

THE MESSENGER

A monthly publication of Zephyr Christian Church

MINISTER

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ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SHARING THE LOVE AND
JOY OF JESUS

1 Timothy 4:12 NASB

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith, *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

Z.C.C. Graduates of 2025

Payton Murphy will be attending Pasco-Hernando State College where she will be majoring in Accounting / Business Economics. Payton is a recipient of the A. Faye Goodwin Scholarship as well as the Pasco-Hernando State College Top Ten Percent Scholarship.

Triston Wernette in addition to fencing with his dad, plans to join the Florida Christian Athletes Faculty, where he can impact today's youth while he earns his certification in Ministry. Please pray for, congratulate and encourage them!



PRAYERS & PRAISE

- ◆ **Storm Recovery**
- ◆ **Church** - healing
- ◆ **Jeff Aker** - hip surgery, recovery (C. Osborne)
- ◆ **Ellen Annis** - health concerns
- ◆ **Norman Budd** - cancer (Marti Bontrager)
- ◆ **Shelli Candy** - brain tumor/comfort
- ◆ **Tammy Cook** - mom has brain cancer/unresponsive
- ◆ **Char Henderson** - heart problems
- ◆ **Tim Herkel** - pain/arthritis
- ◆ **Julie** - surgery went wrong, not doing well (Happy Reed)
- ◆ **Happy Reed** - upcoming heart surgery/relationship with son
- ◆ **Dan Scott** - cancer (Nancee Scott)
- ◆ **Denise Stewart** - lungs
- ◆ **Talona & Family**- (Shelli Candy's granddaughter)
- ◆ **Vernon Yoder** -stroke/discouraged (Marti's Bontrager)

Birthdays:

- 6 - Dudley Albert
- 8 - Caroline Ice
- 16 - Mel Marshall
- 25 - Shirley Hershberger
- 27 - Bill Ward
- 28 - Rita Earley
- 28 - Melissa Hollander
- 30 - Ismette Robles



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2	3	4 Women's Bible Study 1PM	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Women's Bible Study 1PM	12	13	14 MEN'S BREAKFAST at DADE CITY -9AM
15 Happy Father's Day	16	17 Elders Meeting - 9AM	18 Women's Bible Study 1PM	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Women's Bible Study 1PM	26	27	28
29	30					

REMINDERS:

DADE CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Men's breakfast , 9 AM @ 11800 Windswood Blvd. Dade City, FL 33525.

ELDER'S MEETING - Tuesday, June 17th, 9 AM. All members invited to attend.

ZCC KIDZ - We will be taking children to Dade City Christian Church for Vacation Bible School June 16th - 20th, 5PM—8PM. Please call Cherie' at 813-924-0372, if your child will need a ride.

Dear Zephyr Christian Family,

As I think of all our students wrapping up their school year, it makes me think of final exams. But it's not just school that requires examination. Most jobs require at least an annual review. We have an annual check-up with our doctor just to make sure our body is in good working order. But we should also do spiritual check-ups...we should examine ourselves to see where we are spiritually.

Instead of measuring spiritual growth by the number of services we attend, or the number of Bible verses we've memorized, I want to suggest three questions:

QUESTION #1 – Are you moving *toward* God by praying regularly and believing that your prayers mean something?

Like any healthy relationship, spiritual progress is contingent on spending time with God in prayer. And prayer can take many different forms! Richard Foster, in his book *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, says: "Today the heart of God is an open wound of love. He aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to Him. He grieves that we have forgotten Him. He weeps over our obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence."

The first and greatest sign of spiritual thriving is a dynamic, active relationship with God and the most basic way to fan that flame of relationship is through prayer. But it's not just that you do the praying or spend time praying or are saying the words...it's that you choose to believe that the time you spend with God in prayer means something to Him and delights Him.

QUESTION #2 – Are you moving *toward* people and forming deeper connections or are you isolating yourself?

Solitude is good and healthy...it is actually a spiritual discipline; but isolation is unhealthy and selfish. We were formed for fellowship...we were made to be fed by relationships with others. That doesn't mean that relationship building is always easy – that's why we sometimes choose to isolate rather than invest the time and energy in building relationships. But spiritually maturing people are moving toward others. Spiritually regressing people are moving away from vital relationships by isolating.

QUESTION #3 – Are you able to experience joy and peace *within yourself* despite circumstances?

This question is not trying to minimize pain or suffering, nor is it encouraging a form of stoicism where you just grit your teeth and smile through your suffering. No, this question is asking whether you are at peace with who you are and living out who God says you are more and more each day.

Maybe you grew up in an atmosphere that shunned any talk of self-love or self-acceptance...instead you believe we should despise ourselves. Look at what Henri Nouwen wrote in his book, *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*: "Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us God's beloved. Being the beloved expresses the core truth of our existence."

If you ask yourself these three questions and conclude that you are not spiritually healthy, there is good news! The Father's arms are open, and He longs for you to run to Him...you can't go back and change what has happened, but you can rest in the goodness of God today and going forward.

In Christ,
Jon