

# Faith's Happenings...

January, 2019

## *Happy Birthday*

Linda Hughs	2nd
Noma Hickok	6th
Niki LeVasseur	6th
Barbra Davis	14th
Ron Mines	16th
John Kohler	17th
Linda Jackling	20th
Allison Ward	22nd
Steve Hoops	23rd
Toni Dufrene	26th
John Matz	28th
Laura Kohler	28th
Hannah Armen	30th

## *Happy Anniversary*

Bruce & Margarete Rieck 14th

If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.  
Please notify Barbra in the church office  
to have your special dates added.

### **January at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!*

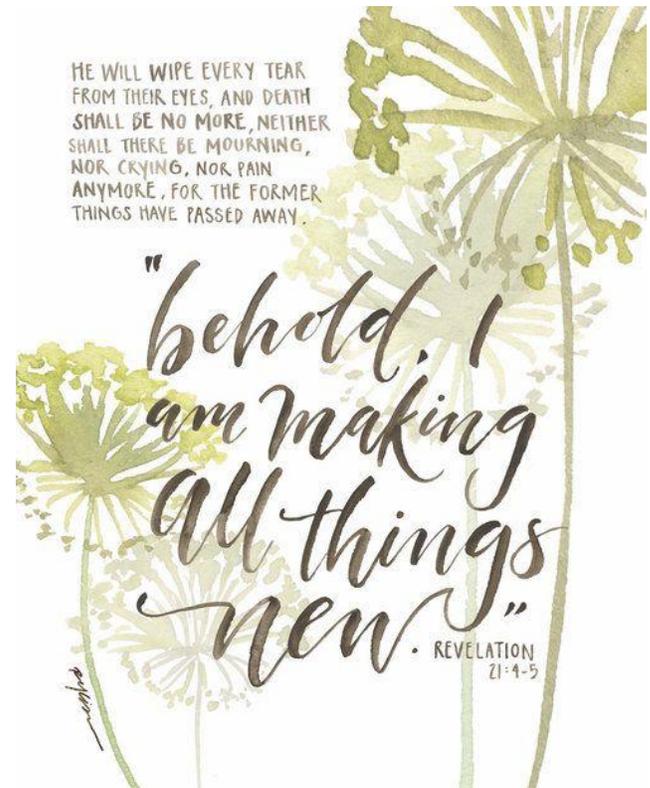
*Men of Faith Breakfast: January 8*

*Ladies Luncheon: January 12*

*Budget Workshop: January 13*

*Congregational Meeting: January 20*

HE WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR  
FROM THEIR EYES, AND DEATH  
SHALL BE NO MORE, NEITHER  
SHALL THERE BE MOURNING,  
NOR CRYING, NOR PAIN  
ANYMORE, FOR THE FORMER  
THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY.



# Happy 2019

### **Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation**

Could you benefit from the  
confidential, one-to-one care and  
support of a Stephen Minister? Call  
(941) 681-0297.

## Financial Info

Church Council has decided we need to share the current donation total year-to-date, and the 2017 donation total year-to-date.

Donations through October 31, 2017 = \$153,844.12; donations through October 31, 2018 = \$134,741.21.

Lois Burger, Treasurer

## It's Time for an Update. . .

### That is for our Pictorial Directory

Are you a new member at Faith?

Has there been a change in your family—marriage, birth, death?

Don't like your picture in the last directory?

A new member of the family—a pet?

Not a member, but want to be included? (Snowbirds, your church away from home!)

If one of the above reasons applies, or if there is any other reason you can think of, you should get a sitting on Saturday, February 9, to be included in our updated pictorial directory.

There will be more info forthcoming, but for now, mark the date on your calendar! You say, "I won't be here on the 9<sup>th</sup>." Well, we can fix that, too.

So smile—we want you in the Pictorial Directory!

Note: We need at least 15 people to make this happen. Don't be bashful!!!!

All people pictured in the directory will be getting a new copy

Coordinators,  
Jim Hughs and Mary Lou Fitzgerald

## Men – You are Invited...

...to the December Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, January 8, at 7:30 am for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

## Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

Insurance policies naming the church as a beneficiary are another means of providing a gift that will continue to bless our congregation's ministry.

If the policy is given outright to the church, you may claim the premiums paid as a charitable deduction.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is now an option at Faith. Use this code to contribute and support God's work, or click on the code on our church website.



## January Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of Faith will meet on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, at Leverocks -- located south of the church on Placida Rd. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Deadline is January 8, 2019. For questions see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

This year we are continuing the tradition of "12 Weeks of Christmas," but with a different name. Please join us in the "9 Weeks of Helping Our Neighbors."

## 9 Weeks of Helping Our Neighbors

Jan. 6 – Red, black, white and/or baked beans

Jan. 13 – Baby food/ diapers

Jan. 20 – Peanut butter & jelly

Jan. 27 – Condiments/ mustard, catsup, mayo

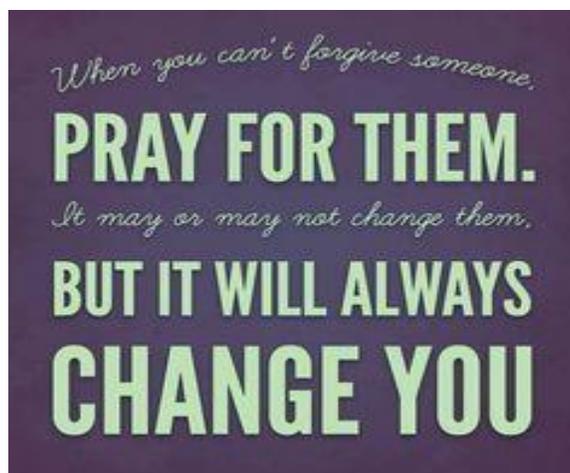
Feb. 3 – Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Feb. 10 – Bathroom paper

Feb. 17 – Toothpaste and brushes

Feb. 24 – Laundry/ dish detergent

March 3 – Anything BOGO (Buy one get one)



## Long Term Prayer

In order to save the Sunday prayer list for current issues, we have created a special prayer list in our newsletter for long-term issues that need daily prayer. If you need to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis.

Neal Schattauer, Steven Flagg, Joyce Hickman, Elizabeth Hickman, Carol Schleede, Roger DeMeritt, Michael Romanelli, Jim Buroker, Ethel Hunn, Jacky Magee, Ray Eifert, Danny DeGroot, Richard Wilder, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick, Jim & Paul Rodvik

## In the Memorial Garden. . .

Have you taken a stroll and spent some time in the Memorial Garden lately? Well why not spend a few moments to meditate there and enjoy the beauty of the area?

A new addition in the garden is a statue of St. Francis of Assisi--the patron saint of nature—so appropriate for the garden. The statue was purchased with a gift from Thrivent.

A while ago new sod was laid in the garden. Then rains came, then stopped, and it was decided that an irrigation system should be installed. We contacted RainScape, who presented an estimate of \$710. Would you believe that Rain Scape DONATED the entire system and labor to install it? Not one penny was spent! A big THANK YOU!

Soon a few memorial bricks will be placed in the garden in private family ceremonies. If you would like to place a brick along the sidewalk in the garden for a remembrance, a special event, etc. there are forms in the narthex. Cost \$100. Any questions? See Mary Lou Fitzgerald.

# From the Pastor



January, 2019

Lori and I thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts this Christmas season. Your compassion and concern are greatly appreciated. It is a blessing to be a part of the Faith family.

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19*

We are typically accustomed to hearing this word of prophecy during the Advent season. This word seems equally appropriate as we enter the New Year.

There is a sermon here:

- 1) God is at work. I am doing a new thing. I am making a way. Now it springs up. God's word is spoken. God's activity is present; it affects a change in our world.
- 2) We are human, the rhetorical question is asked: do you not perceive it? How many times are we blinded by the darkness of our world, the wilderness and wasteland, so we fail to see the stream? God, through the prophet, invites us to stop and look for where he is at work in our world.
- 3) As we see God's work, we are invited to participate.

While the daily news cycle will always point out the wilderness and wasteland of our world, society and lives, I invite you to hear the word of God and the prophet: look for the stream. Look for what God is doing in your life and in our world, give thanks and get involved. Allow God to work on you, in you and through you each and every day.

God is faithful... *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* Hebrews 13:8. Our hope for 2019 is not based simply on the promise that God is at work. Our hope is in Emmanuel, God with us through Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem who was born, will live, and give his life for us.

God bless you always,

*Pastor Brian*

