



# The Haines City Disciple



First Christian Church, 705 S. 14th Street , Haines City, FL 33844



## GOD IS OUR REFUGE: An Update on Recent Responses

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ~Psalm 46:1-4*

Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been heavy with crises: the desperate situation in Afghanistan, which continues to unfold; the earthquake in Haiti, which killed more than 2,200 and left tens of thousands more without a home; Hurricane Ida, which caused widespread damage in Louisiana and Mississippi, and even as far north as New York and New Jersey; and wildfires that continue to spread rapidly across the western U.S.

But we don't need to remind you of the suffering that continues to affect so much of our world. You have already responded with urgency, with faithfulness, and with great compassion.

***Just as these disasters continue to ripple across our awareness and our world, so your generous responses keep coming in waves.*** Individuals, families, and congregations are sharing so much, so willingly. In the midst of these ongoing responses, we wanted to take a moment and say thank you, and share a word about the impact of your support and partnership through these difficult days.

Support for Afghanistan is reaching Week of Compassion partners with long-standing relationships in the region. They are working to meet immediate needs among those who are unable to leave the country. Meanwhile, Week of Compassion, along with Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries and other partners, is working to support Afghans arriving in the United States. Many Disciples congregations are stepping up to help welcome families resettling in their local communities. Recent gifts to Week of Compassion designated for "refugees" are helping, in part, to [support our Disciples churches in these ministries](#), helping with basic needs like clothing, food, household items, and rental assistance for new arrivals.

Recent gifts for earthquake response are providing relief to the people of Haiti as they navigate yet another devastating event. Week of Compassion partners responded immediately, deploying volunteers to help with rescue operations and assess the damage. In the weeks since, they've been working to provide things like temporary shelters, emergency power generators, hygiene kits, food and water, as well as first aid kits. But this is only the beginning. Week of Compassion will continue to support long-term responses including construction, community-based psychosocial support and trauma recovery, as well as rebuilding of damaged water infrastructure.

Disciples congregations in Louisiana continue to assess damage from Hurricane Ida. Week of Compassion is supporting congregations as they work to serve their neighbors. Just Love Your Neighbor-Northshore Disciples are working with other local organizations to meet basic needs like food and water. Two churches in the greater Houston area have also been helping with supplies. We continue to plan for long-term recovery needs, as well as share information to help those affected navigate the process of seeking FEMA assistance. Meanwhile, your presence is also being felt to the northeast. Week of Compassion provided support to Park Avenue Christian Church in Orange, New Jersey, to help with flood damage at the church and among members' homes; and to Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City, supporting the church as they reached out to members and neighbors who were without power, providing hot meals as well as gift cards to meet additional needs.

It is shaping up to be another record year for wildfires, and it is still early in the season. Week of Compassion is in touch with church leaders and partners in the affected regions, and sharing support for congregations like First Christian Church Redding, who opened their doors and offered shelter to neighbors who were displaced.

The need seems overwhelming at times, Church. *But so is your compassion.* The Psalmist reminds us not to fear, even when waters roar and mountains quake. Disciples have answered the call in a powerful way, acting out of love and mercy rather than fear and hopelessness. You bear witness to the power of God at work in our midst, in the holy places that remain even in places of disaster. Please continue to hold all of these people and places in prayer in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you for your important part in this work that continues to change lives around the world, around the year.



**WOW**  
**(Worship our Way)**  
by Carol Casey

In the past two years we haven't had a lot to celebrate with our lives being dictated by COVID 19, which has caused many of us stress and anxiety. We've been living in a negative world for parents and children and that needs to change as quickly as possible.

The *GOOD NEWS* is that we (the Church) have been working behind the scenes to have a Sunday School experience available to the youth of our church (which began on September 12<sup>th</sup>.)

We refer to it as a Sunday School experience, called 'WOW' – 'Worship our Way,' which will be led by four volunteers: Carol Casey, Cindy Cordner, Julie Duff and Lynn Somers. Each volunteer will lead the class for one month at a time right after Small Talk.

We ask for your prayers and support in this effort to introduce the children of our church to a new setting to learn about the teaching of God the Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit.

We take this opportunity to thank Rev. Ros for helping us get started in this endeavor. She was encouraging and uplifting and I'm sure she is cheering us on each week. Thank you, Rev. Ros.



**Birthdays:**

- Marion Farnsworth - 10/2
- Wanda Webb - 10/8
- Ida Mae Adkins - 10/11
- John Slevin - 10/25
- Richard Powell - 10/27
- Ellen Wright - 10/27

**Anniversaries:**

- Carl and Betsy Rod - 10/2
- Gary and Cookie Sheldon - 10/8
- Richard and Kathy Miller - 10/20
- Chuck and Deb Kemp - 10/30



**DID YOU SEE...**

who joined us for our live-streamed worship services this past month? We welcome Jackie Fain, Judy Ritter, Elizabeth Velez, Ros Springer, Dorothy Douberly, Suzanne Crawl, Leonard Unger, Carol Ann Green Coy, Valorie Smith, Wayne Johnson, and Todd Bright, as well as our regular viewers! Thank you for watching!



**DID YOU WELCOME...**

those guests who joined us in the sanctuary for worship this past month? We welcome Pastor Rob and Nancy Mason, and Maria and Isabella Rivera.

**Thank you for worshipping with us!**



**Haines City Police Department Officers:**

- (week of October 3) - Joseph Sorrentino
- (week of October 10) - Angela Stewart
- (week of October 17) - Loyd Stewart
- (week of October 24) - Andre Stoudemire
- (week of October 31) - Alejandro Tejada

**Those with Health Concerns:** Betty Macaluso, Richard Somers, Bill Booth, Liz, Pillsbury, Melissa Wolf-Johnson, David Wallace, Aiden McCoy, Bill Pillsbury, Kathy Pickler, Roger Evans, Lynn Somers, Deirdre Jarrett, Dave Moore, Barbi Williams, John Slevin, Pastor Ros Springer, Amy Roberts, Melissa Nault, Linda Robinson, Leo Woodward, Bob and Jackie Fain, Maria, Val Ergle, Danae Bryan, Joe Krstulich, Joe Sicilio, Gary Pillsbury, Don Harris, Karl Casey, Elaine Ogburn, Deb Kemp, Betty Kemp, Mike Garrett, Lee Lynch, Rick Casey, Marilyn Schleifer, Fabio Rodriguez, , and all who care for them.

**Victims of Hurricanes Ida and Larry  
The situation in Afghanistan**

**Haiti - still recovering from recent earthquake and hurricanes**

**Pastoral Search Committee**

**All Who are helpless and hurting**

**Those who Grieve -**

Family and Friends of David Wallace

**A note from  
Danae Bryan**



'Thank you to the church for the boost drinks – they have been a blessing. I literally survive off of them as I'm not eating anything else. So really thankful to whoever purchases them and continues to purchase them as I definitely need them.'

**Danae needs the Green protein Boost drinks – any flavor.** If you are able to help provide this needed nourishment, please contact the church office.

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS**



Your Cabinet leaders met in mid-June and put some interesting events on the church calendar. You'll be hearing a lot more about each one as the attraction draws closer. Please think about friends you could invite so they can get acquainted with FCC through laughter, fun and fellowship. Then, hopefully, they will want to come and worship with us.

Friday, Oct. 8, 7-9 p.m. - Movie Madness

Sunday, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. - Trunk or Treat

**Do you know  
The Secret Place?**



*The Secret Place* is a quarterly publication of daily devotions to help you renew your faith, invigorate your spirit, and strengthen your relationship with God. Each daily devotion includes a scripture passage, an original meditation, and a brief prayer. This combination of Scrip-

tural and personal insight provides both a timeless and timely perspective for contemplative meditation that draws you closer to God in your daily walk as a Christian. The book is published by *Judson Press, American Baptist Home Mission Societies* in the Fall (for September, October and November), Winter (for December, January and February), Spring (for March, April and May), and Summer (for June, July and August).

*The Secret Place* is available in the church office or in the Sanctuary on Sundays. A small donation that helps us continue to provide this book to you is appreciated, but not required. A limited number of large print copies are available in the office.



**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for worship on any Sunday (cost \$40), sign up on the flower calendar in the front narthex. The church office will order the arrangement to be delivered to the church. Following the service, the flowers are yours to take home and enjoy.



**CAUTION**

**Our new nametags look great, and thanks for wearing them. However, if you have a pacemaker, be sure to move your nametag to the other side of your chest because that is a really strong magnet!**

*Newsletter*  
**DEADLINE**

We send out our monthly newsletter around the 25th of each month. If you have an article, picture, or announcement you would like to see in this newsletter, please turn your column/idea in to the church office no later than the 20th of each month! That will make sure we can get it in the next publication!



**STEWARDSHIP  
REPORT**

**August 29 , 2021**

General Fund - \$ 1,510.00      Est. Attendance - 65

**September 5, 2021**

General Fund - \$ 2,222.00      Est. Attendance - 52  
Use of Facilities - \$ 2,900.00

**September 12, 2021**

General Fund - \$ 2,627.00      Est. Attendance - 70  
Altar Flowers - \$ 40.00

**September 19, 2021**

General Fund - \$ 2,210.00      Est. Attendance - 66

**September 25, 2021**

General Fund - \$ 1,671.00      Est. Attendance - 72  
Reconciliation - \$40.00

*The greatest joy in all of living is the joy that comes from freely giving*

*Be bold and courageous.  
Do what is good. Never return evil for evil.  
Help the suffering and honor everyone.  
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*