

We all know what Saturdays in the fall mean for avid sport fans, college football. On Monday, the *USA Today* published an article highlighting the top twenty-five college football stadiums. Congratulations to our very own Rev. John V. and his LSU Tigers, as Tiger Stadium was ranked number one. In fact, legendary Alabama coach, Bear Bryant, is known for describing Tiger Stadium as “The worst place in the world for visiting teams.” Or, I recall my LSU friends and a cousin-in-law who said “LSU is where the opposing teams’ dreams die.” While I’m not certain on all the criteria used in this poll, it made me think about what makes a place called home and I think it’s more than just a big W or even championships. For college students and alumni, it might be the feel of the campus and overall culture. Or, might I even dare to say the academic challenge and personal growth that occurs in a stimulus environment and professors. And, certainly so much has to do with new as well as lasting friendships and relationships that transforms a campus to home.

The longer I have served as the pastor of Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the more this place truly feels like home. Steve L. had a beautiful observation during worship last Sunday as he expressed to me: “Zach, our church was on full display today. There was so much love. And we are called to be love.” Although I’m an SEC guy, I 110% agree with my favorite Buckeye on his point. All the joy and love from Linda’s family traveling across the country to surprise her in worship melted hearts. It was very touching and moving because if you know Linda, there are not many other places that Linda loves more than being at the church with a Dr. Pepper in her hand and it’s incredible her Alabama as well as Indiana family wanted to meet Linda at her own “FL home” at FMCC and in particular, worship with us!

As you look around our beautiful sanctuary you will notice new banners hung over the summer that highlight both the gifts and graces as well as practices that we implement in our church home. Towards the rear of the sanctuary, you will notice the following banners: hope, grace, renewal, and life. Yes, I pray that each person who walks in here experiences each of them. Furthermore, as one looks towards the front they will notice the banners: pray, worship, grow, and serve. Once again, I pray that as mature Christians, we continue in these practices to experience the One who is the Light but also so that we can be the light to others.

As Christians, we know our true home is not so much tied to a literal place but to a person- Jesus. This is why Jesus himself could say in his most famous teaching, the sermon on the mount, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body what you will wear. Is not life more than food?” And, yet, do we dare to take Jesus seriously to not worry about our life and trust in His picture of a world in which God’s care sustains every single living thing, from plants and birds to people, in all their diversity and complexity? If Jesus is our true home, then we know the light is always on signaling to come back home like a loving father’s open arms off in a distance when we wander off. If Jesus is our true home, then the door is always open like a mother who is constantly welcoming, loving, and cherishing her children. If Jesus is our true home, then in the presence of Christ and God’s family, we embrace and celebrate our original goodness being made in God’s image.

Although Jesus is our true home, each year we still have to be mindful and continue to be faithful stewards of the physical building and campus we attend week-in and week-out. I am going to quickly share two upcoming expenditures in the very near future that the board and church will be addressing at the August.9 board meeting. First, the AC Unit for the fellowship hall will need to be replaced. Secondly, in a recent fire inspection, we realized that a back flow will need major repairs. I understand most of us feel better supporting the local school supply or food drive or even giving blood than helping by contributing to a water leak or AC issue, yet stewardship takes different shapes and sizes and does not always leave one with warmth and fuzzes. Instead, quite often we purely give out of our commitment to Christ and Christ’s church to be faithful. Let’s be open to donating as we remember we serve a God of abundance and not scarcity as we might need to raise additional funds to help with upcoming property concerns. Let’s keep our physical place up to shape as we have the responsibility to make this nice for our current members and worshipers, for Rev. Joseph and Full Gospel Assembly, and for future worshippers to call Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) home! Then, it’s a win every time and it’s a place where “Christ’s vision dream happens!



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" -Philippians 4:6-7

Recent Prayer Requests

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

Don Moon and Family, in the loss of their daughter Rachel, Church Family
Robert, diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, Sherry Swartz (son)
Carol Vickers, successful skin cancer removal, Church Family
Mike, bad fall from ladder, Pam Johnson (son)
Ann DelGuercio, serious medical issues, Mary Burns (friend and volunteer at the Gladius Food Pantry)
John Battazzo, recovering back at home from major surgery at Moffitt, Former Member
Ed and Bev LaDuke, both recovering from serious falls, Former Members
Frank Alterio, recovering from a major stroke, Patty's father (Director at Brookdale Independent Living)
Linda Garlow, ear plant procedure on Aug. 12, Church Family
Shirley Fizer, upcoming major surgery on Sept. 9, Church Family
Judy Hesse, recovering well from fall and broken elbow, Church Family
Benik Minasyan, heart complications, Asya Teruni (father)
David Seitz and Family, beginning stages of hospice, Pastor Zach (father)
Helen Johnston, diagnosed with a rare and aggressive type of breast cancer, (Betty Johnston's daughter-in-law)
Johnny Hargrove, heart surgery, Shirley Fizer (granddaughter's father)
Bobby Spitzner, Gulf Coast Rehab, Church Family

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Let us know)

Denny and Sherry Floore	14 th
Mike and Karen Burns	18 th
Harry and Mary Rubin	18 th
Pam Johnson	31 st

August Board Meeting

Be sure to join us after worship Sunday, **Aug. 9**, for an important board meeting regarding AC updates and other facility/property news, and tentative plans.

Monday Bible Study Kicks Back

Join us from 10-11:11:30am to learn and grow in Christ and in love.

Linda's Corner:

Thank You, Outreach, and More

As we approach the end of the summer, it's time to be looking at events in the fall to both connect and serve in the community. We are planning a couple of potluck dinners, and other events. More to follow in the future. We have enjoyed having some new people join us in church. If you see a new visitor, please take time to say hello and the greeting time is ideal to do this. We are also looking forward to our northern friends returning and joining us. On a personal note, I would like to take time to thank my family. My family from Alabama, Indiana, and my Florida family. I was completely amazed and overjoyed on Sunday when my family came to celebrate my birthday. I also want to tell my church family how much I appreciated all of them also. Just in case you didn't get the message Sunday I am not 100 but turned a young 80. I love everyone here and considered you (or Pastor Zach likes to say "ya'll) family.



Youth Sunday

Sunday, July 5, was spectacular! Not only did we celebrate 250th years of America with a skit at the end of worship, but the entire service was youth led!

