



Friends,

Have you ever felt there are too many rules when it comes to following God? You are not alone. The Jewish people came up with 642 rules over and above what God had given to them. It became so complicated that they created a law book of over 800 pages called the Mishnah. They referred to these rules as "Fence Laws." They were intended to protect the people from violating the law and the Torah from being misinterpreted. Like so many legislative bodies today, they simply kept piling on more and more rules and laws.

So because of this idea of adding more and more laws, religious leaders have created the impression that God is a "Kill-joy" God, and who wants to believe in a god who takes all the fun out of life with so many rules? In reality, this idea of a god who likes a lot of rules was not God's idea but human beings'. In fact, when God created the universe and put Adam and Eve in the garden, he said there was only one rule. Not 642 rules. Then later on when Moses comes along, God gave the Jewish people 10 more rules we call "The Ten Commandments." So this idea of a "Kill-Joy" God is not real. This kind of God does not exist.

The idea of a "Kill-Joy" God is all about following a set of rules, and we call that a "Religion." The Pharisees were focused on the rules, and not on the heart of the matter. You might say "Religion" focuses on the External rather than on the Internal, which is guided by the heart. Again, the Pharisees were all about the external, but they had neglected the heart, which is the relational side of knowing and loving God.

When you and I focus on the external side of our relationship with God, we are looking to close the gap by our own efforts. For instance: We try harder to do better; We do more religious things

## In This Issue

**E Note From the Pastor**

**Care Notes**

**Divinely Unique**

**Second Sunday/Mothers Day  
Breakfast**

**Discovery Group Annual  
Picnic**

**Food Pantry Needs**

**UMW**

**Bright Beginnings Learning  
Academy**

**Bright Beginnings Preschool**

**Sunday School**

**Newsletter Announcements**

**Service Times**

**Week at a Glance**

**Church Office Hours**

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

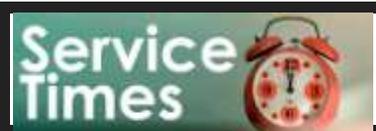
**Meals on Wheels**

**Life Groups**

**2nd Sunday Breakfast**

**Congregational care**

**Stephen Ministry**



like go to church, give money; We try to behave better by not being cruel or rude or disrespectful. We do all of these human efforts to try to close the gap between God and ourselves through performance. It is not that these efforts are not meant for good, but you and I will never be good enough to overcome the gap between God and us.

Here is the solution...Jesus. Jesus came to close the gap. In fact, Jesus filled the gap by taking your place and my place on the cross and paying the price for our sins. Human efforts will not fill the gap, but Jesus did and does fill the gap every day for folks like us who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**Religion is all about what we do. Christianity is all about what Jesus did.** Jesus fills the gap, then my response is to love Him back by doing what He would want me to do as a follower of Him. My response to Jesus is out of faith and love for filling the gap for me. Praise God for filling the gap with Jesus who is Lord and Savior to all. A "Kill-Joy" God only exists for those who try to fill the gap with their own human efforts. Celebrate what Jesus has done for you.

#### WEEKEND WORSHIP

This weekend we will examine how many times folks will say, "I just don't feel God." Where is God? "I can't feel Him any more in my life." Does God really exist? Some might call this idea a "Goose bump God." Where have the goose bump feelings gone? I have lost the tingly feeling for God. Join me as we explore this idea of God. Maybe you have been there, or maybe you are struggling with feeling all alone, wondering where God has gone. Either way, we will look again to find the character of who God really is, and not some made up idea of God. Hope you will join me for worship, and make it a priority in your week to come closer to God.

Keep the faith, stay generous, love God and love your neighbor. All this is possible for those who love God and believe. I hope to see you this weekend.

Blessings,

Pastor David

**9:00 A.M.**  
**Traditional Service**

**10:30 A.M.**  
**Contemporary Service**

2018 MAY						
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	29	30	31		

**ALL MEETINGS ARE PUBLIC  
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SPRC**

**FRIDAY- May 4, 2018**

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

**SATURDAY- May 5, 2018**

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. Our Fathers Table  
(St. Anne's)

**SUNDAY - May 6, 2018**

9:00 a.m. Bring A Can Sunday (S)  
9:00 a.m. Traditional Service (S)  
9:15 a.m. Upper Room (RM 8)  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary (S)  
10:30 a.m. Kennedy Disc (RM 8)  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 415 (T)

**MONDAY - May 7, 2018**

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

**TUESDAY - May 8, 2018**

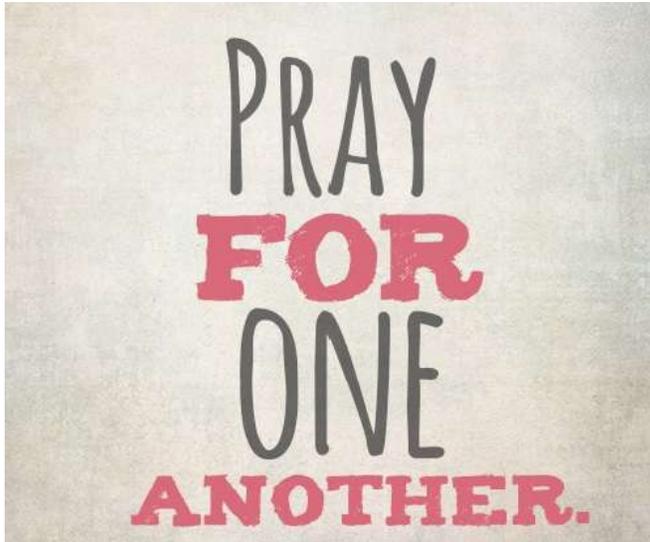
9:00 a.m. Worship Design (RM 13)  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team (S)  
6:30 p.m. Cubs Pack 415 (T)

**WEDNESDAY- May 9, 2018**

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (RM 20)  
6:30 p.m. Church Council (C)

**THURSDAY - May 10, 2018**

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels (K)  
10:00 a.m. Food Pantry (S)  
6:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)  
6:00 p.m. N. Citrus Civic Assoc. (T)  
7:00 p.m. 4H (RM 20)



Remember to stop by and sign the prayer cards on Sunday morning. Then if you would, take the time to write a personal note of encouragement to these persons as well. The Care Notes are available at the table on Sundays. Thanks for serving and caring together as the CRUMC family of faith.

Rosalyn Kennedy  
Frank Pifer  
Elaine Dick  
Judy Surrick  
Carol Courduff  
Tina & Dick Drake



**FRIDAY- May 11, 2018**

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

**SATURDAY- May 12, 2018**

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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)



# Church Office Hours

Mon. 9am - 3pm  
Tues. 9am - 3pm  
Wed. 9am - 12pm  
Thurs. 9am - 3pm  
Fri. 9am - 12pm

# Divinely Unique Thrift Store



5015 N. Citrus Ave • Crystal River, FL 34428

(352) 436-2221

Wed thru Fri 9 - 4

Saturday 9 - 2



Answering God's call  
to serve others

*A Ministry of Crystal River United Methodist Church*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Many shifts available  
Fantastic fellowship  
A place for everyone

For shift opportunities  
Call Rose in the office

Tues ~ Thurs ~ Friday 9 am - 12 pm

Or come visit us at the store

We'd love to see you!

<https://www.facebook.com/Divinelyuniquethriftstore>



### May 2

Darin Copeland

Deven Copeland

### May 3

Nancy Bacon

### May 4

Chris Untiedt

### May 7

Barbara Lerman

### May 8

Arnold Camp  
Ernestine Reeder

### May 9

Becca Miller  
Peggy Pilon

### May 11

Sabrina Baldwin  
Brett Miller

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

[careteam@crumc.com](mailto:careteam@crumc.com)

Join us for our  
“Second Sunday”  
Mother’s Day  
Breakfast  
May 13th  
8am ~ 11am



**May 1**

Hallie & Mary Castell

**May 19**

Richard & Lynne Ann  
Penfold

**May 22**

Earnie & Keri Olsen

**May 28**

Dennis & Tesa McClure

**May 29**

Tom & Jan Metcalf

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

[careteam@crumc.com](mailto:careteam@crumc.com)



**NEEDS**

# May 21st

## Discovery Group

# Annual Picnic

At Fort Island Trail Park with Bingo  
Meeting at 11 with Lunch at 12  
There will be Hot Dogs and Sloppy Joes.

Plates, cups, and silverware  
will also be provided.

Please Bring a dish to share.

Sign up at the Connection Point  
if you can come and also please  
indicate the dish you plan to share.



## COOKS

Volunteer just  
Once a month

Please call the  
front office  
for more  
information  
352/795-3148  
Mon - Friday  
9 am - noon

## LIFEgroups

Please Contact  
The Church  
Office for a  
Listing at 795-  
3148



Our FOOD PANTRY is in need of  
**CANNED VEGGIES AND MEATS**  
If you are able, please donate a

## Breakfast



2nd Sunday  
Breakfast

The Best Way  
To Start Your Day!

box or two this Sunday.

**Thank You! Thank You!  
Thank You!**

for all the food donations this month and for those that volunteered this past Wednesday to help with this weeks pick up/delivery!



United  
Methodist  
Women

The United Methodist Women's Group of our church wants all women in our church to know they are always welcome at our monthly meetings. We hold a luncheon at noon on the first Tuesday of each month from September through May. We have fundraisers during the year, such as our December Cookie Walk and our Valentine Luncheon, to raise funds for local charities and Scholarships. Several of our members act as Prayer Angels to the Pre-kindergarten children attending our Bright Beginning Preschool. We also invite speakers from our community and have occasional special programs of spiritual enrichment. Recently we distributed many Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) that were given to us by The Church Without Walls. Please join us for our next meeting on May 1st at noon in the sanctuary.



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](mailto:careteam@crumc.com)



Stephen Ministry is an ongoing ministry to meet the needs of 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.



Join us every Friday night for Celebrate Recovery.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m.



Bright Beginnings Learning Academy  
is Accepting Applications  
for Kindergarten and First Grade.  
See Frank Pifer to apply  
or call 352/795-1240



## Bright Beginnings Preschool

Infants through VPK  
Hours are  
6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Enrolling for VPK

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

Call **352-795-1240**  
Lic# C05C10049

Follow us on Facebook  
please Click to like  
(click banner below)



Worship follows shortly  
after at 7 p.m.  
following with small  
groups

All are welcome to  
attend.

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

[Click to like](#)  
(Click banner below)



WE WILL NEVER  
CHANGE THE WORLD  
BY GOING TO CHURCH.  
WE WILL ONLY  
CHANGE THE WORLD  
BY BEING THE CHURCH.



***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!***

[To view the best version of the message, please click here](#)

4801 N Citrus Ave, Crystal River, FL 34428

352-795-3148

<http://www.crumc.com>



**[Unsubscribe](#)**

This message was sent to [officestaff@crumc.com](mailto:officestaff@crumc.com) from [officestaff@crumc.com](mailto:officestaff@crumc.com)

Crystal River United Methodist Church  
4801 N. Citrus Ave.  
Crystal River, FL 34428