

Friends of Crystal River,

I am struck by the images of the total destruction from the fires in Northern California. It reminds me as to how possessions and life are so temporary. Not only are our possessions temporary, life itself is fragile and can end very suddenly.

On this Thanksgiving Weekend, I trust you are giving thanks to God for all that you have and all that you are, because your relationship with Jesus is the only thing you have that is eternal. May each of us give thanks for God's continued blessings in our lives. Pray for the people of California and for the "First Responders," as they help in the search and recovery for the people who are missing.

As the fires remind us how our possessions are temporary, God reminds us not to put a lot of effort into what we possess. **Luke 12:15** Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Life is more than the possessions we own.

The current series we are in reminds us that real "Joy" is found not in our possessions, but in how we might live a more simple life by becoming more generous. It may seem like an oxymoron, but the more you are unencumbered with debt, and stuff, and are able to save and give back to others, the more simple and generous life becomes. You and I were not created to simply consume all that we can. We were created to love God and love our neighbor, and if we are all about ourselves and have nothing left to share with others, life becomes more complicated. The joy comes in being able to help others, but you have to first discipline yourself to become a better manager of what God has given you. Over the last three weeks, I have tried to offer some practical tools and instructions on how you might simplify your life, and then discover the Joy that comes in being more generous.

Some of what we have talked about begins with discovering the difference between contentment and discontentment. Too often we are discontented over the wrong things. For instance, we are often discontented about our possessions or the lack of having the things we want or think we need. So, we strive to get more, and in the end, our stuff does not bring contentment, but instead discontentment. Where we should be discontented in the right way is to desire a deeper and a more profound relationship with Christ, but instead we settle for the low-hanging fruit. We pray once in a while, we worship when it is convenient, we serve when we have

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nothing more important to do. Then when we give, we give when we have a few bucks left over in our pocket. There is no intentional plan to love God and love our neighbor, and so our relationship with God is hit and miss, and for the most part, we are contented with this practice. The irony is we are contented with what we should be very discontented with.

The Apostle Paul offers us some thoughts on how we might live a more contented life. **Philippians 4:11-13** *¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

Let me offer you four ways in which you might choose to cultivate a life of contentment.

1) Stay Positive. There is always the ability to see the glass half empty or half full. John Ortberg says we might see that the circumstances we find ourselves in can be seen as: "It could be worse." There is always a worse case than maybe what we are experiencing. Stay Positive, look for the good, know it could be worse.

2) Let Your Yes Be Yes. In other word, when you decide to do something or buy something, make sure your decision, your Yes, is truly a Yes. Often, we will buy something and within a period of time, the newness wears off and we are back to being discontented with our decision. Think it through before you go and buy something that you really do not need. Let your Yes Be Yes.

3) Develop a Grateful Heart. Gratitude is an attitude. That may sound trite, but it is true. Perspective on where and what you are doing impacts how contented or discontented you will be. Give thanks to God for every thing and all that you have, and for the life He has given you. Remember, you have control over so much of what goes on because the decisions you make today do determine the story you will tell tomorrow. The hope is you will look to God to help you make good decisions. That is part of what it means to have a grateful heart, seeking God's will and guidance.

4) Seek True Satisfaction: The simple answer is Christ. That satisfaction comes when we discover how we might find joy through a more simple and generous life. Simplicity leads to contentment, and contentment is found in simplicity. They lean on one another. I will guarantee you, you will not find contentment in possessions and the stuff you can buy or own. It is first found in a relationship with Jesus, and then in the relationships of family and friends.

Join me as we seek to find joy through the practice of simplifying our lives and becoming more generous.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1) The Parade is next Saturday. If you can help decorate, come on Wednesday night, November 28th at 6:30 pm. Many hands make for light work.

2) New sermon series begins next weekend for Advent. "Christmas Through The Eyes of The Grinch." This will be a fun way of seeing and discovering the Christmas message through the story of the Grinch using his story as a metaphor for our story.

3) If you like to paint, come to the choir room on Monday, November the 26th at 10:30 am to help paint the back drop for the new series. It is all drawn out; you just have to color in between the lines.



9:00 A.M.
Traditional Service

10:30 A.M.
Contemporary Service

2018 NOVEMBER						
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	

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

FRIDAY- November 23, 2018
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Closed)
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

SATURDAY- November 24, 2018
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Closed)
2:30 Celebrate Leadership (RM 22)

SUNDAY - November 25, 2018
8:00 a.m. Life South Blood Drive
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 - November 26, 2018
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)

TUESDAY - November 27, 2018
9:30 Worship Design (RM 22)
6:00 p.m. Praise Team (S)
6:30 p.m. Cubs Pack 415 (T)

WEDNESDAY- November 28, 2018
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
2:30 p.m. UMW Board (T)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (RM 22)

THURSDAY - November 29, 2018
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4) The Advent Devotional will be ready for you next Sunday at the Connection Point. We will also post it on our web site. Give thanks to all who took the time to share.

Have a great weekend and join us in worship as we conclude this current series, "More Than Enough."

Blessings,

Pastor David



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.

The O'Dells
Jeff Kendrick
Mark Jones
Gloria Ferguson



8:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels (K)
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (C)

FRIDAY- November 30, 2018

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

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

SATURDAY- December 1, 2018

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

9:00 a.m. Our Father's Table
(St. Anne's)

9:00 a.m. Dinner Church Training
(Lake City)

2:30 Celebrate Leadership (RM 22)

**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)



Bright Beginnings
Learning Academy
is Accepting
Applications
for Kindergarten
and First Grade.
To apply call
352/795-1240





Sign ups for the Salvation Army Bell Ringers will be out at the Connection Point this Sunday!!

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

Now enrolling for VPK 2018/2019 School Year

VPK Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
with wrap care available

Call 352-795-1240
Lic# C05C10049

LIFEgroups

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

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



MON - THURS
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Closed Fridays



Give Blood
November 25th

give thanks
TO THE Lord
FOR
HE IS GOOD
His love endures
forever.
PSALM 107:1



**United
Methodist
Women**
FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION



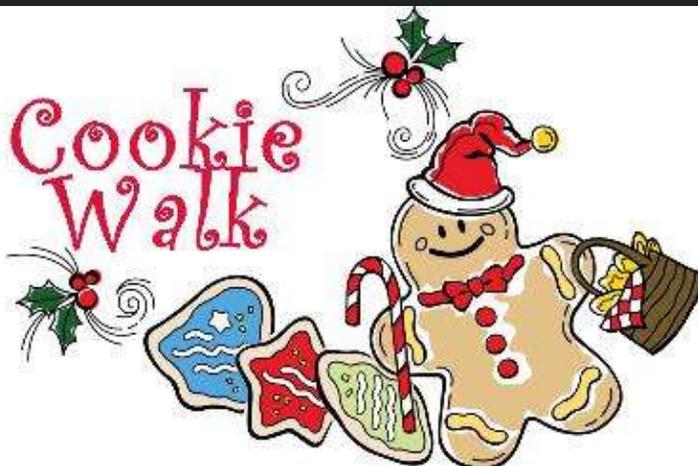
The United Methodist Women of CRUMC have had a busy year. Through our fundraising efforts, we have been able to award scholarships to 4 deserving students, a campership to a child to attend a Christian summer camp, and donations to The Path of Citrus County and Nature Coast Ministries Dental Clinic.

Many of our members act as "Prayer Angels" to the students in the Volunteer Pre-kindergarten Program at Bright Beginnings Pre School. We have 20 students this season and each child receives a special greeting card for each holiday along with a Birthday card if the birthday falls within the school year, along with our prayers.

In September our Unit was honored to hold the North Central District United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting and luncheon. We had about 60 women in attendance from many churches in our district. We received many compliments on the meeting and our church.

We are approaching our year end and with it comes our Annual Cookie Walk which will be held this year on December 8. Our members have been baking lots of special Christmas cookies which will be sold for a donation of \$10 per 8"x8" box. The sale will start at 9 a.m. and last until all cookies are sold - usually by 11 a.m. Come and bring a friend or two!

We will close out our year with a special Christmas Program led by Margaret Williams at our December 4th meeting at noon - starting with a covered dish luncheon. All women of the church are invited to attend.



Saturday - December 8

Christmas cookies will be sold for a donation of \$10 per 8"x8" box. The sale will start at 9 a.m. and last until all cookies are sold - usually by 11 a.m.

Come and bring a friend or two!



November 27

Janice Holmes-Ray

Susan Kennedy

November 29

Betty Mounts

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

careteam@crumc.com



November 5

Ron & Cheryl Bray

November 15

Bob & Clarette Boleware

November 17

Curtis & Linda McKeown

November 22

Thomas & Thomasine
Kennedy

November 23

Bob & Jane Kegan

November 25



Pat & Patricia Purcell

November 25

Scott & Marie Witte

November 27

Gary & Margaret Williams

November 30

Becky & Brian Mason

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

careteam@crumc.com



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)



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!



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 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.

[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>

