

WELCOME HOME

Our vision: Experience and share the love of Jesus.

*I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?*

My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121: 1-2 (NASB)

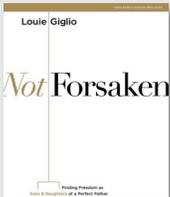
CHURCH BUSINESS



- Don Baker will be teaching a series on the book of Ruth on Thursday nights at 7:30 PM. Come be enriched by this amazing story.
- Join Kristin Tucker and Jeff Sanders at the **multi-church** event Being Real about Anxiety & Depression event (BRAD). **Sept 21 at 6:00 PM** at the AdventHealth Nicholson Center.
- Follow the progress of this year's **Pumpkin Patch on Instagram**. **@cpcevents** . Sign-up to volunteer online at commpres.org/events.



LIFE GROUP HIGHLIGHTS



- **Believers** women's ministry starts a new study, "Unexpected" by Christine Caine, on Wednesday, **Sept 18 at 7:00 PM** in the O'Leary's home. RSVP to the church office.
- The **church-wide study** "Not Forsaken" is now open for enrollment in the Connection Center or online. **Sign-up options** include being assigned to a group based on preferences or your choice of groups. Sign up at commpres.org/notforsaken.

MISSIONS

- Designate contributions to the **Presbytery Disaster Relief Fund** if you'd like to **help recovery** efforts after Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.
- Dine at **Columbia Restaurant** and designate **Community Hope Center** for a 5% donation of your check to go to CHC.
- We are receiving 3-prong extension cords for the Bahamas. Bring to the Narthex or church office.

Follow content online about this month's 4-part series explaining our vision statement . Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and our website.

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September 15,

Hymn: 182, 526

services

Sun 8:00 am Traditional
Sun 9:30 am Contemporary
Sun 11:11 am Blended
Sun 6:00 pm Encounter
Thur 7:30 pm Contemporary

Childcare provided on Sunday mornings

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Celebration, FL 34747



A Note From The Pastor

Rev. Dr. William Lewis

On a Sunday morning more than a century ago, young Josip Broz was given the honor of serving as altar boy at his Croatian church. When it came time for Josip to hand the glass cruet of wine to the parish priest serving mass, something went wrong.

The vessel slipped from his fingers and shattered on the floor. It was a dreadful moment, made far worse by the fact that the priest reflexively drew back his hand and slapped Josip across the face. "Don't ever come back here!" the priest whispered fiercely.

Josip never did go back. Years later he would emerge on the international stage as Marshall Tito, the totalitarian dictator who ruled Yugoslavia for almost three decades.

At almost the same time in another part of the world, a similar drama was being played out. An altar boy at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Illinois, was chosen to present the cruet of wine to the visiting bishop, who happened to be presiding at mass that morning. Once again, as if in slow motion, the vessel somehow slipped through his fingers and shattered on the floor.

Years later, as a grown-up, the boy would reflect on that moment: "There is no atomic explosion that can equal the intensity of decibels in the noise and explosive force of a wine cruet falling on a marble floor of a cathedral in the presence of a bishop."

But things were different this time. The bishop, John Spaulding, looked at the boy with a twinkle in his eye and whispered, "Don't worry. One day you will be just as I am."

He was right. The altar boy would ultimately write fifty books. He would pioneer Christian television programming in the United States. His weekly show was called Life is Worth Living. We know him as Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

The words we speak have the life-changing power to crush or to heal. When you think about it, both the priest in Croatia and the bishop in Illinois turned out to be right. In those traumatic moments, their words were able to generate hope or snuff it out. Speak carefully today. Speak with kindness. Look for opportunities to turn a disaster into an experience of grace. You never know who might be standing right in front of you.

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