

# The Messenger

*N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene*

*A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus*

**January 2021 ~ Volume 11, Issue 9**

## **Hope and Seeking**

In the movie, *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring*, the Hobbit, Frodo, expresses his wish that the task of returning the “one true” ring to the fires of Mordor had never come to him. His friend, Gandalf, tells him that we all wish hard times would never come to us. But, he says, “... *that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.*”

Many of us may have wanted to wish away the circumstances through which we were called to walk in 2020. But for we who believe and trust in the omniscience of GOD, we tread differently. Our modern world puts its hope in human effort and the belief that because of “scientific progress” and the ultimate “goodness” of mankind, our world will inevitably become better and better. However, what happens when we place our trust and hope in human abilities and human resources? Ultimately, it robs us of the very purpose of faith, which is reliance on the resources of GOD, instead of limiting ourselves to only what we can see, touch and think.

However, when our trust and hope is in the Lord and in His grace, it frees us to receive much more than our human abilities and resources can offer. It opens us up to receive whatever GOD desires, in His timing and within His perfect plan. Our lives’ greatest and best lessons so often do not lead us through paths of ease or comfort – but through days of trust when circumstances look impossible. We cultivate the deepest faith by digging more deeply into the supernatural hope we have in the Creator and Owner of all things.

Hebrews 6:19 reminds us that: “*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*” We rest in the unchangeable nature of our Maker and in the knowledge that His desires are only ever for our good, and never for our destruction. And that assurance – that “rest” – isn’t just for a future in glory. It is confidence and reassurance for today – for 2021. Our confidence and faith allow us to lead effective lives for GOD right now. Our hope allows us to have faith in the face of fear and gives us courage to stare reality in the face – even when we do not understand the reality – and still claim

that though evil, suffering, death and uncertainty remain, they have already been defeated.

Hope allows us to stand in the “valley of dry bones” and dare to believe that GOD will breathe life into them once again. Hope allows us to have the courage to rush to the tomb on the third day in expectation that death has not had the last word. Hope is living as a resurrection people in a dying world. Hope is joining GOD right here and right now and expecting Him to fulfill His purpose in and through His people.

In order that we may fully know what His divine plan is for our church and our people and place our hope in His ability to carry out that plan, we have decided to dedicate the first 21 days of 2021 as a time of prayer and fasting. The goal is that each one of us will place ourselves in a position to best hear from GOD and discern what we are to be for Him. Our desire is to be sensitive to His leading, removing an action or food from our daily routine, that will allow us to most fully experience the deepest intimacy possible in and with GOD.

Our church has many needs for which you can pray specifically as you seek His face.

- A new roof
- Children’s/youth/worship pastors
- Dedicated volunteers for the many responsibilities of the church
- Funds to continue to update our church facility
- Guidance and wisdom to navigate the changes brought on by the pandemic
- Miracles of healing for several who are experiencing physical challenges

This list gives you a small sampling of the current needs we are experiencing. Will you consider joining us as we seek His will? Our hope remains in Him for 2021 and all our tomorrows.

## January 2021 Calendar

- 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 2 – Undecorating Church
- 12 – Church Board Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 31 – The Hyssongs in Concert

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 – Devon Kiser
- 2 – Wanda VandeLinde
- 3 – Carl Baxter
- 7 – Betty Predko
- 19 – Grace Bolling
- 20 – Laurel & Dorothy Chapman  
Susi Friedman
- 23 – Dan & Diane Bowker
- 26 – Dave Peck
- 27 – Jerry Pickett



*"The Lord bless and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you; The Lord turn His face to you  
and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26*

## Prayer Needs:

Ben Bergman  
Ronnie Kiser  
June Carsey  
Eloise Garner  
Rev. Greg Story, D.S.  
Paul Jones  
Dorothy Chapman  
Mark & Kim Barr  
Kenny & Gail Goodman  
Children & Teen Depts.  
Those affected negatively by the Corona Virus

Shelby Pickett  
John Davis  
Dave Peck  
Elis Lodge  
Eileen Massett  
Tom Blakeman  
Paul & Grace Boling  
Louis Perez  
Eileen Jennings  
Unsaved Loved Ones

Patrick Lindsey  
Jordan Horne  
Amanda Blackburn  
Rev. Dan Copp  
Mark & Lisa Koch  
Joseph Groves  
Lorraine Jungles  
The Monroe Family  
Doug Keuther  
Youth, Children's and Worship Leaders

Phoebe Barr  
Rev. Jim Spear  
Anna Marie Anderson  
Cindy Jones' son  
Ernie Rybold  
Regina Williams & Fam  
Laurel Chapman  
Our District Family  
The Church Roof



**The Hyssongs in Concert**  
Sunday, January 31, 10:45 A.M.

Join us for our Wednesday night devotional at 6:00 P.M. on Facebook live-streaming.

Arnold Burris will begin to offer his Bible study at 6 P.M. Monday, Jan. 4, and Pastor Becky will return to the Thursday night Bible Study on Thursday, January 7 at 7 P.M.

If you cannot tune in at those times, you may watch the recorded Bible studies later.

**Facebook Page:** North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene **Website:** nfmnazarene.com

## Check Out Our Church App!

Access sermons, prayer requests, events and more.



1. Download Church by MinistryOne in App Store



2. Search for Our Church



3. Select & Explore!



Beginning sometime in January, we will begin live streaming our services not only on our church's Facebook page, but also to our YouTube page. Further information on that will be coming soon. If you download the phone app for the church, this will allow you to simply tap on the church's service

Also, we are keeping our church directory updated on our webpage. If you would like to access the directory online, simply go to our website: nfmnazarene.com and scroll to the very bottom of the screen. There is a picture of a lock that you can click on and enter a password to have access. If you want that password, please contact Pastor Van or Pastor Becky.