



Volume 12
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July
2020

GOOD NEWS Newsletter



Christ United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP

SUNDAY

**10:30 am English Service
in the sanctuary**

**1:00 pm Iglesia en
Español
in the sanctuary**

FRIDAY

**8:00 pm Iglesia en
Español
Using Zoom**

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### STAFF

**SENIOR PASTOR**  
Reverend Patricia Pena

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Charlene Golden

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
Keith Hepler

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
Mary Porter

**NURSERY ATTENDANT**  
Terry Panega

**JANITOR**  
Pam Rickabaugh

### WELCOME PASTOR PATRICIA PENA

Pastor Patricia is the senior pastor here at Christ United Methodist Church as of July 1st.

Reverend Patricia Pena was born in the Dominican Republic. She has lived most of her life between Florida and Massachusetts. She is a fourth-generation pastor and an Ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church. She did her undergraduate in Nyack, New York, where she studied Pastoral Ministry and ESL teaching. After graduating Nyack, Rev. Pena attended Boston University School of Theology and received an MDiv in 2009. She became an associate pastor at 21 and a senior Pastor at 23. She pastored a two-point-charge for a decade in Boston. These ministries flourished and became known for their transformation.

During this time, Reverend Pena focused on personal healing retreats that led to a spiritual revival. She also has a heart for children and established a non-profit in the Dominican Republic that reaches out to 500 kids throughout the year. She has received many awards, some of them being of national importance. Some of her awards include Exemplary Dominican of the Year by the Dominican Festival in Boston, given by the Boston City Mayor. She also has received the National Harry Denman Evangelism Award and the One Matters Discipleship Award. She loves learning about new cultures, traveling, and teaching. She goes around the country, imparting workshops and retreats in discipleship, leadership formation, and church revitalization. She is also a part of the Board of Directors for Discipleship Ministries, the agency that also provides the well-known Upper Room devotionals. In 2018 she became the pastor of St. Andrew UMC. She is thankful for the opportunity to serve such a beautiful church and the community of Titusville.

She loves to spend time with her brothers, her parents, friends, nephews, and her little puppy Sunshine.



She is getting settled in at the parsonage and we look forward to meeting her in person on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

There is an article under Worship on how you can welcome her to our congregation.

Our Vision is to invite  
all people to follow  
Jesus Christ,  
build them up into  
his body and image,  
and send them  
out to serve.



Congregational Care

**In the hospital:** Dan Shainline

**In rehabilitation:** Jean Beale

**In hospice:**

**In nursing homes or homebound:** Ray Jerome, Libby Jones, and Marge Mathews.

**Christian Sympathy to:**

*Please notify the church office when you are hospitalized, moved to another facility or go home so that we may visit and pray with you at the correct location.*

**FAREWELL FROM PASTOR LIA**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your farewell cards and gifts. It has been an honor to serve you, to pray and work with each one of you. We have accomplished a lot together for the mission of Christ in the last 8 years. I thank you for all your love and support during these great years of ministry. I am excited to retire as of June 28<sup>th</sup>. I am now going to work with my husband, Pastor Tom in his church.

Please remember the conference rule that you cannot contact your previous pastor for one year.

Blessing as you receive Pastor Patricia, your new pastor and begin a new adventure in ministry with her.

Love you always,  
Pastor Lia Icaza Willetts

**KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UPDATED**

During the summer, we update our membership information in preparation for the Church Conference in the fall. Help the church staff by keeping your membership information updated.

Please let us know if you are attending another church on a regular basis. We can transfer your membership if your new church is a United Methodist Church.

If you have moved, please let the church office know what your new address is.

Many people are getting rid of their regular telephone lines and going with cell phones. Please notify the church office if you have changed phone numbers and/or email addresses. We can't keep the membership list up to date without your help.

**July Anniversaries**

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| John & Marlouise Chiviges | 7/3/1954  |
| Rich & Elaine Butler      | 7/5/1980  |
| Jose & Yaneisy Flores     | 7/5/2014  |
| Eric & Megan Williams     | 7/12/2013 |
| Paul & Debbie Billiard    | 7/24/1971 |
| Ian & Arlene Harding      | 7/26/     |

**July Birthdays**

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1  | Rich Butler              |
| 4  | Evelyn Piper             |
| 7  | Angelina Guido           |
| 7  | Janice Kyle              |
| 7  | Kevin Noack              |
| 7  | Vera Snipes              |
| 8  | Graviel Ortega           |
| 8  | Saminatu Tejansie        |
| 9  | Alessandra Santiago      |
| 10 | Linda Zsidai             |
| 11 | Joan Peetz               |
| 11 | Alondra Santiago         |
| 13 | Byanka Charles           |
| 14 | Joudeleanna Val          |
| 15 | Will Guido               |
| 15 | Charles Jones            |
| 17 | Mary Ellen Norton        |
| 17 | Wayne Rhys               |
| 19 | Dennis Leach             |
| 20 | Lorent Davis             |
| 20 | Marlyn Hockert           |
| 21 | Vickie Gaines            |
| 22 | Bruce Hyman              |
| 27 | Isabella Coconubo-Ibanez |
| 28 | Lois Stewart             |
| 29 | Katie Hamlin             |
| 29 | Malik Pearyer            |
| 29 | Roger Porter             |
| 31 | Elizabeth Gomez          |

**If you don't see your anniversary or birthday listed then we don't have your information.**

When you send text messages via your cell phone to the church, please put your name in the message. These appear in the church's email as the phone number and we don't know who sent the message as often the phone number is not in the church's database so we cannot respond to the message.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Hafiz Bah (son of Saminatu Tejansie)  
 10501 Canal Brook Ln  
 Lehigh Acres FL 33936  
[hbah414@gmail.com](mailto:hbah414@gmail.com)

Aisha Senat (daughter of Udna Senat laRochelle)  
 4833 28th St SW  
 Lehigh Acres FL 33973-6111  
[AishaaSenatt@gmail.com](mailto:AishaaSenatt@gmail.com)

Spencer Williams (son of Bob and Cheryl Williams)  
 703 Milwaukee Blvd  
 Lehigh Acres FL 33974-9571  
[spencerwilliams752@gmail.com](mailto:spencerwilliams752@gmail.com)

Vanessa Rodriguez (daughter of Doris Rodriguez)  
 4660 Fairloop Run  
 Lehigh Acres FL 33973-6077  
[vanessar1245@yahoo.com](mailto:vanessar1245@yahoo.com)

Spencer's family gave him an awards recognition ceremony in front of Mirror Lakes Golf Clubhouse.



CUMC Scholarship



Rotary Scholarship



Kiwanis Scholarship



## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

July

|   |             |    |             |    |             |    |             |
|---|-------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | Psalm 1-5   | 9  | Psalm 32-34 | 17 | Psalm 51-54 | 25 | Psalm 73-74 |
| 2 | Psalm 6-10  | 10 | Psalm 35-36 | 18 | Psalm 55-57 | 26 | Church      |
| 3 | Psalm 11-16 | 11 | Psalm 37    | 19 | Church      | 27 | Psalm 75-77 |
| 4 | Psalm 17-18 | 12 | Church      | 20 | Psalm 58-61 | 28 | Psalm 78    |
| 5 | Church      | 13 | Psalm 38-41 | 21 | Psalm 62-65 | 29 | Psalm 79-81 |
| 6 | Psalm 19-22 | 14 | Psalm 42-44 | 22 | Psalm 66-68 | 30 | Psalm 82-85 |
| 7 | Psalm 23-27 | 15 | Psalm 45-48 | 23 | Psalm 69-70 | 31 | Psalm 86-88 |
| 8 | Psalm 28-31 | 16 | Psalm 49-50 | 24 | Psalm 71-72 |    |             |

### EDUCATION

#### RAP 'N ROLL MEN'S GROUP

Rap 'N Roll has changed their name to Men's Bible Study so newcomers know what they are. They usually meet the first and third Thursdays at 9:00 am in the church library. Watch for the date when they will start again.

When they feel comfortable, the Religious Older Men Meeting to Eat Out (ROMMEOs) will begin to meet on the second and last Thursday of the month at Perkins at 9:00 am for breakfast and fellowship.

Charlie Jones is the coordinator for both groups and can be reached at 239-369-7521 if you have questions.

## SMALL GROUPS

The Marsh Small Group has been meeting by Zoom. If your small group is meeting in-person or over the internet, please let the church office know so we have an up to date list. If your group is meeting over the internet (Zoom, etc.) please send an invite to the church office which will be forwarded to Pastor Patricia. This will be a great way for her to meet a few of you at a time.

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

As we celebrate our nation's birth, we are reminded to pray for our leaders. We are to pray respectfully for leaders. *"Honor all people... Fear God. Honor the king"* (1 Peter 2:17). We are to pray with the clear understanding that government authority is established by God. *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God"* (Romans 13:1). We also pray knowing that God's Word says, *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes"* (Proverbs 21:1). You can pray using words and thoughts from scripture.

Acts 16:14 – Open the heart of our president, councilmen, senator, representative, etc. to hear and respond to the Gospel message if they do not know you.

Proverbs 11:14; 15:22 – Help [name] to accept wise counsel.

Psalms 21:7 – Teach [name] to trust in You.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 – Protect [name] from the influence of the evil one.

1 Chronicles 22:12 – Give [name] discretion, foresight, and understanding in making decisions.

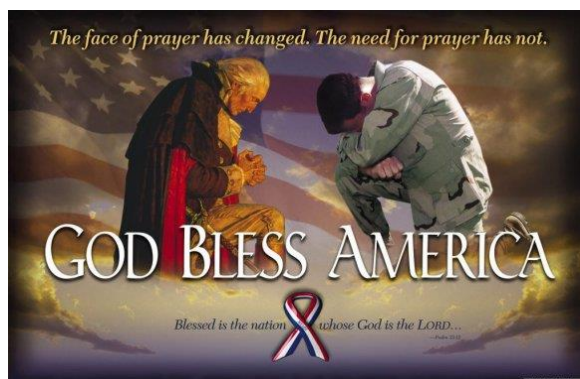
Psalms 119:105 – Deliver [name] from opinions contrary to Your Word.

Psalms 21: 11, Ezra 6:10 – Protect [name] from harm, and bless and protect his/her family.

1 Peter 5:5 – Enable [name] to carry out his/her duties with humility toward You and toward others.

Proverbs 2:11-15 – Give [name] the courage to do the right thing even when urged to do the wrong thing.

Colossians 3:12 – Give [name] a tender heart of compassion toward those he/she leads and serve.



## FINANCE

The Finance Committee and members of the Administrative Leadership Team (church council) want to say a big THANK YOU to our church members for your faithful giving during this unprecedented time. Due to the church being closed, reduced staff hours and less use of utilities, we are starting the summer in good shape.

The church finally received the Payroll Protection Program loan from the stimulus package on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The church staff soon will be returning to their regular hours to meet the requirements to have this loan forgiven.

## IN THE CHURCH

### CHURCH CALENDAR

The church calendar shows the regularly scheduled activities that we have during the month of July. We are in transition between our busy season and summer, changes in the COVID-19 re-opening phases, as well as welcoming a new pastor. Some of the small groups and the choir take a break for the summer. Some of the groups may be meeting via the internet instead of in person. Please keep the church office updated on your group's activities so we are giving out the current information to those who need to know.

Due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday being on Saturday, the office will be closed on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Other updates to the calendar will be sent out periodically to keep everyone informed.

### **DONATE TO THE CHURCH WHILE YOU SHOP**

Umcmarket.org has over 2,000 stores you shop at every day. Set up a free account and link it to the church. Retailers pay a commission on your purchase to the church.

The church is listed on AmazonSmile and receives a donation based on your purchase total only if you go through AmazonSmile before shopping.

## **MISSIONS AND OUTREACH**

### **SNEAKERS PROJECT**



Our church collaborates with Lehigh Community Services on the Back to School Backpack Program. We raise money to purchase \$10 gift cards from Walmart that are given to families to purchase shoes for school. Regardless how the school year will look, children always need new shoes as they grow.

Make your checks out to the church and note it is for sneakers. Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day you can donate. We have raised \$840.50 towards our \$2000 goal.

If you do not note SNEAKERS, then the money goes into the General Missions Fund and not towards sneakers.

Last year 800 backpacks were given out. The preliminary plans are to put all items in the backpacks and do a drive through where the volunteers hand the backpacks to the families through their car windows. The date probably will be Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> for those who register.

Lehigh Community Services will continue to take reservations until July 17, or until the registration is full. To get an appointment call (239) 369-5818.

### **MISSIONS OUTREACH MEETING**

The Missions Outreach Committee will meet Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service either in the library or the Fellowship Hall. One of the topics will be the Sneakers Project as a voucher will need to be submitted July 13<sup>th</sup> to meet the deadline for the backpack give away.

### **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY**

We continue to collect non-perishable food items to donate to Lehigh Community Services food pantry. There is a large need during a regular summer when the children are not getting free meals at school but it is more urgent now as parents are not back to work or full time work. As you pick up non-perishable items for your hurricane kit, please pick up one extra item to donate to the food pantry. Containers are in the sanctuary narthex/lobby and the church office to drop off your donations. Monetary donations also help the food pantry.

### **ONE STARRY NIGHT**

There are two projects you can work on at home for One Starry Night. The inserts for the photo album have been printed but need to be cut out. Once they are cut out, they need to be inserted into the albums.

Our first planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is our outdoor live nativity for the community that will be held December 11 and 12. A lot of people are needed to prepare it, be characters the two nights and clean up at the end. Come to this meeting to learn more about this event and where you can help. We have pictures on our Facebook page so you can see what we have done over the years.

### **IMMOKALEE SOUP KITCHEN**

Joyce Parkes will give us an update on when we will return to Immokalee to help in the soup kitchen. Our church was doing the third Thursday of each month to help at the soup kitchen to set up, serve and clean up.

## TRUSTEES

The Trustees have been extremely busy getting the parsonage ready for Pastor Patricia. If you have ever been to the parsonage, you know it had a sunken family room. The half step caused many people to trip and fall. The floor was raised so it is all one level. The carpet has been replaced with a lovely vinyl plank flooring. They also did other odd jobs of fixing outlets, changing faucets, and some cosmetic changes to update the home.

We are also getting into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the office area and the whole CUMC campus. CenturyLink will be upgrading our internet service to fiber-optic and upgrading our phone service. Their package includes the full Microsoft Office 365 which we currently pay for ourselves with limited features for non-profits.

CT Fire Protection provides our fire alarm monitoring and they now use a radio signal instead of a phone line. They are in the process of upgrading us to the radio signal.

### GARDEN CLEAN-UP

While we were quarantined in our homes, the weeds took advantage and are overrunning the Jerusalem Garden. You can work any time you want. We have a few tools at the church that would be available during office hours, but you can bring your own garden tools. Don't work long in this heat and drink plenty of water. Reminder to wear heavy gloves as many plants have thorns. We continue to remove invasive ferns that are taking over the garden.

## WORSHIP

### ALTAR FLOWERS

We again have altar flowers adorning the altar. Those who ordered flowers when we were closed can sign up for a new date on the calendar, especially if you already paid for flowers during the time we were closed. The flower calendar is located next to the name tag board in the sanctuary narthex/lobby or you can call the church office. The dates open are July 12<sup>th</sup> (1 vase), July 19<sup>th</sup> (1 vase), July 26<sup>th</sup> (2 vases), August 2<sup>nd</sup> (1 vase), August 23<sup>rd</sup> (1 vase), and August 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (2 vases).

### NAMETAGS

Please wear your name tag on Sundays. This will help Pastor Patricia to put names to faces. It will also help us to identify our guests so you can warmly welcome them.

### HOSPITALITY

When we welcome a new pastor, we usually have a potluck luncheon and do a "pounding". This is a tradition of bringing a pound of something to fill the pastor's pantry or other items to help them set up a new household. Since we won't have a welcome luncheon, we will have a basket in the narthex/lobby for you to bring a pound of coffee, a small bag of sugar or flour, dish soap, paper towels, soap for the bathrooms, cleaning products, gift cards, etc.



## DISTRICT/CONFERENCE NEWS

### DISTRICT INFORMATION

Don't forget to check the district's page on the conference website periodically. The June newsletter is available. Go to [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org) and look for the district link and scroll down to Southwest.

The District is providing several trainings for churches changing pastors. SPRC had two team building and planning sessions with Denvil Farley and Bronwyn Bedient. Watch for additional trainings for other groups within the church.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOLUTION

Be an informed voter. The Lehigh Acres Fire Control will have a resolution on the primary ballot in August to change how they are funded. Go to their website, [www.lehighfd.com](http://www.lehighfd.com) and click on the banner at the top of the page. There is a link in the information that will let you pull up your property and see what the assessment would be by the current method or the new method being proposed. Eleven out of 12 homes will see a decrease in their assessment. Lot owners will pay more but most fires start on vacant lots.

Some interesting facts: Cape Coral is about 110 square miles with 11 (soon to be 12) fire stations. Lehigh Acres is 142 square miles with only 5 fire stations. A sixth one is planned for Sunshine Blvd N and 17<sup>th</sup> Ave W when they have the funds. Lehigh has its own ambulance service, not contracted through the county. Lehigh Acres should have 9 to 10 fire stations when it is built out.

### SAFE AND WELL

The American Red Cross has set up a website where you can let your friends and family know you are safe and well after a disaster. You can also search for people and check on their status. Save this information with your disaster plan checklists and give it to your family members. <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

Don't forget to keep stocking your pantry with non-perishable food, drinking water, snacks and batteries that you will need if we have a storm hit our area. You need enough food and water for a minimum of 3 days but it is better to have at least 7 days on hand. Also stay on top of refilling your prescriptions so you don't run out during or after a storm. Proverbs 6:6 reminds us "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" and Proverbs 30:25 "Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer." Purchase a few items each time you shop for groceries and you will be well prepared.

### STEPS TO SALVATION

1. Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
2. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
3. Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
4. Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved, For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13)

**Pray this prayer:**"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

5. John 1:12, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Next Steps: Attend a church. Join a Bible Study to continue to grow spiritually.

Nativity for sale by Rich Butler for \$140.00.  
Call (239)693-5111 to view



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**(239) 369-9609**

Contact the church office about placing an ad in this newsletter. Business card size ads are \$2.00 a month. Other sizes available.

*The Good News* is published monthly by Christ United Methodist Church, Lehigh Acres, Florida. It is emailed to those who have provided an email address and it is available on the church's website. Printed copies are available at each church service and in the church office.

Deadline for articles or ad submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's newsletter. All articles are subject to editing. Send your information to [admin@christumclehigh.org](mailto:admin@christumclehigh.org) or drop it off at the church office.