

# Stay Connected

Even when far from  
"The Hills of Home"

Website: [www.zephyrchristianchurch.org](http://www.zephyrchristianchurch.org)  
Email: [ZephyrCC@aol.com](mailto:ZephyrCC@aol.com)

*Our Vision: Seeking, Serving and Sending!*

Zephyr Christian Church  
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U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
TAMPA, FL  
PERMIT NO. 7790

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**Mission Statement:** Sharing the love and joy we've found in Christ Jesus.

## Serving In March 2023

### COMMUNION SET UP

Cathy Cochran

### GREETERS

John Blevins  
Joice Blevins  
Michele Danella

### HEAD OF TABLE

5 - Larry Buckland  
12 - Tom Baker  
19 - Rusty Draper  
26 - Jon Stradtner

### ELDERS

**Tom Baker**  
863-859-6273  
Chr.

**Larry Buckland**  
417-712-4098

**Rusty Draper**  
782-5306  
V. Chr

### TRUSTEES

**Tom Baker**  
**Rusty Draper**

### STAFF

**Jon Stradtner**  
Minister

**Cherie' Osborne**  
Administrative  
Assistant

# THE MESSENGER

A monthly publication of Zephyr Christian Church - February 15, 2023



*Jesus came out, saw a great multitude,  
and he had compassion on them,  
because they were like sheep without  
a shepherd, and he began to teach them  
many things. Mark 6:34*

## Happenings at Zephyr Christian

### Weekly

Sunday  
Sunday School 9:00 am  
Worship Service & Jr. Church 10:00 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Wednesday:  
Bible Study 6:00 pm  
Youth Group (3 years & up) 5:30 pm

### "March Events"

11 - MEN'S BREAKFAST	9:00 AM
14 - ZCW MEETING	2:00 PM
15 - FOLD NEWSLETTER	9:30 AM
16 - LADIES GROUP	6:30 PM
21 - ELDER'S MEETING	9:00 AM
26 - SUNDAY SUNDAE	7:00 PM

Wednesday -Quilting Group - 9:00 AM

# MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Zephyr Christian Family,

During evening worship this past week, I shared a news story that recently came out of the Netherlands. Jumbo, a Netherlands-based supermarket chain with over 700 stores, has introduced something called *Klets-kassa*, which means “chat checkout.” It is a special checkout lane at their stores for customers who are not in a rush but would like to have a little talk, some friendly conversation, a chat with the cashier. This is part of a larger strategy by the Dutch government because they realize their population is aging and 33% report feeling at least moderately lonely. The response to the “chat checkout” has been so positive that Jumbo is planning to create 200 of these lanes across the country. They also introduced a “chat corner” in some of their stores where residents can gather for a cup of coffee and a little conversation.

I like that because this news story tells of people being sensitive to and caring about others!

In the Old Testament, Hannah was heart-broken over her infertility. She was at the tabernacle worshipping and praying. She was praying so fervently that her lips were moving, even though she was praying silently. The priest, Eli, observed this and immediately jumped to the conclusion that she must be drunk and he rebuked her. Instead of trying to understand her, instead of coming with an attitude and spirit of helping her and ministering to her, he came to accuse. Not a very flattering look for a priest!

On the other hand, I think of the way Jesus treated a grieving mother. Jesus and His disciples were entering the town of Nain. As they approached the town gate, a funeral procession was coming out. A widow’s only son had died. As the procession walked out, Jesus saw the mother weeping and Luke 7:13 says, “When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’” Jesus felt for her...He had empathy for her!

If you are in Christ, one of the ways it should be visible is that you are sensitive to and care about others! Jesus-followers should show empathy and compassion – not just feeling for them but ministering to them.

Ways we can become more empathetic include having our eyes wide open for people who are hurting, suffering, or struggling around us. Then, instead of trying to avoid them, we intentionally go to them. Rather than immediately trying to solve their “problem”, ask questions—ask them to explain their situation, their feelings, their concerns. Then try to put yourself in their place...feel their feelings. Pray for wisdom and discernment, put aside your pride and convenience, and decide how you can best help them and then do it! Sometimes this will simply be going through it with them. As Henri Nouwen wrote, “To console does not mean to take away the pain but rather to be there and say, ‘You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden.’”

Look for the lonely, the hurting, the heartbroken, the discouraged, depressed, anxious, defeated, and scared. Then be like Jesus to them.

Sincerely,

Jon

## March Birthdays:

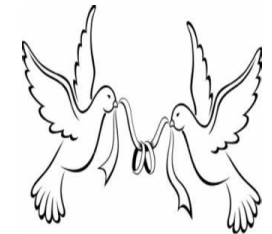
- 2 - Mable Goward
- 18 - Jon Bravinder
- 20 - Fely Jackson
- 21 - Joyce Thomas
- 28 - Michele Danella
- 29 - Gordon Day



**Celebrate**

## March Anniversaries:

- 3 - John & Paty Roque
- 21 - Phil & Pam Smith
- 21 - Roger & Joyce Thomas
- 23 - Marti & Hank Bontrager



## Making Your Bible User-Friendly



**Learn How the Bible Works**  
**Make Your Reading Enjoyable**  
**And Understandable**

**A Six-Week Short Course**

**Beginning March 5**

**9 AM—Fellowship Hall**

**Limited to 15**

**Signup at Doors**

**Taught by Dr. Roger Thomas**

## Family GAME NIGHT



**FRIDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup> & March 24<sup>th</sup>**

from 6 - 8 pm

### Activities

- BOARD GAMES
- CARDS
- PING PONG
- GAGA-BALL
- VOLLEYBALL
- FOOD
- FELLOWSHIP
- & MORE!



# OUR MISSION NEWS

(See Mission Bulletin Board for all)

**FAMILY MINISTRIES** - If you would like more information on our project and/or would like to partner with us, please contact our Executive Director at (813) 681-1942 or email him at bobsharp@familyministriesfl.org. - Robert Sharp

**JOHNSON UNIVERSITY** - The Commons Dining Hall and Café recently opened on our Florida campus, and students are loving the great food, outdoor gathering spots, and coffee shop atmosphere. In the Café, every fair trade coffee is connected to a Great Commission story. For example, an Indian-sourced coffee benefits Mid India Church Partners. We've created an easy way for you to bring a group of students for a campus visit. Visit our website <https://johnsonu.edu/> or Phone number (407) 847-8966 and ask about "Group Visits" to get started!

**LAKE AURORA CHRISTIAN CAMP** - Registration is OPEN if your child is interested! Please speak to your child's youth leader, register online <https://www.lakeaurora.org/SummerCamp/summercamp.html> or call the church office (813) 782-8893 and schedule a spot. First come, first serve! Spots are limited. Summer Camp 2023 dates are coming! Theme: "Reveal" May 30- July 28, 2023.

**SACM** - I work in the warehouse most weekday mornings to sort, stack and put the boxes of Bibles and Christian literature on pallets. This way, when churches and other groups come for their requests, I can point them in the right direction. All the boxes are marked with a code, so I know if they are used Bibles, study Bibles, study books, library books or NTs. Dave Foust and his team at Northview Christian Church in Coldwater, MI, are very good at this which saves me a lot of time. In this shipment, I didn't realize that some of the boxes were numbered as well as marked. The first box I came across was #41. That sparked a memory for me. For those of you who have seen Biblical movies, \*Number 41 is a special number, right? This past week, even though I haven't sorted out the entire shipment, several people came for their needs. Normally, I want the whole warehouse to be organized and neat before anyone visits but the requests were urgent, so I made an exception. A new contact group from Hout Bay (45 mins drive from the warehouse) was accompanied by the Gospel 101 Team which had made the contact with them. Pastor Fike and one of his helpers, Bro Pila, were delighted with the Bibles and study books. We chatted about the Word after I had asked a number of questions and Pastor Fike said he wanted CBS classes this year. Bro Hamilton of the 101 Team needed boxes of Bibles for the groups he is helping, and everyone left in high spirits. By the time I got home, tired and sweaty (it's summer here!), I had more emails for Bibles. When the word gets out, churches respond. Now I have to scramble to get things done. Okay, figured out #41 yet? \*That was the number of a galley slave played by Charlton Heston in the 1950's film version of General Lew Wallace's novel of Ben Hur. Blessings! Steve

See Missions Bulletin Board for entire letters from: Family Ministries of FL ~ Johnson University Florida ~ Lake Aurora Christian Camp ~ Phil McAfee Ministries ~ Neighborhood Care Center ~ South African Christian Mission

February 2023

April 2023



SUN MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT

<b>MISSION of the MONTH:</b> JOHNSON UNIVERSITY FLORIDA 1011 BILL BECK BLVD KISSIMMEE, FL 34744		1 Youth Group Dinner at 5:30PM & Bible Study at 6:00 PM	2 Thursday School 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	3 Tidy Church  Family Game Night 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	4 Dorothy Orth's Memorial 2:00 PM	
5 Potluck, after morning worship services. 	6	7	8 <sup>Newsletter</sup> <del>Deadline</del> Quilting & Sewing 9:00 AM Youth Group Dinner at 5:30PM & Bible Study at 6:00 PM	9 Thursday School 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM 	10 Tidy Church 	11 Men's Prayer Breakfast at Legacy Christian Church 9:00 AM
12 Making Your Bible User Friendly	13	14 ZCW MEETING at 2:00 PM	15 Q & S 9:00 AM Fold Newsletter 9:30 AM Youth Group Dinner at 5:30PM & Bible Study All AGES 6:00 PM	16 Thursday School 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  Ladies Group 6:30 PM	17 Tidy Church 	18
19 Making Your Bible User Friendly 9:00 AM	20	21 Elders Meeting 9:00 AM	22 Q & S 9:00 AM Youth Dinner 5:30 PM / Bible Study All AGES 6:00 PM	23 Thursday School 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM 	24 Tidy Church  Family Game Night 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	25
26 Making Your Bible User Friendly  Sundae Sunday 7:00 PM	27	28	29 Q & S 9:00 AM Youth Dinner 5:30 PM / Bible Study All AGES 6:00 PM	30 Thursday School 9:30 AM - 11:30 	31 Tidy Church 	



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER

If you want the Prayer Chain to be started, call Tom Baker at 863-670-2215. If no answer, call Tom & Karen Baker's home at 863-602-5180.

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members to Z.C.C. Michael & Jeanette Cain transferred on January 1, 2023, Praise the Lord!

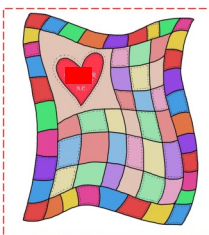
## Potluck Dinner March 5<sup>th</sup>



following Sunday morning service, please plan to join us and bring a dish to share!

## QUILTING GROUP

Available Wednesdays at 9:00 AM  
Call Karen Baker if interested 863-602-5180, thank you.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT Bible Study at 6:00 PM



All ages!

## Resurrection/Easter Services

~ April 7th & 9th

Good Friday Service at 6:00 PM  
Sunrise Service at 7:15 AM  
Continental Breakfast 8:00 AM  
Sunday School at 9:00 AM  
Morning Worship at 10:00 AM



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Legacy Christian Church is hosting the Men's Breakfast on **March 11<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 AM

## ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN WOMEN MEETING March 14th at 2:00 PM

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



## Help Fold "The Messenger" March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM



## March 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies invited to come share and encourage each other to live out our faith!

## ELDERS' MEETING

March 21, 2023  
9:00 AM

This meeting is open to all members of the congregation.

THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH GROUP FOR THE DELICIOUS AND SWEET DINNER, TIME AND SERVICE YOU PROVIDED! YOU ARE A BLESSING TO THE CHURCH AND WE LOVE ALL OF YOU!

## PRAYER & PRAISE

**Bold Print** Indicates  
New Names Added or Current Updates  
(Please share an update once a month for continued prayers)

**LOST/ALL NATIONS & LEADERS** - understanding/surrender

**Church/Missionaries** - protection/understanding

**Baby Jaxon** - 3/1: removed from ventilator/comfort care (Herkels)

**Bruce, Tina, & Damien Brandt** - 3/1: healing

**Angela Cain** - 3/1: Praise God doing well! ( Rita Early)

**Desiray Cook** - 3/1: healing /comfort

**Shirley Counciller** - 3/1: neck pain

**Billy Cremeans** - 3/1: guidance, peace, strength

**Devin & family** - 3/1: unspoken

**Pat Fugitt** - 3/1: surgery/peace (C. Ice)

**Clayton Jennings** - 3/1: serious issue with eye (Blevins)

**Irene Mills** - 3/1: recovery

**John Ryder** - 3/1: Praise God, he's getting well!

**Pam & Phil Smith** - 3/1: healing/strength/comfort

**Crystal Zelinske** - 3/1: healing/surgery scheduled 3/15

**Prayers for church family** - 3/1: Dorothy Orth passed away.

## NURSING / RETIREMENT HOMES

### Royal Oak

Vivian Acker #459B

### Pretty Pond Manor

Emma Loughren

### Village Walk Apartments

Kathy Knapp

### Westbrooke

Mae Krempleski A12

**Hebrews 4:16** "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."



## MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE SPECIAL TO OUR CONGREGATION

**Chief John Beyer** - E.O.D. Unit (Bahrain)  
*(Ivan & Ruth Shorts great nephew)*

**Jon Bravinder** - Air Force  
*(son of Jon Bravinder)*

**Charles E. Marshall** - S.O.S.  
Border Patrol (CA)  
*(Mel & Helen Marshall's son)*

**Rachel Smeed** - Army (GA)  
*(Tim & Penny Herkel's niece)*

**POW / MIA US TROOPS & FAMILIES - PROTECTION, SAFETY, UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR COUNTRY & OUR LEADERS!**

