

The Messenger

N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene

A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus

April 2021 ~ Volume 11, Issue 12

What a Year – What a Hope

It's been about a year.

A year since “lockdown.”

A year since “social” distancing.

A year since the onset of fear took hold.

A year since we were told it would take a few weeks to “flatten the curve.”

A year since we stopped hugging, or holding, or shaking hands, or seeing smiles.

A year of making certain to mask up.

It's been work.

There have been lots of adjustments.

Lots of tweaking how we come together.

Lots of measuring risks.

Lots of alterations to routine.

Lots of wondering.

Lots of unanswered questions.

Sometimes, it feels like we went to bed with normal, but normal slipped out of bed sometime in the night, and we are waiting for normal to return.

It's been a year.

A year of riots, marches and protests.

A year of rewriting history and reforming opinions.

A year of wildfires and counting Covid cases.

A year of hurricanes and political storms.

A year of change.

It felt like the world was losing hope.

Everyone seemed sad.

Mental health crises rose like a flood – some sources said 2020 saw at least a 97% increase in anxiety among Americans.

It's been some year.

But as we have often heard –

there are two types of people in the world –

those who place their hope in some thing,
and those who place their hope in Someone.

If the day after Jesus was crucified—

that day when He was suddenly absent from
this world –

could be bottled and poured out on our world –

the last year might feel like the year it got
dumped out.

Sometimes it feels like we are waiting for something,
but don't quite know what we're waiting for.

We can be absolutely certain of something in this
season of waiting, however.

Whatever choices or adjustments, or questions, we
might have,

there is one thing on which we can always
rely:

The message and hope brought to us by Jesus
on Easter. In the midst of unanswered questions and
missing solutions, we can continually make a
choice. We can let our pain and confusion shape our
faith, or we can take the pain and carry it straight into
the arms of the One Who died to set us free from the
anxiety that comes with this world. We have a hope
that the world did not give and a hope it cannot take
away. It's been a year. But our days are still in His
Hands. Hope on, my friends. Becky Garner



April Calendar

- 2 – Good Friday
- 4 – EASTER
Baptism Service
- 11 – Missions/Alabaster
- 18 – Southern Florida District
Ordination Service

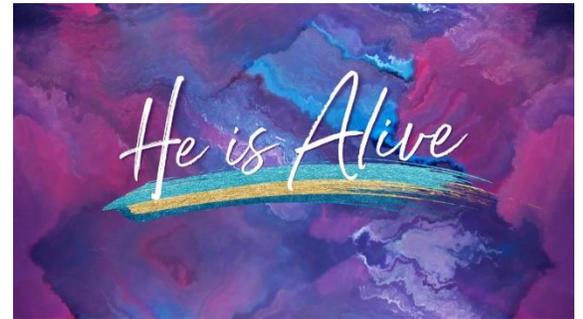


April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 02 – Andrea Bergman
- 08 – Perry Souzis
- 16 – Mary Ellen Steckhan
- 20 – Tom Blakeman
- 24 – Jim Corle
- 27 – Sheryl Colie
- 30 – Richard Colie

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 03 – Karen Haiflich | 25 – Norma Gruber |
| 11 – Stacie Jo Fizer | 28 – Gary Rice |
| Lorraine Jungles | 30 – Marilyn Colter |
| 14 – Carmel Morgan | Tim Dillehay |
| 17 – Brody Fizer | Janice Kent |
| 19 – Elmer Jones | Lynn Kent |
| 20 – Mary Kisner | |
| Tom & Julia Moore | (From the March newsletter |
| Judy Rice | that never came.) |



Prayer Needs:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ben Bergman | Eloise Garner | Patrick Lindsey | Phoebe Barr |
| Ronnie Kiser | Woody Family | Lisa Koch | Betty Jean Willie |
| June Carsey | Drew Baker | Amanda Blackburn | Anna Marie Anderson |
| Shelby Pickett | Elis Lodge | Rev. Dan Copp | Cindy Jones' son |
| Rev. Greg Story, D.S. | Eileen Massett | Dave Peck | Ernie Rybold |
| Paul Jones | Tom Blakeman | Joseph Groves | Regina Williams & Fam |
| Dorothy Chapman | Paul & Grace Boling | Lorraine Jungles | Laurel Chapman |
| Mark & Kim Barr | Louis Perez | The Monroe Family | Our District Family |
| Kenny & Gail Goodman | Eileen Jennings | Doug Keuther | The Church Roof |
| Roof Repairs and Sign | Unsaved Loved Ones | Youth, Children's and Worship Leaders | |
| Those affected negatively by the Corona Virus | | | |



YOU ARE INVITED

Our Busy Hands ministry welcomes all ladies to our Tuesday time together.

Whether you sew or not, please feel free to join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 A.M.

We will be planning future events and sharing about goals and possibilities for women's ministry in the future. We would love to hear your ideas and will hope to see you there.



ALABASTER OFFERING

We will be receiving an offering for Alabaster on Sunday, April 11, during the morning worship service.

We will also be hearing from our new missionary president, Doretta Parker.

Please get your offering ready and come prepared to learn more about Nazarene missions and give for building on the mission field.



Sunday, April 4, in our morning worship service.