



# The Good News of... Brandon Christian Church



Friends,

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) What do you think Jesus meant when he said this? I hope you will take some time before Sunday to think about what Jesus meant by the words *way*, *truth*, and *life*.

Jesus told the apostles that he is the *way*. So, what does it really mean when we proclaim that we are living in the way of Jesus?

Jesus told the apostles that he is the *truth*. How do you discern truth? Is truth an absolute or is it relative? Your answers to these questions matter.

Jesus told the apostles that he is the *life*. Your answers to the previous questions will shape how you cope and live in the reality of our present time.

As our nation continues battling around the globe, the challenge in this week's Gospel reading is operationalizing Jesus's words. "I am the *way*, the *truth*, and the *life*" must inform who I am becoming when I say that I am living in the way of Jesus.

Remember, the apostles were waiting for a conquering messiah who would wage war to redeem his people. Instead, Jesus reminds us that *the way*, *the truth*, and *the life* are relational; they are never coercive. The coercive power used by the Roman Empire could never compare to the non-dominating and persuasive power that is the reality of God's Kingdom.

*The Way, the Truth, and the Life* is rooted in both loving God with all of who we are and loving others as we love ourselves. As such, war is not only tragic, but also as theologian Sherri Kling says, "[War] is ... the fruit of a false metaphysics: the belief that control, domination, and destruction can secure the future."

So, when Jesus says, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*," Jesus is telling us that life is relational and that how we treat others matter. Notice how Jesus does not impose this on the apostles. Instead, they are invited to co-create something new.

For followers of the Way, Jesus calls us to know that a better world is co-created; it can't be imposed or coerced. This is what it means when "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" is followed by "*No one can come to the Father except through me*."

Jesus prepares a place for all (John 14:3) who co-create a better world with him. When we believe God's ways are better than the empire's we operationalizing what it means to live in the *way*, the *truth*, and the *life* ... AND become the people as Jesus said who "... do the works that [Jesus] do[es]." (John 14:12)

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Steve

#### Church Staff

Senior Minister - Rev. Steven Blinder, EdD  
Director of Music - Rick Barclay  
Administrative Assistant - Shawn Tubaugh



910 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511  
813-689-4021  
Office Hours: Mon - Thurs: 10-2p  
brandonchristianchurch@gmail.com

## 20026 Pentecost Offering May 17th & May 24th

On Pentecost, the Spirit did not stay in one place. It moved outward - across languages, cultures, and every barrier people believed separated them. In that moment, a new kind of community was born, shaped by courage, generosity, and love.

**That same Spirit is still moving today.**

In a world where many people feel uncertain, divided, or disconnected from one another, the Church is called to be a different kind of presence — one that reflects Christ’s compassion, humility, and grace.

The Prophet Micah reminds us what God asks of us:

**“To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.” — Micah 6:8**

Not just believe.

Not just gather.

But to live in ways that bring healing and hope.

**Because faith without justice is empty — and justice, at its heart, is love in action.**

The Pentecost Offering helps support [New Church Ministry](#) and your Region to nurture emerging and affiliating faith communities in the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in the United States and Canada](#). Through these ministries, new spaces are created where people can encounter God, build meaningful relationships, and serve their neighbors with compassion.

Your gift helps these communities grow in neighborhoods seeking connection and hope.

Thank you for giving, praying, and helping the Spirit continue its work among us.



**Elders - Sun, May 17  
TBD**

**Finance - Thurs, May 14th  
7:00pm, Zoom**

**Board - Sun, May 17th  
5:00pm, Zoom**

May 2nd - Jani King

May 3rd - BCC Sunday School @ 9:30a; #4  
May 3rd - BCC Worship @ 11a; Sanctuary  
May 3rd - Haitian Ministry @ 7p; Sanctuary

May 4th - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café

May 6th - Book of Acts Study @ 7p; Zoom

May 7th - Book of Acts Study @ 1:15p; FH, Zoom

May 10th - Mother's Day

May 10th - BCC Sunday School @ 9:30a; #4  
May 10th - BCC Worship @ 11a; Sanctuary  
May 10th - Haitian Ministry @ 7p; Sanctuary

May 11th - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café  
May 11th - Feeding Tampa Bay @ 12p; FTB Warehouse

May 13th - Book of Acts Study @ 7p; Zoom

### Save The Date

May 14th - Book of Acts Study @ 1:15p; FH, Zoom  
May 14th - Finance Meeting @ 7p; Zoom

May 16th - Jani King

May 17th - BCC Sunday School @ 9:30a; #4  
May 17th - BCC Worship @ 11a; Sanctuary  
May 17th - SMART @ 1p; Beef O Brady's  
May 17th - Elder's Meeting; Time & Location TBD  
May 17th - Board Meeting @ 5p; Zoom  
May 17th - Haitian Ministry @ 7p; Sanctuary

May 18th - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café

May 20th - Book of Acts Study @ 7p; Zoom

May 21st - Book of Acts Study @ 1:15p; FH, Zoom

May 23rd - Haitian Ministries @ 7a; Sanctuary  
May 23rd - FF Food Pantry @ 9; Outside

May 24th - Pentecost Sunday  
May 24th - BCC Sunday School @ 9:30a; #4  
May 24th - BCC Worship @ 11a; Sanctuary  
May 24th - Haitian Ministry @ 7p; Sanctuary

May 25th - Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED  
May 25th - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café

May 27th - Book of Acts Study @ 7p; Zoom

May 28th - Book of Acts Study @ 1:15p; FH, Zoom

May 31st - BCC Sunday School @ 9:30a; #4  
May 31st - BCC Worship @ 11a; Sanctuary  
May 31st - Haitian Ministry @ 7p; Sanctuary

## LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER

*"The Bible is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim." Augustine of Hippo*

**Join us and invite your friends:**

### Sundays:

Adult Sunday School  
Zoom & Education Wing Room 2

### Monday Mornings:

In-person at Just Love Coffee Cafe  
2020 W Brandon Blvd Suite 105  
Brandon, FL 33511  
7:00 AM - 8 AM

### Wednesday Evenings:

Book of Acts Study  
Zoom @ 7:00 PM

### Thursday Afternoons:

Book of Acts Study  
In-person & Zoom  
Fellowship Hall @ 1:15 PM

## S.M.A.R.T.

The "Single & Married Adults Rejoicing Together" or SMART will be meeting at 1:00 pm Sunday, My 17th at Beef O Brady's located at 889 E. Bloomingdale Ave, Brandon.

Come join us as we enjoy great fun, wonderful fellowship, and fantastic food.

## BCC Women's Ministry

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th from 11am-1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Hope to see you there.



### May Birthdays

4th - Becky Kisgen  
17th - Jean Upton  
25th - Sophia Kisgen  
30th - Jo Henkel  
31st - Georgia Dietz

### May Anniversary's

19th - Brett & Betty Powell



## May Meeting Codes

Here are the links for this month's Zoom and Google Meets meetings:

### **BCC Sunday School at 9:30 am**

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/821838128?  
pwd=WVJYVFFtaTBYZFhuclFFZ1RXeEY3QT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/821838128?pwd=WVJYVFFtaTBYZFhuclFFZ1RXeEY3QT09)

Meeting ID: 821 838 128

Password: 520491

### **Elder's Meeting - May 17th at TBD**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558679653?  
pwd=eVZZZVFMQINvOEhOSisOQ0k3Nnd5UTO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558679653?pwd=eVZZZVFMQINvOEhOSisOQ0k3Nnd5UTO9)

Meeting ID: 865 5867 9653

Passcode: 649268

### **Finance Meeting - May 14th at 7:00 pm**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83369003456?  
pwd=ZkVBSU4zTDdua0t3NzNFT3QxTVJQUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83369003456?pwd=ZkVBSU4zTDdua0t3NzNFT3QxTVJQUT09)

Meeting ID: 833 6900 3456

Passcode: 463268

### **Board Meeting - May 17th at 5:00 pm**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84734106811?  
pwd=Rq3NWscauGV9QHao9uKtNHcuS5Lw1Z.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84734106811?pwd=Rq3NWscauGV9QHao9uKtNHcuS5Lw1Z.1)

Meeting ID: 847 3410 6811

Passcode: 674614

### **Book of Acts - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81621707284?  
pwd=aGmn32aaENtIaK5qyKIYEV7ajr5.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81621707284?pwd=aGmn32aaENtIaK5qyKIYEV7ajr5.1)

Meeting ID: 816 2170 7284

Passcode: 553772

### **Book of Acts - Thursdays at 1:15 pm**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/launch/edl?  
muid=847ae48f-741b-46a8-aa09-ac9c9ecd4094](https://us06web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=847ae48f-741b-46a8-aa09-ac9c9ecd4094)

Meeting ID: 876 6593 9554

Passcode: 446106

## Feeding Tampa Bay

BCC will be volunteering on May 11th from 12:00 - 2:30 pm at Feeding Tampa Bay's warehouse. If you are interested in volunteering, please let MaryAnn know.

[magoodrum@verizon.net](mailto:magoodrum@verizon.net)  
813-431-2420

# Happenings at The Retreat At Silver Springs & the Region



Florida Disciples Regional Church  
Outdoor Ministry Program  
**Camp Dates for 2026**



All camps will be held at The Retreat at Silver Springs,  
the conference center of the Florida Disciples Regional Church.

***In Chronological Order:***

**REMEMBER:** Camps start on either Sunday, Monday or Tuesday.  
*Check your calendar to confirm start dates.*

Winter Family Camp	For the whole family	February 14-16
Beyond High School Camp	Hs Graduates of 2020-2025	June 3-6th
High School CYF Camp	Grades 9-12	June 7-13th
Junior Camp	Grades 3-5	June 16-20th
Chi Rho Middle School	Grades 6-8	June 22-27th
High School Canoe Camp	Grades 9-12	June 28 - July 3rd
Outdoor Adventure Camp	Grades 7-10	July 5-10th
Camp Uno	Grades K-2 <i>(with a loving adult)</i>	July 10-12th
Family Camp	For the whole family	September 5-7 <i>(Sept 4, is optional)</i>
Adult Get Away Camp	Adults 21+	September 25-27

Check out this theme!



**Attention:**

There will be **No Paper Registrations** for 2026. Online Registration will begin in **January**. Check the Regions Website for the latest information!

## Summer Camps

Wilderness is a time or place where we encounter what is new, strange, scary, lonely, unknown or mysterious. The wilderness is a wild and beautiful time and place where we can discover the sacred within each person and all creation. The wilderness can inspire us and guide us, assuring us of God's constant presence. As the Spirit guides us through the wilderness, we find what we need to face our fears and the very real challenges that impact our world. The wilderness teaches us the importance of community and the ways we navigate challenges together. The wilderness reveals our strengths, growing edges, and potential as God equips us for the unknown still to come. The wilderness awaits us all, and God meets us there.

## Online General Assembly, July 10-11, 2026

Registration is now open for the 2026 General Assembly. The whole church across the United States and Canada is invited to join this meaningful online gathering July 10-11, 2026.

Rooted in Ephesians 3:14-21, our theme, *BEYOND: Love Surpassing, calls us to be grounded in the limitless love of God, a love that reaches beyond barriers, deepens our relationships, and expands our shared ministry. Together, we are invited to set a bigger table, one that reflects the fullness of who we are called to be as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).*

More than a series of meetings, General Assembly is a covenantal space for worship, learning, discussion, business, fellowship, and action. Gathering online allows more of us to participate, connect, and faithfully live into our call to be the church we say we are.

If you have never joined a General Assembly before, we extend a special invitation. There is a place for you at the table. Registration is \$30 per person. Plan to join us for this powerful time of connection, worship, and shared purpose.

Each congregation will be allowed 3 voting delegates. Congregations will be able to name their delegates through the ALEX reporting system starting in April. They are hoping that congregations within areas and districts will volunteer to host gatherings for delegates and participants from around their area so that people can experience a bit of what it's like to be in person together.

If your congregation is interested in being a host for this gathering, please contact Regional Minister, Sandy Messick, for more information.

# Thank You For Serving



May 3rd - MaryAnn  
 May 10th - Erin  
 May 17th - Karlita  
 May 24th - Brian  
 May 31st - Cammie



May 3rd:  
 Open/Close - Dave  
 Communion/Greeter - Karen

May 10th:  
 Open/Close - Gary  
 Communion/Greeter - Kathy

May 17th:  
 Open/Close - Scott  
 Communion/Greeter - Marie  
 Board Meeting - Gary & Marie

May 24th:  
 Open/Close - Scott  
 Communion/Greeter - Shirley

May 31st:  
 Open/Close - Scott  
 Communion/Greeter - Terry



May 3rd - MaryAnn  
 May 10th - Joan  
 May 17th - Don  
 May 24th - Amy  
 May 31st - Alan S



May 3rd - Britt & Karen  
 May 10th - Dan & Dan  
 May 17th - MaryAnn & Dan  
 May 24th - Britt & Andrea  
 May 31st - Dee & Andrea



## Fellowship Time

After Sunday Morning Worship

May 3rd - Rick  
 May 10th - Erin  
 May 17th - Kathy, Lucy, and Friends  
 May 24th - Elders  
 May 31st - Art & Karlita



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