

# THE HERALD



## A Special Guest

On Tuesday, April 25, a small group gathered in room 4 with Lightnin Epton and her daughter Joan Maxwell just to visit and hear how Lightnin was doing. She will be 103 this summer and thanks God daily for her blessings. We were blessed to be with her.

A special thank you to Anne Myers for organizing this gathering and providing refreshments.



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## A look at our finances

Year to Date

Receipts Received: \$131,563.65

Receipts Spent: \$124,754.25

You can donate to Central by visiting, [www.centralbc.org](http://www.centralbc.org) and clicking on the [give now](#) link or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



## Gifts to Central

In Memory of:

Elaine Rummell

&

Evelyn Chutjian

From: Shirley Hess

*But the people who trust the  
Lord will become strong  
again.*

*They will rise up as an eagle  
in the sky;  
they will run and not need  
rest;*

*they will walk and not  
become tired.*

*--Isaiah 40:31*



## Sonny's Sayings

A few days ago, I headed over to my pool supply store to check the chemistry in our pool. It was not a pretty picture. Our busyness as a family meant that not much time had been spent getting the chemistry right in the pool water, so I was expecting a long list of chemicals that needed to be added. I knew that there would be a specific order in which the chemicals needed to be added. And I was right. There was a long list of chemicals, along with a specific order to follow.

So, on a Saturday, I followed the recipe I was given by the technician at the store. I did each treatment, waited for a while, then did the next treatment, and so on, until by the afternoon, I had spent the family fortune (ha-ha) on getting our pool chemistry right. Satisfied, I went to bed feeling good that the next day, the family could swim in the pool. Wrong. I brought a sample to the store the next day, and this chemical was off here, this chemical was off there. I asked the technician what was wrong; I had followed their instructions, and things should have been within range. His response was this: "Things don't adjust in a vacuum. Each time you bring a sample, we're just taking a snapshot of what is out of whack. But when you add one

chemical, it changes the chemistry, and the pool will react differently, making the requirements different."

I thought about that with our faith. At any one point, a snapshot might show we are deficient with our sense of mission, with how involved we are in worship, with how compassionate we are, and with our prayer life. And we might write a prescription for what will bring our faith into a better balance. But each time I pray, it changes my level of compassion. And when my compassion goes up, it changes how I feel about worship and mission.

Our faith is not an exact science. It is not a formula that we follow, where a perfect balance is achievable and sustainable. Its balance, like our family pool, is affected by different aspects of faith, by our environment, and by our circumstances. And each is constantly affecting the others. The important thing to remember is that because of this, we need not panic when things get out of whack, but instead we can know that faith is a process, a journey. After I complained to the pool technician, he assured me that with a few tweaks, everything would be in balance again in the pool. "At least until the next time it rains." And so it is with our faith. May your month of May be filled with the joy of finding balance in your spirit and faith.

Blessings, Sonny.

# Announcements and Special Events



## Noah's Ark - It's a BIG, BIG boat!

It's almost summer and we are getting excited about Performing Arts Camp! This year's play is "Noah's Ark - It's a BIG, BIG boat!" Join us on July 23-27 with an evening performance on July 27.

The cost for camp is \$50.00 and is for rising 1st - 8th grade. Campers should bring their own lunch with snacks being provided.

During the camp, students will get to participate in drama, music and set design.

Junior counselors are needed.

Registration forms are available in the office.



## PrimeTimers Day Trip



The PrimeTimers will be visiting the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, Thursday, May 25. They will depart by bus from the church at 9:30am sharp and travel down US1 to visit the beautiful wildlife refuge. There is a visitor center with exhibits and a short video which talks about the refuge as well as several walking paths for those who are interested in some light exploring. Following their visit, they will stop for lunch at the Goodrich Seafood Restaurant in Oak Hill. The cost for this tour is \$5.00 which includes fuel and admission to the refuge.

There is a cap of 25, so reservations are a must! Please call the church office today to place your reservation.

## Donations for Chiles Academy



We are collecting items for babies and children, ages 0-3 to give to The Chiles Academy for Mother's Day.

Here are some examples of items needed:

**Diapers**  
**Baby Bottles**  
**Formula**  
**Clothes (ages 0-3)**  
**Baby Food Jars**

Other items are certainly welcome, but these are the main ones being requested.

**All donations are due by Sunday, May 14.**

*I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*-- Romans 15:13*



# Meyer's Musings

As I write this article, it's only been a little over a week since my ordination. The events and the words that were spoken to me are still very fresh in my mind.

I think, in a very good way, I'm still processing that weekend and what this new chapter of calling means to me.

First, I want to thank everyone for their love, support and encouragement, not just during ordination Sunday but throughout my time here at Central.

One of the things that kept me at Central during that very uncertain period in 2006 was the evidence that Central is a very loving and supportive congregation. You always have been, it's literally in your DNA going all the way back to Hal.

Second, I want to thank you for giving me the space and freedom to grow and become the person I am today. Mere words cannot express my gratitude.

In many ways, I've grown up here – I came to Central when I was 25 and now, I'm 41. I got married while being part of this wonderful congregation and am now getting to raise my children here.

I was urged to become an ordained minister when I was here before, but back then, I just didn't feel that calling.

Looking back, I began to realize that part of the reason I feared taking that step was, I knew that, despite what people thought of me, I'm not perfect. I'm flawed.



I get frustrated and yes, sometimes, angry.

I thought a Pastor was supposed to be above all that. I then thought "What happens if someone asks me a question that I don't have all the answers to?" A pastor is supposed to have all of the answers, *right?*

In essence, I was really making excuses, much like those individuals that God called to do great things. Moses, for example, told God that he was slow of speech and not a good speaker.

To the point about being "perfect," well, the Bible I read is full of flawed people that God called and used anyway, and the fact is, they did some pretty amazing things for God and the kingdom.

So then, after coming to that realization, I asked myself what *does* a minister do? A minister *teaches, visits the sick and the homebound, provides counsel and guidance when called upon* and probably most importantly, *listens*. Turns out that, in some capacity, I've done those things, some, many times in fact!

Perhaps I was now. I sought out wise council and prayed about it and everything seemed to affirm what I knew I was feeling.

Now is the time!

Well, you know the rest.

The words of affirmation, the prayers offered and the love that you showed me, was overwhelming. I told several people; I didn't know I could cry that much.

When I spoke to you on that Sunday for the first time as "Reverend BJ Meyer," for some reason I wasn't really prepared, so I just sort of spoke "off the cuff" and "from the heart."

I don't remember exactly what I said, but I remember what I thought at that moment as I looked at you. I thought, "This beautiful group of people is my family." It wasn't that I'd never felt that before because I've always felt like I belonged here but, in that moment, it was as if, I developed a deeper sense of awe and appreciation for our community.

This wonderfully, beautiful, imperfect body of people *is* my family. I am one of them; they are a part of me and I love them dearly. I want to do everything I can for them and with them because they are my family. I won't get it right all the time and yes, sometimes I might do something that hurts someone's feelings, but know that just as we are family, I'll be there with an apology and a vow to do better the next time.

Blessings and love to you all,

Rev. BJ Meyer

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*A special thank you to the ordination council, those who helped prepare and organize the reception, as well as those who gave gifts, cards and notes of encouragement.*

*Love and Blessings,*  
*BJ Meyer*

# Photos from Holy Week Services





# Ordination Sunday

On Saturday, April 15, an Ordination Council met with BJ Meyer regarding his desire to be ordained as a minister. The council consisted of: Anne Myers, Brian Meyer Sr. Laura Cason, Dr. Sonny Gallman and Meg Pokorny.

The council asked BJ to share with them his journey, which led him to this sense of calling on his life. After some questions and discussion from the members of the council, they voted unanimously to support his ordination.

The next day, Sunday, following Sonny's sermon, Anne Myers read a report from the Ordination Council with their recommendation that BJ be ordained as a minister. Pope Hamrick, as Church Moderator, presided over a special Church Conference session to vote on the Ordination Councils' recommendation to ordain BJ Meyer as a minister. The congregation approved this motion by voice vote unanimously.

There was then time set aside in the service for the congregation to come forward and offer blessings, prayers, and other words of affirmation to BJ.

Following this period, Sonny then presented BJ with an ordination certificate and presented BJ to the congregation as Reverend BJ Meyer.

After the service, a reception was held in Adams Hall in BJ's honor.



## Reception for Sonny

*Join us on Sunday, May 21, immediately following the worship service for a reception in Adams Hall to honor Dr. Sonny Gallman and his academic achievement.*

*We ask that you bring finger foods to share. There will be a basket by the door if you wish to bring a card or note congratulating Sonny.*

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*I will honor the Lord at all times. His praise will always be in my mouth. My soul will be proud to tell about the Lord. Let those who suffer hear it and be filled with joy. Give great honor to the Lord with me. Let us praise His name together.*

*--Psalm 34:1-3*

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He leadeth me, O blessed thought!

O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

What's Happening at Central?  
May 2023

- May 4 @ 10am Craft Class
- May 11 @ 10am Food Pantry
- May 12 @ 9:30am MOPS
- May 21 @ 12:15pm Reception for Sonny
- May 25 @ 9:30am PrimeTimers Day Trip
- May 26 @ 9:30am MOPS

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Sunday School at 9:30am
- Sunday Worship at 11:00am
- Shine (Children) at 5:00pm
- Youth at 5:00pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study via Zoom at 10:30am  
Meeting ID: 3262313643  
Password: 882551
- Women's Book Club at 12:30pm

Wednesday

- Lunch with the Pastor at 12:15pm
- Connections at 5:15pm

Have a story or some interesting information to share in the newsletter? Send us an email at Secretary@centralbc.org

Servant Leadership

- Ministers.....All Members
- Senior Pastor.....Dr. Sonny Gallman
- Music Leader.....Laurie Moran
- Minister of Senior Adults.....Rev. BJ Meyer
- Office Manager & Organist.....Rev. BJ Meyer
- Pianist.....Meg Pokorny
- Custodian.....Steve Lauxman

The Halifax Herald  
A Monthly Publication of  
Central Baptist Church  
152 Fairview Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-2104

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Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Daytona Beach, FL  
PI 266

Shine Easter Egg Hunt

