



SANDY'S SQUIRREL ENJOYING OUR OAK TREE

RLC Newsletter

March 2021

A Message from Pastor Allman

In John 14:6 when Jesus says that he is the “way,” he uses the Greek word ὁδός (pronounced *hodos*). Many Christians today interpret this to mean that Jesus is their personal/individual gateway into heaven. Naming Jesus as our “Personal Savior” fits well with our desire for autonomy; our desire to choose our own way in life; and, a surety that we no longer have to worry about getting into heaven. Other translations for “*hodos*” would be road, path or journey.

If we want to go somewhere in the north, like Gainesville, and take the best and easiest route, we would most likely take I-75. Is that the only route? No. Yet, it is the route most would recommend. What if someone said they would rather take U.S. 92? Would that person still be going north? Technically the

person would be going northeast. Although instead of going to Gainesville the person would go to Daytona Beach.

How would it change our individual perspective if we thought of Jesus saying, “*I am the road,*” or “*I am the path,*” or “*I am the journey?*” Theologian Beatrice Bruteau taught that Jesus intended this statement to mean that Jesus wants his followers to have his same experience. We are to mimic Jesus’ life in the “way” that we live. What we do should mimic the way Jesus did things. How we treat people should mimic the way Jesus treated people. We should commit our life to God the way Jesus committed his life to God. We should pray the way Jesus prayed. We should love the way Jesus loved. We should

forgive the way Jesus forgave. And so on.

Jesus did not teach his disciples doctrines, or dogma, or ideology. Jesus challenged his disciples to follow him. Then he spent the next three years teaching by the example of his life – the way (road, path). Bruteau wrote, “*We can walk on this road which is Jesus first by petitioning him, then by studying him, later by imitating him, and by dialoguing with him.*” Christianity is not an intellectual exercise; it is a lifestyle that grows out of the heart, where “heart” means the core of our existence, not just the seat of our affections.

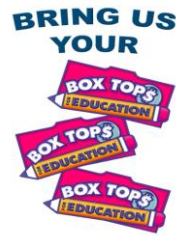
Following the “way” as Jesus called himself, means taking to heart Jesus’ statement that he came, “*not to be served but to serve...*” (Mark 10:45). Imagine

the disciples living with Jesus and watching the way he talks to people, the way he waits, the way he listens, the way he exhibits patience, the way he depends on God, the way he takes time for prayer, the way he did not respond cynically or bitterly, etc. Then hear the words Jesus also spoke, “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37).

Pastor Allman 

Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)



News from the Office Administrator March 2021

Hard to believe we are headed into spring! This past year has been challenging, but with the vaccine available and received by many of you, there is a light at the end of this tunnel. Redeemer has not opened up to activities other than Sunday morning worship yet, but we look forward to the time when we can bring back some activities safely. Thank you to all of you who have reached out to us and each other. It has been hard to know how people are with this virus. Our access to information and visiting has been curtailed. I know some of you have been sending mail to those who are home bound so they can stay in the loop. We still have quite a number of folks who are not electronically connected, so they are even more isolated. Mail in their box is very important. It would be wonderful if this “connectedness” could continue even after the virus is behind us! I know some of you have made new friends this way!

Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential, only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need so please; speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.

First and foremost, stay safe and healthy. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of you, so please be good to yourselves.

Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet.

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



Spring Forward



Daylight Savings Time begins 2AM Sunday!

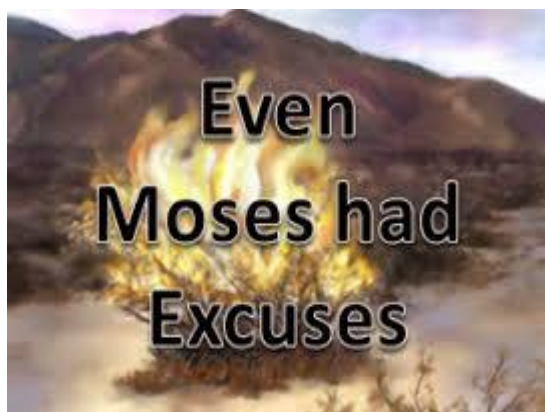
Sunday, March 14, 2021

MARCH

STEWARDSHIP

Just before he ascended into heaven, Jesus said, "...the Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power. You will be my witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about me—in Jerusalem, in the rest of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world" (Acts 1:8, ERV). I think many Christians believe this was a suggestion, as if Jesus was saying, "If you feel like it..." Note that Jesus says, "The Holy Spirit will..." and "You will..." To me, this does not sound optional!

I know, many also have convinced themselves that Jesus must be thinking of someone else, someone who is gifted at talking to others, someone who has skills for sharing their faith. This command from Jesus does not appear selective, as if Jesus were only talking to certain people. In the original Greek the word translated as "you" is plural; and, Jesus uses the word "witnesses" (plural); so, Jesus was talking to everyone.



About now, readers may be trying to come up with other excuses, like many of the people in the Bible that God chose; and, we think God chose them because they were already great.

Let me give just one example: Moses. Here is a list, from Exodus 3 & 4, of the excuses Moses used for

why God had the wrong person: *Moses said to God, "I am not a great man! How can I be the one to go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" (3:11); Moses said to God, "But if I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors sent me,' then the people will ask, 'What is his name?' What should I tell them?" (3:13); Moses said to God, "But the Israelites will not believe me when I tell them that you sent me. They will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" (4:1); Moses said to the Lord, "But, Lord, I am telling you, I am not a good speaker. I have never been able to speak well. And that hasn't changed since you started talking to me. I am still not a good speaker. You know that I speak slowly and don't use the best words." (4:10); Moses said, "My Lord, I beg you to send someone else, not me." (4:13).*

Now, read God's response: *The LORD said to (Moses), "Who made a person's mouth? And who can make someone deaf or not able to speak? Who can make a person blind? Who can make a person able to see? I am the one. I am the LORD. So go. I will be with you when you speak. I will give you the words to say." (4:11-12).*

God does not wait until people are perfect and then sends them. Faith comes first. God sends them and then gives the ability.



From Parish Nurse Team



COVID 19 UPDATE

Masks

Even though you received both doses of the vaccine, you still need to wear a mask for several reasons.

- It takes at least two weeks after the second vaccine dose to obtain about 95% immunity.
- Even though the vaccine can prevent illness, there is still a possibility that if you contact Covid, you could spread it.
- Current vaccines may not offer the same level of protection to all the Covid variants.

New recommendations suggest upgrading from a cloth mask to a disposable surgical mask or from a surgical mask to a KN95 mask. And by placing a surgical mask under a cloth mask, there is over 91% removal efficiency for particles. Better masks may help reduce risk from more contagious strains.

Whatever mask you are able to wear, it is important to wear it properly!! No uncovered noses, below your chin, and a good fit to your face.

New Variants

As the virus continues to spread, the virus changes and new variants develop. Two of these are currently in the US (many cases are in Florida) and there are other variants developing. These variants tend to spread more easily and may also cause more serious disease. That is why continuing with wearing masks, hand washing, social distancing, and everyone getting vaccinated is important. The goal is to reach “herd immunity” where the virus has less chance to spread and mutate.

Long Covid

Medical professionals are working to understand more about a condition they are calling “long Covid,” among patients who experience lingering symptoms months after recovering from a coronavirus infection. Persons with long Covid often report persistent, severe fatigue, headaches, and brain fog, which is defined as mild subjective cognitive impairment, starting approximately four weeks after acute illness.

Many patients are still experiencing at least one symptom six months after their symptoms began. The severity of Covid-19 illness may have little impact on whether patients experience long Covid symptoms. Current treatment targets the specific symptoms. While the cause of symptoms is unknown, they are very real for patients.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Jackie Moretti**
- 3rd – Mary Ann Addleman**
- 6th – Don Erickson, Betty Mack,
Lucas Dehne**
- 9th – Dottie McKenzie**
- 10th – Barbara Kately**
- 11th – Connie Berry, Elaine Domroes**
- 13th – David Kiefer**
- 14th – Jim Schwartz**
- 15th – Patrick Sturmer**
- 16th – Harold Fisher**
- 18th – Judy Buskirk, John Mostoller**
- 19th – Dick Paulson**
- 20th – Don Detar, Loriann Fox, James
Grill**
- 24th – Marjorie Kost, Mary Jane
Hermanns**
- 26th – Margie Adair, Vern Bartz, Nancy
Carrier**
- 30th – Chuck Buskirk**
- 31st – Joe Plaskon, Karl Wessinger**



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th – Greg & Judy Kiel**
- 14th – Lee & Janine Johnson**
- 21st – Roger & Chris McCann**
- 26th – Richard & Vorin Johnston**
- 27th – Cal & Gerry Adams**



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day



A Message from Linda Miller

Thank you for all of your prayers, notes, phone calls and donations. Your show of kindness, love and sympathy are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks I could ever express.

God's Peace and Blessings to You,
Linda Miller

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2020 dollars by **March 31st** or you will lose them. You can direct your dollars by going to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling Thrivent at [1-800-847-4836](tel:1-800-847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobratschk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.

Direct your
**Thrivent Choice
Dollars**
Today!



SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Mar. 7 – Myrna Strom

Mar. 14 – Rosalie Kelleher

Mar. 21 – Debbie Andrews

Mar. 28 – Jim Schwartz

**If you would like to read on Sunday
please call Carolyn Cole. 813-812-7527**



Search for Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida and hit the red subscribe button. This will keep you current with videos from Pastor Allman.

The direct link below can be entered right in to your address bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUniSRGmRw4qLi2qmInoxw>