

Crystal River United Methodist Church

<http://www.crume.com>

Date: MAY 19, 2017



Friends,

We began a new sermon series this past weekend entitled: "Samson—Chosen By God." One of the things that really sticks out about Samson is that he was strong physically, but very weak mentally and spiritually. He was a very impulsive kind of person. God had a plan for Samson, to stand in the gap, and return Israel to freedom from slavery under the Philistines. Samson too often did things his way and not God's way, and it usually ended badly for him. Samson would only call on God when he found himself in a jam, and God would step in and rescue him. Samson was a man of great potential, yet was very self-destructive.

God looked on Samson with favor because he had set him aside from birth for this special task of liberating the Israelites from slavery. Samson was a Nazarite, set aside for God. God was looking for someone to "Stand in the Gap" and Samson was the man chosen by God for this task. Israel spent 40 years in slavery under the Philistines because no one would step forward to serve God and stand in the gap.

Ezekiel 22:30 reminds us of this call by God: "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."

Today, you and I are called to "Stand in the Gap." As the church, we are called and set apart as people who are holy. This designation is given to those who claim Christ as Lord and Savior. If we are to be the church, then we must be holy by being salt and light to a world that is blind to the love of Jesus.

It concerns me when I see Christians behaving like the rest of the world. Facebook is a perfect example of what I am talking about. Whether you are conservative or progressive, as a follower of Jesus, we are to respect one another's opinion, we are to treat one another with respect, and we are to love unconditionally. Yet I see very little Christian behavior reflected in the way people repost articles and comment to one another. If we are going to be salt and light, then we cannot behave like the rest of the world.

We must be different. God is looking for men and women to stand in the gap on behalf of the land. Will you be one of those persons? I hope so, because you and I as followers of Jesus are defined by our faith in Christ first and our political party association should be further down our list of priorities. How will you define yourself as a follower of Jesus and will you stand in the gap for Christ? In the end, Samson finally followed God's will and not his own, and destroyed the Philistines, but it came with a price - his life. May we follow Christ and His will for our lives and may we make a difference in this world and in the world to come by standing in the gap.

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9:00 A.M.
Traditional Service

10:30 A.M.
Contemporary Service

WEEKEND WORSHIP

We will continue looking at the life of Samson this weekend. Remember, as we look at the lives of others who have walked this journey of faith, we can learn from their experiences. Samson has a lot to teach us. As I said last week, Samson was a very impulsive person, and the thing that got him into trouble was his lack of control over his emotions. We will look at two emotions that were out of control in Samson's life. We will then examine how he could have placed his emotion-driven life under the leading of God and life would have been much different for him. We too make decisions that are not Spirit led, and this is what takes us off course and we miss the mark. It has to start with "who will lead your life?" Will it be you or will it be God? Join me this weekend as we explore this issue.

ODDS AND ENDS

Pre School graduation is next Thursday evening, May 25th at 6:30 pm. All are invited. Come and celebrate this milestone in the lives of these families. Come and be a blessing to them.

We are registering for Kindergarten. The tuition is \$5500.00 for the year. Then we have state money, called "Step-up," available to reduce the tuition even more. Please pray and spread the word, and help us make a private Christian Kindergarten a reality. Thank you in advance.

Church Council will meet next Wednesday at 6:30 in the choir room. All are invited. Help us vision for the future.

I will begin a new six week "Disciples Path" class on Monday, July 10th from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. This class is a lead up for you to consider taking the next step in joining Crystal River UMC as a member. Pray about this and look for further information. I would love for you to consider going deeper by becoming a member of CRUMC.

Keep our youth team and counselors in your prayers as they will be leaving to go on their annual mission trip on Sunday, May 28th. They are returning to Leesburg to serve again at the Warren Willis Youth camp. Again they will be re-roofing cabins and other duties to make the camp a place of beauty in reaching young people and adults for Christ. Keep them in prayer.

Have a great weekend, and I will see you in worship.

Blessings,
Pastor David



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

Mike & Jenna Bell

Ted Burrige

Buzzy Lamb

2017 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 19TH, 2017

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at Meadowcrest Clubhouse

10:00 a.m. SPPRC (RM 16)

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

SATURDAY- MAY 20TH, 2017

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUNDAY - MAY 21ST, 2017

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 Scouts 415 (T)

MONDAY- MAY 22ND, 2017

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

TUESDAY- MAY 23RD, 2017

2:00 p.m. Worship Design (RM 16)

6:00 p.m. Praise Team (S)

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)

WEDNESDAY- MAY 24 TH, 2017

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Youth Group (RM 20)

6:00 p.m. Prayer Watch (BC)

6:30 p.m. Church Council (C)

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (T)

THURSDAY- MAY 25TH, 2017

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. Super (RM 18)

3:15 p.m. BBP Chapel (RM 13)

6:30 p.m. BBP VPK Graduation (S)

FRIDAY- MAY 26TH, 2017

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at Meadowcrest Clubhouse

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

SATURDAY- MAY 27TH, 2017

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Evelyn Giles
Gail Balint
Phyllis Colquitt

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)



Discovery Group is going to

Dakota Vineyards & Winery In Chiefland.

We will meet at the church by 10 a.m. on

Monday - June 5th.

We are requesting a \$5.00 donation for the bus,

there is no cost for the Winery.

We will stop first for lunch at The Gathering Table.

Please sign up at the Connection Point

or call Jean Bush, 795-6350

to reserve your seat on the bus.



Happy Birthday

May 12
Pattie Williams

May 13
Kyle Spivey

May 16
Beverly Dobbin
Ed McConaughy
Mark Walker

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

careteam@crumc.com



May 1
Hallie & Mary Castell



May 24th @ 6:30
In The Choir Room



CALLING ALL SINGERS!!!

ANNOUNCING "SUMMER SING" AT CRUMC!!!

The choir is taking a much-deserved extended vacation this summer, June, July and August. BUT, we must not let the worship experience suffer without the presence of "special" music to honor God. Our men are singing on Father's Day; other ensembles, solos and duets are in the works; and there is always room for any of you who are not currently in choir or those with whom we are not yet acquainted who might like to offer your gifts. Just let Pattie Williams know when and what and it can happen.

This is an exciting new concept for us. August 13 and 20 will be "Open Choir" Sundays at CRUMC. The choir members who are ready to come back AND, we hope, anyone else from the congregation who would like to join them, will be singing those days. We will use simple hymn arrangements that you already know. It's a chance to check out this ministry and maybe find it something you'd like to commit to, or just have fun singing for those two Sundays.

We hope you will consider SUMMER SING your CALLING!!

Pattie and Margaret

May 19
Lynne Ann & Richard 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



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

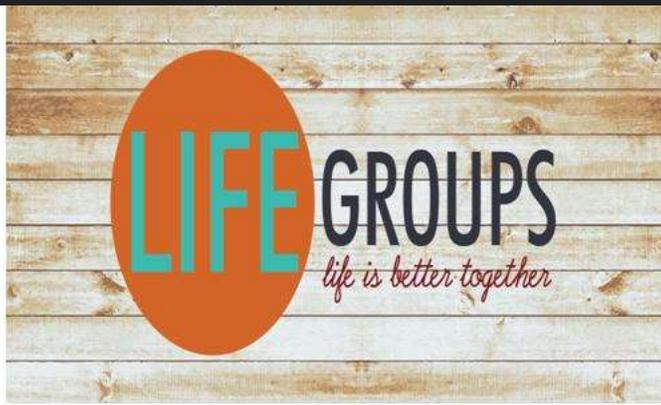
or email

careteam@crumc.com



Stephen Ministry is an ongoing ministry to meet the needs of 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



Meadowcrest Bible Study
and the Miracles of Elisha.
Fridays @ 10 AM
at the Meadowcrest
Club House



Bright Beginnings Learning Academy is
now Accepting Applications
for Kindergarten. See Frank Pifer to
apply or call 352/795-3148



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

Then we have the perfect class for you!

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.
The cost is \$3 per plate.

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!*

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Bright Beginnings Preschool

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

Enrolling for VPK

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!

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

Call 352-795-1240

Lic# C05C10049

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