

Keeping in Touch

Volume 23 Issue 10

October 2017

Step 1

“We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.” This is the first step in the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you make a subtle, but realistic change in it then it applies to everyone. “We admitted that we were powerless over our sins – that our lives had become unmanageable.” This is essentially what Paul, the author of the letter to the Romans (7:19), is saying when he is talking about the nature of sin. We know what we want to do, and we know what we ought to do, but often what we want and ought to do are not what we end up doing. This demonstrates a degree to which we are out of control. I know this sounds like an excuse for rebellious and harmful behavior (“My sin made me do it!”), but this is not what Paul means and it is not what is meant by that first step in Alcoholics Anonymous either. It means that there is something inside of us, that is a part of us, that keeps us doing the things we know that aren’t good for us. In this way, our lives and our behaviors become unmanageable.

Recently I went to the freezer in our home. I removed a carton of ice cream to serve dessert. I gave each of my children one scoop, because that is an appropriate serving. I then proceeded to put not one, but four scoops into my own bowl. I know what the healthy choice is, and yet when it came to making that choice for myself my gluttony got the better of me. I ought to have stopped after that first scoop, but I wanted more, so I gave myself more. This sin within me, the sin that wants more than I know is healthy, is one I’ve struggled with and continue to struggle with it. I like to eat. I love to eat good food. I struggle with self-control when it comes to portions. The sin of gluttony is one that I need God’s help with, because for me it is unmanageable without the work of the Holy Spirit helping me.

We grow most when we recognize we need help. It doesn’t take a hurricane, a shooting, a diagnosis, or an accident for everyone to recognize just how out of control we are. This is why some branches of Christianity emphasize the sovereignty of God (google TULIP Calvinism). Some people recognize just how out of control reality is, and they need to believe that there is something good (the Christian God) who is in control and able to make it all better. Another tradition of Christianity, the Arminian (google it) tradition, emphasizes God’s sovereignty in giving humanity free will. I tend to fall into this second tradition, because I recognize that God is able to do the things the TULIP Calvinists believe, and yet God loves me enough to limit God’s own sovereignty so that I can be free to choose. What seems to be one of those hardest choices is the choice to ask for and accept help. That comes in step 3. For now, let us simply rest in the fact that we, as human beings, can’t and often don’t make the choices we need to for our own well-being let alone the well-being of others. We are a stiff-necked and stubborn people who need help, and the best place for us to turn to get that help (we believe) is the Creator God who loves us and wants to see us grow and live as that God’s representatives of love and mercy in this world.

We can’t do this on our own, it’s just not something Christians believe. We need God (step 2) and we need to turn ourselves over to that God’s way of living (step 3).

Pastor C.J.

SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES

2017 10:00 am Service Only The Sacrament of Communion

October 1	Strangers for Dinner	Pastor C.J.
	An Intergenerational Faith	
October 8	The Kingdom of God	Pastor C.J.
October 15	Knowing God	Pastor C.J.
October 22		Ed Luebke
October 29		Pastor C.J.

CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

Saturday, October 7 Blessing of the animals outside 6:00 pm.

Sunday, November 5 End of Daylight Savings Time.

Sunday, November 6 Church Conference at 6:30 pm place will be announced.

Friday, November 17 Taking of Christmas pictures at Solaris. Time to be announced.

Saturday, November 25 Hanging of the Greens with a service held by Pastor C.J. Time to be announced.

Sunday, December 3 Walk Through Bethlehem. Time to be announced.

Sunday, December 3 Baby Jesus Shower with luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following church.

Sunday, December 10 Cantata during the second service in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 17 Holiday Concert at 3:00 pm presented by New Chorale in Sanctuary.

Thursday, December 21 Blue Christmas service by Pastor C.J. in the Sanctuary. Time to be announced.

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve service by Pastor C.J. in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm.

COME PRAY WITH US



Please join us for Prayer Time in the sanctuary.

Prayer time is held on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, and also on Friday morning, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome! You may pray silently.

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in there in the midst of them.

If you have a prayer request, you may

- *Bring the request with you as we gather at Prayer Time
- *Send it directly to the church office firstumcbonitasprings@comcast.net
- *Call the church office at 239-992-1312
- *Reply to the shared post on the First Church's Facebook page
- *Request online at First Church's webpage fumcbonita.org
- *Fill out the prayer request card that are in the back of the pew, place in collection plate.

Please know that your prayer request will be lifted up. Won't you join us at Prayer Time?

The Prayer Team

SUBMIT
PRAYER
REQUEST

www.biblword.net



We are here to pray for you

Dick Weber
Julie Harner
Jeannette Fischer
Ginette
Meghan
Doris Appleman
Dan Beaver
Glendyn Curtis
Mark Teed
Bert Conigliaro
Zachary James
Donna Elliott
Jenny Kordelski
The Milhomme Family
Susan Steed-Gillingham
Carolyn Nielsen
Kay Brandon
Ms. Dorothy
Bill
Tammy and Family
Cliff Bates and Family
Fred Sutliff
John Hill, Sr.
Kimberly
Armstrong Family
JR
Kevin Inwood and Children
Joel, Barbara, Susie
John, Riley, Ashley, Grayson
Debbi and Sons
Larissa
JR
Gary
Tina
JR
Amy and Family

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

Lt. Col. Jonathan G. Davis Rockledge, Florida brother of Matthew Davis

Our Service Men and Women Serving as of October 1, 2017

U. S. ARMY

Sgt. Jeremy Clark Egypt son-in-law of Ken & Karole Poelman
C.W.O. Ross Morrison Ft. Rucker, AL brother of Joel Morrison

U. S. AIR FORCE

Lt. Col. Elizabeth Boll Hill Air Force Base, UT daughter of David & Mary Lou Boll
Capt.. Deborah Hautanen McGuire Air Force Base, NJ daughter of Steve & Debbie Lane
S/Sgt. Matthew Lehmann Air Force Base, Dayton OH grandson of Ernie & Liz Post
Lt. Col Joshua Pope Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD nephew of David & Kathy Schmitt
Capt. Mason Smiedendorf Deployed to Jordan grandson of John & Janet Smiedendorf

U. S. AIR FORCE RESERVE

Capt. Ross Smiedendorf grandson of John & Janet Smiedendorf



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The First United Methodist Church

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Our Vision: To be and be known as a Christ Centered Community of faith that loves people into loving Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

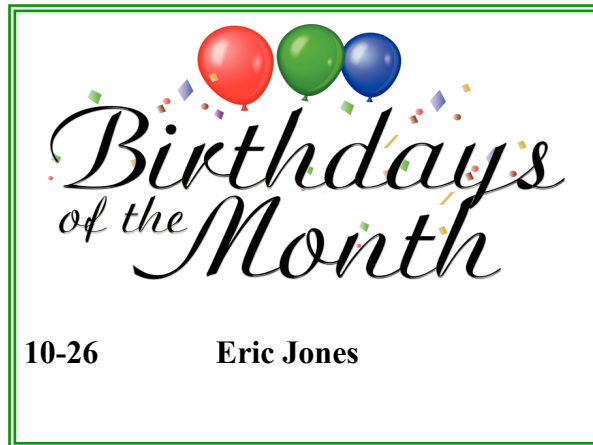
Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

YARD SALE – JANUARY 27, 2017

The Finance Team is working on 2018 Summer Reserve Fund already and will be asking for your help soon. The sale dates are January 26th (set-up) and January 27th (sale).

We're just getting started cleaning up from Irma and not ready yet to start receiving donations. We'll keep you posted through our weekly "Bulletins" and monthly "Keeping In Touch" newsletters on all the scoop as we get our campus back in shape.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY 2017



FOLDING BULLETINS

We are fast approaching our busy time of the year. The office is looking for people who can help fold bulletins each week usually on Thursday. If you are interested, please call the office 239-992-1312.