

Flock Talk

December 13, 2020

813-689-4021

910 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Third Sunday in Advent

brandonchristianchurch.org

brandonchristianchurch@gmail.com

Today's Scriptures & Message:

Liturgist: Betty Powell
Advent Reader: Jo Henkel
Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm: Psalm 126
Read the Gospel at Home: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Senior Minister—Rev. Day Broers-Case

Sermon: "Blue, The Color of Eternity"

Sermon Text: Romans 6:3-11

Serving in Today's Worship:

Elders: Cammie D., Britt F.

Music Director: Rick Barclay

Audio/Video: Art Konnerth and Tom Smiley

Worship & Wonder: Don S. and Laura F.

December 13, 2020—Second Sunday in Advent

Read Numbers 24:1-7 & 15-17

Rev. Day Broers-Case

Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel; so he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face towards the wilderness... So he uttered his oracle, saying: "I see him but not now; I behold him, but not near—a star shall rise out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel"

The rubbish dump outside one city in Brazil supports 4 to 5 thousand people. For many the only source of income is the garbage picking. But their potential is shown on the dump itself, where an area has been fenced off as a garden. There people have planted seeds found in the garbage. Corn, beans, pumpkins grow there to feed their families and as a sign of hope.

He set his face towards the wilderness and saw the stars, he planted seeds of hope. How was it possible in such a place, God? The wilderness was exodus territory, but hardly an escape into paradise! Endless wandering round endless scrubland, longing to be back in Egypt. Where are the seeds of hope in that, God? Yet it was there that they nurtured their dream of a promised land, of a future nation. Of a rising star. Someday. A dream to keep them going. In the wilderness. The wilderness is a Brazilian rubbish dump. Home for hundreds. Stateless population. And seed of hope there, too. Do they have a dream, God—a rising star someday—to keep them going in the wilderness?

Wilderness all around. Wilderness within. Broken lives, broken world, broken hearts. Soulless shadow side. Pretend it isn't there! Yet if we dare set our faces towards it—risk despair, see stars—will we find seeds of hope there? Plant them in the broken earth? Nurture a dream to keep us going? A vision for our world? A rising star? In the wilderness? Will we, living God? Amen.

**In essentials, unity.
In non-essentials, liberty.
In all things, love!**

Praise Reports

Dear BCC friends,

Thank you for your prayers and kind words on the passing of my brother. I returned from Kentucky and was touched to find a beautiful array of cards and remembrances. Thank you for your care and support for me and my family

Warmly,

MaryAnn Goodrum-Booth

God is Great, All the Time!!

ATTENTION:

A Congregational Meeting of the Brandon Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been called for Sunday, December 20, 2020 following Worship. The meeting is to review and approve the 2021 Budget. Your presence is kindly requested if you are able. Thanks!

Linda Sherman, Moderator, is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: BCC Congregation Meeting Time: Dec 20, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913016249?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913016249?pwd=Yk1zcEZlcnJPeUhNRVYxbkhDcVQ4dz09)

[pwd=Yk1zcEZlcnJPeUhNRVYxbkhDcVQ4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913016249?pwd=Yk1zcEZlcnJPeUhNRVYxbkhDcVQ4dz09)

Meeting ID: 819 1301 6249 Passcode: 312708



Prayer Needs...

DIGREGORIO, Robyn++++**

LYNCH, Louise++++**

MAGLIO, CJ (Butterweck)++++**

REDDICK, Edwina (Cabrera)++++**

Samalie and Dean (DiGregorio)++++**

BENNICK, Patty and her 3 daughters (Diane)++++

CABRERA, Betty++

CASE, Sharon (Rev. Day)++

COLLINS, Friends and Family of, Rev. James (Rev Day)+

DAWSON, Kathy (Betty)

ECKDAHL, Kathy ++

FAILES FAMILY++

GIBERSON, Milton (Tom) & Joan++

GOODRUM, Friends and Family of Steve++

HERSHEY, Wanda (Whitfield)

KONNERTH, Art and Karlita+

LYNCH, Friends and family of Louise's Sister++

MCMILLON, Andrea++

MCMILLON, Family and Friends of Florence Delmonico

MILLER, Brooke (Blinder) +++

RAYLES, Scooter (Dietz)++

RIENSCH, Nancy +

SEARS Family +

SHERMAN, Don (Office)+++

SLAMKA, Jack and Kitty (Murdoch)+++

SMITH, Tim+

STUEBER, Susan (Solomon)+++

TAYLOR, Mary Francis—Family of

UPTON, Dallas (Jean)+

UPTON, Jean (office)++

WALKER, Jerry (Solomon)+++

WATSON, Sandy++

WATSON, Tom ++

WHITFIELD, Bob ++

** New Name

"+" symbols indicate number of weeks remaining on list
Please also pray for all those affected by Covid-19, our first responders, medical care professionals, and those out on the front lines to protect us.
Please pray for peace, understanding, and unity in America and around the world.

One Shepherd's Thoughts...



A Meditation for Cultivating Joy

The stress this time of year can sometimes leave you feeling exhausted, often zapping the joy that the holidays are supposed to bring. Meditating not only helps you be more joyful and present, but it can also help you spread joy to those around you. And spreading joy, lifting others, and being jolly are central to the holiday spirit! Try these simple steps to cultivate that joyful, jolly feeling:

Find a quiet area—this can be in a room in your house, an area in your garden, or next to the Christmas tree when everyone else has gone to sleep.

Sit in an upright position. Close your eyes and take a deep breath in through your nose, and exhale through your mouth.

Continue with five deep breaths. Pay attention to how you are feeling, finding any discomfort or pain points and adjusting yourself to be more comfortable.

Continue to breathe, focusing on the feeling of your chest rising and falling.

Now, turn your attention to your thoughts. Your mind may be racing with your holiday to-do list; if so, visualize yourself crossing the items off and feeling accomplished. Know that you are taking this time for yourself, so that you can have the energy to tackle that list joyfully.

Now that you are clearing your mind and making room for joy, think of a holiday memory from your past when you felt deep joy. This could be a joyful holiday moment from your youth or from a recent memory. Focus on the details of that moment as you attempt to relive it in your mind, like you were watching a movie of that memory.

As you bring that moment to the center of your consciousness, pay attention to the joyful emotions and sensations that you felt, the smells that you experienced (ginger bread and peppermint, perhaps?), and the rich tastes of the season. Stay with the memory for a while. Next, think of a way to recreate those feelings in your life today, perhaps with different people, a different location, and a different activity, but working to cultivate the same mood of joy for yourself and those you would like to share those feelings with.

Release that visual and take 10 deep breaths, inhaling to fill yourself with the holiday spirit of joy, and exhaling to send joy out into the world.

When you're finished, sit quietly for a few moments before gently opening your eyes.

Practice this meditation daily, focusing on cultivating and spreading joy. With repetition, you'll be able to tap into those feelings more readily, even when faced with the stress of the season.

When you practice this meditation, you are actively working to cultivate feelings of joy, kindness, and gratitude this holiday season, benefitting your well-being as well as those around you. What better way to get into the holiday spirit, and in turn, make it contagious!

God IS with us! **Rev Day**

Christian Book Discussion meets on Sunday at 2 pm on Zoom to discuss The Blue Bottle Club.

Four friends gathered in a cold, dusty attic on Christmas day to make a solemn pact. "Our dreams for the future," they whispered, placing tiny pieces of paper into a shimmering blue bottle.

But that event happened in 1929, and it is decades later when local news reporter Brenna Delaney stumbles upon that bottle . . . and into the most meaningful story of her career.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83282942096?pwd=U09mdms2NEE3WHpubWlwc2lwblUvQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 8294 2096

Passcode: 472709

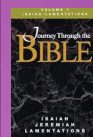


Bible Study with Reverend Day will continue on December sixteenth at 2:00 on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83634005420?pwd=WmhkeWtjNXNWTjRlTjhsUWxHWC8zZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 3400 5420

Passcode: 123414



All are cordially invited to a special time of fellowship following the Congregational Meeting on Sunday December 20, 2020.

We will be setting up light refreshments under the portico like we did for Steve Blinder.

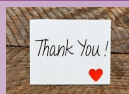
We invite all who are able to join us for this outdoors, socially distanced send-off and thank you for their 30 years of service to Brandon Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



SAFF LOVE OFFERING

We appreciate our BCC staff for all they do for us throughout the year! This time of year we like to show them how much they are appreciated. If you would like to give to Staff Love offering you can give to Staff Love offering on Give Plus, you can also put your Staff Love offering in the collection plate, or send a check marked Staff Love offering to BCC.

Thank you, Diane Garthwaite



Hope At The City
FREE GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

LOCATION- THE CITY OF RESTORATION, 2802 STATE ROAD 60 EAST, VALRICO, FL 33594

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
10:00AM - 12:00PM

PARKING LOT DISTRIBUTION
REMAIN IN YOUR CARS - PULL UP TO PICK-UP STATION

Hilton Garden Inn | CONCORD HOSPITALITY | CORE

We ARE Concord & WE CARE TO SHARE

"Our charitable mission is to provide food and shelter for people in need within the communities where we live and work."