | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Werner Beldo              | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Bruce Morrison            | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sandy Shomper             | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sharla Davidson           | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Johnny and Michelle Blasi | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Chris Harris              | 26 <sup>th</sup> |

### **Stay Involved!**

November and December Postcards have upcoming ministries and events

### **November Board Meeting**

Sunday, 16, 2025

### **Outreach Corner**

The youth had a sleepover this past month. We played games, watched movies, and ate late night snacks. Our class is beginning to learn the Books of the Bible and we are working on a display to show everyone. We are hoping to go Christmas caroling. In the near future we would like to have an open house if anyone is interested in seeing our new Sunday school room. - Linda