



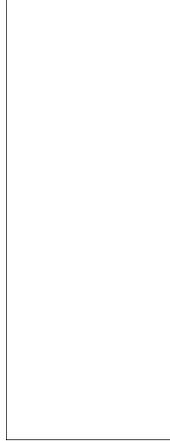
Please keep the following in your prayers. Remember them with a card or phone call.

- ◆ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
- ◆ Pray for our nation
- ◆ Officers of the Haines City Police Department, including Chief James Elensky (the week of 11/22) and Michelle Escribano (the week of 11/29)
- ◆ Leadership of First Christian Church
- ◆ Search Committee of First Christian Church
- ◆ US Military Personnel Throughout the World
- ◆ **Health Concerns:** Bob Fain, Leo Woodward, Roger and Yvonne Evans, Lorena Roberts, Dottie Minnich, Lee Lynch, and Dorothy Goodman
- ◆ For Those Who Mourn - Jody Murphy, Chuck Dunning, Rick Casey, Susan Collins
- ◆ Shirley Endly - severe case of shingles
- ◆ Deb Kemp - new meds; back at home
- ◆ Danae Bryan - placed under hospice care and on the kidney transplant list
- ◆ Fred Somers - biopsy results require some health decisions
- ◆ Michael Crousore - starting chemotherapy
- ◆ Karl Casey - bone marrow biopsy this Friday
- ◆ Jackie Fain - heart issues
- ◆ Linda West - ultrasound and biopsy scheduled
- ◆ Pete Jarrett - health concerns
- ◆ Marty Vanaskey - Traveling mercies to Ohio and prayers for healing during this respite
- ◆ Elaine Ogburn - fighting an infection
- ◆ Carole Fink - recovering from a broken arm
- ◆ Phyllis Wasson - recovering from back surgery
- ◆ William Lair, Jr - biopsy results will determine treatment, at home; son-in-law of Marty Dewitt
- ◆ Gary Pillsbury - health concerns
- ◆ Bill Booth - health concerns; Liz Pillsbury's father
- ◆ Kevin Henderson - waiting on a liver transplant; son of Wanda Henderson
- ◆ Educators as they are having to teach in-person and virtual
- ◆ Election Fall-Out and Transition
- ◆ Victims of Hurricane Eta
- ◆ Victims of Hurricane Iota

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WORSHIP: 9:50 a.m.

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**GOD BLESS AMERICA
 IN GOD WE TRUST**



THE HAINES CITY DISCIPLE

The First Christian Church of Haines City (DOC)
 705 South 14th St. Haines City, FL 33844



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WANDERING WEST WORD

So it all comes down to this last column after writing the “Wandering West Word” twice a month since my arrival here in May of 2008. Thank you for granting me this privilege and honor of serving as your pastor. We have covered a lot of ground, engaged in ministries and outreach into the community as well as the world. I have been touched by the ways you have not only supported my ministry but revealed yourself and your gifts in sometimes surprising ways.

Some of you have done so without the spotlight, doing for others or for the church, not for recognition but as a faith response. Maybe later I would hear of something you may have done, or in all likelihood, it remained unknown to me. One of the concerns I had initially in coming here was the age of the congregation and wondering how much of my ministry would be involved in funerals. Certainly we have had our share of funerals but perhaps no more so than any other congregation where I may have been called to serve. Still I cherish many memories of those whom we have said “goodbye,” ever thankful for their life’s witness.

I was truly blessed to spend the last five years of my mother’s life looking after her, something I had pretty much ruled out until after my retirement. You made that possible and for that, I am forever grateful. Had I waited, it would have been too late. Now, it is Linda’s turn to look in after her parents in Alabama, giving her the memories that she can carry for the rest of her life.

My ministry has been enriched by the paid staff that have joined me on this journey. It has been great to have my senior staff member, Fabio Rodriguez, with me all of these years. In fact, his employment here exceeds mine. Each of these valued staff members understand that their job is more than a paycheck, but a ministry. Thank you to Jackie Fain, Donna Nordby, Karen Bailey, and Cathi Krstulich for giving of yourselves in such ways as to honor and glorify God.

But paid staff only touches the surface of who really brings the church’s ministry and mission alive! From Sunday school and Bible study to Operation Inasmuch and “A House Blest,” from chancel choir to handbell choir, from catered meals to OJ/Coffee Fellowships, more than a handful have stepped up time and time again. Some to bring in food and paper goods, others ring bells for the Salvation Army’s annual Red Kettle Drive, we are making a difference!

Linda and I leave here, holding on to some wonderful memories and some beautiful friendships. You can reach us at or new address:

2307 E Laurel Street
 Atmore, AL 36502

I am sure it will be an adjustment to retirement. We have lots of things to look forward to, a birth of a new grandchild in December, a place to grow a garden, and a time to rest this weary soul. I also look forward to hearing how you are transformed as a faith community under new leadership. Knowing that God has this, I believe there is a bright future for all of us. Again, thank you for allowing me to be a part of your faith journey and you mine! Thanks be to God!

Until we meet again,
 Gary L. West

DID YOU WELCOME...

Bruce Herron and Jenny Miller, Larry and Linda Donley, Ellen Wright, Jackie Fain, Jerry and Phyllis Wasson, Rev. Dr. Betsy Goehrig, Shirley Wetmore and her family, Michael and Bonnie Jorgensen, Mel Woodruff, Marty and Linda Dewitt, Debra Lazier, Jean and Bob Stanley as they joined with us in in-person worship?

DID YOU SEE...

who joined us for our live-streamed worship services? We welcome Leo Woodward, Hellen Leimgruber, Sandi Murphy, Ruth Kissinger, Betsy Ambrouso, Oscar and Margaret Fowler, Charles Bryan, Hazel Wood, Bob West, Tim and Dee Jenkins, Roger and Yvonne Evans, Luana Tolan, Vicki Schaible, Danae Bryan, Wanda Henderson, among many others.

THANK YOU

From Jody Murphy:

Words have a difficult time expressing how appreciative that our family is for all the cards, texts, food, and attendance at his Celebration of Life service that we have been blessed with since Bob passed away. Our church family has always been so very important to Bob and I, and our family has been overwhelmed with your caring and concern since Bob's accident, and his death. What a phenomenal church family you are. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Hugs and love!

IN LOVING MEMORY SHIRLEY PURCELL

JANUARY 7, 1932 - NOVEMBER 5, 2020

We were saddened to hear from Robin Arlington, one of four daughters of Shirley Purcell, that she died at a hospice in-residence facility in Colorado on Thursday, November 5. Taking care of her mother here in Haines City for thirteen years, enabling her to remain at home until she died, Shirley made the difficult decision to leave Haines City after experiencing her own health issues and move to Colorado to be closer to her daughters. The past eleven months had been difficult for her and had been placed under hospice care shortly before she died. Three of her four daughters, Robin, Susan, and Melissa, (all from Colorado) were able to be with their mother when she died. The fourth, Beth Ann, lives in New York and she will be handling the funeral services as her body was being shipped to Pennsylvania where a Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Shirley was faithful to our church. It would be rare if she missed a Sunday in worship. Selfless, but always carrying a great smile and an even better attitude, Shirley was remarkable in many ways but her love for her family and her God kept her going.

IN CHRISTIAN EMPATHY

We extend our Christian empathy to the family of Jim Graham who died on Saturday, November 14. Jim attended here for several years along with his daughters, Suzanne Meszaros and Shannon Graham March. He is also survived by a son, Jimbo. A compassionate man if there ever was one, willing to help wherever there was need. Our prayers go out to Jim's family during this time of separation!

(“Hurricane Eta” ... Cont.)

places where crops were lost. Because our partners were doing this work before the hurricane, response can focus on the ability of communities to recover using their own resources.

Now a Tropical Storm, Eta is forecast to impact Cuba later today, possibly approaching the Florida Gulf Coast later this week. Heavy rainfall with the potential for dangerous flooding is expected. Even as we prepare for a possible domestic impact, Week of Compassion remains committed to accompanying our long-time partners and friends in Central America: both in the immediate aftermath of this disaster, and the long-term rebuilding process ahead.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL DAY OFFERING FUNDS HIGHER EDUCATION

We began collections for the Thanksgiving Special Day Offering last Sunday and will continue through this Sunday, November 22. The Special Day Offering benefits the fifteen colleges and universities, and seven seminaries, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States. Often when we think of college, we think of books, professors, and athletic events, rarely thinking of college chaplains. Yet college chaplains play a vital role on campuses, offering no less than a ministry of presence.

A major part of a chaplain's responsibility is coordinating the religious life offerings on campus, like weekly chapel services, study groups and fellowship time, or leading mission trips. The chaplain also participates in campus-wide events.

While serving as the spiritual voice of the institution, it is the ministry of presence that is unique. From the moment students arrive on campus until the day they graduate, students will face serious challenges. Whether it is struggling with grades or roommates, dealing with the loss of a loved one back home, or trying to figure out answers to new and unsettling questions of faith, students look to the chaplain. Chaplains also serve as mentors to students who are trying to better understand how to best use their talents and how to nurture their gifts.

While the public presence of the chaplain may get most of the attention, it is the personal, pastoral presence that often has the biggest impact on the life of the student. To support the work of chaplains and other Disciple higher education programs, you are invited to give generously to the Thanksgiving Special Day Offering.

NO RED KETTLE DRIVE THIS YEAR

About now we would be having sign-up sheets for volunteers to ring bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the local Publix. But for the first time in many years, we won't be asked to volunteer as The Salvation Army has decided no bell ringing this year due to Covid-19. This marks a significant blow to their income to fund their ministries so maybe you can send a donation to the Salvation Army of Winter Haven.





Hurricane Eta Impacts Communities in Central America



Photo: AMC, Prinzapolka, Nicaragua

Several communities in Central America were among those impacted by Hurricane Eta, which reached Nicaragua as a Category 4 storm on November 3. Over the coming days, the storm - one of the most significant to hit the area in decades - extended reach to other parts of the region as well. In Guatemala, at least 50 people have died - though that total could reach up to 150 people as assessments and rescue efforts continue. In Honduras, days of rain devastated crops and damaged infrastructure such as roads, bridges and water sources. Hundreds of thousands of people

across Central America have been displaced from their homes. Of these, about 5,500 are in emergency shelters where our partners are working.

For years, Week of Compassion has built on partner connections in the region, supporting agricultural development programs that empower communities, improve food security, and address root causes of poverty. Through these programs, farmers adopt new practices that improve their harvests, and parents find new ways to improve their children's health and nutrition.

While communications have been difficult due to phone outages and lack of ground access from the storm, Week of Compassion has been in touch with partners and learning of initial impact and response. Many of those most affected by the storm are in communities where Week of Compassion has a long history, having invested in relationships and programs over many years. While the full extent of the damage is not yet known, many of the farmers involved in our partner programs face significant crop and property loss as a result of this storm. Week of Compassion is supporting these communities through immediate relief, helping our partners meet needs such as shelter, food items and hygiene kits.

"The good news is that a hurricane doesn't destroy the social structure" says Martin Coria, CWS Regional Director, Latin America and Caribbean. He notes that, particularly in the places where the impact was most severe, the work that we support together through intentional relationship has been building capacity for years. "Communities and families are not powerless - they are prepared, they are organized. So even if a water system was destroyed, they are prepared to work together with the local community and government to rebuild that system. People are not passively waiting for aid to come from somewhere. We build capacity and leadership over time. These men and women are now the ones getting organized and mobilized to support recovery."

Your support through Week of Compassion provided for a flash flood warning system in Guatemala; and better road construction, less vulnerable to landslides, in Honduras. Alongside agricultural support, these programs are specifically designed to foster resilient communities. Part of the immediate hurricane response will include seed distribution, as well as food aid, to those

(continued on next page)

GOODBYE PICNIC SUNDAY FOR PASTOR GARY AND LINDA

The Membership Ministry will host a "Goodbye picnic" for Pastor Gary and Linda this Sunday, November 22, immediately following worship. Tables will be set up outside with limited seating at each table. A menu of fried chicken, baked bean, potato salad, deviled eggs, beverage, and brownies. Reservations may be called into the church office as late as Wednesday evening.

THANKS!

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of those who have donated in loving memory of Bob Murphy. Thanks to William and Ann Turner, John and Sherry Woods, Martha Criss, Paul and Donna Nordby, Andy and Caro Hicks, Tammy Laterveer, Karen Freeneu, Mike Sloan, Rhonda Lee, Cameron Buck Cleman, Andy Dobson, Kathryn Kopp, Jennifer Dismuke, Haines City Fire and Security Services, Inc., and Harold and Sue Hunt!

Memorial Funds are overseen by the Memorial Committee who receive requests from the Ministries of the church to meet a need not otherwise covered by the General Budget. Recently, Memorial Funds have been used to refurbish the handbells, to purchase chairs in the Choir room, and to purchase the video and computer equipment to enhance our live streaming the worship services. Any requests over a \$1,000.00 must go to the Board for approval; otherwise the Memorial Committee reports to the Board its actions.

PASTOR ROS SPRINGER TO RETURN



The Rev. Roslin Springer will be preaching here on November 29 and every Sunday in December.

Ros served as our Interim during the time Pastor Gary was on Sabbatical leave. She is well known for her creativity in programming, innovative worship experiences and sense of humor.

Ros lives in Valrico, across the street from her daughter and family. Growing up in Florida, she graduated as Brandon High School's valedictorian, earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Phillips and National Universities, and entered ministry in Tampa. She has pursued continuing education at Lexington

Theological Seminary in Kentucky and Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

Her warmth, humor and radiant smile draw people to her as they realize that having a living faith in Jesus Christ provides abundant joy. Please join us in welcoming Ros back to the pulpit at FCC.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

General Fund - \$ 1,990.01	November 8, 2020	Attendance - 93
	(Live and Live-streamed)	
	Use of Facilities - \$ 1,765.00	
	Pavers - \$ 100.00	
	Memorial Fund - \$ 1,350.00	
	Zoom Reimbursement - \$ 16.62	
General Fund - \$ 2,833.01	November 15, 2020	Attendance - 70
	(Live and Live-streamed)	
	Use of Facilities - \$ 675.00	
	Memorial Fund - \$ 250.00	
	Thanksgiving Offering - \$ 100.00	

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meals on Wheels is currently looking for smiling faces to deliver meals to the home-bound in Haines City. Because of COVID, the numbers seeking hot meals once a day from Meals on Wheels has increased significantly in our community. You pick up the meals at First Presbyterian Church, Haines City, where a route takes about 1 1/2 hours. You can volunteer for once a week or as a substitute. Sign up today at: mealsonwheelspolk.com or call (863) 299-1616.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

The Outreach Ministry, chaired by Nancy Tourville, is working with The W.A.Y. Center in providing gifts and food for needy families. If you would like to adopt-a-child or a family, contact Nancy and she will provide you the information you will need for that child or family.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

The Nominating Committee submitted a proposed slate of officers for 2021 for the Board's approval on Sunday, November 8. The proposed slate now goes before the congregation at the Annual meeting set for January 17.

Board Chair: Charles Bright (1-year term)
Chair-Elect: Julie Duff (1-year term)

Legacy Endowment Trustee (3-year term)
Charles Bright (first term)
Carol Casey (second term)
Betsy Rod (unexpired tem)
Marty Dewitt (unexpired term)

Ministry Chairs (1-year term)
Christian Education: Paul Nordby
Evangelism: Andy Hicks
Membership: Deb Kemp
Outreach: Nancy Tourville
Personnel: Larry Lincoski
Property: Josh Duff
Stewardship: Don Stoltz
Worship: Julie Duff

Memorial/Columbarium (6-year term)
Andy Duff (unexpired term)

Elder (3-year term)
Jody Murphy

Elder Chair: Jody Murphy (1-year term)

Deacons (3-year terms)
Rick Casey
Andy Duff
Betsy Rod
Marty Vanaskey
Larry Donley
Jerry Wasson

Deacon Chair: Ethan Glockner (1-year term)



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Each year the Worship Ministry invites members and friends of First Christian Church to help adorn the chancel area in the sanctuary with the traditional Christmas flower, the poinsettia. The potted plants are given either In Loving Memory or In Honor of a loved one.

This year the Worship Ministry is also inviting you to consider instead of purchasing a poinsettia, or in addition to, you may make a love gift to the Legacy Endowment Fund for the same amount.

The poinsettias will be displayed beginning Sunday, December 13th and the poinsettia plants can be removed either following the Christmas Eve Service or after the service on the Sunday after Christmas.

The cost of each plant is \$8.00. **The deadline to order is Wednesday, December 3rd at noon.** Please enclose your payment with your order form (payable to First Christian Church). Thank You!

Total Number of Plants: _____ (Red: _____ or White: _____)

In lieu of or in addition to a Poinsettia plant, I Offer a Love Gift _____

The Legacy Fund: \$_____ or The Memorial Fund: \$_____

In Honor of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ I will pick up my plant following Worship service on Christmas Eve.

_____ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.