

The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | May 2022



The Season of Fifty Days

From Pastor Nelson



Dear Christ UMC Family,

The season of Easter—sometimes called “Eastertide”—is dedicated to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus that changed the world. Did you know that Easter is a season of fifty days? Like Advent and Lent, Easter spans multiple Sundays, culminating in the celebration of Pentecost Sunday. That’s why we call it “Pentecost,” because Pentecost means “The Fiftieth.”

We don’t just have one Sunday per year to exclaim “Christ is

risen,” we have an entire season of fifty days to do so. As a pastor, I always like to take advantage of this Easter Season to offer a worship series that reflects on the themes of resurrection and how resurrection life shows up in our everyday spheres.

Music is one avenue in which many people encounter God in their everyday lives. Songs can transport us to places and situations where our lives were transformed. For me, Earth Wind and Fire’s song “September” will

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From Pastor Nelson

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forever bring me back to the day when my daughter was born. "Do you remember the 21st night of September?" You better believe I do!

Songs also have the power to change the world around us. From moving renditions of the National Anthem, to protest songs and anthems, to iconic TV commercials, songs can inspire

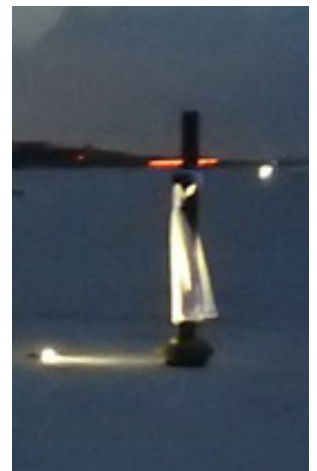
us to take action. Both secular and sacred songs have this power to pull on our heartstrings and awaken us to realities that are much larger than ourselves.

This May, I'm excited to kick off a series called "Songs that Changed the World." Many of you have submitted some excellent recommendations. I can't wait to hear our music

team perform renditions of the selected songs, and I'm just as excited about putting these songs in dialogue with scripture. This is a great series to invite friends to experience alongside you. See you in church, in-person or online.

In Christ,

Pastor Nelson



CELEBRATING JESUS' RESURRECTION

Holy Week and Easter Sunday

What a wonderful Holy Week celebration we had! The Choir's gift on Palm Sunday presented us with the whole story in music, text and Bible verse through the cantata "Worthy is the Lamb." Thursday night's Maundy Thursday Service called us to remember though Word, music (especially Pastor Nelson's solo) and communion. The "on your own" Good Friday material helped us not skip over the pain and darkness. The sun rose Easter morning for a moving

Sunrise Service at the beach and worship at 10:15am.

Many thanks to all the speakers, singers, musicians, servers, ushers, helpers, movers and others who helped out during the busy week. Special thanks to Pastor Nelson, Pastor Carmen, Lindita, Mary and Laura for all their hard work. If you are in ACE Hardware on Atlantic, stop by and thank the floral manager, Maureen, for the donation of buckets full of flowers for the cross.

Easter Bonnet Winners

Freedom Circle would love to thank our Easter bonnet contestants.

Sharon Nunn, First place
Barbara Edwards, Second place
Pat Heathouse, Third Place

It was extremely hard for the judges to choose from all the amazing bonnets... you all are winners!

BEGINS SUN MAY 1

Series in May

We all have songs that have made a lasting impact on our lives. In May, Pastor Nelson will take a look at songs that many of you believe has “changed the world”! Join us in worship and invite friends.



CUMC'S ONLINE COMMUNITY

Stay Connected Through Realm

Have you heard about our new online giving program, REALM? We're excited about the new things happening at Christ United Methodist Church through our online community. You can securely give from our website and via text message. You can even create an account to set up recurring donations and use our free app. If you'd like account-level access, please contact

Mary at the church office at 904-249-5370. We'll then email you so you can get started today.

Want to get started now?

Scan this QR code or visit onrealm.org/christumc to create your profile.



CHRIST UMC APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome Back Pastor Nelson!

Every spring the Bishop and his cabinet meet and determine pastoral appointments, based on vacancies, retirements, changing needs, etc. It is my pleasure to announce that Pastor Nelson is assigned and returning to Christ UMC

for another year. Please join me in letting him and his wonderful wife, Sam, and adorable daughter Cameron know how pleased and happy we are in serving with him and having them with us for another year. **Wanda Lee, SPRC Chair**



If you prefer a casual setting, something family-oriented without the formalities of traditional church services, join us Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. for light supper and a conversational service. Although we skip Sunday holidays, we look forward to meeting you and your family at CUMC!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Be A New Member Sponsor

Relate is looking for individuals to be hospitable to new members and help them to assimilate into their new church family. Please contact the Relate Team: Karen Lagitch 904-894-7441 and/or Shirley VanDuzer 904-855-7982.



VBS at Christ UMC!

Vacation Bible School will be July 11-15! We are still in need of several volunteers to make this wonderful event for the children in our community to happen. Please contact me ASAP if you can help in anyway. The areas in need are, decorating, setup, class leaders, area helpers, registration, and breakdown. If you helped with the Spring Festival you know how

much we mean to the community. We haven't had a VBS in 2 years, let's give this year the biggest and best VBS yet!

More Info? Hanna Thomas, VBS director, Family Ministry Coordinator at 904-612-7286.

SPRING FESTIVAL RECAP

Celebrating Our Youth!

Big THANKS to all who helped the Spring Festival be such a success! There were 70 kids that came through the egg hunt area. Each brought 2 adults with them. We had 27 volunteers that helped disciple to those 200 plus people. Way to go CUMC!

The youth did an amazing job working the hot dog stand at the Spring Festival! They prepared and eagerly handed out all the snacks that day. In celebration of their hard work we went to California Pizza at the town center. We laughed and shared together all the events of that day.



The youth will continue to collect for the homeless community. We will go quarterly on an outing to disciple to these amazing people with Christ's love and a goodie bag. Contact Hanna Thomas, with donations or questions.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE / APPLY BY MAY 15

Summer Camp 2022

4th graders are now eligible to go to summer camp at Warren Willis! Any child from rising 4th grade till senior graduation is eligible to go to summer camp. There are several scholarships available to send your kids to camp. Please do not let the cost stop you! Scholarship applications are due by May 15.

More Info? Hanna Thomas, Family Ministry Coordinator at 904-612-7286.



SAT MAY 14 / 8AM-NOON

Boy Scout Car Wash

The Boy Scout troop 282 will be having a car wash at CUMC to earn funds for traveling to summer camp. Please come out and support this amazing group of young men.

More Info? Hanna Thomas, Family Ministry Coordinator at 904-612-7286.

MAY 25 AT 10AM IN WILSON HALL / GUEST: IZEL RODRIGUEZ

Exploring the Angola Mission with UMW

Come and learn what God is doing at the Quessua Methodist Mission in East Angola. Learn about the customs and lives of our Angolan brothers and sisters and their resilience and faith. Without a question, the overflowing joy and devotion will rekindle your spirit as you partner with them.

Our Conference supports The Quessua Methodist Mission in Malanje, Angola. The mission was destroyed during the 27 year long civil war that ended in 2002. While the mission station has been rebuilt, and it is in full operation, there are several opportunities for teams of vol-

unteers who are interested in a mission trip to go to Angola. Learn about Angola and see if a mission trip might be right for you. There are several coming up later this year.

Rodriguez from the Florida Conference of Global Missions visit us on May 25. We will gather at 10:00 in Wilson Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend this presentation.



Join the Day Trippers



FRI MAY 20 AT 10:30AM

Kingsley Plantation

Assuming the weather is good, we will be doing the trip to Kingsley Plantation which got rained out in March. The trip will be on Friday, May 20. We will leave the church at 10:30am to catch the 11am ferry. Be at the church at 10:15 if you want to carpool. We will take the ferry across the St Johns River to the Sand Dollar restaurant for an early lunch. Then we will drive to the Kingsley Plantation, former home of Zephaniah Kingsley, a slave owner and planter. Walking is moderately difficult. Admission to the Plantation is free. The ferry is approximately \$8.00 per car and lunch is Dutch treat.

More Info? information or to register, call Cindy Kastner, 904.221.4103.



SUN JUNE 12/ SAVE THE DATE

Catty Shack

Do you like lions and tigers? On Sunday, June 12, after church, the whole family is invited to go with the Day Trippers to Catty Shack, a retirement compound for large cats. It opens at 1pm so we will leave church at noon. For those who are staying after church, we will have a hot dog roast at church before we go. Admission is \$15 a person.

More Info? For information or to register, call Cindy Kastner, 904.221.4103.

NOTE: there will not be a Day Trippers trip in July.

CUMC FAMILY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

May Celebrations

Anniversaries

1 Bruce and Cindy Smith
6 Mike and Sonni McEvoy
22 David and Kathleen Stephens
26 Bob and Shirley Van Duzer Strachan
31 Nelson and Samantha Cowan

Birthdays

3 Angelique Boyette
7 Shirley Church
8 Jerry Ferguson

10 Ann Marie McCurdy and Edith Jenkins
11 Nancy Russell
12 Mary Muratore and Terry Stuart
18 Lota Maness
19 Yvonne Hitch
20 Claudia Young
24 Sally Dajero
25 Mimi Ames
26 Dick Galphin
28 Thomas Pavlick
31 Christine Mezza

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

Beaches Boys and Girls Club

Beaches Boys and Girls Club, a non-profit organization located on Seagate Avenue, in Neptune Beach is strategically planted between Fletcher Middle School, Fletcher High School and San Pablo Elementary. This Club serves at-risk school children from our beach communities with after-school programs, summer camp opportunities and much more. Because of the generosity of those attending our Easter sunrise service, we are happy to support not only the Beaches Boys and Girls Club, but two other local ministries as well. Thanks be to God for His provision.

Club Demographics for the 2020 - 2021 school year:

- 96% of our members are on free or reduced lunch.
- 90% of our members are from households with annual incomes under \$28,000.
- Only 27% of our members live with both parents, with 60% living with a single mother.

Because of the generosity of those attending our Easter sunrise service, we are happy to support not only the Beaches Boys and Girls Club, but two other local ministries as well. Thanks be to God for His provision.



SECURITY CORNER / STAY SAFE. STAY ALIVE.

Door Locking Procedures at CUMC

Door locking is a frequent topic but here is a little twist. A member of the Security Task Team makes certain all doors to the Sanctuary are locked (but still propped open manned by an Usher) before the service begins. Fifteen minutes into the service this person double checks to be certain all doors have been closed and fully latched.

The door on the side of the Sanctuary is one of the doors that is double checked. Good intentioned members sitting close to that door hear the click of the door as it's being checked and open it on occasion. The good intentions of members close to that door put everyone at risk if they open it.

Suppose for just a moment there is someone with ill intent on their minds. They try doors and if locked seek another way of entry. A door suddenly opening gives that person easy access to the congregation. This has happened often enough to be brought to the attention of all.

A good rule of thumb, once the Worship Service begins, become immersed in it and leave the doors to those who are trained in our Security Protocols.

As a reminder: Do not open doors anytime after the service begins (except by Ushers). Stay Alert and Stay Alive.

Bob Strachan Chairperson, CUMC Security Team

May Calendar of Events

Sunday May 1

9:00am Heavenly Hash
10:15am Worship in Person + online christumcnb.org
10:30am Adventure Kids
6:00pm RampUp

Monday May 2

6:30pm Bible Study
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday May 3

3:00pm Feed the Hungry

Wednesday May 4

10:00am UMW Meeting
10:00am Preschool Chapel
6:00pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Youth Group

Thursday May 5

10:00am Christ Quilters
5:00pm Chess Club

Sunday May 8

9:00am Heavenly Hash
10:15am Worship in Person + online christumcnb.org
10:30am Adventure Kids
6:00pm RampUp

Monday May 9

6:30pm Bible Study
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday May 10

10:00am Circle One Meeting
10:00am Preschool Connection
6:15pm Ops Meeting
6:30pm Freedom Circle

Wednesday May 11

10:00am Hope Circle
10:00am Preschool Chapel
6:00pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Youth Group

Thursday May 12

10am Christ Quilters
5pm Chess Club

Sunday May 15

9:00am Heavenly Hash
10:15am Worship in Person + online christumcnb.org
10:30am Adventure Kids
6:00pm RampUp

Monday May 16

6:30pm Bible Study
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday May 17

8:00am Lifeline Screening

Wednesday May 18

10:00am Preschool Chapel
6:00pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Youth Group

Thursday May 19

10:00am Christ Quilters
5:00pm Chess Club

Sunday May 22

9:00am Heavenly Hash
10:15am Worship in Person + online christumcnb.org
10:30am Adventure Kids
6:00pm RampUp

Monday May 23

6:30pm Bible Study
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday May 24

7:00pm Ministry Team Meeting (R-Coordination)

Wednesday May 25

10:00am Preschool Chapel
1:00pm Worship Design Team
6:00pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Youth Group

Thursday May 26

10:00am Christ Quilters

Sunday May 29

9:00am Heavenly Hash
10:15am Worship in Person + online christumcnb.org
10:30am Adventure Kids
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Monday May 30 / Memorial Day

Office Closed
6:30pm Bible Study
7:00pm Boy Scouts

CHRIST United Methodist Church

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