

The Sanibel



MARCH 2024 VOLUME 56 ISSUE 3



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Seeking to love all people ... growing in faith

...

*working toward God's vision of justice, healing
and joy.*

*Sanibel Congregational
United Church of Christ*

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Hi...

If you knew the conversation you were having with someone – a loved one, a friend, a mentor – was going to be the last you would ever have with them, what would you want to make sure you told them? And at the same time, what would you most want to hear from them?

Those were the circumstances facing both Jesus and his closest followers during the evening known as “*The Last Supper*” in all four gospels. On that evening, Jesus once again gives them a clear sense that his time is short, that the civil and religious authorities have increasingly come to see him as a threat and will soon use their power to take his life. And so during their time together, Jesus reminds them of a number of the things he considers most important about life, faith, and carrying on the mission and movement he has started, as well as reminds them how much they mean to him and to God.

What about you? What would you say to those closest to you if you knew it would be your last time together? What would you choose to offer them as the things you consider to be the most important about life, faith and the world? What would you say in regard to what they mean to you? And what would you most want to hear from them?

As we continue to move this month through the season of Lent toward the night we commemorate “*The Last Supper*” on Thursday, March 28, I ask you to consider two things.

First, consider giving that spiritual exercise a try. Write down what you would say, either to others in general, or to a specific one or two people, as well as what you would most want to hear from them. And second, consider not waiting – consider having that conversation with those people now.

The prospect of doing this might understandably be uncomfortable, if not frightening. But it can also be an incredibly powerful, poignant and life-affirming experience for both you and them.

As it was for Jesus and his closest followers.

Blessings,
Mark
Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea
Senior Minister

WORSHIP NOTES

In February, the big news of course was that we returned to Worship in our renovated Sanctuary on Sunday, February 11. It was a day of enormous gratitude and joy.

On Wednesday, February 14, we began the sacred season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday commemoration in the Sanctuary featuring meditative music from Dr. Albert and the SCUCC Choir, a Reflection from Mark and the Distribution of Ashes.

On Sunday, February 18, we celebrated both Mark's official Installation as SCUCC's Senior Minister and our Homecoming return to the Sanctuary. Rev. Latrell Harrison, Florida Conference of the UCC Associate Conference Minister, joined us to lead the formal Installation part of Worship, while Mark's long-time friend and colleague, Rev. Nancy McHugh, Minister of Dennis Union Church in Dennis, MA served as our guest Preacher. In addition, the morning's Worship included the rededication of the Sanctuary, and glorious music from Dr. Albert, the SCUCC Choir, special guests the SunCoast Brass quintet, and soloist Kelsey Boyea, Mark and Cindy's daughter.

Immediately after, the Celebration Team hosted an outstanding special reception to mark this important occasion in SCUCC's history.

On Friday evening, February 23, our friends from Bat Yam installed Sunny Schnitzer as their Rabbi in our Sanctuary, with Mark serving as one of the featured speakers and several of our members in attendance.

On Saturday, February 24, we celebrated and gave thanks for the life of long-time member Suzanne Gobel in our Sanctuary.

Then finally, on Sunday, February 25, we officially welcomed eight new members into our spiritual community: Cheryl and Barry Tice; Peg Pardee; Bob and Lorraine Rippe; Jonathan Heinrich; and Gail and Mark Hanny.

Whew!



In March, we continue our commemoration of the sacred season of Lent.

On Sunday, March 3, we will begin Worship at the special time of 9:40am, as Dr. Albert will present a “mini-concert” of Robert Schumann’s *Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood)* in celebration and thanksgiving for our new Steinway piano. This time will serve as the morning’s Worship Prelude.

On this Sunday we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

On Sunday, March 17, Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer of Bat Yam will be the morning’s Preacher as part of our annual Pulpit Exchange weekend with Bat Yam. Earlier that weekend, Mark will preach at Bat Yam’s Shabbat celebration on Friday, March 15.

Then of course, we enter Holy Week, culminating in Easter.

On Sunday, March 24, we commemorate Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem at the start of the days leading up to his death. Palms will be available for all who wish to have one.

On Maundy (Holy) Thursday, March 28 at 7pm, Dr. Albert will once again lead a presentation of Ruth Elaine Schram’s, *The Living Last Supper* at 7pm in the SCUCC Sanctuary. This deeply meaningful evening is not to be missed.

On Friday, March 29, we will commemorate Good Friday with a time of readings, meditation and music. The time is still TBD.

Then, on Sunday, March 31, we once more celebrate the triumph of God’s love and ways over the ways of violence and death at 10am in the Sanctuary with an Easter Worship of spirit-filled music, prayer and a Message from Mark

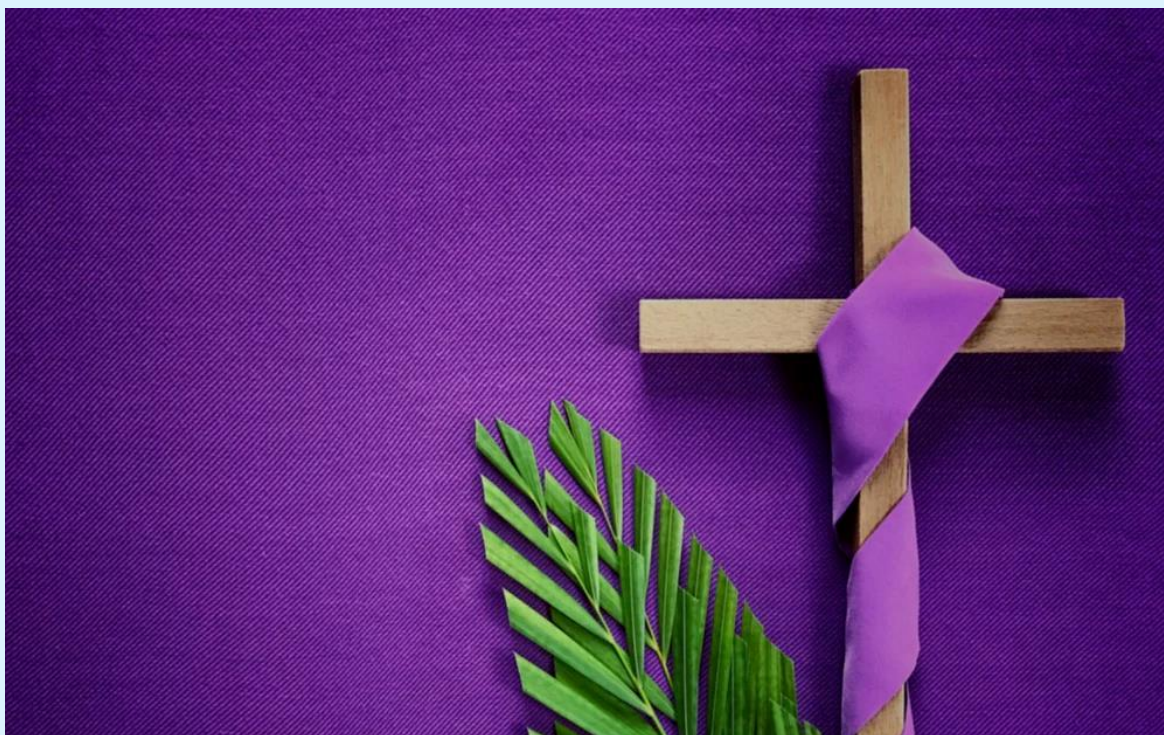


2024 LENTEN THEME – “THESE 40 DAYS”

Noah and his family endure 40 days and nights of rain in the ark. The Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years. David and Solomon each reign as King of Israel for 40 years. Jesus spends 40 days and nights in the wilderness being tempted by the devil.

The 40 days of Lent.

The number 40 appears consistently throughout the Bible and the Christian tradition. It is one of those numbers, like 3 or 7, that holds both literal and symbolic meaning. On several of the Sunday mornings during Lent, we will explore one of those passages in which the number 40 appears, focusing both on its meaning for the time and place it was written, and for the 40 days of our journey together through the season of Lent that leads to the celebration of Easter.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Our next Spiritual Exploration Unit begins on Tuesday, March 5!

“The Usual Suspects”

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26

7:00-8:15pm on Zoom

In conjunction with the season of Lent, during this unit we will examine the lives and actions of some of the characters the Gospels identify as playing pivotal roles in the death of Jesus. We will look at Judas, Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate, exploring how their actions, as a function of timeless human emotions, and the context of time and place, might speak to us in relation to ours.

BIBLE STUDY

Each week, we explore the Scripture passage(s) being used in Worship that coming Sunday. These sessions are largely “guided discussion” in approach, focusing on your questions and insights from reading the text(s) ahead of time, with Mark facilitating and adding relevant context and detail as needed or wanted.

This approach allows for participants to engage with the Bible creatively, and with an eye toward how the text speaks to us in our time and lives. In addition, they are great prep for getting more out of the Sunday messages!

You will receive the information you need to join in on these sessions, as well as the passages you need to read in advance, on Wednesday afternoons.

In March, Bible Study will meet on the following Thursdays:

March 7, 14 and 28



HEALTHY HAPPENINGS



If You Don't Snooze You Lose

You may be resting when you sleep, but there's a lot going on behind the scenes. When you sleep, your body undergoes a series of changes that enable the rest that is vital to your overall health. Sleep allows the brain and body to slow down and engage in processes of recovery promoting better physical and mental performance the next day and over the long-term.

What happens when you don't sleep is that these fundamental processes are short-circuited, affecting thinking, concentration, energy levels, and mood. As a result, getting the sleep you need — seven to nine hours for adults and even more for children and teens — is crucial.

During a normal sleep period, you progress through four to five sleep cycles. Each sleep cycle is made up of four individual sleep stages.

The four stages of sleep are further broken down into two categories: rapid eye movement (REM) and non-REM sleep. These categories are important because what happens during REM sleep is dramatically different from what happens during non-REM stages.

The first three stages of sleep are composed of non-REM activity. Stage 1 is short, representing the act of dozing off and transitioning into sleep. In Stage 2 the body and mind slow down as you settle into sleep. It's easiest to be awoken during these first two stages. In Stage 3, also known as deep sleep, the body is in recovery mode, slowing down even further. The fourth stage is REM sleep. During REM periods, brain activity shoots back up to levels similar to when you're awake — which explains why REM is associated with the most intense dreams. While breathing and heart rate increase during REM sleep, most muscles are paralyzed, which keeps us from acting out those vivid dreams. Each sleep cycle takes between 70 and 120 minutes. In the first sleep cycles of the night, more time is spent in non-REM sleep. The majority of REM sleep happens during the second half of the night. On a typical night, you'll cycle through four or five times.

Sleep is essential for good health. In fact, we need sleep to survive — just like we need food and water. So, it's no wonder we spend about one-third of our lives sleeping

Many biological processes happen during sleep: The brain stores new information and gets rid of toxic waste. Nerve cells communicate and reorganize, which supports healthy brain function. The body repairs cells, restores energy, and releases molecules like hormones and proteins. These processes are critical for our overall health. Without them, our bodies can't function correctly. Let's explore a few of the many ways sleep enhances and restores our bodies. Let's address our high priority concerns of brain function and immunity and how proper sleep can enhance these important processes.

Brain function

The brain plasticity theory says sleep is required for brain function. Specifically, it allows your neurons, or nerve cells, to reorganize. Sleep affects many aspects of brain function, including learning, memory, problem solving, creativity, decision-making, focus, and concentration.

When you sleep, your brain's glymphatic (waste clearance) system clears out waste from the central nervous system. It removes toxic byproducts from your brain, which build up throughout the day. This allows your brain to work well when you wake up.

Research suggests that sleep contributes to memory function by converting short-term memories into long-term memories, as well as by erasing, or forgetting, unneeded information that might otherwise clutter the nervous system.

Immunity

A healthy and strong immune system depends on sleep. Research shows that sleep deprivation can inhibit the immune response and make the body susceptible to germs.

When you sleep, your body makes cytokines, which are proteins that fight infection and inflammation. It also produces certain antibodies and immune cells. Together, these molecules prevent sickness by destroying harmful germs. That's why sleep is so important when you're sick or stressed. During these times, the body needs even more immune cells and proteins.

While sleeping, the body performs a number of repairing and maintaining processes that affect nearly every part of the body. The bottom line is that sleep keeps us healthy and functioning well. It lets our bodies and brain repair, restore, and reenergize. As a result, a good night's sleep, or a lack of sleep, can impact the body both mentally and physically.

“I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for You alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.”

Psalm 4:8

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



INSTALLATION and HOMECOMING GRATITUDE

Sunday, February 18 was a momentous day in the life and history of the SCUCC community. During that morning's Worship, we dedicated our renovated Sanctuary through a Litany lead by former Moderator Diana Day, surrounded by the members of the Rebuild Team. Then later on, we joined in the long-delayed formal Installation of Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea as our Senior Minister. That time featured the participation of Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Ran Niehoff, Parish Nurse Linda Convertine on behalf of former Senior Minister Rev. Dr. John Danner, current Vice Moderator, Kathy Carter and Moderator, Neal Halleran – both, incidentally, members of the SCUCC Search Team that chose Mark for approval by the congregation.

And then, of course, afterwards we were blessed with a wonderful reception planned and conducted by the Celebration Team.

Enormous thanks to the Rebuild Team, the participants in that morning's Worship, the Celebration Team, and to the entire SCUCC community who was with us that day in-person, online and in spirit.

Rebuild Team

John McBroom, Diana Day, Neal Halleran, Frank Palaia, Gene Hardy, Tom Lisle, Ron Periard, Amy Nowacki (architect) and Jeb McPherson (insurance and FEMA consultant)

Celebration Team

Sherry Halleran, Judy Palaia, Nancy Deffenbaugh, Jo Hardy, Joan Burns, Kathy Carter, Shirley Akins, Tammy Flatley and Jenny Chacon





HOMECOMING CELEBRATION





FROM THE GREEN TEAM

Reduce Single-Use Plastic

Why?

- It is clogging our waterways, landfills and sickening the environment and creatures that live in it, including us.
- It takes a long time—up to 450 years—to degrade and it releases toxic chemicals

Most Plastic Is Never Recycled

Less than 10% of all plastic products ever created have been recycled, with most ending up burned, in the ocean, or in landfills. That's because collecting, sorting, and the actual recycling is expensive, far outweighing the cost of producing new plastic items. And unlike aluminum or tin cans, plastic containers can only be recycled once or twice.

In 2002, Bangladesh became the first country to ban plastic bags, a movement that's now grown to more than 100 countries in an effort to safeguard the seas and reduce landfill waste.

Some Plastics Shouldn't Be Microwaved

Heating some plastics can cause the materials to release chemicals that help them stay durable and flexible (BPA and phthalates are the most common causes of concern). Polypropylene (aka plastic #5) is generally considered the safest to microwave because it's heat-resistant, though plastics #3, #6, and #7 should never be heated. Researchers recommend checking to see if a container is labeled as microwave-safe, and steering clear of plastics that are damaged or unlabeled.¹

What about Compostable or Biodegradable Bioplastics

As consumers across the country are pushing for a reduction in the use of disposable plastics, some companies have replaced regular plastic products with products labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable." But are they better for the environment?

"Biobased plastic"

Biobased plastics are plastics that are made from plant material, not fossil fuels like gas or oil. But just because they are made from plants does not automatically mean that they can biodegrade or be composted. In fact, they are made to have the same properties as petroleum-based plastic, and will last in the environment for the same time period, unless specifically engineered to be compostable and/or biodegradable.

Bioplastics aren't always able to be recycled alongside petroleum-based plastics, so it's important to read the label to determine how to properly dispose of them at the end of use.

"Compostable"

When something is labeled "compostable," it only refers to commercial composting. Lee County has no program for composting such plastic

"Biodegradable"

According to the Federal Trade Commission's Green Guides, it is deceptive to call something biodegradable because that term should mean they completely decompose within one year after customary disposal, but this does not happen in landfills, incinerators, and recycling facilities.

These labels are so misleading that labeling packaging as biodegradable is banned in four states [California, Minnesota, Washington State, and Maryland].

Unfortunately, replacing petroleum-based plastic with bioplastic, even if it claims to be compostable or biodegradable, isn't a solution to our plastic waste problem. **The real solution is a reduction in all types of plastic.**

Here are some quick tips on how to reduce your use of plastic:

- Find ways to use reusable or refillable options wherever possible. Some ideas include grocery bags, water bottles, food storage containers, cutlery, beeswax wraps and more.
- Break up with bottled water. You can save 1460 BOTTLES WHEN YOU SWITCH TO REUSABLES and you avoid ingesting plastic nano particles so prevalent in commercial bottle water.
- Carry a metal water bottle with you especially when exercising
- Shop with reusable bags. 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags each year. Switch to reusables and you can save 1500 PLASTIC BAGS FROM GETTING EATEN BY TURTLES.
- Skip the straw. Do without or carry a glass, bamboo, metal or other type of reusable straw with you. You can save 584 STRAWS WHEN YOU SWITCH TO REUSABLES.
- Buy food without plastic packaging. You can save 9000 POUNDS OF PLASTIC WASTE EACH YEAR [select fruits, vegetables, etc. and place them in reusable bags for weighing at check-out].
- Replace your cooking utensils and leftover containers with glass or metal ones, plastic bags with silicone and shrink wrap with Bees-wrap.
- Take leftover containers with you when you go to restaurants.
- Support your local zero waste store or companies that are making efforts to reduce plastic packaging for common household items like shampoo, detergent, household cleaners, toothpaste, soap and more.
- Find products or product packaging that is made from fiber-based materials like wood pulp, bamboo, bagasse [sugar cane fiber that biodegrades in 30-60 days] or straw. There's even some packaging made from mushrooms now. All products come with some environmental impact, but fiber-based materials cause less harm at their end of use. 2

To learn more, come or tune in on March 18, 10-12, Grand Cypress Room, Woodlands, Shell Point, to hear Megan J. Wolff, PhD MPH, Health Policy Director at the environmental advocacy group Beyond Plastics, "10 Billion Tons & Counting - Plastics, the Planet and YOU!"



WELCOME FROM OUR MODERATOR

2023 was, as Mark has said, a year of endurance. One that tested us as we recovered from the devastation we all felt from Hurricane Ian. The disruption and destruction to our personal lives and our Church was tough to take. But we endured and can now celebrate our return.

So now, let 2024 be a year of ***renewal!***

We have much to celebrate as we finally return to our remodeled and updated Sanctuary. Mark's Installation was a beautiful service that included family, out of town friends, community members and our good friends from Bat Yam. Eight new members joined the Church! Sunday Service attendance has grown significantly! And, we are seeing faces we haven't seen since before the hurricane! And there will be more to celebrate in the near future as our renewal continues.

A special **thank you** to all those who have and continue to lead us in recovery. So much has been accomplished and so many have raised their hands to assist and support the effort. We have been blessed!

Neal Halleran, Moderator



MISSION & BENEVOLENCE NEWS

On March 24th, an offering will be received for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), one of the UCC's four special mission offerings. This offering helps provide clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare and education for people in crisis. It also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster relief. Over 55% of the offering is used for international development initiatives. About 95% of all funds received are used directly to support mission programming. A flyer concerning the event, as well as Special Offering envelopes will be available in the entrance to the Sanctuary on March 17th, or you may mail your donation directly to the church and earmark it for OGHS. Please give generously as we share some of our many blessings with others.

Ric Walker, Chair

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..."

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five.

Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS.

Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously.

Share the light.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING | 75 YEARS

ucc.org/oghs

SCS24B Photo: @disciplephoto

SHARE THE LIGHT

One Great HOUR OF SHARING | 75 YEARS

ucc.org/oghs

A WORD FROM OUR TRUSTEES

The SCUCC Homecoming and Senior Minister Installation celebration on 18 February was the culmination of countless meetings and thousands of hours of volunteer trustees, deacons, welcoming members and staff who dedicated themselves to clean-up, planning, rebuild, decorating, cooking each week and finally for the banquet we enjoyed. It was wonderful, joyful, and inspiring!

There is obviously more work to do, but, as Tom Lisle often reminds us, these are the details. We have come so far, and it feels great to be in our church home even if it needs a little touch-up. It feels REALLY good.

There are too many to list all the helpers...we could just attach the directory, but we would miss a few. Some were on-board every week, and some helped when they could. Even giving an encouraging word was - and still is- appreciated.

The organ will be here in a few months, with its speakers that will be placed in the huge speaker-houses in the wall. Beautiful screens will cover the holes. Once acoustics are addressed, the rest of the paint, paneling, and wallpaper will be finished. Our pew bibles and hymnals will arrive. The narthex bathroom will be finished soon. The food donation box will be rolled out to remind us to serve our less fortunate neighbors. The railings will be installed where needed on the chancel area.

As we have mentioned, planning is starting for the lower-level remodel, and your input to its vision is welcome. We are also planning how we will fund this next project, which has no insurance coverage.

We are pleased that we have a caring place to welcome old and new friends. Thank you for being a part of our renewal and providing energy for our forward progress.

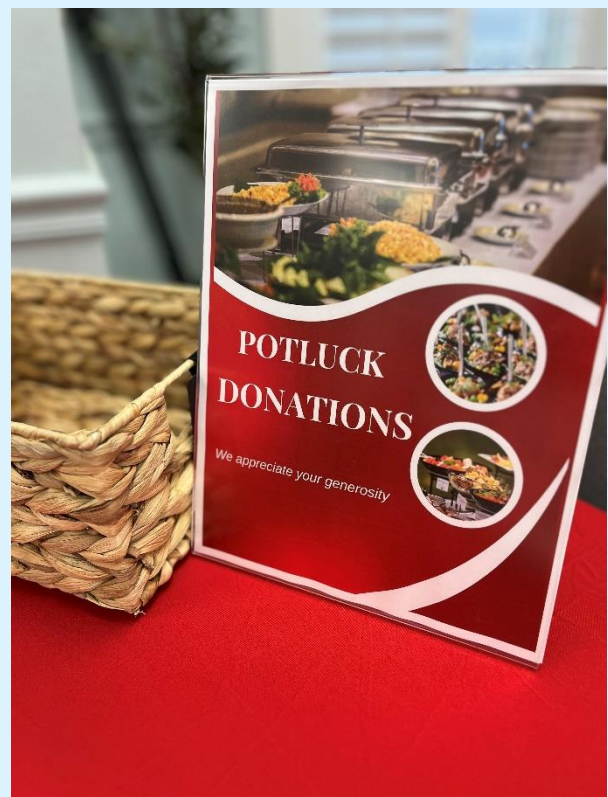
Diana Day, Trustee

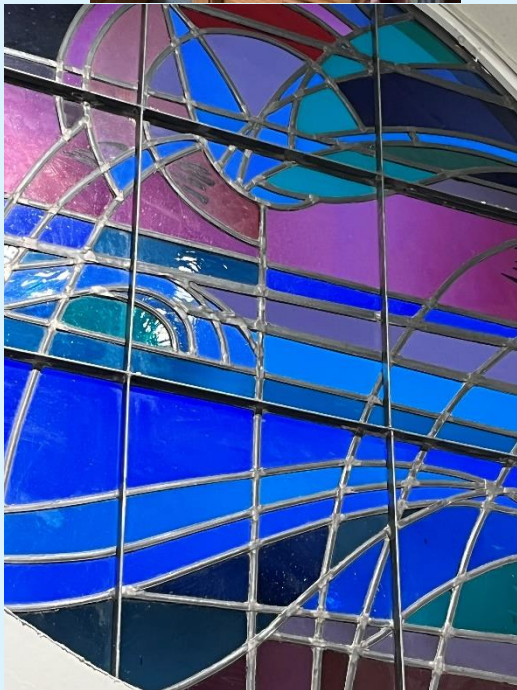


SCUCC & BAT YAM POTLUCK

Wonderful highlights of the shared Potluck Dinner sponsored by the Green Team and Bat Yam.

The evening featured an icebreaker over drinks and appetizers, followed by dinner and the presentation of an amusing imagined conversation between a representative of God and a representative of Humanity, played by Mark and Bat Yam Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer.





Ribbon Cutting Celebration
Organized and Lead by the
Chamber of Commerce

February 15, 2024

EASTER LILIES

As we prepare to celebrate Easter together, we would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase 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 you would like to order an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please fill out the order form available at the Sanctuary entrance table. You may also call the church office to place an order (239) 472-0497 or send a request to office@sanibelucc.org. Please make checks payable to SCUCC and include Easter Flowers in the Memo Line.

The deadline to place your order is **March 22**.

The lilies will be displayed during our Easter celebration as a special tribute to those we hold dear in our hearts.

Thank you for considering this meaningful way to honor and remember your loved ones during our Easter celebrations.

Blessings.



ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING AT SCUCC

Mindful Chair Yoga on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Explore being fully present in Mind, Body, and Spirit with Mindful Chair Yoga. Grounding the practice in mindful breathing, we will move through seated warm-ups. We will use the support of the chair for standing and balancing postures. Class will end with a guided embodiment meditation.

Facilitator: Eleanor Miller. After retiring from Public Health Nursing, Eleanor became a Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher. She has practiced and trained with many skilled Yoga Teachers. Yoga helps to open the energy channels of the body to allow the flow of life force.

Please consider joining in. Eleanor Miller, eleheamiller@gmail.com

Gentle Yoga on Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:00 pm with Grethe in Fellowship Hall.

Be An Artist

Anyone interested in painting in any medium is welcome to join our Art Class beginning Tuesday January 9, from noon to 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Carol Good will be teaching a beginner's watercolor class at the same time for anyone who would like to learn. Please contact her at 618-201-6252 for more information.



SANIBEL MUSIC FESTIVAL EVENTS

Sanibel Music Festival Presents Exciting Concerts this March

All are invited to attend the Sanibel Music Festival concerts this March at Peace Lutheran Church, 15840 McGregor Blvd in Ft Myers. On Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30pm, **Manhattan Chamber Players** will launch the season with a flourish, performing the Antonín Dvorák Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81 (1887) and the Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34 (1864).

On Saturday, March 9 at 7:30pm, **National Chopin Piano Competition Winner Avery Gagliano** has been invited back following a stunning all-Chopin performance in the 2020 season that earned a standing ovation and multiple curtain calls.

The full March schedule, \$50 tickets, discount packages, and opportunities to participate through the new donation program are detailed at www.SanibelMusicFestival.org. Get tickets in person at Bank of the Islands, 1669 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel, at Peace Lutheran Church, or at the door. Or call 239-344-7025. Student tickets are complimentary, underwritten by Sanibel Captiva Community Bank.

On Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30pm, **Boston Trio** presents a captivating combination of violin, cello, and piano performing the Mozart C-major Trio #5, K.548, the Schumann D-minor Trio #1, Op. 63, and the Ravel Trio.

On Saturday, March 16 at 7:30pm, the young and dynamic **Viano String Quartet** from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Bowers Program performs Haydn String Quartet Op. 64/5 “Lark”, Price “Andante Moderato” from String Quartet No. 1 in G major, String Quartet Op. 95 “Serioso”, Piazzolla Introduccion al Angel, and Grieg String Quartet in G minor.

Sanibel Music Festival concludes the 2024 season this week at Peace Lutheran Church, 15840 McGregor Blvd in Ft Myers with two towering performances. On Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30pm, Musical America’s Musicians of the Year Award winners **David Finckel, cello, and Wu Han, piano**, perform Saint-Saens Sonata #1 in C-major, Op. 32, Mendelssohn Sonata #2 in D-major, Op. 58, and Grieg Sonata for Cello and Piano in A-minor, Op. 36

On Saturday, March 23 at 7:30pm, **Opera Theater of Connecticut presents “Gilbert and Sullivan -Memorable Music, Madness, & Mayhem”**, punctuated by Artistic Director Alan Mann’s knowledgeable and entertaining commentary. The concert will feature hits from well-known comic operas such as The Mikado, H.M.S Pinafore, and The Pirates of Penzance.

The full March schedule, \$50 tickets, and opportunities to participate through the new donation program are detailed at www.SanibelMusicFestival.org. Get tickets in person at Bank of the Islands, 1669 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel, at Peace Lutheran Church, or at the door. Or call 239-344-7025. Student tickets are complimentary, underwritten by Sanibel Captiva Community Bank.



FELLOWSHIP TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to help prepare and serve refreshments for Fellowship Time after Worship on Sundays, please sign up on the sheet found on the table in the back of Fellowship Hall. It is easy, and assistance will be available if needed. For more information, please contact Nancy Deffenbaugh at [njdedeffe@gmail.com](mailto:njedeffe@gmail.com).



USHERS NEEDED

If you are interested in ushering for Sunday Worship, please contact Inky Meng at inkymeng@hotmail.com for more information.

LITURGISTS WANTED

If you would like to be a Liturgist for our Sunday Worship celebrations, please contact Sharon Hannon, skbhannon@aol.com for information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meditation & Chant Session

The session that was scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 2nd, following Torah Study has been canceled. We will post a new date once it is available.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is now open Monday-Friday, from 9am-3pm.

Mark is normally on the 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 or text/phone call: 908-477-5426.

Shell Point Women’s Group March Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC, Shell Point Women’s Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting on Friday, March 8 at 11:30am at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common. Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at emily.kletzien@gmail.com.

Shell Point Men’s Group March Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men’s Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common. Please make reservations with Candy Atchison at JimAtch@aol.com or 561-714-4655.

BAT YAM & SCUCC BRUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM

On Sunday, March 17th in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the Church Service with the Annual Pulpit Exchange, come and learn about and discuss the possible implementation of solar panels at SCUCC. Brunch will be provided and sponsored by The Green Team. Please RSVP by March 10th, if you have not done so already. A sign up sheet should be available at the back of Fellowship Hall or you may respond in the e-blast.



and



*All are welcome, but please RSVP!
Please join us for an*

**BRUNCH & LEARN
PROGRAM ON SOLAR**
Sunday, March 17, in Fellowship Hall
immediately following the
Church Service
with Annual Pulpit Exchange

*Come learn about and discuss the possible
implementation of solar panels
at the SCUCC*

*~ Brunch will be provided ~
Sponsored by The Green Team*

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 Sunday Worship from Shell Point or Cypress Cove, please contact the Church Office at office@sanibelucc.org by Noon on Thursdays.

APRIL 2024 SANIBEL LIGHT DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for submissions to the April 2024 edition of the *Sanibel Light* is **Friday, March 22, 2024**.

Please send all submissions, as a Word document, to Tammy Flatley tammy@sanibelucc.org and Jenny Chacon jenny@sanibelucc.org

YOU'VE GOT PLANS: SANIBEL & CAPTIVA

Arts & Crafts Fair

Monday, March 4th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Sanibel Community House

Captiva Cruises & the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Are offering an educational sunset birding cruise on March 4th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, departing from McCarthy's Marina at 11401 Andy Rosse Lane, Captiva. Tickets are \$45 per person and \$35 for ages 2-12. The proceeds will help support the SCCF's program. For more information or to make a reservation, call Captiva Cruises at 239-472-5300 or visit <https://sccf.org/calendar/>.

87th Annual Shell Festival

Thursday, March 7th through Saturday, March 9th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Sanibel Community House

BITS & BOBS

Giving is Easy:

- 1. PayPal link is available from the church's homepage (www.sanibelucc.org)**
- 2. Automatic Payment Program (ACH) is available. To sign up email Jenny@sanibelucc.org to receive the authorization form.**
- 3. Checks payable to SCUCC can be mailed to:**
Sanibel Congregational UCC 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel FL 33957.

Mark Boyea

Senior Minister

mark@sanibelucc.org

239-312-8673

Jenny Chacon

Church Administrator

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239-312-8670

Tammy Flatley

Assistant Church Administrator

tammy@sanibelucc.org

office@sanibelucc.org

239-472-0497

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00-3:00pm

