



Volume 48 Issue 5 & 6 May & June 2022

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel FL 33957
(239) 472-0497 www.sanibelucc.org
Dr. Ran Niehoff
Interim Pastor

Join us for Worship Services & Special Gatherings in May & June

May 1st, 8th, 22nd, & 29th

Chapel Service at 7:45a.m.

Traditional Service at 10:00a.m.

(with Sunday School & Nursery)

May 14th Open Meeting in the Sanctuary at 2:00p.m.

(Ice Cream Social afterwards in Fellowship Hall)

May 15th at 10:00a.m.

Ministerial Candidate Leading Worship

Special Meeting of the Congregation

afterwards, at 11:10a.m.

June 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

Chapel Service at 7:45a.m.

Traditional Service at 10:00a.m.

(with Sunday School & Nursery)

Let's Connect



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Psst...more this way 

Minister's Musings by Dr. Ran Niehoff



As a church family we are living through a time of transitions: in April we recognized and celebrated John Danner's 12-year pastorate on the occasion of his retirement; in May we will meet the ministerial candidate our hard-working Search Committee has chosen to present for our consideration as our next Senior Pastor. Should our members vote to extend a call the new minister will begin work with us in mid-September. Meanwhile, I will serve part-time through Sunday, Sept. 11. My role will be: 1) to plan and lead worship on Sundays (except for June 12—when Marilyn and I will join our family at our daughter Karissa's wedding in Michigan); 2) with guidance from our Parish Nurse, Linda Convertine, to spend one day each week doing Pastoral Visitation and Counseling; and, 3) to be available to help plan and conduct any life rites that may arise.

As human beings we are ALWAYS living through a time of transitions. The nature of existence (of the cosmos itself) is a *process*. The first definition of God in our Biblical tradition (found in Exodus 3:13-15) tells the story of Moses asking the Holy One's name and hearing the Hebrew phrase "*ehyeh asher ehyeh*" (or **YHWH**)—a name that is to remain unpronounceable, reminding us that [God] remains inconceivable to the human mind. However, roughly translated into English it means "*I am that which was, which is, and which is becoming*".

As Eriugena (a 9th century Celtic teacher/mystic points out) the later Greek word for God ("*theos*") is derived from the verb "**theo**" (**one who runs**), for God "runs throughout all things and never stays but by His running fills out all things". Kenneth White (a 20th century Scottish poet) refers to the Holy One as the "**the glow flow**" that courses through the veins of life. And what the "flow" desires is not philosophical and scientific analysis, but for you to get into the flow!

The most dramatic "transition" is death to eternal life. Our local faith community shared many Memorials just before

Easter; congregations worldwide celebrated Easter and now are marking the seven Sundays of Eastertide that follow. Why? Because we are not afraid to get into the flow. C.S. Lewis, deeply wounded by personal loss, wrote "*They say of some temporal suffering 'No future bliss can make up for it', not knowing that Heaven, once attained will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory*". He was echoing the ancient teaching of the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:28 (here is a literal translation of the Greek):

And we know that to those choosing to trust/rely on God, in all things [God] works together for good, to all those called into being according to {God's} purpose.

So be it!! Ran





Bits & Bobs



The Shell Point Men's Club of our church will meet the second Tuesday of the month meeting at noon at the Palm Grill. Reservations are requested by contacting Bob Sheldon at rsheldon18@msn.com or by phone 239.590.0371

JOIN US >>>



**JOIN CAROL & FRIENDS
PAINTING EVERY
TUESDAY AT 1PM IN
HERON HALL. BRING
YOUR PROJECT, PAINTS
AND BOTTLE OF
CREATIVE JUICE**



Need a ride to church? If you would like a ride to church from Shell Point or Cypress Cove, please contact the office by calling (239) 472-0497 or email office @sanibelucc.org in order to get on the list. We must receive your reservation by noon on Thursdays. If you have any questions please give us a call.

**THANK YOU
to all who donated to the
Ukraine
Relief
Fund!!!**



SHELL POINT LADIES OF THE CHURCH...

Every 2nd Friday of the month at 11:30 join the Shell Point Women's Luncheon. Please contact Emily Kletzien at 239.432.9185 or Gail Creager 239.980.4775, for more information or to RSVP

**Submission Deadline for newsletter items is the 25th of each month. Please send your article/item to sandy@sanibelucc.org (next double issue is July/August
Thank you**

How To Minister to the
Elderly or Confused

I came across this poem the other day and thought I would share it with you as my offering for the Newsletter this month. It is a lovely blueprint to follow. I hope it helps you in your journey through life as you share your love. It is called

Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged
by Ester Mary Walker

Blessed are they who
understand
My faltering step and
palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know
that my ears today
Must strain to catch the
things they say.

Blessed are they who seem
to know

That my eyes are dim and
my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who
looked away
When coffee spilled at
table today.

Blessed are they with a
cheery smile
Who stopped to chat for a
little while.

Blessed are they who never
say,
“You’ve told that story
twice today.”

Blessed are they who know
the ways
To bring back memories of
yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make
it known
That I’m loved, respected
and not alone.

Blessed are they who know
I’m at a loss
To find the strength to
carry the Cross.
Blessed are they who ease
the days
On my journey Home in
loving ways.

Caring for you and your
health,
Linda Convertine,
Parish Nurse



Green Team Share

Sustainability is the Path to Prosperity

“Smart companies are discovering that it is no longer a choice between going green and growing long-term profits — sustainability is the path to prosperity. Studies show a direct correlation between sustainable business practices, share prices, and business performance. Companies who develop strong Environment Social Governance (ESG) standards have better profitability, stronger financials, happier employees, and more resilient stock performance.

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” – Socrates

...Through regulations, incentives, and public/private partnerships, governments hold the keys to transform and build the green economy. Similar to the industrial and information revolutions, governments must incentivize their citizens, businesses, and institutions to build a resilient future. Ultimately, governments will empower green business practices as not only the ethical option but also the lucrative one.

For example, in the U.S., clean energy jobs provide earnings +25% above the national median wage, and outpace fossil fuel extraction/generation jobs by three-to-one, employing more Americans than middle or elementary school teachers, bankers, farmers, or real estate agents.

And yet, we still incentivize technology that is damaging our future growth. Globally, the fossil fuel industry benefits from subsidies of \$11 million every single minute and over \$5.9 trillion annually (and rising).”

According to an IMF working paper of September 24, 2021, “efficient fuel pricing in 2025 would reduce global carbon dioxide emissions 36 percent below baseline levels, which is in line with keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees, while raising revenues worth 3.8 percent of global GDP and preventing 0.9 million local air pollution deaths.”

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022/>

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2021/09/23/Still-Not-Getting-Energy-Prices-Right-A-Global-and-Country-Update-of-Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies->

FROM THE MODERATOR

Over a year of extensive time developing a profile of SCUCC, reviewing resumes, interviewing several candidates by video, watching numerous sermons on video, attending numerous meetings, and interviewing the candidate, the Search Committee has unanimously selected a candidate for the position of minister of SCUCC.

There will be a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday May 15, 2022 at 11:10am following the 10am service. The meeting will be in person and on ZOOM. A quorum of 20% of the members is required to conduct business at the special meeting. If a quorum is established by members personally present and on ZOOM, the members will vote to accept or reject the candidate as its next minister. A favorable vote of 2/3 of the members attending the special meeting (in person or on ZOOM) is required to elect the candidate as the new minister of SCUCC.

There will be email blasts to the congregation going out of the church office on May 4, 11, and 13 that set forth the details of of the ZOOM link and transportation from and to Shell Point and Cypress Cove for both (1) meeting in the sanctuary with the candidate at 2pm on Saturday May 14 and the ice cream social in Fellowship Hall immediately after the meeting and (2) the church service at 10am on Sunday May 15 and the special meeting of the congregation of congregation at 11:10am immediately following that service related to the vote of the congregation to determine if the candidate will be our new minister.”

Submitted by Ron Periard, as Moderator

Retirement Celebration

After 12 years of dedicated and honorable service to SCUCC, the Dr. Rev. John H Danner retired as minister of SCUCC on Sunday, April 24, 2022. For 12 years, he delivered excellent sermons, and he conducted stimulating and thoughtful Bible study courses and Contemporary Issues programs. He participated in various programs as a singer and an actor. He entertained the youth and the young at heart with his puppet shows. He will be long remembered for his outstanding services to SCUCC.

In addition to his service for SCUCC, Pastor Danner was active in community affairs. He was active in and a past president of the Rotary Club on Sanibel. He actively supported Habitat for Humanity and his efforts caused a house to be built as a contribution to Habitat for Humanity. He actively assisted several food pantries and supported efforts to provide food, shelter and medical care for the poor and the homeless in the Ft Myers area. And he was the moving force in the Interfaith Group on Sanibel.

After his last service for SCUCC on April 24, there was a celebration on his behalf at the Community House on Sanibel. It was attended by members of his family, many close friends, other clergy, and many members of SCUCC. After food and beverages, there were eight different presenters, some were family members who talked about his many contributions to his family, others were old time acquaintances who talked about his many accomplishments in the past years, and other were members of the congregation who talked about his many contributions to SCUCC and the Sanibel area community. It was a joyous occasion in honor of a very special person and an outstanding minister.

At the end of the celebration, everyone expressed how much he will be missed and wished Pastor Danner a joyful and happy retirement.

Pastor Danner will now have time to spend with his family that means so much to him. He and his wife Linda will have the opportunity to travel and be together full time. And there is a likelihood that now he will have time to finish his long list of books that he has not yet read.

May the blessings of God be with you, Dr. Rev. John H Danner.