

Wildwood Church of Christ

114 Cleveland Ave. Wildwood, FL. 34785

church website: www.hischurch.faith wifi password: John3:16

Sunday: Bible Class – 9:30a.m. Worship – 10:30a.m. Wednesday Bible Class – 6:30p.m.

TLC(Tuesday Ladies Care) – Every Tuesday 9:30a.m. in Fellowship Hall

2023 Theme: Be What Matters!

Theme for November: “Be Different”

December 17, 2023

Song #265 Stepping In The Light

Song #669 Did You Think To Pray

Prayer – Darrel Ponsford

Pass Communion

Song #364 I Gave My Life For Thee

Lord’s Supper – Jim Routzahn

Brian Burkert Wayne Crenshaw

Jason Terry Bob Farner

Song #492 Angels Are Singing

Sermon: “Be Fragrant!”

Song #863 What Shall It Be

Song #753 Are You Sowing The Seed

Closing Prayer – Keith Jones

The Art of Giving

Over the years, I have been very interested in World History, especially Western World History, and love reading about it. There is a set of books, seven volumes in all, written by Thomas Cahill that is called “Hinges of History. In each volume, Cahill seeks to retell the story of the western world as the story of “the great gift-givers.”

Volume 3 deals with Jesus of Nazareth, whom Cahill calls “the central figure of Western civilization”. Jesus came to this world over 2000 years ago born as a human and “**dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth**” John 1:14. Yes, Jesus did make a difference in the world. Jesus made a difference in the world because of what John said in vs. 17-18, “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son (God), who is in the bosom of the Father . . .” The last part of vs.18 is one of the reasons for the Lord’s coming, “He has declared Him.” Jesus came to not only give His life to save us, but also to reveal His Father to the world. What a gift He gave and a difference He made.

During this nation’s holiday season called Christmas, we try to give a gift that will make a difference in someone’s life. But too often, our gifts are inadequate. Why? Perhaps because we have not learned from our heavenly Father the art of giving.

In John 3:16 we read, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” This powerfully simple expression of the gospel tells us that out of love, Christ gave Himself. It is no wonder that we exclaim and remember each first day of the week during communion, “**Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**” (2Corinthians 9:15) Whether we give a hand made gift, or a homemade box of cookies, the key is to give ourselves with it. This is the spirit of giving that brings life-changing encouragement and peace to the one’s we love. Gifts that make a difference are the ones that are tied with heartstrings.

PRAYER LIST

~ **Fred French** got the results from his PET scan and will have a biopsy then surgery to remove a tumor. The doctors feel good about being able to treat the cancer and the scan showed no cancer anywhere else. We praise God for this good news and we pray for great results with Fred's surgery and treatment.

~ **Peggy Dean** has been sick with the flu but she is feeling much better now.

~ **Ken & Sherry Scott** are dealing with several health issues and need our encouragement and prayers.

~ **Amanda George**, Joan's granddaughter is still in the hospital at Shands in Gainesville but she has been moved one step down from ICU to intermediate care.

~ **Mollie Holley** received good news that her numbers for her kidney function are back up.

~ **Janet Jones**, Carol Rollins' sister, who lives in northern Virginia is in the hospital and is having many health problems. Carol asks for us to pray for her.

~ **Janet Sours** had knee surgery last week and is in a rehab while she recovers.

~ There are many in our congregation and in our families that are sick and deal with health issues on a daily basis. We pray for all of them but also remember the **care givers**. **Care giving** can be very hard at times, emotionally, mentally and physically and they also need our support, encouragement and a helping hand at times.

Remember: Janet Hyder & family, Basile Summers, Cut Barco, Pat Ponsford, Edra Nell Courtney, Myrna Human, Charles & Mary Jane Wright, Jack Kyle, Alice Wayne, Eddie Duncan, Patricia Webber, Ken & Sherry Scott, Wayne & Joyce Freeman, Sam Costa, Steve Huttenpiller, family of Ricky Baker, family of Tara Strickland, John & Loraine da Silva, Keith Jones, Lottie Colton, Ron & Carol Rollins, Shirley Threet, John & Leigh Workman, Jeanette Harris, Joyce Prather, Taylor Williams & family, Millie Tudor, Tina Lipps, & her mom Sharon, Jim & Sue Allison, Bryan Noland, Teresa Broyles, Bill Cefaloni, Glenda Mount, Tim Sigler, Kathy Cefaloni, Peggy Baird, Kacey Terry, Cody Grissom, Sister Dorothy Colton, Al Alvarez, Kellie Ward, Guy Grove, Julie Welch, those in wars, our search for a Youth/Family Minister.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **John DeGrave**, our new brother in Christ, his address is: 8010 Penrose Pl. Wildwood, 34785 ph.# (414) 334-1207 Make sure you get to know John.

* **Correction to the Bible Reading** list for December: 6th–Isaiah 42:6-8; 8th–2Cor.2:14-15

* **New Year's Eve Fellowship & Games:** Dec.31st, 3:00 p.m. until - Bring games and Finger Foods to share and let's enjoy some time together. We are starting at 3:00 so if you want to be home before dark, you can. 😊

Christmas Food Boxes

* We are assembling and delivering the **Christmas food boxes this week**, Thursday, Dec. 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the ladies' classroom. We are also helping the Jackson Street Church of Christ which will bring our total of 20 boxes to fix. We need a little bit of almost everything! **If you would like to give money to help purchase** the hams and other perishable items for the food boxes, you can give your money to David or Sarah. Make checks out the Wildwood Church of Christ.

Pantry Items: Canned Yams Evaporated Milk Instant Potatoes Mac-n-Cheese Applesauce Peaches Peanut Butter Jelly Stuffing Mix Peaches Cranberry Sauce

December Birthdays: Tim Burwell-4, Wayne Crenshaw-5, Whitley Adams-7, Emmett Williams-7, Sydni Fort-8, Tina Glenn-8, Easton Williams-8, Gina Marshall-10, Raygen Fort-12, Fred French-15, Brisyn Blankenship-18, Kristen Williams-21, Sadie Gage-26, Florence Burwell-30

December Anniversaries: Wayne & June Crenshaw-15, Basile & Libbie Summers-21, George & Alicia Barrett 30, Charles & Mary Jane Wright-31

Nursery Class: Dec 17-Lynzi Jones Dec 24-Kelley Whited Dec 31-Lana Vernon

Greeters: Dec17-Tina Glenn & Barbara Howlett Dec 24-Myrna Human & Judy Kyle Dec 31-Reese Meskil & Reida Glenn

Communion Preparation: December – June Crenshaw

Security: 17th & 20th -Jimmy Glenn 24th & 27th -Jim Routzahn **Lock-Up:** December- Keith Jones