

June Edition 2025

I recognize Memorial Day weekend for many people is about cookouts, vacation, school finally coming to an end and the beginning of summer, and all that is lovely. In fact, I enjoyed a nice hot dog at the church last Sunday. However, we do well remembering that Memorial Day is a much more somber and significant occasion. It's a day for memory. Specifically, to remember those who paid the ultimate price in the midst of war. During the aftermath of the Civil War, in the midst of a broken nation, families who have lost loved ones began a



tradition of decorating their graves with flowers. Decoration day became an official holiday just three years after the Civil War ended, and they chose the end of May because flowers were in bloom across the country. After the Civil War, orphanages for children who lost their fathers in battle were started. Part of the early decoration days, those early days of remembering, involved children orphaned by war gathering to places like Arlington cemetery to sing songs over the graves of their fathers. It was a profound act of memory.

What is striking to me is that Memorial Day grew out of a broken nation. A nation that was grieving. Not only remembering the sacrifice of soldiers and their families, but also naming the unspeakable grief of war itself. Perhaps holding onto that is too heavy for us, and this is why we often replace decorating the graves of soldiers with eating hot dogs and time on the water. This past weekend was to really remind us that freedom comes at a tremendous price. Furthermore, when we trivialize that or even when we gloss over it with unthinking blind patriotism, we fail to honor those who made our freedom possible. Because genuine faith doesn't let us forget. Faith never remembers just for memory sake. Faith remembers so that we will not repeat the mistakes of the past so that we will learn about the guidance, love, and grace of God.

This is why Memorial Day is not just about remembering those who have given their lives for the sake of our country, but also it's to remind us of the valor, courage, and sacrifice that make action like those even possible. Memorial Day is about remembering what is worth fighting for. It's about remembering the Christ-like example of laying down your life for the sake of a stranger, and in the spirit of those first grieving families laying flowers on the graves of their loved ones. We remember so that we will never forget the cost of war and violence. Scripture shows us that forgetting who we are and forgetting how we got here, our some of the very first steps in losing our way entirely. Genuine faith knows that forgetfulness is a spiritually dangerous activity.

I believe much of remembering who Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is really claiming the love and close connections of a family which we are. For example, this past week it was beautiful bringing back acolytes which predated my time, over eleven years ago, at the church. Whether it is having one or two acolytes, it truly sets the tone for passionate worship, God's Spirit to move, and hearts to be strangely warmed. Additionally, during this month, we are going to bring back coffee hour as a way to connect with friends. Instead of after worship in the past, we are going to try a coffee hour before worship from 9:15-10:15, on June 15. The goal is to keep this simple using Keurigs and serve doughnuts. You can read more about this in our latest weekly email. Depending on feedback and attendance, this might be a weekly reoccurring event. Also, this is a fantastic way for frequent visitors and new members to get more acquainted with the church. Finally, remember let's not forget who we are! Let's continue to be the church in the some of the upcoming hot months!



Fallen Soldier Table (Part of Worship, 5.25.25)

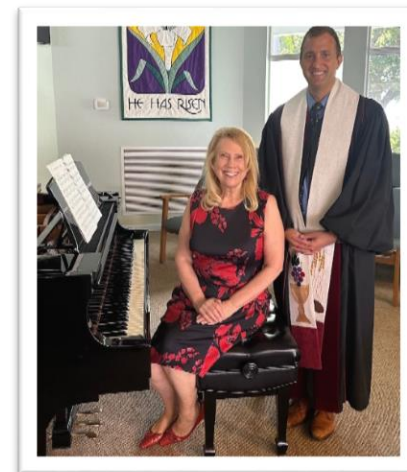
-Pastor Zach Seitz

May's Prayer Request

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

Joyce Turney, back home and discerning upcoming surgery, Church Family
Sandy Shomper, praise for feeling better after eleven days in the hospital, Church Family
Linda Garlow, successful surgery on the 28th, Church Family
Coates's Family, in the death of their son-in-law's father, Church Family
Martha Furrow, Church Family
Katie, catscan related to pain in the legs, Dean Brown (friend)
Family and Friends of Anne Chisholm, in the death of Anne, Church Family
Judy Hesse and Family, in the death of her husband Jerry, Church Family
Sue Fink, endoscopy procedure, Church Family
Rev. Dr. Jim Carpenter, praise as he is doing better after a fall and being in the hospital, Church Family
Amanda Greene, praise she has passed all her dental hygienist boards, Church Family (visitor)
Gloria, pancreatic cancer, Joyce Turney (chorus friend)
Charlie Fink, praise doing better after heart stent, Church Family
Carol Vickers, broken rib after fall, Church Family

We are thankful to have Tara Walton for four weeks! Tara is substituting for Dr. Asya Teruni who is out of the country for a procedure.



Upcoming in June

- 6.8- \$7 lunch and fellowship after worship
- 6.9- Board Meeting at 11:30am
- 6.15- Coffee Hour before worship from 9:15-10:15
- 6.12.25- Book Club begins 12:30pm in the fellowship hall

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Scott and Kathryn H.	2 nd
Linda Garlow	3 rd
Sherry Swartz	7 th
Karla Simpson	15 th
Karen Burns	16 th
Sue Fink	17 th
Mary Rubin	17 th
John and Mary Burns	26 th
Chris and Kathy Harris	30 th



Despite the temperatures rising this summer and being incredibly thankful for AC, let's find ways to get out and stay connected. On June 8, we are having a simple, \$7 luncheon after worship with subs, chips, and drinks. Also, beginning June 15, prior to worship, we are having a coffee hour. I hope you utilize these opportunities as we grow in our relationships with one another.

Outreach Corner

As you will hear about in worship, throughout the month of June, please bring any new or gently used shoes to donate for those in need. Also, during the summer months the Unity Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) prepares back-to-school packets for the children at their church and for their neighborhood children. To support our sister church, instead of giving supplies to our local schools, this year we want to use these summer months to help support them with supplies in their community. Please be looking in the near future for a list.

-Linda Lee (outreach chair)