

Faith's Happenings...

September, 2023

Happy Birthday

Sam D'Amico	2nd
Marcia Wilkins	6th
Sue Baran	7th
Cyndi Kussow	10th
Marlin Harris	13th
Stephen Armen	14th
Barb Jones	20th
Jim Buroker	25th
David Montesi	26th
Gary Wilkins	27th
Charlene Howe	28th
Brian Lindhurst	28th

Happy Anniversary

John & Linda Schleede	3rd
Bob & Ruth Ash	8th
Allan & Joan Thoren	16th
Jim & Barb Buroker	25th

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

September at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Labor Day: September 4

Men of Faith Breakfast: September 5

God's Work Our Hands: September 10

Ladies Luncheon: September 13



Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, September 5, at Stefanos. We meet at 7:30 for some great food and fellowship. You can stay as long as you like and get to know your church brothers.



Long Term Prayer Update

This prayer list is for those who need continued, long-term prayer. We try to keep the weekly prayer list short, so people named may be moved to the newsletter after a few weeks in the bulletin. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers: Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Jackie Magee, Gary Wilkins, Neal Schattauer, Scott Schultz, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Dave Deitrich, Jack Myers

Details of God's Work – Our Hands

Sunday, September 10, is God's Work – Our Hands Sunday. It is a time to collect items for some special community projects. This year we would like to help all four of the ministries we regularly contribute to with a special donation. These include Kids Needs, Meals on Wheels, the St. Francis food pantry and our campers ministry to the homeless.

Here's what we are asking you to consider giving that morning:

Kids Needs: children's underwear, socks and tennis shoes.

Food Pantry: Your choice of food

Campers: quarters for laundry and detergent pods.

Meals on Wheels: Please consider volunteering as a driver.

We will also accept any monetary donations, which will be divided among all four outreaches. This is the perfect time to purchase children's clothing while there is a tax break until August 7!

NOTE: Kids Needs has a special need for boys' clothes. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a container in the narthex on September 10 so you can make your donations.

Ladies Luncheon

The next Ladies Luncheon will be on Wednesday, September 13th, 11:30 am, at Landy's. It is located immediately off SR 776, east of McDonald's, near the Englewood Beach Road turn-off. You will notice the large tiki roof which has been added since the hurricane. We will eat inside in air-conditioned comfort!! They have an eclectic menu, with lots of seafood, soup, salads etc. They also specialize in Greek food. Separate checks for all, and the enjoyment of fellowship and laughter! Deadline is Sunday, September 10th. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. For more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

A Few Changes and Upcoming Events

~ The Worship and Music Committee meeting has been changed to Monday, October 9 at 10:00 am.

~ Council meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month (11:00 am) for the remainder of the year.

~ We are attempting to schedule a church picnic at the Manasota Beach Club sometime in early November.



Choir Rehearsals to Begin

Rehearsals for the "Merry singing of the Choir" will begin on Sunday, October 8. Rehearsals will be held AFTER the worship service (at 10:30) in the choir room. It will be wonderful to be back together – bring a friend to join us!



Today as I write, preparations have been made for hurricane Idalia to make an approach somewhere in Florida. Eleven months after hurricane Ian struck, we are at it again. There has been much conversation on the reality of PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as it relates to going through a disaster like we experienced.

As I alluded to on Sunday, we may need to coin a new term, PSTD, Pre-Storm Traumatic Disorder. Not only do we deal with the after effects of previous events, we are anxious about the next event as we live through its approach.

What we feel is real. We dare not minimize the impact these feelings have on ourselves, our family, friends and neighbors. For we who endured Ian, and for those experiencing the uncertainty of a hurricane for the first time, we need to remember how we worked together after Ian to help one another, clean up and secure our neighborhoods, and help with food, water and transportation.

Whether in recovery as after Ian, or in preparation now for Idalia, we need to reach out and help those around us. This is what God would have us do.

In Matthew 6.25-34, Jesus teaches about worry -- or more accurately, why not to worry. Jesus' teaching on why we need not worry, is because of the authority, providence and care of God walking with us through every day and every stage of life.

Through hurricanes, or whatever the current challenge may be, God is with us, and God puts people around us to help us, so we would help others.

In the New International Version, the final verse of that teaching says, *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

This is one time I like The Message Version of a text. As Eugene Peterson puts that Gospel truth into contemporary language, Jesus says in Matthew 6.34, *Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.*

We don't know what tomorrow will bring. By the time you get this, Idalia may have passed us by, or we may be cleaning up. But remember: 1) God is with us. 2) God has placed people around you to help. 3) Ask for help if you have a need. 4) You may be the answer to someone's prayer for help.

This Sunday, September 3rd, and next Sunday, September 10th, we will focus on "God's Work, Our Hands." God is at work through us, on behalf of others in need. Please do what you are able, ask if you have a need, trust God, and serve your neighbor in God's name.

Peace, + Pastor Brian

