



Friends,

We finished our sermon series, "I Want To Believe---But." We looked at how some people see God as being "Heartless," or seeming not to care. It is easy to fall into that belief as we look around at the world and see the inhumanity people foster on one another, the death of people in natural disasters, the ravages of disease, wars and conflict. It is not a pretty picture and it begs the question, "Where is God?" If God really cares and if God were fair, why would God allow all of these things to happen to the people He claims to love? It is especially hurtful and unfair after you have prayed and others have prayed and God seems to make no difference. What is this all about?

First thing is that you and I are not the first to struggle with these characteristics of God.

- 1) King David wrote many of the Psalms wondering where God was as people were trying to kill him. He was constantly on the run from King Saul and his many enemies.
- 2) We have the example of Job. God allowed Satan to test his faith. Job lost everything. Even his wife turned against Job and she told him to curse God and die. How is that for marriage advice?
- 3) There was John the Baptist who was the cousin to Jesus. John is arrested and sits in prison, but Jesus never attempts to ask for his freedom. John even sends word asking if Jesus is the one that God had promised to be the messiah? He tells him yes, but then in the end, Jesus does nothing to free him from prison and he is beheaded. Where is God when even your own cousin who says he is the Son of God does nothing to help you?
- 4) Then there was Martha and Mary. Their brother dies. Jesus is sent a message to come and heal him, and he does not come in time and Lazarus dies. Jesus shows up four days later, and Martha and Mary are not happy that Jesus did nothing and allowed their brother to die. You have the power, Jesus, and you did nothing. Where was God?
- 5) Then there was Paul who asked God to remove the thorn in his side. We do not know what was the cause of his constant pain, but

## In This Issue

**E Note From the Pastor**

**Care Notes**

**Bright Beginnings Learning Academy**

**Bright Beginnings Preschool**

**Choir Needs Men Singers**

**A Note of Thanks**

**CRUMY Clothes Line**

**Thrift Store**

**Celebrate Recovery**

**Newsletter Announcements**

**Service Times**

**Week at a Glance**

**Church Office Hours**

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

**Meals on Wheels**

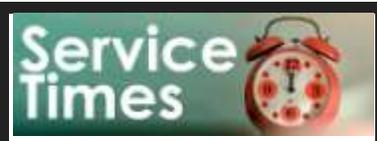
**Life Groups**

**2nd Sunday Breakfast**

**Congregational care**

**Stephen Ministry**

**Sunday School**



we do know Paul asked God to remove this affliction. God said "No."

In all of these cases, it appears God does not care and God is not fair, but if we dig deeper, we will discover that God did care, and does care.

For King David, God helps him overcome his enemies and he becomes King. God tells us that David eventually becomes a man after God's own heart. For Job, his faith was strong, God sees him through the tough times, and Satan is defeated in his life. John the Baptist was killed, but in the end, we know he did not die because there is the resurrection. For Lazarus, Jesus used the situation to demonstrate that He has power over death, and that even death does not have the final word. In the life of Paul, God said "No," but then He said "My Grace is sufficient." In other words, rely on my power and I will give you the strength to deal with whatever life will throw at you. "My Grace is sufficient" to help you.

Here is what I do know. I cannot answer all the "Why's," but what I can do is point to three things that God offers us when we feel God does not care or is not fair.

1) Let God's Purpose be in your pain. In other words, look for God's purpose in your life and allow God to work out that purpose through His grace. God has the ability to work all things out for our good, if we will trust in Him.

2) Let God's Presence be in your pain. What this says to me is that, if we know God never leaves us alone as we learned last week, then we can know that God will see us through the challenges of life. God is with us, God walks besides us, God is present in our lives. Rely and lean on Him to see you through, and all things will work together for good for those who love God.

3) Let God's Promises be in your pain. God has promised us that His Grace is sufficient. In other words, let God lead and guide your every step. If you will, then God will see you through and that is the promise. Even when we feel God does not care or does not seem fair, God is ever Present, working out His Purpose and Promises in our lives if we are open to his Spirit.

Hear this! God can and does use the pain in our lives to grow our faith deeper if we will rely on His Purpose, Presence, and Promises. God also is not fair, but He is Just. Praise God that He is not fair, because God never gives us what we deserve. Why? Because God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to take our place on the cross and pay for our sins. Fair would be for me to have to pay for my sins, but Jesus took my place, and God gave me grace. That is not a Heartless God, but that is a God that loves you and me beyond words.

#### WEEKEND WORSHIP

We begin a new sermon series this weekend entitled, "The Upside Down Stories of Jesus." We will examine some of the parables of Jesus over the next five weeks. One of the big principles of the parables is that they have deeper meaning than what appears on the surface of the story. One of the things Jesus told His disciples was, "If you get to know me, you can know my Father in Heaven." I believe the Parables reveal the character of Jesus, which then allows you and me to know Him better. Knowing Jesus helps us to know God. Our last four weeks has been to understand God more, so we might not construct false ideas about God in our lives. Join me as we seek to know Jesus more and more so that we might walk closer to Him every day. In knowing Jesus, it just helps to make sense out of life itself. I look forward to the journey with you in this new series.

**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 18, 2018**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. Finance Meeting (RM 16)  
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

**SATURDAY- May 19, 2018**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**SUNDAY - May 20, 2018**  
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 21, 2018**  
11:00 a.m. Discovery Group Picnic  
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir (S)

**TUESDAY - May 22, 2018**  
9:00 a.m. Worship Design (R 13)  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team (S)  
6:30 p.m. Cubs Pack 415 (T)

**WEDNESDAY- May 23, 2018**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (RM 20)

**THURSDAY - May 24, 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)  
10:00 a.m. S.M. Supervision (RM 18)  
6:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)  
7:00 p.m. 4-H (RM 20)

**FRIDAY- May 25, 2018**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### FINANCES

Please do not forget to be faithful to the finances of the church. There is no room for anything extra when it comes to overseeing the resources you gifted the leaders to manage. We cannot manage, if you through God's grace do not provide. It is that simple and your gifts do reflect your love for God. Remember between the power bill, the mortgage, and payroll, it takes a minimum of \$25,000.00 per month. That does not include anything else - equipment repair, broken toilets, hot water heaters, insurance expense, etc. I know the resources are there because, when we have asked for special offerings, you have generously responded. So if you want your leaders to manage, then help us out with your gifts. If you would like to help manage, then join me at finance on Friday, May 18th at 4:00. Money is a heart issue. Allow God to direct you in supporting His church.

Have a great weekend and I hope to see you in worship.

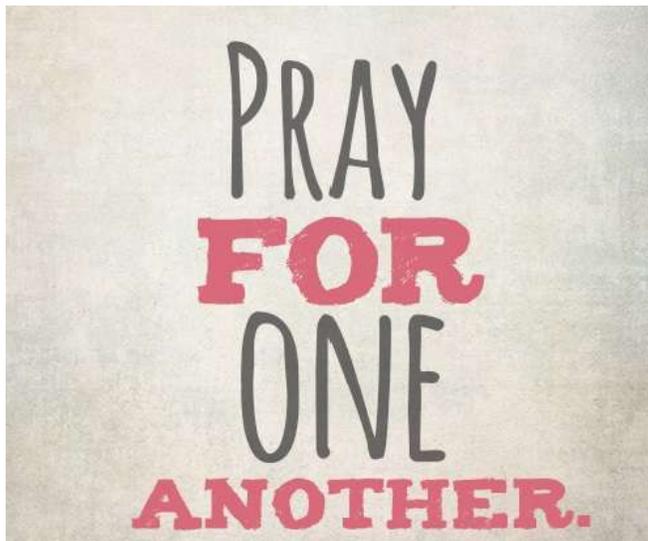
Pastor David

6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

**SATURDAY- May 26, 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)



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.

Antonette Aspenlighter



## Church Office Hours

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



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



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)



May 20  
Samuel Wheeler

May 23  
Melody Hinson  
Marta Valette

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

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



May 1  
Hallie & Mary Castell

May 19



Calling all men of the church!!

The choir needs men singers all the time but especially for a Father's Day Men's Special on June 17, 9:00 service. We're singing an old gospel hymn and will only take a few rehearsals to get ready. Rehearsals are May 31, June 7, June 14 at 6:45 but why not just come at 6:00 for regular choir also??? Whether you have had lots or little music training, your voice is your instrument for praise and you are welcome here. Thanks and hope to see you any Thursday evening at 6:00 in choir room.

Blessings,  
Margaret and Pattie

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)

## *A Note of Thanks*

Our gratitude is for being "Thankful" for your prayers, cards, calls and visits to the Hospice House of Citrus Co. Robin was ready to see his master's new home. It is not easy to let go of the loved one you held so dear in your heart for many years.

Our family wants to say thank you for attending his Celebration of Life and the Memorial Service. To Pastor David who spent a lot of time with Robin and his prayers for he and me.

The Memorial Service was very touching to all.

Our Blessings to all.



# NEEDS COOKS

Volunteer just  
Once a month

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



Barb Thomas



Keep an eye out this Sunday for a CRUMY Clothes line to benefit their upcoming mission trip



Hello, Church Family,

Isn't this a lovely picture? Now when we give people directions to the store we can say, "Watch for the big sign!" We are proud to have been able to pay for it with proceeds earned from the flea market, and for Glen Palhof and his helper, Ray, and our Ricky and Thomas who put it up for us. We thank Mr. Palhof for making it at a discount and hanging it for no charge. If you need signs, see these great folks at Kustom Glass, across the street from the Thrift Store. They are good neighbors. Now the limbs will get cut asap.

Come see the lovely Memorial Day display and check out our weekly sales. This week is glassware. As with the Rosemary cuttings, there are lots of ways to use the lovely stemware and other crystal, even if we don't entertain as in the past.

We continue to need more help at the store as we greet new people who are just finding us, and now maybe more who will see our sign! Also, life gets in the way of even the most reliable and dedicated of volunteers, so we sometimes need to alter our schedule and substitute for a situation. Only 1 4-hr shift a week helps so much, or being

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



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

a person on call (after a little training) would be a blessing. And, always, join our Personal Prayer Provider, Ruth Maughan, who faithfully lifts up the workings, workers and clients of the store, that we be used mightily to share the love of Christ to all.

Blessings to all,  
Pattie and Your Thrift Store Board

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



Join us every Friday night for Celebrate Recovery.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m.

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)*



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.



***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>

