

What happens when a pastor of a church walks out of his office wearing a St. Louis Blues hat to meet a videographer wearing a Boston Bruins hat in the parking lot? Yes, this is right after the Blues beat the Bruins in their first ever Stanley Cup Championship. Perhaps to your surprise, gloves were not thrown off. Instead, a lifetime friendship and ministry through live streaming were birth at Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the midst of a once in a lifetime pandemic, God literally led Don Moon to our church. Nobody will



ever have to convince me about God's providential care and faithfulness. Like the famous one liner Mordecai, Esther's cousin, says "You were born for such a time as this." While the Jewish people were in danger of being totally wiped out by the Persian Kingdom, Moredecai reminded and encouraged Esther she was in a unique position and had an opportunity to make a difference. Indeed, Don made a huge impact in our church allowing us to continue worship week-in and week-out in the midst of such an uncertain and critical time in the world.

From the beginning and humble stages, we would record worship approximately two or three days before Sunday. This began with Dr. Asya, Lauryn, and a liturgist usually Johnny or Steve. Later others joined in the fun, including college vocalists, and everyone got along and loved Don. A handful of times I would even go over to Don's home on Saturday mornings as we would edit by placing the songs in the correct order, transitions, titles, and ultimately create a meaningful service to be delivered to your email and available with the click of a button. After the church officially opened back up to in-person worship, Don quickly learned the art of live streaming so that members who were more at risk for COVID could stay home and still worship with our church family as well as seasonal members could stay connected. Even when Don's family moved from Fort Myers to Venice, he stayed onboard driving back and forth each Sunday to live stream as well as record the service with a ball cap on and smile on his face. Yes, the rumors are true Don once spent the night in the copy room and scared the janitorial team when they unexpectedly saw "Lazarus rise" in the middle of their late night cleaning. Don has not only been faithful serving our Sunday morning services, but also he has streamed a couple funerals, weddings, Holy Week services, and even a few outside events for members in the church. At one point, Don even turned down a large Catholic Church to continue serving at FMCC!

Due to both new ministry challenges and the deficit budget as well as Don's availability in the next year with his family, we agreed it is in the best interest of both parties to pause this ministry. However, we cannot do so without a huge celebration and expressing our gratitude! Don will return for a last online stream and recording on Easter Sunday, April 20. Subsequently, the following week, April 27, Don will join us for worship and then we will have a farewell celebration for him in the fellowship hall. I hope many of you plan to attend and/or write a note thanking Don for his ministry throughout these five remarkable years. Finally, much more than a videographer, Don has become a dear friend of mine and will remain forever. From the first six months being paid by grilled hot dogs and hamburgers at my house after recordings, throwing the baseball at the park, watching hockey, and yes, making meaningful live stream worship, he will always be cherished! Don was and will always be part of the family.



-Pastor Zach Seitz

## Last Month's Prayer Request

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

**Jerry Hesse**, praise God as the procedure to remove cancer from his cheek went well, Church Family

**Charlie Fink**, heart complications, Church Family

**Shirley Fizer**, waiting test results, Church Family

**Sharla Davidson**, fun with grandchildren, Church Family

**Joyce Turney and Family/Friends**, in the death of her friend Patty, Church Family

**Andrew**, praise as he received scholarships to Boston University, Don M. (son)

**Paul**, dislocated his leg, Sharla Davidson (friend's husband)

**Carol Vickers**, skin cancer treatments, Church Family

**Donna**, Gail Baumgarten (friend)

**Faye and Family**, in the passing of her husband Jim, Gail Baumgarten (friend)

**Leon Beaty**, in the death of his wife MaryAnn, Church Family

## Easter Lilies

Be sure to order  
your Easter Lilies.  
Forms can be found  
in the narthex.

## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Kathryn Hamm  
Debbie Morrison  
Jill Theos  
Treasure Beldo  
Wally Swartz

9<sup>th</sup>  
16<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
24<sup>th</sup>  
29<sup>th</sup>

Thank you Mary Burns for the fantastic tour of the Gladiolus Food Pantry this month. Additionally, thank you to everyone who serves and gives to the local pantry. If you would like to volunteer at the pantry, there is a training at the church on **Monday, March 31, from 10:30-noon.**



## Join us for our upcoming Sunday Game Nights

April 6 and April  
13 from 6-8pm in  
the fellowship hall



## April Important Dates

### **Sunday, April 6 and April 13**

Game nights at the church from 6-8pm

### **Thursday, April 10**

Men's Breakfast at Sunflower Café, 8am

### **Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday**

### **Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday**

Stations of the Cross Service & Dinner 6-8pm

### **Friday, April 18 Good Friday**

Service at 6pm

### **Sunday, April 20 Easter**

7:30am sunrise service

8:15am coffee and light refreshments

\*10am traditional worship service (Time change)

### **Sunday, April 27**

Farewell luncheon celebration to celebrate Don Moon