FROM THE PASTOR

A family was visiting New York City for the first time. They were dazzled by the sights and the bustling crowds. "This is the city that never sleeps," the father told his eleven-year-old daughter.

"That's probably because there's a Starbucks on every corner," she observed.

Christ did not mean for us to be frantically on the go every minute of every day or always worrying about the day or the future.

There were times when Jesus withdrew to be by himself. He took time to be with his friends. He took time to enjoy the beauty of nature, time to enjoy the laughter of children, time to go fishing with his friends. If there had been golf courses back then, I imagine he would have taken time to play golf. He especially took time to commune with God.

In the early days of automobiles, it was common for restaurants to be built on the top of long hills. These locations were for the convenience of people who needed to stop and let their overheated radiators cool down. That's one of the functions of worship, meditation and prayer - a time for rest and inspiration, when we let our overheated lives cool down.

Our greatest need is to relax and trust God to help us with our needs, concerns and problems.

Doug Forsberg, in his book, On Fragile Wings," tells about a phone call he received at 3 a.m. on a bone-chilling January night. The male voice on the other end was panic-stricken. The caller was an infrequent attendee of Forsberg's church who had been thrown into jail earlier that day. His panic was because his two children, ages two and four, had been involved in an auto accident, and he did not know their condition. All he knew was that his roommate had been drinking, took the children in his car, and hit a telephone pole.

Forsberg told the man on the phone he would come to the jail, and together they would find out what happened.

Forsberg dressed and headed for the jail in the ten degree darkness. When he arrived, the man who had called him was sitting in his cell with his two children on his lap. The children had a few scrapes and cuts, but for the most part they were unharmed. The ambulance driver had taken the children to the jail, and the police were in a quandary about what to do with them.

Forsberg and his wife took temporary custody of the two little ones that cold night. He told their father they would look after them until other arrangements could be made. As they walked to the parking lot, Forsberg couldn't help but think how frightened these two little ones must be. Their father was in jail, they had been in a car accident under the care of a drunk, and now they were going home with a stranger.

What he will always remember from that night was a question the four-year-old girl asked him when he buckled her seat belt in the back set of his car. As he fastened the buckle, she held his arm and looked up at him with frightened brown eyes and asked, "Can you drive?"

On that cold January night, a child was struggling with the issue of trust. She had been in an automobile accident. Would this stranger do any better?

But this is a question that you and I struggle with daily. It is essentially the question that is at the center of the meaning of life. Can I trust God? Can I focus my life on Christ and trust that he will help me with my burden and lead me where I need to go?

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11: 25-30
OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our prayers are with all who are ill or who are recuperating from an illness. Over the summer several of our members (that we know about) were hospitalized or underwent medical treatment. Those hospitalized include Bob Evans (Portsmouth, New Hampshire) and Alice Fowler (Lawnwood). Undergoing medical treatment for his eye was Clyde Embling.

May the Lord be with you with His healing power as you recuperate.

We express our sympathy to Pastor David Huels on the death of Ellen on June 13th. We also express our sympathy to the family of Ginger Morse. Ginger died in June.

Carol Mina has a new address:
4005 Caspian Ct.
Melbourne, Florida 32904
Phone: 321-345-5777

Frank Purcell has a new address:
7 Ridgeway Drive
Bryson City, North Carolina 28713
Phone: 772-985-6927

IN OUR PRAYERS


NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering is one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. The offering is observed every Fall. This year we will receive the offering on Sunday, October 7th. An offering envelope is enclosed.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.

One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries. Historically, forbears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribe UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by our offering.

Neighbors in Need helps make a just world for all possible. For this to occur, it needs your support.
ANNUAL FALL YARD SALE

Will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a major fund raiser for our church. Much help is needed: setting up, pricing, dismantling after sale, etc. And we need items for sale: gently used clothing, shoes, handbags, wallets, accessories, linens (such as bedding and towels), household items, small appliances, tools, books, toys, Christmas items and furniture. Now's the time to clean out closets!

The "Kitchen" will be opened by Patricia and crew, serving delicious meatball subs, hot dogs, egg salad sandwiches and breakfast goodies. All available to eat in or take out.

Mark the Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018!!! More info to follow

MISSIONS (Becky Miller)

A big "Welcome Back" to those who are slowly drifting back to Florida. And a "Thank You" to those who have continued to save BOX TOPS this summer. For our friends who will be returning south, remember that box tops take up very little room in your packing!

OTHER DATES

CHOIR PRACTICE will begin the middle of October. Stay tuned (pun intended 😊) for the exact week!

CHURCH COUNCIL meetings will be held on Sunday, October 7, and Sunday, November 4, rather than the usual second Sundays.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our meetings have resumed! Remember the first Tuesday of each month at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us for fun and fellowship!

BIRTHDAYS

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<td>7th</td>
<td>Diana Junker</td>
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ANNIVERSARIES

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<td>30th</td>
<td>Don &amp; Shirley Facey</td>
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<td>Bruce &amp; Bette Forbes</td>
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MARSHALL'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 1:00 to 4:00  (772) 465-2082
You may feel free to contact him at any time at (772) 340-0472. Please call before stopping by the church in case he is out calling on people.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE

The third Sunday of every month. You may email newsletter articles to churchoffice@firstcongfp.org. You may also drop them off in the newsletter mailbox at the church, or call Elaine Souza (772) 462-2272 or Dickie Brooks (772) 971-1370.