

“To everything, turn, turn, turn/There is a season, turn, turn, turn/And a time to every purpose under heaven...” are the opening lines of the 1965 classic song by *The Byrds*. As most people know the song goes on with a refrain from the Book of Ecclesiastes “a time to.” Qoheleth, traditionally rendered wise preacher, or church tradition calls King Solomon in his later years reflecting back and writing “A time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, a time to reap, a time to kill, a time to heal, a time to laugh, a time weep, and continues on. I believe the gem of truth is not just understanding there are different seasons in life, but also about the maturity of



living in the correct one (rather than forcing our own or naively living in a previous season) and this often requires *surrendering*. Surrendering our will to God’s will, surrender our way and path to God’s way and path. In fact, it’s about being fearless to the point we are not afraid to surrender enough to die or as our Lord says “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). We cannot always predict life, what and when something will occur or might not even, or even when we might take our last breath, but we can turn, turn, turn it all over to God. So to quote iconic wrestling legend Hulk Hogan who just recently died somewhat unexpectedly and relatively young: “Whatcha gonna do, brother?” I answer with Israel’s wisest king and sing with the *The Byrds* “turn, turn, turn,” and see what new blessing might spring forth and bless us.

Although there was a season in the mid-60s (yes, a few years before my time) church historians claim was the peak season of worship attenders and church growth, it’s unfortunately the reality is we hear much more stories of cutting budgets and closures than new church development. The days have long passed when it felt like everyone in your neighborhood was part of a worship community, and Sundays were primarily meant for worship (and Wednesday evenings if you lived in the South like me.) Fast-forward and turn to 2025, it is not uncommon for congregations to be facing newer obstacles and challenges urging church leaders to think out of the box, including the usage of their once filled large sanctuaries and campuses. In fact, it can be a sign of hospitality, outreach, mission, and even revenue to rent out spaces to the community as we currently do for the Gulf Shore Singles Group and SWFL Corvette Club as well as in the recent past years have done so for the Fort Myers Creative Theatre and Girl Scouts.

I’m excited to turn another page as our leadership team is in serious conversation about another local church, Full Gospel Assembly, wishing to rent out some space at FMCC. I believe this can be big win for the Greater Church as it can be a win/win for both congregations. First, this is a wonderful way we can show Christ’s love by opening our doors so that another worshipping community can have a home while at the same time we can produce some profit. Rev. Joseph Gabriel, who is also a chaplain for the Fort Myers Police Department, and a few of his team from Full Gospel Assembly met with some of our leaders at the church this past week. While we are finalizing an agreement and this would ultimately be passed by our church board, Full Gospel Assembly would like to host their worship service in our fellowship hall on Sundays. Similar to us they are a small family church with approximately 30 worshippers, including children. Additionally, they would like to have Bible study and prayer meetings on Tuesday nights starting at 7:30pm. If the board puts the final stamp on an agreement, this would begin in September.



Perhaps you are wondering about the activities in the fellowship hall that take place after worship such as potlucks. While we are working out details, please know Full Gospel Assembly leadership team is flexible and they agreed to move their worship time on the days we have potluck or when another event/ministry might take place. Additionally, we discussed in the future about the possibilities of hosting joint services for a special occasion, service project, and/or fellowship dinner. While I can certainly understand there being some hesitation or concerns, I believe this is a God opportunity with the potential to be a true blessing to all.

-Pastor Zach

Last Month's Prayer Request

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

Rev. Sandy Messick and Family, Sandy has metastatic breast cancer, Pastor Zach (Florida Regional Minister)

Craig Callahan, suffered a stroke, Barbara Wodarczyk (son)

Sherrie Dobson, out of ICU but a long recovery after a fall straight down on her face, Garlow family (friend)

Henderson Family, Tyler had an emergency surgery on his spinal cord related to a serious car wreck, Shirley Fizer (nephew)

Rev. Michael Chester, praise in being the new pastor at Unity Christian Church (DOC), Pastor Zach

(update) Joyce Turney, moved to Gulf Coast Rehab, Church Family

(update) Charlie Fink, successful conversion regarding A-fib, Church Family

Linda Miles, recent fall and hospitalized, Pastor Zach (Wife of a retired pastor at Brookdale Independent Living)

(update) Shirley Runyon, discharged from Lee Memorial Hospital rehab, Church Family

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Denny and Sherry Floore	14 th
Mike and Karen Burns	18 th
Harry and Mary Rubin	18 th
Rev. Dr. Peter and Lyn Morgan	26 th
Joyce Turney	26 th



Sunday, July 27's Summer Sing-a-long
Children leading the closing hymn!

On Sunday, August 3,
we welcome our
Florida Regional
Minister Rev. Sandy
Messick who will be
preaching and join us
for fellowship
afterwards!



August Board Meeting

Be sure to stay after worship on Sunday,
August 10, for an important meeting about
renting out our facility part-time to another
church.

Outreach Corner

We had a great summer! I hope everyone enjoyed our sing-a-long. The worship service was special and the youth led song was great. We are making some plans for the rest of the year. We are planning a trip to the Holocaust museum in Naples. The date is tentatively September 18. The cost is \$15 - \$30 depending on if we want a meal. Also, we are thinking about a group going to a play at the Florida Rep theater in downtown Fort Myers. Thank you to all who have helped to make the dinners a success; cooking food, setting up the tables, and cleaning up after.

Outreach Chair.-Linda Lee