

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Worship

February 18, 2026, NOON



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 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
February 18, 2026, Noon*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Welcome

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Our Blessing

Bach

Call to the Lenten Journey

One: The season of Lent has come.

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

***Hymn**

Our Father, We Have Wandered #371 (p. 5)

Prayer of Confession (together)

O God, we confess to You and to one another that we have not loved as You love. We have not loved You with all our heart, mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as You command; and we have not loved ourselves as ones created in Your image and likeness.

Too often, we have turned away from Your call to love out of pride, fear, greed and envy. Too often, we have loved the things of the world more than we have loved You and others.

Forgive us Holy One, for the ways we have fallen short of Your hopes and expectations for us. Forgive us for neglecting the needs of our brothers and sisters, and for our indifference to injustice and suffering. Forgive us for neglecting the divine spark You have placed in us. Restore our souls, O God, and give us new eyes to see, new hearts to feel, and new spirits to soar. Amen.

Music Meditation

Just As I Am

Reading

Marked by Ashes

Walter Brueggemann

Silent Reflection

The Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 58:1-10

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

Music Meditation

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Reading

Rend Your Heart

Jan Richardson

Silent Reflection

The Gospels

Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Reflection

Dr. Boyea

The Distribution of Ashes

(Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come down the center aisle at this time.)

Prayer of Lenten Dedication

We thank You, O God, for calling us to follow Jesus. We thank You for loving us so much that You ask us to walk that same path. During these days of Lent, may we rededicate ourselves to our relationship with You and each other, and recommit ourselves to putting Your ways first in our lives. Amen.

Music Meditation

Amazing Grace

Blessing

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

You are invited to leave in silence at this time.

371 Our Father, We Have Wandered

C F C F G7 C Dm7 G C E7 Am Esus E7 Am

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

C F C F G7 C Dm7 G C E7 Am Esus E7 Am

in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

Bdim Em F G7 F C F C#dim7 Dm2 Dm A

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

D7 G D C G A7 D G C Dm C Gsus G C

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Assisting With Today's Worship Celebration

Ministers: All Members and Friends of SCUCC

Moderator: Frank Palaia; Vice Moderator: Norm Boyd

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

Music Director: Mackenzie Albert

Church Administrator: Tammy Flatley

Financial Manager: Terri Czczotka

Tech Team: Dr. Renee Rawe, Kirsten Smith, Maggie Voll

Missionaries:

Alex Maldonado-Lizardi & Xiomara Cintron-Garcia in Colombia

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Ran Niehoff

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