

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ORANGE CITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

September 2023

Summer Issue 9

**Worship Service Sunday at 10:30 AM
Church Office Hours Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM 386-775-2462**

firstucc_ocy@yahoo.com www.orangecityucc.org



"No matter who you are or where you are on Life's Journey, you are welcome here."

Greetings!

“Nature is full of genius, full of divinity, so that not a snowflake escapes it’s fashioning hand”. Henry David Thoreau

When I was a child, along with riding my bike or playing baseball, one of my favorite things to do was to take long, solitary walks in the woods that were close to our home. I loved the feel of the dappled sunlight as it filtered through the treetops, as well as the sounds of a mild breeze rustling the leaves and birds singing their songs up in the branches. It was also a time for me to get lost in thought, letting my mind wander to places it had never been before.

Later, when in college, I was first introduced to Thoreau and his best-known book, ‘Walden’. Its impact was not great at first, but it eventually grew on me to the point that came to be one of my favorite books. Reading his descriptions of the natural wonders that surrounded his small house at Walden Pond brought back echoes of things I had seen and felt in my youthful explorations of the natural world. I would eventually visit Walden twice - once in the summer when there were large crowds lining the banks, swimming in the pond, and walking along the woodland trails. My second visit was in the fall when my friend, Priscilla, and I found the place pretty much to ourselves, and could experience the place somewhat closer to what Thoreau might have.

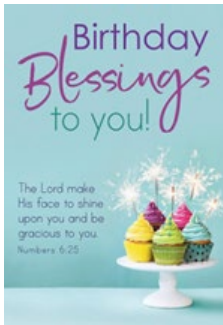
I am intrigued by Thoreau’s statement above about the ‘genius’ of Nature, and the fullness of divinity. I am currently reading a fascinating book by Peter Wohlleben, called ‘The Hidden Life of Trees’, which certainly gives evidence of the ‘genius’ referred to. I won’t go into detail at this time, but the book speaks of the great interconnected ways that not only trees relate to one another, but the whole of Creation itself - that we are often blind to the great complexity of the natural world, as well as the Oneness of all things. And as for the fullness of divinity, there is a unique intimacy between Creator and Creation; that God is not some far off Being looking down upon us, but is, in fact, if not in all things, certainly with all things. We can only wonder at how God feels about the environmental messes we have brought about in many parts of the world and pray for divine guidance in finding the healing needed, if not for ourselves, but for the generations to follow.

Over the years I have spoken of the need to strive for peace in our homes, our communities, and between nations and religions. But we cannot disregard the desperate need for peace between humanity and the natural world!

Peace, grace, and love, David.

Rev. David Westcott will be in the Office and available for calls/visits most Thursdays from 10am - 3pm. If these days are not convenient other arrangements can be made.

Church News...



Birthdays in September

- 6 Alexis Butcher
- 9 Jeremy Northrup
- 9 Dale Stewart
- 30 Gail Brandt

Anniversaries in September

- 16 David & Sharon Brown

Dear Lord,

Thank You for leading us to our church family! We are surrounded by close brothers and sisters that we love with our whole heart. We pray that as we get older and closer that we will never lose sight of what brought us together. We pray for those who are leading and are exhausted because they are being stretched so far. We pray for strength for the ones that are giving so much to keep the church running.

We pray that others rise up and help lead. We pray that You will bring about a passion in our hearts that we can grow and nurture our church. We pray that You watch over us and keep us safe. May we always be accountable to one another and never demean one another but always encourage each other in the times of blessing and of trials. Lord Surround us with your Loving arms. Amen

COMMUNITY GROUPS MEETING AT OUR CHURCH

Sunday Sobriety First (AA) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm (JMH)

Fourth Thursday of the Month District 19 6:30 -7:30 pm (JMH)

Saturday Woman's Weekend of AA 10:30 am - 11:30 am (JMH)

Inglesia Casa Pentacostal de Resauracion inc Mon-Sun (FH)



Sunday Worship

We invite everyone to join us for worship. If you are unable to join us in person, please join us via Zoom.

September 3:10:30am Worship Service, (Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Communion)

September 10:10:30am Worship Service, (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

September 17: 10:30am Worship Service (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

September 24: 10:30am Worship Service, (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Sunshine Connection. Help us CONNECT: It is our desire to connect the people of the Florida Conference to the resources amidst the Florida Conference. Please help us connect with the members of your church by sharing [this link](#) so that they too may have the opportunities to read, contribute, and CONNECT!

Also check out our Facebook Page!!! Don Kline is the moderator. Give us a share and a like!!

Just a note re our clothing bank. If you know of any family/youth in need of clothes or hygiene products, please contact Sharon at the church office 386 775 2462

Please check with the church office that we have all your contact information correct. Emails, address, phone, person of contact etc; Thank you!

PLEASE Send in pics and info of anything you may be doing this summer!

Information for the October Newsletter is due on September 20, You can put information in the Admin box in Jane Murray Hall, or you can call Sharon at **386-775-2462** or you can email it to **firstucc_ocy@yahoo.com**

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE LATELY?

Full of interesting information about our local church and our denomination. David McCarthy, our webmaster, updates it frequently, be sure to check it out! <https://www.orangecityucc.org>



MEMORIAL FUND: Please remember our Church Memorial Fund. To remember friends and loved ones as well as to honor birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions.

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 WW AA 10:30 -Noon JMH
3 Worship 10:30 am Sobriety First 7- 9pm JMH	4 OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day	5	6 <i>Alexis</i> <i>Butcher</i>	7	8	9 WW AA 10:30 -Noon JMH <i>Jeremy</i> <i>Northrup</i> <i>Dale</i> <i>Stewart</i>
10 Worship 10:30 am Sobriety First 7-9 pm JMH	11	12	13 Leadership 9:30 am JMH	14	15	16 WW AA 10:30 -Noon JMH <i>David &</i> <i>Sharon</i> <i>Brown</i>
17 Worship 10:30am Mission Sunday Sobriety First 7-9pm JMH	18	19	20	21 	22	23 WW AA 10:30 -Noon JMH
24 Worship 10:30 am Sobriety First 7-9pm JMH	25	26	27	28 District 19 6:30 JMH	29	30 WW AA 10:30 -Noon JMH <i>Gail</i> <i>Brandt</i>

LEADERSHIP MEETING: Wednesday September 13, 9:30 am in JMH.

All church members are encouraged to attend the meetings. A week prior to the meeting the Moderator will send out an email requesting topics for discussion. EVERY Chair should submit any concern, question, or request and the Moderator will create the meeting agenda from this information. Topics can also be submitted through Sharon

MISSION NEWS...



Our congregation has been very generous in supporting our current MISSION to support the Neighborhood Center in DeLand.

In June our donations consisted of a big box of staple foods, 14 pair of sox, and 4 pair of underwear.

In July we donated almost two boxes of food, 16 pair of sox, and 8 pair of underwear.

Staff at the Neighborhood Center were very appreciative when we delivered all these items.

Our August donations will be reported next month.

Let's continue to support this project as generously as we can. The next MISSION SUNDAY is Sept. 17.

Our donated items are being collected in a specially marked container in the Sanctuary. Donations can be left there at any time but, as a reminder, we encourage that they be made on the third Sunday of each month, which is designated as MISSION SUNDAY.

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



September's name comes from the Latin word *septem*, meaning “seven.” This month had originally been the seventh month of the early Roman calendar.

September 4—the first Monday of the month—is **Labor Day**. Canadians also observe Labor Day.

September 11 is **Patriot Day**, held in honor and remembrance of those who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

September 11 is also **Grandparents Day** this year. Honor your grandparents today—and every day!

September 15 starts **Rosh Hashanah**, a Jewish holiday that marks the beginning of the new year.

September 17 is **Constitution Day**. This day celebrates the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, which occurred on September 17, 1787 (just five years before the founding of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, believe it or not!).

September 21 is recognized as the annual **International Day of Peace**. Observances range from a moment of silence at noon to events such as peace walks, concerts, and volunteering in the community.

September 23 marks the start of fall! This year's **Autumnal Equinox** occurs at 2:50 A.M. EDT on Saturday, September 23. On this date, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness.

September 24 marks the start of **Yom Kippur**, at sundown.

September 26 is Johnny Appleseed Day, celebrating John Chapman and everything apple!

September 29 is **Michaelmas**. Michaelmas is an ancient Celtic “Quarter Day” which marked the end of the harvesting season and was steeped in folklore.



Father of Jesus, You who sent your angels to herald your Son's coming with cries of peace, Hear our cry now. That your peace may touch all corners of our world.

Peace to the smallest child, still in the womb.

Peace to the most vulnerable of our elderly, who long to see your face.

Peace to the migrant fleeing war, persecution, hunger and poverty.

Peace to the citizens of those nations to which migrants flee.

Peace to the those touched by violence and disaster,

By storms and quakes and droughts and floods, Who struggle to find safety and mercy in the very world you made for us. You whose Son called all peacemakers blessed, Help us forge peace in your name.

Peace among nations. Peace among neighbors. Peace among families.

When we look back on this time May we recall it as the time we all heard the angels' cry And worked together to reveal that peace to all.

A peace worthy of God, born into the world.

A Cry of Peace A Prayer for the World Day of Peace. Amen