

The Good News of...

March 2020



Brandon Christian Church



I am hoping to institute the following practices for Lent:

Be thankful and enjoy life – this advice from Chief Oren Lyons in *Spiritual Ecology* really resonated with me. The place we start in Lent is not with cutting back but with being thankful. “Thankfulness inspires respect” he says. If, each day we express thankfulness for one aspect of creation—the rising of the sun, the wind in our hair, the grace of birds in the air, the beauty of flowers and of passersby in the street, then our respect for creation grows. On top of that we realize how intimately connected to creation we are.

Continue a plant based diet. By avoiding meat and cheese one day a week during Lent (or beyond) would be the equivalent of taking 7.6 million cars off the road for an equivalent time. (The Meat Eater’s Guide) Eating locally requires fewer fossil fuels to transport your food, seasonally requires less energy for refrigeration, organically helps restore soil ecosystems and pull carbon out of the atmosphere.

A Carbon fast. I can give you some great ideas for a carbon fast: take a walk and feel your environment, turn off lights in your home that you are not using, turn off water when brushing your teeth—or washing fruits and veggies, begin a plastic free journey—what can you reduce, use public transportation, reduce the amount of trash you toss, commit to no bottled water, have dinner by candlelight, set your fridge temperature around 38 F, have a no electronics day (See me if you want more ideas). I plan to focus on one each week rather than one each day so that I don’t get overloaded.

Spring clean and refuse to use plastic where possible. Lent was traditionally a season of spring cleaning as a symbol of our inner need for cleaning and I think that getting rid of plastic as much as possible from our lives is one way to symbolize the change of thinking that we want to adhere to. And of course it is not just things like plastic bags, plastic storage containers, or plastic cutting boards that we need to think about getting rid of. Microplastics are ubiquitous in our world and though the jury is still out on how harmful they are there are some concerning reports that we need to think about. And Microplastics occur in everything from tea bags to fleece garments and cosmetics. So it might be time to buy only natural fibers and cut back on cosmetics or research those that do not contain Microplastics. I use something called a Cora Ball in my laundry to catch microfibers from fabrics so they don’t go into our water system.

So instead of “giving up” something for Lent I plan to begin new practices and be more mindful with these things I have listed above. I am also going to begin a Gratitude Journal and write down 3 things I am grateful for when I wake up each morning and 3 things I am grateful for before I go to sleep each evening. I encourage each of you to consider taking on new habits for good health, for healthy and loving relationships, for living abundantly in God’s loving presence. Listen closely to the Holy Spirit this Lent and find those blessings God want to give you. See you Sunday! *Rev Day*



Church Staff

Senior Minister— - Rev. Day Broers-Case
 Director of Music— - Rick Barclay
 Admin. Asst.— - Jamie Butterweck

910 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

813-689-4021

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday

9:00 am—1:00 pm

brandonchristianchurch@gmail.com



Things to Know for March

Matthew Bible Study—Wednesday's from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, repeating on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30

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|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Mar 1—First Sunday in Lent | Mar 8—Bk Discuss, 2:00p, Rm 1 | Mar 14—Food 4 Tht, 11:00a TBD | Mar 21—BCC Flea Market and Bake Sale, FHall CLOSED |
| Mar 2-5 Rev. Day away teaching | Mar 10-12—Adult Retreat at Silver Springs | Mar 15—SWIFT, 12:45p, TBD | Mar 30—Feeding Tampa Bay |
| Mar 6—World Day of Prayer | Mar 12—Fin. Mtg, 7:00p, Rm2 | Mar 16-17 Election setup and election, FHall CLOSED | Apr 5—Palm Sunday |
| Mar 8—Girl Scout Sunday | Mar 13-15 SERF Women's Retreat | | |
| Mar 8—Elders, 12:30, Rm 2 or 4 | | | |



Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays!

- Mar 3—Jamie B.
- Mar 11—Andrea M.
- Mar 17—Cassandra Winslow
- Mar 19—Gary Cail

Anniversaries!

- Mar 3—Ben & Nikki Caceres
- Mar 8—Robert and MaryAnn Goodum-Booth
- Mar 20—Tim & Paula Smith
- Mar 25—Leroy & Georgia Dietz
- Mar 27—Tom & Elizabeth Smiley

**FINANCE MEETING—THURS, MAR 12
7:00PM, ROOM #2**

**ELDERS' MEETING—SUN, MAR 8
12:30PM, ROOM #2**

**BOARD MEETING—SUN, APR 5
5PM—ROOM #2**

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

**EQUAL EXCHANGE
FAIR TRADE
GOODS**



Take a look at the assortment on the rolling cart during Fellowship. From hot cocoa to candy bars and chocolate chips to various kinds of coffee, there is lots to enjoy. And it's all Equal Exchange...which means that farmers in developing countries such as El Salvador and Mexico can be assured Fair Trade for their products.



SWIFT

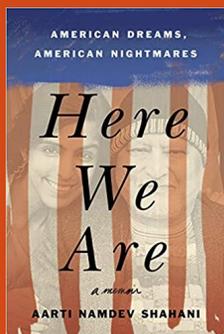


(Single Women in Fellowship Together)

SWIFT will meet to share a meal and conversation on Sunday, March 15th, following church. Location TBD. For more information, contact Betty at 813-404-9393

Christian Book Discussion

See pg 5 for the rest of the schedule



The next discussion will be on SUNDAY, March 9th at 2 pm in classroom 1. We will discuss *Here We Are—American Dreams, American Nightmares* by NPR correspondent Aarti Namdev Shahani. It is a heart-wrenching memoir about an immigrant family's American Dream, the justice system that took it away, and the daughter who fought to get it back. "This thought-provoking and thoroughly engrossing memoir offers the story of Shahani's experience, as well as those of other families who, though they did not find the American Dream, nevertheless found home."

Florida Disciples Camps and Retreats

- Mar 10-12 Senior Retreat
- May 23-25 Summer Family Camp
- May 23-25 Young Adult Retreat
- June 7-13 HS Canoe Camp
- June 14-19 Elem Equestrian Camp
- June 21-26 Midway Camp
- June 28-July 3 Junior Camp
- July 5-11 Spiritual Arts Camp
- July 12-17 MS Outdoor Adventure Camp
- July 17-19 Uno Camp

FEEDING TAMPA BAY

Volunteers are helping at the Publix Community Market from 11:30am to 3:30pm the final Monday of every month. During Mission Week, several BCC volunteers enjoyed their time helping with this ministry, and it was decided that we would continue. Some folks meet at the church and carpool to the location at 4702 Transport Drive, Bldg. 6, Tampa, and others meet the group on-site. It mostly involves helping people select food items and carry them to their car or other transportation. If you would like to volunteer, the next date is Mon, Mar 30th. Contact Steve Blinder at (813) 514-3815 for more information.

Help is also needed on Thursdays at 1:00pm at the Gibsonton Elementary School location of Feeding Tampa Bay!

Green Chalice News

It's Time



In the spring of 2019, God spoke to my heart saying, "It's Time! If you are going to do this (climate) work, it needs to be your first priority." And I responded like I always respond to God, "Okay but you are going to have to open the doors and show me the way!" (God has a sense of humor AND is always faithful.)

The short ending to this story is that I (very sadly) left my congregation and am putting as much time and energy into Green Chalice as I can in 2020. I was able to secure an Oreon Scott Grant, Week of Compassion is partnering with Green Chalice and DHM and CCK continue their support enabling Green Chalice to now be a half-time position.

Interestingly, Lexington Theological Seminary, where the idea of Green Chalice was born, offered me the part-time position of Communication's Director. So - I ask 3 things of you and GC Congregations and Ministries.

1. Pray for Green Chalice, for our partners, and all who are doing this work.
2. Invite me to Regional Events or Attend our scheduled events. (See Below!)
3. Financially support Green Chalice and consider adding this ministry to your church/ministry Budget.

2020 is a HUGE year. We have 10 years to make significant changes and reductions. We need to reduce our carbon by 7.6 percent every year this decade. It is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day! It is the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote! And it is an Election Year - we must get ALL Candidates to pledge to make the Climate Crisis #1 on their agenda.

Y'all - It's Time!

Please join me in ramping it up in 2020.

~Carol

amazonsmile

Already love Amazon? How about using **AmazonSmile!** The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of the profits being automatically donated to us!

Brandon Christian Church

Flea Market and Bake Sale

Dear Friends, all are welcome to participate in the Flea Market and Bake Sale on March 21st.

Set up will be on Friday March 20 in the afternoon/evening. Members and friends of BCC are encouraged to bring items to donate to the flea market and/or to donate to the bake sale.

If you have items that you would like to donate, but need help getting them here please don't hesitate to reach out, we can make arrangements to pick it up from you.

Bake sale items are encouraged to be pre made and frozen and then delivered to the church with any donation items that you have for the flea market.

The Fellowship Hall will be off limits to outside groups on the 3/20 and 3/21 to help accommodate the Bake Sale and Flea Market.

Help will be needed on Friday 3/20 with set up, as well as on 3/21 with staffing the event.

Please let Betty, Sue, or the office know if you need help getting stuff to the church, or if you would like to volunteer.



Thank you, Sunday Servers



March 2020

LITURGISTS (Rev. Day)

March 1: Lisa Peterson
 March 8: Jamie Butterweck
 March 15: Cammie Denton
 March 22: Brian Sears
 March 29: Jo Henkel

GREETER(S) (Don)

March 1: Ron and Nancy R.
 March 8: Lucy B.
 March 15: Pat & Louise L.
 March 22: Steven B.
 March 29: Mary Ann and Family

NURSERY (Linda)

March 1: Lucy B., Jamie B.
 March 8: Amy W., Erin D-P.
 March 15: Linda S., Scott W.
 March 22: Diane G., Brandon W.
 March 29: Jo and Dan Henkel

COUNTERS (Jo/Don)

March 1: Don Sherman/Jo Henkel
 March 8: Sue Benitez/Jo Henkel
 March 15: Sue Benitez/Britt Failes
 March 22: Dave Case/Brian Sears
 March 29: Dave Case/Cammie Denton

WORSHIP AND WONDER (Diane)

March 1: Britt F., Betty P.
 March 8: Linda S., Caitlin W.
 March 15: Mary Ann G-B., Caitlin W.
 March 22: Mary Ann G-B., Karen W.
 March 29: Linda S., Betty P.

ELDERS (Jo/Don)

BREAD

CUP

March 1:	Jo Henkel	Leroy Dietz
March 8:	Diane Garthwaite	Don Sherman
March 15:	Brian Sears	Diane Garthwaite
March 22:	Leroy Dietz	Brian Sears
March 29:	Don Sherman	Steven Blinder

DEACONS (Scott/Ron)

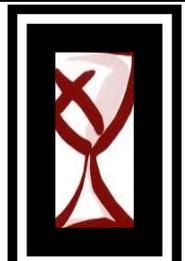
March 1: Open/Close—Tom S.
 Communion—Betty P.
 Serving—Art, Carla, Brett

March 8: Open/Close—Art
 Communion—Carla
 Serving—Ron, Betty, Art, Carla

March 15: Open/Close—Ron
 Communion—Kathy
 Serving—Brett, Betty, Ron, Kathy

March 22: Open/Close—Brett
 Communion—Betty
 Serving—Art, Carla, Brett, Betty

March 29: Open/Close—Art
 Communion—Carla
 Serving—Ron, Betty, Art, Carla



Christian Book Discussion

Here are the books for the year:

March 8—Here We Are—American Dreams, American Nightmares; Aarti Namedev Shahani(3 books, 1 ebook, used \$5)

April and May—No discussions (Easter and Mothers Day)

June 14—The All-Girls Filling Station’s Last Reunion; Fannie Flagg (Lots of books, CDs, and large print—used \$9)

July 12—Sometimes Amazing Things Happen; Elizabeth Ford (1 book, used \$7-\$15)

Aug 9—The Fever Tree; Jennifer McVeigh (books, CDs, and downloads—used \$2-\$6)

Sept 13—The Giver of Stars; Jojo Mayes (**Holds**, lots of books, still expensive online \$10-\$15)

Oct 11—Mere Christianity; C.S. Lewis (8 Books reg and lg print, used &2-\$6)

Nov 8—Where the Crowds Sing; Delia Owens (**Holds**; lots of books, download, online \$12-\$15)

Dec 13—The Blue Bottle Club; Penelope J. Stokes (1 reg, 1 lg print, used \$6)



Disciples Women’s Ministry event in the Southeastern Regional Fellowship will be March 13-15 at the Christmount Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. There will be a bus from Silver Springs on Thursday, March 12 at 1 pm.

Accommodations at Christmount are limited. The Florida Disciples Women’s Ministry has 20 spaces on hold for FL Disciples. It is very important if you plan to attend that you make reservations ASAP. You can register online or by calling. To make reservations for the bus call 352-236-2302. For more information, contact Glenda Harper at glendaharp@comcast.net.

The Florida Disciples Women’s Ministry Spring Enrichment Conference on Saturday, April 4, 9:30 to 3:00, at the Retreat at Silver Springs. The theme is **JUST WOMEN** and the speaker will be **Rev. Marilyn Williams**, president of the International Disciples Women Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

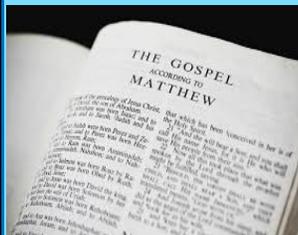
Senior Retreat—The Jonah Story “God of Second Chances” will be March 10 through 12 at the Retreat at Silver Springs. This retreat is open to adults of all ages. If you are interested in attending please speak to Jamie in the office for a registration form.

Food for Thought will meet on March 13 at the Latin Grill (3318 John Moore Road, Brandon.) Everyone is invited to come and participate. Participants discuss a variety of topics which have multiple viewpoints.



The intention is to share ideas, but also to become better listeners and learn how to have conversations around difficult topics. Come check it out some time, you won't regret it!

Bible Study—Matthew:



Steven Blinder will be leading a study and discussion on the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome, so mark your calendars and join Steve for an 8 week exploration of

Matthew’s gospel!

There will be two sessions each week, one on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00, and again on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:30. The schedule is as follows:

March 4 and 5

March 11 and 12

March 18 and 19

March 25 and 26

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IDENTITY STATEMENT



DISCIPLES
Called to be
Together in Christ.

**The 2020 Easter Egg Hunt needs
volunteers**



**to help make it happen. Please
contact Jo if you are able to help.**

johenkel2018@gmail.com

THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN
— A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL —

In Florida:

Poverty:

47% of people in Florida are poor or low income—a total of 9.8 million residents. This includes 60% of children (2.5 million), 52% of women (5.4 million), 66% of Black people (2 million), 63% of LatinX people (3.3 million), and 39% of White people (4.3 million). From 1979 to 2012, income for the top 1% grew by 176%, while income for the bottom 99% actually fell 12%.

Systemic Racism:

60% of the eligible voting-age population turned out in 2016. More than 1.6 million residents cannot vote due to felony disenfranchisement, including 499,000 Black people (21% of the Black pop.) Of the 98,000 people imprisoned in FL as of 2017, about 60% are people of color. Black residents in FL are incarcerated at over 3 times the rate of White residents.

Militarism and the War Economy:

From 2008 to 2014, FL law enforcement received at least \$43.68 billion in federal military equipment. Over 404,000 veterans have incomes below \$35,000, or about 26% of the FL veteran population. FL has over 60 Ice Detention Centers as of 2019. Over 141,000 people were deported from 2003 to 2018, and over 89,000 removal cases are currently pending. Meanwhile, 775,000 residents are undocumented, and 7% of K-12 students have undocumented parents.

Ecology and Health:

2.7 million Floridians are uninsured as of 2018 and 31% census tracts in FL are at-risk for being unable to afford water.

Everybody's got a Right to Live:

Over 31,000 people in FL are homeless as of 2018. Working at the FL minimum wage it takes 108 hours per week to afford a 2 bedroom apartment. 50% of FL's workforce makes less than \$15/hr. FL's minimum wage is \$8.46, a living wage in FL would be \$26.13/hr.

WWW.POORPEOPLESCAMPAIGN.ORG



As you probably already know, Brandon Christian Church is a polling place for Hillsborough County. 2020 is a major election year with the Presidency, the entire House of Representatives, many Senators, and many FL State offices are up for grabs. Because it is a major election year we will have several instances of the Fellowship Hall being closed or off limits to accommodate the County Supervisor of Elections and the rules that have been established to ensure the machines and voting process are not tampered with.

2020 Election Dates:

Presidential Preference Primary—March 17th (FHall will be off limits 3/16 and 3/17)

2020 Primary Election—August 18th (FHall will be off limits 8/17 and 8/18)

2020 General Election—November 3rd (FHall will be off limits 11/2 and 11/3)

From the time the machines are setup until they are done with the voting we need to keep the Fellowship Hall empty to ensure they aren't tampered with prior to voting.

On the days where voting is taking place, it is asked that we use the Bryan Rd side for parking and entering the building, this will reduce traffic and confusion out back where the voters will be parking and entering and exiting under the portico.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to the office and Jamie will do his best to answer them for you!

