



Friends,

We were blessed by the Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis last week as she brought us part two in our sermon series, "Breaking Free." We heard that being a generous person is more about what you can give than what you can get. We discovered the word "Steward" describes a generous person. A steward is someone who manages assets for an owner.

So the first thing you have to figure out is: Does God own everything you have? If the answer is "Yes," then you are beginning to have a "Kingdom of God." perspective. If your answer is "No," then you are still living with a "Kingdom of Self" perspective. Living with a "Kingdom of Self" perspective is fine, but just know you are keeping yourself in bondage, as opposed to living in freedom. The gravity of things will always hold you back, and keep you from "Breaking Free." Generosity comes when you let go of "self," and put God at the center of your life. Just Saying!

When you and I let go and put God at the center of our lives, that is when we discover real freedom. When you give, whether it is with your time, your talents, your witness, your money, generosity is for your benefit, not God's. After all, whether you acknowledge it or not, God already has everything he needs; generosity benefits your life. God calls each of us to give back one tenth of what we have; this means you have 90% to live on. That is a great deal. God could take it all, but he wants you to be provided for. God also wants you to provide for the world, because you are plan "A," and you are called to be a disciple, a steward, and a generous person who gives back to God as a response to His love for you. The choice is yours as to whether you will be free, or whether you will continue to be in bondage to the things that hold you back. Give it some thought.

WEEKEND WORSHIP

I will be taking the platform this weekend as I share with you the third message in the "Breaking Free." series. We will be examining

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three steps in "How you and I can live a more Generous Life." If we hear this with a sense of importance for our lives, then I believe it can and will change your perspective in how you manage your financial life under God's leadership. I believe that, as a follower of Jesus, I am to give back as a response to God's love for me. That means to me that God has a say over all my life. Maybe you are not there yet and that is ok. The question is, "Are you open in getting to that place in your faith walk?" If so, then I hope you will make an effort to attend this weekend as we continue to seek ways in which we can "Break Free" of any and all things that hold us back from becoming more generous. Breaking Free begins with making and having a plan to move forward. Join me this weekend and see what that looks like.

BREAKING FREE FLEA MARKET CHALLENGE

I hope you will consider bringing some of the things you need to Break Free from that have accumulated in your house. We have plenty of spots so come early set up and make some money to help you pay down some debt, or offer a gift back to the church so we can pay down some debt. If you don't want to sell, then come and buy, but don't over buy and add more stuff to your collection. Buy only what you can use. Or if you just want to donate to the Thrift Store, then do that to Break Free of your stuff. We will have bins on site to take your old documents that need to be shredded as another way to Break Free. We will also have a place for you to bring your old computers to be recycled. Again another opportunity to Break Free of stuff that seems to clutter up our lives. All of this activity is a way to offer you a tangible way in which to begin to Break Free and learn to live a more generous life. The Breaking Free Flea Market will run from 8:00 until 2:00 pm. We will have food for sale too if you get hungry. Come and join us this Saturday down at the Thrift Store property. It will be a great day.

NEW SERMON SERIES

Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm This will be the beginning of our Lenten Season leading up to Easter. I hope you will begin Lent with us as we worship together on Ash Wednesday. We will be offering a church-wide study for Lent entitled, "The Creed." This will be a seven-week study on what we believe as followers of Jesus. We say the Apostle Creed every weekend at the 9:00 service as a way of reminding ourselves what we believe. If you have not said the Apostles Creed in a while, it is a short reminder of what you say you believe as a Christian. So this study will provide all of us a great time to reexamine what we say we believe as a follower of Jesus. Sign up at the Connection Point this weekend for this great study called "The Creed."

Look forward to seeing you this weekend. Be a blessing to others as God is a blessing to you.

Pastor David

Thrift Store

9:00 A.M.
Traditional Service

10:30 A.M. Contemporary Service

2017 FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

ALL MEETINGS ARE PUBLIC WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SPRC

FRIDAY- FEBRUARY 17, 2017

2:00 p.m. Breaking Free
Small Group (S)
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

SATURDAY- FEBRUARY 18, 2017

Breaking Free Flea Market
8am - 2pm

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 19, 2017

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service (S)
9:15 a.m. Upper Room (RM 18)
10:30 a.m. Contemporary (S)
10:30 a.m. Kennedy Discs (Room 8)
4:00 p.m. Youth Group (Room 20)
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Tabernacle)

MONDAY- FEBRUARY 20, 2017

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir (Choir Room)

TUESDAY- FEBRUARY 21, 2017

1:30 p.m. Worship Design (RM 16)
6:00 p.m. Praise Team (Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m. Joy Circle (Room 13)

WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 22, 2017

12:00 p.m. UMW Board (Room 16)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (Room 20)
6:30 p.m. Breaking Free
Small Groups
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (T)

THURSDAY- FEBRUARY 23, 2017

9:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels (K)
10:00 a.m. Food Pantry (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. S. M. Supervision
12:30 p.m. Stewardship (RM 16)



Hello and Happy Breaking Free Clean Out Week. Remember to support the Flea Market this Saturday and stop by the store to say Hi to the crew there.

We are so appreciative of the donations of THINGS we've asked for. Are we pushing our luck to ask for your TIME? Monday, Feb 27 from 9 - 4 is a work/fun/fellowship day at the store when we will be transitioning winter to summer clothing and making a few modifications to the layout of the store. We need those many hands to make the work light. We need everything from a few strong folks with hand trucks to those who can do the sit-down jobs, to some for unpacking boxes of summer clothing while others bag winter for the salvage company pick up. Some jobs require staff experience, some no experience at all. So, calling all current volunteers, past volunteers or those who have never even thought of working in the store for this one day of fellowship. AND, your thrift store board chefs are making lunch for everyone so please sign up Sunday or call the store at 352 436-2221 to let us know how much food to prepare.

We'd love to have you for the day, half day, couple of hours or just to pop in to see some of what it takes to keep the store running and visit with the folks who will be there. Speaking of keeping the store running, it takes about 70 man-hours per week to process, stock and sell. Your help to make that happen will be greatly appreciated for the one day transition work which just might "transition" into a regular slot in your week. (we hope, we hope) Sign up and see you there!

Blessings,

Your thrift store board

3:15 p.m. BBP Chapel (Room 13)
6:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)

FRIDAY- FEBRUARY 24, 2017

2:00 p.m. Breaking Free
Small Group (Sanctuary)
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

SATURDAY- FEBRUARY 25, 2017

if you have a change or cancellation of a regularly scheduled meeting/Bible Study please be sure to call the front office with your information so that our calendars remain current.

Thank You!

Sanctuary- (S)
Bethel Chapel- (BC)
Choir Room- (C)
Tabernacle- (T)
Kitchen- (K)



Happy Birthday

February 17

Ruth Grega

February 18

Jeanne Reynolds
Mary White

February 20

Charles Ayers
Jackie Degraff
Christopher Donnelly

February 22

Candice Luce
Diane Wheeler

February 24

George Neitz

If we have missed your Birthday, please contact the Care Team at

This Week's Care Note: Joanie Stowell



you are in
my thoughts
and prayers !!

careteam@crumc.com



February 6

Gerry & Patricia Schabrch

February 10

Ron & Jenny Bass

February 14

Terry & Judy Leavitt

February 18

Justine & Jerry Storey

If we have missed your anniversary,
please contact the Care Team at

careteam@crumc.com



Breaking Free Flea Market

February 18th
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Gulf Central District
Training Event for
Lay Servants
April 22nd & 29th, 2017

MUST attend both Saturdays
to be certified.

Location of Classes:
Faith United Methodist Church
7215 1st Ave West

Breaking Free



Wednesdays @ 6:30 P.M.
Fridays @ 2:00 P.M.

Meals on wheels



**is in
desperate
need of cooks**

**Meadowcrest
Bible Study
will be taking a break until
Friday
March 10th**

Bradenton, FL
34209

Upcoming Spiritual Growth Retreat - 5 Day Academy! March 5-10, 2017

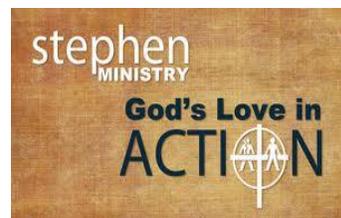
If you are up for a challenge that is an outstanding retreat, featuring two renowned speakers, each giving five hours of lecture, followed by silent meditation and then discussion. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in your silence. This is sponsored by the FL Conference and it is held at the Life Enrichment Center. Meals are included, and you will be in the dorms. Sharing a room lessens the cost. The LEC is holy ground. Come see for yourself! Click the link below and check out the brochure that gives details.

<http://www.flumc.org/eventdetail/5346039?month=3&year=2017&day=1&display=m>

Congregational Care

Our Congregational Care Team helps to connect people in the congregation through visitation, phone calls, emails, & correspondence.

If you have a need, please call the office @ 352-795-3148 or email careteam@crumc.com



Stephen Ministry is an ongoing ministry to meet the needs of

Childrens Ministry

Is in need of Teachers and
Teacher's assistants

From teaching to
assembling crafts....

We NEED YOU!!!!



persons going through a crisis or
in need of care.

Stephen Ministers provide one-
on-one confidential Christian Care
giving to those in need. To refer
yourself or someone else,
call Judy Leavitt
@ 352-746-7716.

Stephen Ministers meet every
fourth Thursday of each month for
continuing education and
supervision.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Do you love discussing Scripture
and offering your thoughts on it?*

Then we have the perfect class for you!

9:15 a.m.-Upper Room Jesus Fellowship (Room 8)

10:30 a.m.- Kennedy Discussion Class (Room 8)

We can't wait to see you there!



Join us every Friday night for
Celebrate Recovery.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m.
The cost is \$3 per plate.

Worship follows shortly
after at 7 p.m.
We then split out
into groups and end
the evening with dessert and
fellowship.

All are welcome to attend.

***Free child care is available -
please call the church office to
make arrangements!***

Click to like
(Click banner below)



Bright Beginnings Preschool

Infants through VPK
Hours are

**Enrolling for VPK
and Kindergarten**

**Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Call 352-795-1240

Lic# C05C10049

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facebook

Financial *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

**Classes Begin March
8th**