



## ***"August is like the Sunday of summer." - Unknown***

Welcome SLCOC Family!

As we prep for the hot and promising days of August here in Lake County, Florida, let's reflect on the spiritual sustenance we've learned from our recent sermons. July was a month filled with wisdom, teaching us that even in the face of adversity and challenges, our faith can be the light that guides us.

Greg Nevil's insightful sermon, "Embracing Adversity," was a poignant reminder that life's trials and tribulations are not roadblocks but stepping stones towards a stronger relationship with God. His sermon challenged us to view adversity from a divine perspective, as an instrument of change, urging us to surrender to God fully in these moments. Greg emphasized that each of us, at some point, will face trials or tragedies that test our faith. Yet, these are the times when our faith can flourish the most - as we let go of our desire to control and allow God's will to manifest.

In a similar vein, Miguel Candelario's sermon "Rooted in Love, Strengthened in Faith" offered a nurturing message of perseverance through love. Miguel urged us to deepen our roots in God's unwavering love, emphasizing that, despite the hurdles we face, allowing ourselves to be fully immersed in His love paves the way for authentic spiritual growth. Just as a tree needs deep roots to withstand storms, so do we need to be firmly rooted in God's love to weather life's storms.

As we turn the calendar page to August, let us carry these powerful messages in our hearts. We invite you to delve into this newsletter, full of inspiring content and updates from our beloved South Lake Church of Christ family.



## Facing the Heat

An August Tale of Faith, Football, and Growth

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13

The summer of 1991 in Milford, Massachusetts, was not just about hot weather; it was a time of personal growth, a time of facing the heat in more ways than one.

### **A Summer of Challenges**

As a young and underweight teenager, I found myself at the crossroads of adversity. My summer was a whirlwind of activities: working with my dad on the back of sanitation trucks, lifting heavy trash to toughen up for the upcoming football season, participating actively in the teen ministry at church, and struggling with family discord at home. The challenges seemed endless, and I felt overwhelmed.

### **Coach Dennis Breen: A Guiding Light**

Coach Dennis Breen of Milford High School, a wise and inspirational figure in my life. Under the sweltering August sun, double sessions for football practice were underway. The days were long, grueling, and my small frame was not holding up well. My intense summer schedule, combined with personal struggles, weighed heavily on me. But Coach Breen saw something in me, something beyond physical size. He saw heart, determination, and unwavering Christian faith.

### **A Pep Talk to Remember**

One day, after a particularly exhausting practice, Coach Breen pulled me aside...



**COACH BREEN:** "You know, Miguel, I've watched you all summer. I know you have some challenges and have been working hard. You've got the heart. Your faith, your determination, they're your real strengths. You're not underweight; you're under-estimated. Remember, it's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog. Keep fighting, keep believing, and you could anything." The words hit home. It was a turning point, a spark that ignited a renewed vigor in me.

The season unfolded, and I grew, not just physically, but mentally and spiritually. My teammates started to lean on me a bit more and confide in me not only about the field but about their personal lives as well. That hot August of 1991 became a cherished memory, a defining chapter in my life. Coach Breen's words, filled with wisdom and encouragement, became a lifelong mantra.

#### **A Timeless Quote:**

*"Your faith, your determination, they're your real strengths. You're not underweight; you're under-estimated. Remember, it's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog." - Coach Dennis Breen*

Remember, in every moment of adversity, every bout of doubt or weakness, you are never alone. Christ stands with you, giving you the strength to overcome.

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." – 1 John 5:4

Carry this message with you: Your faith is your greatest strength, and in Christ, you are an overcomer. You are capable, you are resilient, and most importantly, you are never alone in your journey.

It seems only fitting to pay tribute to the man whose wisdom and encouragement left a profound impact - Thanks Coach Breen!

*Coach Breen passed away a few years ago, but his influence continues to resonate within the hearts of many. His guidance extended far beyond the football field, instilling life lessons that equipped his players to navigate the world with courage, grit, and faith. The words he shared during that pivotal moment on a hot August day continue to echo as a guiding light, a beacon of hope amidst life's trials and tribulations. ~ Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*



## Back To School

Mark your calendars, parents! August 10th signals the start of a brand-new school year. A new chapter of learning and growth awaits our children. But before that first bell rings, let's explore a few tips to prepare both ourselves and our kids for this exciting journey.

- 1. Establish a Routine:** Start adapting to the school-time schedule a few weeks before school starts. Gradually adjust bedtimes and wake-up times to ensure your child is well-rested for their big day.
- 2. Create a Study Space:** A designated, quiet space for homework and studying can help your child focus better. Make sure it's well-lit and free from distractions.
- 3. Organize School Supplies:** Involve your child in the process of buying and organizing their school supplies. This not only makes them excited about the new school year but also teaches them responsibility and organization.
- 4. Open Communication:** Talk to your child about their feelings towards the new school year. Are they excited? Nervous? It's important to address their emotions and assure them that it's normal to feel a mix of both.
- 5. Encourage Healthy Habits:** A balanced diet, plenty of water, regular exercise, and a good night's sleep can work wonders for your child's health, mood, and concentration.
- 6. Nurture Their Faith:** As our children step into this new school year, let's remind them of God's constant presence. Encourage them to start their day with a prayer, inviting God to walk alongside them in their daily journeys.

Remember, back to school isn't just about textbooks and tests; it's about nurturing our children's hearts and souls, preparing them to be kind, brave, and faithful individuals. So, as we step into this new academic year, let's stand together in support and prayer, ready to guide our children in their new chapter of growth and learning.





## Bro's Breakfast

### Faith, Fellowship, & Food

We are excited to extend a hearty invitation to all of you for our monthly Bro's Breakfast! This month, we will be gathering together on August 4th. Mark your calendars and start your day with good food, great company, and an uplifting message.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but when shared with the guys, it becomes more than just a meal. It's an opportunity to strengthen bonds of brotherhood, to share our joys and challenges, and to uplift each other in faith.

As we dive into our breakfast, we will also feast on the Word of God. We look forward to a time of great conversation and spiritual growth as we explore what it means to be men of God in today's world.

**Date:** August 4th

**Time:** 7:00 AM

**Location:** Cracker Barrel - 1520 E Hwy 50, Clermont, FL 34711

Whether you're a regular attendee or it's your first time, we welcome you with open arms. Join us as we break bread and dive deeper into God's Word together. Bring your appetites, your Bible, and a heart ready for fellowship and encouragement.

We look forward to seeing you there. Come, let's share a meal and build each other up in faith and brotherhood!

Share

Cracker Barrel - Clermont, FL



## Small Group Leaders Training - Session 105

S.H.A.R.E. Life Together through R- Relationships

One of the cornerstones of our church community is the intimate, spiritual kinship we share in our small groups. The bonds we build within these groups are vital to our growth and understanding as believers. That's why we're thrilled to announce our upcoming Small Group Leaders Training.

This training is an opportunity for anyone interested in leading or co-leading a small group. It will provide you with the necessary tools and skills to build relationships, facilitate discussions, and create a welcoming atmosphere for group members.

### **Details of the Training:**

**Date:** August 6th

**Time:** 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Church Sanctuary

We'll delve into the essentials of effective leadership within a spiritual setting, including practical tips on how to guide meaningful discussions and foster a spirit of openness and camaraderie. If you're intrigued by the idea of leading a small group or wish to refine your leadership skills, we strongly encourage you to attend this training. We appreciate the time and commitment that leadership requires and we are here to support you. We understand that balancing commitments and responsibilities can be challenging. If childcare or other obligations pose an issue, please let us know. We want to work with you to find a solution so that you can participate fully in the training. We believe in the power of small groups to deepen our faith and strengthen our church community. It's leaders like you who help make this possible. Please RSVP if you are interested in attending the training and feel free to extend this invitation to anyone else who might benefit from it.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. We appreciate your dedication to our community and look forward to the possibility of you leading a small group in the future.

See you there!

[Register](#)



## Leaving A Legacy

### **Building A Christ-Centered Family For Generations To Come**

We are excited to present an extraordinary opportunity that we believe can profoundly impact not only your marriage but also our church community. Our Marrieds Ministry, led by Brian and Ellen Royer, is now offering a Marriage Mentoring program.

Here's the beautiful truth about strong marriages: they create stronger couples, who become stronger parents and families, thus strengthening our overall church community. A flourishing marriage is not just a blessing for the couple, but a beacon of hope and strength for those around them.

"Dare To Be Different" is a Bible-based, step-by-step mentoring program that brings spiritual depth and practical wisdom to each session. This program serves as a fantastic outreach tool, drawing people to our church community with a loving, nonjudgmental approach.

During this program, you'll:

- Learn to resolve issues by "rounding the bases,"
- Discover biblical principles to apply to your marriage,
- Gain insight from real-life stories from your mentors, and

Equip yourself with tools that can be applied long after the mentoring program is over.

But who is this mentoring program for? If you have a good marriage but you want it to be better, then this marriage mentoring is for you. If you're struggling in your marriage, feeling defeated, and have lost hope of having a healthy and thriving marriage, then this marriage mentoring is for you.

As stated in Proverbs 11:14, "...for lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure." In the same spirit, we believe that with many mentors, our marriages can become stronger, healthier, and deeply fulfilling.

For more details about the "Dare To Be Different" program and how you can participate, please visit our website.

Let's dare to be different, dare to strengthen our marriages, and dare to leave a lasting legacy of faith and love in our church community.

[Dare To Be Different: Marriage Mentoring](#)



## SLCOC Worship Ministry

### New Music Albums Available on the Church App

We are excited to share some fantastic news with you from our Worship Ministry! Inspired by Psalm 95:1 - "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" - we have recently released two brand new music albums: "Voices of Grace: Timeless Praise & Worship" and "Grace Unleashed: Contemporary Songs of Faith."

Their dedication to bridging tradition and contemporary worship is evident in each song, providing a rich and diverse musical experience for all to enjoy.

"Voices of Grace: Timeless Praise & Worship" encapsulates the enduring spirit of worship, drawing us closer to God through songs filled with timeless truths and melodies. On the other hand, "Grace Unleashed: Contemporary Songs of Faith" embraces the vibrant energy of modern worship while maintaining a deep reverence for God's word.

Now, you might be wondering, "Where can I find these beautiful new albums?" Well, they're just a few clicks away on our church app! You can find the 'Music' button located at the bottom center of the home page on the app. Just tap on it, and you will be directed to our newly released albums.

Our hope is that these albums will not only uplift your spirits but will also accompany you in your personal worship times, family devotionals, or whenever you need a reminder of God's everlasting grace.

So, open your church app today, find the new music, and let your home, car, or wherever you may be, resound with the joyous noise of these new songs of faith!





[CLICK TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

## The Crisis in Haiti

A Call for Prayer & Solidarity

Dear SLCOC Family,

Our hearts are heavy as we witness the escalating crisis in Haiti, a nation currently grappling with widespread civil unrest, violence, and a deepening humanitarian crisis. Gangs have taken control of vast regions, leading to rampant incidents of kidnapping, rape, and forced evictions. The severity of the situation has led to the United States issuing travel advisory warnings, reflecting the dire circumstances that the Haitian people are confronting daily.

As a church community, we are called to respond in ways that mirror the heart of Jesus —compassionate, aware, and fervently prayerful. Our brothers and sisters in Haiti are in need of our prayers more than ever. We urge each of you to include them in your prayers, asking God to intervene in their situation, to restore peace, and to bring healing to their land. Pray for the victims of violence and their families, for the many who are going hungry, and for the children who are caught in this conflict.

While we pray, let us also remain informed about the situation. Staying aware and educated about their circumstances helps us pray more specifically and stand in more meaningful solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters. There are many reliable sources of news that can provide regular updates on the crisis.

In these moments of hardship, we are reminded of Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." Today, we stand in mourning with our Haitian family, praying and trusting in the Lord to work in ways we cannot see.

Our prayers go out to the people of Haiti. May God's grace, mercy, and peace envelope this nation, and may His justice prevail. In the meantime, let us continue to uplift them in prayer, asking God to strengthen their faith and grant them His peace amidst these turbulent times.



## Preparation for Hurricane Season

### Awareness, Communication, and Community Support

As we enter the month of August, we also approach the peak of the Hurricane Season in Florida, which traditionally runs from June 1st through November 30th. During this period, the likelihood of experiencing a hurricane or a tropical storm significantly increases.

Our region, Lake County, has faced its share of these severe weather events in the past. As we remain watchful of weather patterns, it is crucial that we stay prepared and ready to support each other, particularly our most vulnerable members.

As the National Weather Service advises, preparedness is key. This includes creating an emergency plan, building an emergency supplies kit, and staying informed about the potential for developing storms. You can visit links below for more detailed information on how to prepare.

For our part as a church community, we need to ensure we are communicating effectively and promptly. Our church app is an excellent tool for staying connected and sharing important information. Please check the app regularly for updates, and make sure your profile is up to date so we can reach you if necessary.

Furthermore, remember that we are called to be our brother's keeper. This means checking on each other, especially the elderly, those with young children, and those living alone. If you or someone you know needs assistance with hurricane preparation, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In the Book of Matthew 25:40, Jesus reminds us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Let us uphold these words by being ready to extend a helping hand to those in need during this Hurricane Season.

Stay Safe & God Bless!

[Plan & Prepare | Florida Disaster](#)

[2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide](#)

[Lake County Emergency Management](#)



## Missions Sunday

A Call for Love, Action, and Generosity

We are excited to announce that Missions Sunday is just around the corner! The date is set for the 22nd of October. This is an annual occasion that our church looks forward to with great anticipation, as it presents us with a unique opportunity to reach out beyond our immediate community and make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Our goal for this year is to raise \$30,000. This amount will be dedicated to support mission work in South America and the Caribbean through the South American Missions Society and the Caribbean Missions Society. Part of the funds will also be allocated to support our local missions right here at home.

These missions are often the lifelines for countless individuals and communities that lack the resources we sometimes take for granted. The need is great in many of these regions. Families struggle to get by, communities are ravaged by poverty, and access to the life-changing message of the Gospel is limited. Our financial contribution helps meet physical needs, but more importantly, it aids in spreading the love and salvation of Jesus Christ.

At home, the funds we raise during Missions Sunday contribute significantly to our ongoing mission to grow our church and expand our ministries, reaching more people with the transformative message of Christ's love.

As written in Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." We have been richly blessed, and with these blessings comes the responsibility to share and serve those in need.

We understand that giving is a personal decision between you and God, and we encourage you to pray and consider how you can contribute. No amount is too small, and every contribution makes a significant difference.

Together, let's make this Missions Sunday a powerful testament of our love, faith, and generosity. Let's make a difference in the world for Christ!

[Special Missions - Click to Donate](#)



## Upcoming Events

### Keep Your Finger on the Pulse!

Have you ever shown up to church, only to find everyone else wearing wacky ties, crazy hats, or perhaps even superhero costumes, leaving you feeling a little left out in your usual Sunday best? Or maybe you've missed out on a delicious potluck lunch because no one told you it was happening? We've got a solution that will ensure these faux pas are a thing of the past!

Keeping up with all the amazing activities, special services, and downright fun happenings at SLCOC has never been easier. We've got two fantastic tools to make sure you never miss a beat (or a potluck lunch)!

First, we have our church calendar, available on our website. This is your one-stop shop to view all the important dates and events happening at SLCOC. It's updated regularly, and best of all, it's as accessible as your nearest web browser!

Secondly, we've got the most user-friendly, up-to-the-minute, (and let's face it, downright fancy) SLCOC church app! One click on your smartphone and voilà! You have a direct line to the heartbeat of our church community. And guess what? It has a calendar feature too!

With either of these tools, you'll have the lowdown on what's happening, where it's happening, and when it's happening. No more showing up to themed services in normal attire, no more missing out on great fellowship opportunities!

So, let's get connected, stay informed, and keep up the camaraderie! And don't forget to check back often - we wouldn't want you to miss our next 'Pajama Sunday' now, would we?

Stay blessed and well-informed,

[Upcoming Events](#)





## Celebrate National S'mores Day

### Get Ready to Melt Hearts and Marshmallows!

Hello S'more Lovers of SLCOC!

Grab your marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers, because August 10th is National S'mores Day! This is the one day a year where it's not only acceptable but encouraged to have sticky marshmallow on your face and chocolate-covered fingers. And let's face it, who doesn't love the delightful combination of gooey marshmallow, melted chocolate, and crisp graham crackers? But hey, why stop at just enjoying this treat at home? Here are some fun and delicious ideas to bring our church family together in a celebration of all things s'mores:

**S'mores Potluck Party:** Host a s'mores-themed gathering in the church yard or your backyard. Invite everyone to bring their favorite s'mores ingredient, and discover new combinations together!

**S'mores Recipe Challenge:** Let's get creative! Challenge your friends to come up with the most unique s'mores recipe and share them on our church social media page.

**Family Campfire Night:** Organize a family campfire night at a local park, complete with s'mores, songs, and storytelling. It's a perfect opportunity for fellowship and making lasting memories.

**S'mores Care Packages:** Create s'mores care packages and deliver them to neighbors, friends, or those who might need a sweet pick-me-up. Include a friendly note to make someone's day s'more special!

**Virtual S'mores Party:** Can't meet in person? No worries! Host a virtual s'mores-making party and enjoy the sweet treats together online.

Remember, whether you roast them over a campfire, microwave them for a quick treat, or even try a s'mores-flavored dessert, the joy of s'mores is in the sharing, the laughter, and the connection. So go ahead, make this National S'mores Day a memorable one!

And hey, if you find yourself needing s'more ideas, just reach out to your fellow SLCOC family members. Together, we can make this day a delightful celebration of sweetness and community!

Happy S'mores Day!



## Feedback

### Your Voice, Your Church!

Greetings, beloved SLCOC family!

In our constant endeavor to grow and improve our community, your input plays a pivotal role. As members of this family, your experiences, ideas, and suggestions hold immense value in shaping the direction of our church. Therefore, we warmly invite you to share your feedback with us!

Are there new ministry opportunities you would like to see? Do you have suggestions on how we can enhance our Sunday services? Perhaps you have ideas on how we can better serve our community? Or maybe you have some creative ideas for our upcoming events? Whatever your thoughts, we are all ears!

Our church thrives on the collective wisdom and diversity of its members. And as we journey together on this path of faith, your feedback helps us address any concerns, improve our initiatives, and better serve our community. It helps us understand your needs, celebrate what's working, and work on areas that need attention.

Your feedback, thoughts, and experiences matter greatly to us. You can share your feedback by emailing directly. Don't be shy—every thought, big or small, is welcomed and appreciated!

Remember, SLCOC is YOUR church, and every voice matters. So, let's join hands and shape our church to be a beacon of Christ's love that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of its members.

Thank you for your continued support, faith, and fellowship. We are excited to grow, adapt, and serve better with your insights guiding us.

Blessings,

Miguel Candelario

Associate Minister | Church Administrator

[Feedback Box](#)

