



Friends of God,

Back in October, I did a stand-alone sermon entitled "Under God." We looked at what it means to be "One Nation." Since we are a diverse nation, we considered what that means to be "One Nation," especially as it reflects on people who call themselves followers of Jesus. This past weekend we picked up on what will be the balance in this four part series. This series is based on the four themes found in the last sentence of the pledge of allegiance. 1) One Nation. 2) Under God. 3) Indivisible. 4) With Liberty and Justice for all.

As I said in October, I believe this is an appropriate topic considering the culture and the divisions we see in our culture today as it relates to the political climate. I believe as followers of Jesus, our faith must have practical application to our everyday lives. This series has nothing to do with political parties, but it has everything to do with how we as believers are to act, and respond to a culture so divided.

John Wesley said the following as he too dealt with political division in his day. **I met with those of our society who had voted in the ensuing election, and advised them:** 1) "To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy. 2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and 3) To take care that their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

In This Issue

E Note From the Pastor

Care Notes

Thrift Store

Discovery Group

SOS Dinner

Stephen Ministries

Newsletter Announcements

Service Times

Calendar

BBP Learning Academy

BB Preschool

Office Hours

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Sunday School

Congregational Care

Celebrate Recovery

Life Groups

So in essence this series is a reminder that we are to have respect for those with whom we disagree, and it is to help us understand to what "Nation" do we first and foremost belong if we claim to follow Jesus.

Today I want to pick up the second theme of this series and ask this question: "**Whom are you 'Under?'**" The pledge says we are "under God," but as a nation, many would not acknowledge this idea nor accept this idea. What we have are two competing forces. There is the influence of the "Culture," and there is the influence of "God," or for some a "Higher Power." The question is: What influences you the most? Once you can answer the question, that will then determine under what influence you will live. Influence goes to what you believe, what you think, how you live, and how you behave. Determining who you are under will determine the story you will tell tomorrow in your life.

Let me offer several areas that speak to this idea of under whom you will live.

**1) Entertainment.** What you choose to watch, download, tweet, face book, read, will either draw you further into a culture that is hostile, angry, mean, unforgiving, or you will choose to go the other direction. A direction that looks for things that entertain with a moral compass, offers an uplifting message that respects persons as having worth and not as commodities to be used or spent. It is finding entertainment that is for the betterment of both individuals and for culture as a whole. Does it build up or tear down? Under what influence will you live?

How about your **2) Words?** Think about the words you have spoken in the last few days. Have they been destructive? Have they been words of gossip, belittling, critical, cursing, and tearing down? Or were your words more honoring of the persons you come in contact with, and did they see people as unique children created in the image of God? What influences the use of your words? The culture or God? The question is under whom and what will you live?

As a follower of Jesus, it is my hope that even when we fail to follow as we should, we will recognize those shortcomings in ourselves, and turn and head back towards the influence of God. It matters what we believe and what we think and how we live, and how we behave. It matters because it determines the life we will live, the way we will treat other people, and the kind of legacy we will leave the world. My prayer is that, as people who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior, we will chose to live "Under God."

**SUNDAY**  
WORSHIP TIMES



Traditional  
9:00 A.M.  
Contemporary  
10:30 A.M.

**JANUARY 2019**

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				

Photo: Calendar from 123Calendars.com

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

**FRIDAY- January 4, 2019**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

**SATURDAY- January 5, 2019**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. Our Father's Table  
(Offsite)  
2:30 p.m. Celebrate Leadership  
(RM 13)

**SUNDAY - January 6, 2019**  
9:00 a.m. Traditional (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 - January 7, 2019**  
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)

**TUESDAY - January 8, 2019**  
9:30 Worship Design (RM 22)  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team (S)  
6:30 p.m. Cubs Pack 415 (T)

**WEDNESDAY- January 9, 2019**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (RM 22)

**THURSDAY - January 10, 2019**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels (K)  
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (C)  
6:00 p.m. N. Citrus Civic Assoc. (T)  
7:00 p.m. 4-H (RM 22)

**FRIDAY- January 11, 2019**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store

## WEEKEND WORSHIP

This weekend we will look at the third theme in this series; "Indivisible." What does that mean as an individual and as a nation? One of the major ideas is that, as followers of Jesus, we need one another. We each have different gifts, and as we come together, we use those gifts for the greater good of the whole body of people. We are to be a people who do not seek to divide but unite under the unity that is found in Jesus. Join me as we look into what "indivisible" looks like for us, for the nation and for the church. We are a community, and it is important that we do not fail to meet together as Hebrews tells us. See you this weekend.

## SHARE OUR SPIRIT

We will be Sharing Our Spirit again through a community dinner on Wednesday, January 23rd from 5:30 until 7:00 pm. The income we receive through this dinner will go to help finish the addition to the Bethel Chapel. Tickets will go on sale this weekend. The estimated total cost to finish the project is \$16,500.00. We have on hand \$4,000.00. The Nomads will be here at the end of January and this project will be the major focus in addition to helping people in need in the community. As soon as we finish, we can make a major push to use this space on an on-going basis to help provide resources to maintain the building, and as a space for weddings and funerals for the community. Come Share our Spirit as we can accomplish more together than we can by ourselves. Thank you to the Steele's and the choir for their service to God and His church.

Have a great weekend, and we will look forward to seeing you in worship as we all settle back into our routines after the holidays. Thanks for being a part of the Crystal River UMC faith community.

Blessings,

Pastor David

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (S)

**SATURDAY- January 12, 2019**  
Divinely Unique Thrift & Gift Store  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2:30 p.m. Celebrate Leadership  
(RM 13)

**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**



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

**Now enrolling for VPK  
2018/2019 School Year**



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 Swartz Family  
 Arnold Camp  
 Jeff Camp  
 Mary Derringer  
 Colleen Washburn Snelling

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

Call 352-795-1240  
 Lic# C05C10049



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



January 7

Bill Farrell

January 8

Glenn Corbin

January 9

Brandi Baldwin

Dennis Pilon

January 10

Karen Ryan

January 11

Jess Hammond

Jane Meek

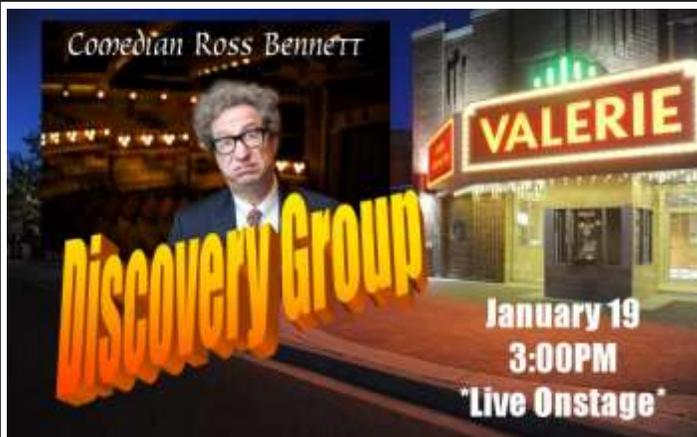
January 14

Alisha Marie Taylor

January 16

Jenny Bass

January 19



A popular headliner at comedy clubs worldwide, veteran comedian, Ross Bennett has appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman,

along with countless other TV appearances. He was the winner of the Best Supporting Actor in A Comedy Series at LAWEBFEST 2016. His show is PG, Valerie Theatre friendly rated. Tickets \$25 and seating can be purchased on line or by calling 352-641-7850

Please call Jean Bush if you are going so car pooling can be arranged as needed @ ,352-795-6350  
Supper to follow at Stumpknockers in Inverness

Sign up at the Connection Point

Jane Kegan

**January 20**

Earnie Olsen

**January 23**

David Hickey

**January 25**

Jerry Carufel

Ronald Schmitt

Lauren Thomas

**January 26**

Ann Hansen

Mary Lyons

Craig Raiford

**January 28**

Tanner McClure

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

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

Sponsored by the CRUMC Sanctuary Choir

## \*SOS DINNER

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

CRUMC Sanctuary

5:30-7:00 P.M.

Join us for dinner and help complete the Bethel Chapel renovation. One hundred percent of your donation will go to that cause.

### Spaghetti and Meat Balls

Served with green salad, garlic bread and dessert  
Beverages: Iced Tea, Lemonade Water, Coffee

Donation \$10 Children under the age of 10 eat free  
Tickets on sale from January 6 thru January 20

*\*Share Our Spirit*

*Tickets may be purchased at any time from choir members or between Sunday services at our patio table*

HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

**January 8**

Chris & Don Dial

**January 17**

Irene & George Neitz

**January 23**

Cindy & Frank Pifer

**January 26**

Audrey & Claude Wagner

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



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.

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



***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](mailto: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)*



**LIFEgroups**

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

[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>

