



Dear Friends of Crystal River,

As we are now 4 days from Christmas, the question we asked this past weekend was this: "Do some people misunderstand Christmas?" In exploring the parable of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," we can certainly see how some people can misunderstand Christmas.

Cindy Lou, the child that bridges the conflict between the citizens of Whoville with the Grinch who has isolated himself on top of the mountain, seeks to find the answer in the Christmas celebration. Cindy Lou chooses not to take on the attitudes of the citizens of Whoville, who misunderstand the Grinch. They see him as being mean and angry, yet they forget, as citizens, they contributed to his behavior in the way he was treated as a child. Cindy Lou goes to the leaders of Whoville and nominates the Grinch to be the "Cheer Mister" for this year's parade. The reason she nominates the Grinch is that the person who is the Cheer Mister is a person who needs Christmas the most. Cindy knows this is what the Grinch needs the most if his heart is to grow back from being two sizes too small. Cindy Lou seeks "Understanding out of Misunderstanding." It was not only the Grinch that needed Christmas the most, it was the citizens of Whoville, if there was going to be a new "Understanding" of Christmas.

The Shepherds waiting in the field outside of Bethlehem misunderstood Christmas too. When the angelic choir showed up to announce the birth of Jesus, the messiah, they misunderstood why they would have been chosen to share this announcement with the citizens of Bethlehem. After all, shepherds were low life and they saw themselves as low life, but all that changed after they did as the angel called them to do. Go and announce the messiah's birth, and go and see this child lying in a manger. After they had seen the child, the bible tells us they left praising and glorifying God. How could this be? Because they found new understanding out of misunderstanding. They now had a new understanding of who they were, children of God, and not dirty shepherds, and they experienced the glory and the awesomeness of God. God knew the Shepherds probably need Christmas the most, so he chose them to make the announcement to the town and to the world.

How about you? Do you need Christmas the most? I would bet you do. Why? Because all of us need to turn our "misunderstanding into understanding." Each of us needs to return to why Christmas even

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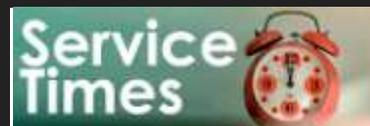
BB Preschool

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Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary



9:00 A.M.
Traditional Service

10:30 A.M.

exists. We need to be reminded that God sent himself in the form of a child so that we could know God on a personal, one-to-one basis. God wants you to know that it is God who defines you, who created you, and calls you His child, not the world. You see, when you and I know our true identity that is found in Jesus, true understanding comes to keep our hearts from growing two sizes too small. We come to see that, because God first loved us, we can love ourselves, and then we can love our neighbor. This all happens because we are guided by the spirit that dwells in us. The spirit dwells within each of our hearts because Jesus became like us, so now we can become like Jesus. This means Jesus came for the very purpose of setting us 'Right' with God. Allow God to turn your misunderstanding into new understanding by opening yourself to his spirit.

WEEKEND WORSHIP

We will continue in our sermon series: "Christmas Through The Eyes of the Grinch." We move to where "Some People Embrace Christmas." We will look at how we can overcome our "Resistance and our Reluctance, and move to being Receptive to Christmas." We will see how Joseph moved through these stages of resistance and reluctance and accepted his role as the earthly father of Jesus. We have all been in a place of resistance and reluctance when it comes to following God's will for our lives. So why do we act this way with God? Well, in simple terms, it is our human and broken nature which rebels against God's will. Join me as we celebrate the answer to our rebellion, the Birth Of Jesus. Come and Embrace Christmas with me this weekend.

Then come and join me in one of two services on Monday evening. At 4:00 we will worship in the Bethel Chapel. Then at 6:30 we will worship in the main sanctuary. The first service will be traditional and the second service will be a family/contemporary service. I hope you will join me in one of these four services on Sunday or Monday.

If you placed a poinsettia on the altar for Christmas, they can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services are over. Thank you for sharing this gift with the Crystal River faith community.

I trust you will allow yourself to be amazed by God this week, to take time and spend some alone time with him, and then to give praise and worship Him as you consider all of your blessings. These simple practices will bring understanding out of misunderstanding in your life.

Michele and I wish you and your family a most Merry and Glorious Christmas Celebration.

Blessings,

Pastor David and Michele Rawls

Contemporary Service

2018 DECEMBER						
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					

Freeable Calendars From 123Calendar.com

ALL MEETINGS ARE PUBLIC WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SPRC

FRIDAY- December 21, 2018

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

SATURDAY- December 22, 2018

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
2:30 p.m. Celebrate Leadership (RM 13)

SUNDAY - December 23, 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 - December 24, 2018

4:p.m. Traditional Service (BC)
6:30 p.m. Family Service (S)

TUESDAY - December 25, 2018

Christmas (Closed)

WEDNESDAY- December 26, 2018

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Closed)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (RM 22)

THURSDAY - December 27, 2018

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Closed)
8:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels (K)
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (C)

FRIDAY- December 28, 2018

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

SATURDAY- December 29, 2018

Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Closed)
2:30 p.m. Celebrate Leadership (RM 13)

if you have a change or



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.

Cindy Gross

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



Advent Devotionals will be available daily on our website crumc.com and our [facebook](#) page. If you do not have online access and would like to request a hard copy of the devotional, please call the front office 352/795-3148



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



Divinely Unique
Thrift Store

5015 N. Citrus Ave - Crystal River, FL 34428
352/436-2221

Wed. Thru Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

Hello, Church Family, and Merry Christmas!

We have had such a great and busy Christmas selling season and celebrating season at the store. December has set all kinds of records, such as busiest day ever, income above all expectations, and joys of serving our community together. I don't know how to rate this one, but ABSOLUTELY we have had more donations than EVER before, but this team of folks has worked extra hours and extra days to keep up the best we can.

The Store Board is so appreciative of those who work so hard that Tuesday we threw a Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Linda Bradley's house with lovely weather, gracious hospitality, fabulous food and loving fellowship as we thanked the folks who make the store work. It takes us all, as scripture tells us. We need eyes and ears and hands and feet and hearts to all work together and the store does that.

We have some goals and dreams in mind for the next year, but what it's going to take is more volunteers. There is some hard work and some not so hard. We'd like someone to take on selling things online from home at your convenience. That could make us much more money for ski boots than what we'll get in a Florida thrift store. We need a publicity person who can keep up with promoting special events online, contacting our previous flea market vendors, and helping get brochures created in a timely manner. Look for our new awning over the customer doors to be in place very soon plus more signage and some driveway improvements. It all takes time but we are headed in the right direction and thank all those who support the store in any way.

Blessings on your Christmas Season and 2019. We are all taking a few days off so the store will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's. See you this week or first of the year.

In God's service,

Pattie and Your Thrift Store Board

LIFEgroups

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



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



December 23

Karen Thomas
Merry Williams

December 26

Jean Bradley
Irma Green

December 28

Charlie Jackson
Michele Rawls

December 29

Nancy Slack



***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!



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

December 30

Alice Gehring
Ashely Vanderhaar

December 31

Frank Pifer
April Schmitt

If we have missed your Birthday, 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)



December 15

Ida & Raymond Cozart

December 22

Peggy & Dennis Pilon

December 27

Mary & Bill Lyons

December 28

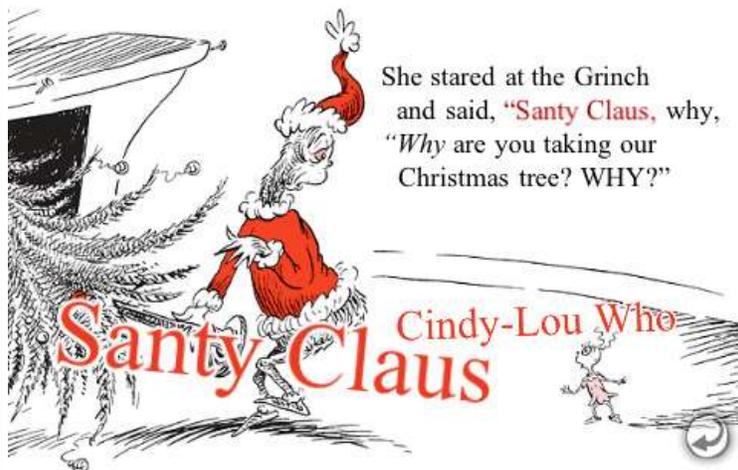
Azure & Jim Kelly

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

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>

