

*Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ*

*Worship Celebration*

*March 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m.*



*Welcome Everyone!*

**If you are visiting with us, and you are looking for a spiritual community...**

**where you will be loved, accepted, supported and affirmed regardless of your age, class, ability, race, ethnicity, gender identification or sexual orientation...where you will be encouraged and challenged to reflect on your beliefs, acknowledge your doubts, ask your questions, and grow in your faith...where God's desire for compassion, healing, reconciliation, justice and joy is preached...where you are given the opportunity to put your faith in action through effective outreach ministries...then we hope to get to know you as a new friend.**

**No matter who you are, or where you are in your life journey...  
You are welcome here!**

*An Open and Affirming / Creation Justice Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Seeking to love all people ... growing in faith ...  
working toward God's vision of justice, healing and joy.

*Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming/Creation Justice Congregation  
Worship Celebration  
First Sunday in Lent  
Sacrament of Communion  
March 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m.*

## **Welcome**

## **Choral Introit**

*Antiphonal Praise*  
The SCUCC Choir

## **Call to Worship**

**One:** The time is now. The season of Lent has come.

**All:** Let us recommit ourselves to following the path of Jesus – the One who came to give good news to the poor, hope to the struggling, and freedom to all from whatever holds them captive.

## **Hymn**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart #113 (on p. 6)*

## **Prayer of Confession (together)**

O God, You sent Jesus to show us the way to You and the life You call us to. But too often, we ignore, resist, or even refuse to answer that call. Forgive us for this.

You offer us the strength to keep going when the path is hard. But too often, we insist that we must fight through solely on our own, leaving Your help unused. Forgive us for this.

You offer us Your wisdom and guidance when there are no clear signs to lead or inspire us along the way. But too often, we choose to trust ourselves or others more than we trust You. Forgive us for this.

In this season of Lent, help us to do and be better. Help us to let You in more and follow Your lead instead of expecting You to follow ours.

Amen.

## **Words of Forgiveness**

One: Know that we are the people of a gracious and forgiving God – one who seeks to lift us up rather than condemn us. Know that we are the people of a God who promises that if we go, and keep going, on the path Jesus calls us to, we will find greater spiritual strength, resilience and wisdom.

## **Music Meditation**

*Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me*  
Adoro te devote (1697), arr. Scott  
The SCUCC Choir

## **A Time of Prayer with The Lord's Prayer**

(Please use the wording most meaningful to you.)

### **Invitation to Giving**

#### **Offertory Music**

*In the Garden*  
Kelly Johnson, soloist  
Mackenzie Albert, arranger and piano

### **\*Presentation of Offering and Congregational Response**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One*

Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication (together)**

O God, all we have is ultimately Yours. And so we give back to You as one way we answer Your call to use what You have blessed us with wisely and well. We also give back, not because we have to, but because we want to in gratitude for Your constant presence in our lives. May this offering then, help others know that same presence. Amen.

**Ministry of the Word**      **John 1:43-51** (on p. 4)  
**(New Revised Standard Version Translation)**

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

## The Sacrament of Communion

### Introduction

One: God is with us;

**All: In every moment of our lives.**

One: So let us lift up our hearts.

**All: Let us lift them up to our God.**

One: Let us present our lives to our God;

**All: Through all we do and say.**

### The Words of Institution

### The Consecration

### Sharing God's Gifts

### The Community's Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give You thanks, O God, for calling us to this table of nourishment and healing for body, mind and spirit. May the sharing of this Holy Meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for You and one another, and give us the courage we need to go out into the world as Christ's disciples, inspired and supported by Your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### Hymn

*As We Gather at Your Table #695 (on p. 7)*

### Blessing

### Postlude

*Festival March*

Stickles

**\*All who wish are welcome to stand.**

# 113 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

F  $\frac{C}{E}$  C Dm C F  $\frac{A7}{E}$  Dm  $\frac{G7}{D}$  C

1 Re - joi - ce, ye pure in heart, re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing;  
 2 Bright youth and snow - crowned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,  
 3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,

F7 B $\flat$  Dsus D  $\frac{Dsus}{E}$  A7 D  $\frac{D}{C}$   $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$   $\frac{Dm}{A}$  Gm7  $\frac{F}{A}$  C

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.  
 raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.  
 send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.  
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.

*Refrain*  
 N.C. C  $\frac{C}{E}$  N.C.  $\frac{C}{E}$  F  $\frac{F}{E\flat}$   $\frac{B\flat}{D}$   $\frac{F}{C}$  C7 F

Re - joi - ce, Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing.

WORDS: Edward H. Plumptre (1821-1891), alt.  
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Messiter (1834-1916)

MARION  
 S.M.Ref.

# As We Gather at Your Table 695

*Unison*  
N.C. F B $\flat$   $\frac{B\flat}{C}$  F

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

N.C. F B $\flat$   $\frac{B\flat}{C}$  F

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

N.C. Am7 Dm Am7 Dm  $\frac{Am}{C}$  B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

$\frac{C7}{G}$  F Fmaj7 B $\flat$   $\frac{B\flat}{C}$  F

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944- )  
MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942- )  
Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company  
Music Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

BEACH SPRING  
8.7.8.7.D.



## ***FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION***

***“Lent is a time for discipline, for honesty, and for confession - not because God is mean, or fault finding, or finger pointing, but because God wants us to be ready for the good that God has in store for us.”***

N.T. Wright, Anglican bishop,  
New Testament scholar, and author

***“What if we view this time of Lent as not just one in which to reflect, or to lament, or to confess or fast, but as a time to learn and be reminded of how to be free.”***

Megan Westra, Pastor and author

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## To Our Guests This Morning

If you are with us today for the first, or one of the first times, please let us know. Also, please take a moment to introduce yourself, or re-introduce yourself to Rev. Mark. Our hope is to provide you with the most graceful welcome possible.

## TODAY – First Sunday in LENT

Today, we join together for the First Sunday in the sacred season of Lent. During these weeks, we give special attention to recalling the teachings, healings and path of Jesus as he answered the call God gave him for his life – the path which would eventually lead to his death, but then, through God’s power and love, the triumph of Easter.

## New Hymnals TODAY!

In conjunction with the First Sunday in Lent, today we introduce our new hymnals. After a lengthy process of evaluation and discussion, the Music Committee, in conversation with Mackenzie and Mark, chose the *Worship & Rejoice* hymnal to replace the previous ones which were mostly destroyed in Hurricane Ian.

Please know that the hymns will continue to be on our video screens and printed in the bulletin for those who prefer to participate that way, as well as for the benefit of those who worship online.



## **Office Hours**

**The Church Office is regularly open from 9am-3pm on Monday through Friday.**

Mark is normally on campus Tuesday-Thursday pending pastoral visits or off-site meetings. Please feel free to just “drop by” or make an appointment directly with him by email: [mark@sanibelucc.org](mailto:mark@sanibelucc.org) or text/phone at 908-477-5426.

Mackenzie Albert, our Director of Music, is normally on campus each Wednesday and some Fridays. Please make an appointment by phone or text at 203-517-5427.

## **SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION**

**Our most recent unit has concluded.**

The topic and schedule for our next unit are still being determined.



## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Bible Study will meet this Thursday, March 13 at 10:30am on Zoom.**

Each week, we explore the passages which will be part of that coming Sunday’s Worship. These sessions are discussion based, with Mark guiding a structured conversation based on participants’ questions, concerns and considerations of the text. The passage(s) to be looked at each week, as well as the necessary information for joining in, will be sent by email the day before.

## Fellowship Hall Arts Show Continues!

If you haven't already, please take the time to experience the artwork on display in Fellowship Hall. They have been produced by the students of Carol Good's weekly class, and include some of Carol's works as well.



## Easter Flowers

As we prepare to celebrate Easter together, we would like to offer you the opportunity to donate toward Easter lilies in remembrance of a loved one for our Easter Worship. These beautiful flowers serve as a symbol of hope, renewal, and remembrance during this special time of year.



If interested, please fill out the form available at the Sanctuary entrance table. You may also call the Church Office with your request at 239-472-0497, or send your information via email to [office@sanibelucc.org](mailto:office@sanibelucc.org). The lilies will be displayed during our Easter Celebration as a special tribute to those we hold dear in our hearts. Your dedication will be included in the Easter bulletin.

## MUSIC



## Thank You



We have a choir member who first sang at our church during the *Godapalooza* event last fall. *Godapalooza* took place over two Sundays in September during which a swarm of local singers came in to sing excerpts from the musical *Godspell*. Kelly Johnson was our soloist in the song *Day By Day*, and her lovely voice really carried the music. She graciously accepted an invitation to join the Choir, and this morning she'll sing a beautiful old hymn for us.

She also drives in to our church from a significant distance, so we are very grateful!

## The Choir Welcomes New Members!

Our choir continues to grow and always welcomes new members. If you would like to give it a try, we encourage you to come to a rehearsal on a Wednesday at 4:30 PM. We rehearse until 6 o'clock and often go out to dinner together at a local restaurant.

Why not stop by and see what it's like? You are also welcome to call or text Mackenzie with any questions at 203-517-5427.

## Choir Appreciation Sunday is March 30th

Please join us to honor and thank our dedicated Choir members who work so hard to bring us uplifting and inspirational music. A special Fellowship Time featuring a continental breakfast for all of our spiritual community will be served after our Worship Celebration.



## From the Mission & Benevolence Committee

Please keep in mind that SCUCC and Bat Yam Temple have a monthly Food and Paper Products Drive every third Wednesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Church Parking Driveway (next date: 3/19). Please drop off donations of any non-perishable food items and bath and kitchen paper products. Collected donations will benefit local neighbors in need through F.I.S.H. and the Gladiolus Food Pantry.

If you are interested in assisting with this effort, please contact Ed Hannon, Mission and Benevolence Committee Member: (239) 240-7524.

Just a reminder, if you would like to make monetary donations to the Food Pantry, please address your check to SCUCC and include Food Pantry on the memo line.



## *Fellowship Time*

Please consider volunteering your time to serve during our Fellowship Time after Worship. It's a wonderful way to contribute to our community, connect with others, and give back to our spiritual home. If interested, please contact Mary Cavendish at 304-673-4495.

Here's how you can help:

1. **Sign Up to Serve** – Select a Sunday and mark it on your calendar! You'll find a sign-up sheet on the table at the front of Fellowship Hall. Serving is easy, and help will be available if needed.
2. **Bring a Treat** – If you love to bake or have a favorite snack to share, consider bringing it along to make our Fellowship Time even more special. Beverages are also welcome.
3. **Contribute to Fellowship Time** – If serving isn't for you, a donation is a meaningful way to support this cherished time together.



## **Shell Point Men's Group March Luncheon**

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **this Tuesday, March 11 at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. The featured presenter will be Dr. Renee Rawe, SCUCC's Tech Team leader. Please make reservations with Bruce Findley @ [bruce.findley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.findley@gmail.com).

## **Shell Point Women's Group March Luncheon**

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Women's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **this Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**. **The group will meet at the two round tables located outside of the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at [emily.kletzien@gmail.com](mailto:emily.kletzien@gmail.com).

## **Dinners for 6, 7 or 8**

One of our most loved offerings is the social gatherings known as "Dinner for 6, 7 or 8". If you would like to participate, please send your names, email addresses and phone numbers Shirley Akins at [akinsteach@gmail.com](mailto:akinsteach@gmail.com).



## **Ushers Needed**

Please contact Inky Meng if you would like more information, or to be added to the contact list to be an usher during our Worship Celebration. Send an email to: [inkymeng@hotmail.com](mailto:inkymeng@hotmail.com).





## **INTERESTED IN JOINING SCUCC???**

If you are considering becoming a member of SCUCC, or would simply like to find out more about us, please let Rev. Mark know. After you and he discuss the expectations and, as the old commercial says, “the benefits of membership,” you and he can schedule a Sunday that works best for you to become an official part of the SCUCC community.

## **Like A Ride To Worship?**

If you would like a ride to our Sunday Worship Celebration from Shell Point or Cypress Cove, please contact the Church Office at [office@sanibelucc.org](mailto:office@sanibelucc.org) **by noon on Thursday.**

## **Gentle Yoga with Grethe**

Join Grethe in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 10:45am for Gentle Yoga. Please arrive early to check-in.

## **The Santiva Islanders, Cardio & Strength Classes**

Please join Mahnaz Bassir at SCUCC for cardio & strength. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Fellowship Hall. Due to the popularity of the class and the instructor, there are now two sessions available: 9:30-10:30 and 11:00-12:00. **Come try a class for free and find out about what the Santiva Islanders have to offer!**



OUTREACH OF SANCAP  
*announces the*

2025 INTERFAITH SHARED SCHOLAR PROGRAM

# “WHEN THE SOUL SINGS THE SPIRIT SOARS”

*a musical lecture on the Judaic origins of  
Christian worship music by keynote speaker*



## DR. THOMAS CIMARUSTI

Dr. Tom Cimarusti is a Professor of Music History and Music Degree Program Leader at Florida Gulf Coast University, with a vast array of musical research interests. Tom has presented his research at conferences in Europe, Asia, and across the U.S. Tom is also an avid accordion player and has performed with the Tallahassee Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic, and for university events. In 2018 he founded the Center for Public Musicology (CPM), an institution that promotes community engagement through private and public lectures, opera excursions, and ensemble instruction.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

**3pm musical lecture**

*followed by a reception*

**SCUCC, 2050 Periwinkle Way**

**\*please bring canned good or non-perishable  
items to donate to F.I.S.H.**

**\*\* The Interfaith Shared Scholar Program is made possible by an interfaith coalition of congregations on Sanibel and Captiva, including Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, Captiva Chapel by the Sea, Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, and Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. The Leo Rosner Foundation is the main sponsor of the Shared Scholar program and reception.**

# SANIBEL *Music* FESTIVAL



*11<sup>th</sup>* **National  
CHOPIN**  
Piano Competition  
**FIRST PRIZE WINNER**

## **William Yang, piano** **Tuesday, March 11 – 7:30pm**

William Yang performs in Sanibel only two months after winning First Prize at the prestigious 2025 National Chopin Piano Competition, held every 5 years by the Chopin Foundation. A prize winner in The Midwest International Piano Competition, the Thomas and Evon Cooper International Piano Competition, and the Cleveland International Piano Competition, he studied at the Curtis Institute and is currently a Kovner Fellow at The Juilliard School.

**Venue:** Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ  
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957

**Tickets at [SanibelMusicFestival.org](http://SanibelMusicFestival.org)  
or call 239-344-7025**

**In person tickets** on Sanibel at  
Bank of the Islands, 1669 Periwinkle Way  
(cash or check) or at the venue (SCUCC)



Sanibel Music Festival  
is grateful for the  
support of  
Lee County Tourist  
Development Council

## **Assisting With Today's Worship Celebration**

Liturgist: Marcel Saghir

Ushers: Elaine & Dan Pace

Ministers: All Members and Friends of SCUCC

Moderator: Kathy Y. Carter Vice Moderator: Frank Palaia

Parish Nurse: Linda Convertine, R.N., B.S.N.

Music Director: Mackenzie Albert

Church Administrator: Jenny Chacon

Assistant Church Administrator: Tammy Flatley

Tech Team: Dr. Renee Rawe, Luke Crater, Victor Santana, Kirsten Smith

Missionaries: Alex Maldonado-Lizardi & Xiomara Cintron-Garcia

in Colombia

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Ran Niehoff

2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, Florida 33957

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