The Sanibel Light

SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 2025

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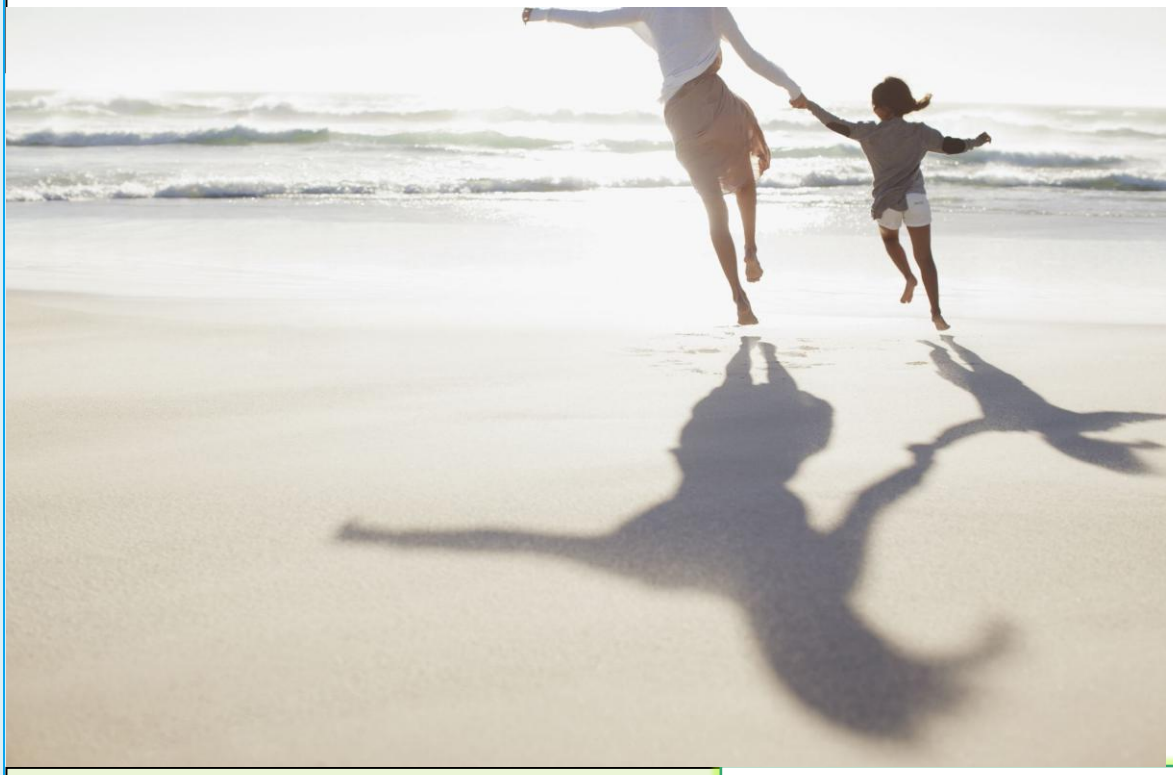


IN THIS ISSUE

News From Our Community

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

As I watched and read the coverage of the death of Pope Francis in the days immediately following Easter - the days which mark the beginning of the "Easter Season" in Christianity - I recalled another, different "death" that the Catholic tradition also experienced right around Easter six years ago.

During Holy Week in 2019, I and millions of others around the world watched as the iconic Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris burned. The cathedral's spire toppled to the ground in the blaze, and it endured other severe damage as well. It was a devastating spectacle for the people of Paris and France, but also for a great many Christians throughout the world.

I watched the fire do its work from the comfort of my living room; heard the anguish of those witnessing it in person; rotated among several channels every few minutes for different perspectives. And reflected on two particular Christian spiritual considerations…

One, which I heard many commentators on those rotating channels offer their audiences, was *Resurrection*. They remarked that, as the suffering, destruction and death of Maundy (Holy) Thursday and Good Friday gave way to new life on Easter Sunday, so too the suffering, destruction and "death" of this day would give away to a rebuilt Notre Dame. Like Jesus, Notre Dame would rise again.

The other was the same four-word phrase that a messenger(s) of God says to those who first reach the empty tomb in Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospels on Easter morning:

He is not here.

The grandeur of Notre Dame, the devotion of those who labored to build it, and its significance in western culture are undeniable. And it did “rise again”. Although the rebuilding of the cathedral is not yet finished, Easter Sunday was celebrated there for the first time in six years on April 20.

But still…*He is not here…*

During those six years, Notre Dame may have been “gone” as a place of worship, but Easter remained. Because Easter *always* remains. Because what the Easter story proclaims, if anything, is that God, God‘s love, and the power of God‘s ways and call for humanity embodied by Jesus is boundless.

Easter remains – *always* - not limited to any structure, city, nation, ethnicity or political orientation. Not limited by suffering, destruction, and death. It remains wherever and in whomever chooses to also embody those same ways - the ways of compassion, care for creation and the most vulnerable among us, forgiveness, kindness, justice, mercy and love. It proclaims that despite the efforts of those who consciously or unconsciously work to kill and bury those ways, they will *rise again*.

Whether it’s in a cathedral or on a street corner. In Paris or here. In others, or hopefully, in us.

Blessings,

Mark
Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea
Senior Minister

WORSHIP NOTES

In April, we celebrated the Sacrament of Communion on **Sunday, April 6**, the Fifth Sunday in the sacred season of Lent.

On **Sunday, April 13**, we commemorated **Palm Sunday** and the beginning of **Holy Week** – the only week the Christian tradition specifically labels *Holy*.

Our Holy Week commemorations then continued on **Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm in the Sanctuary**, with a moving and meaningful Worship time featuring readings from the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper, hymns and anthems lead by Mackenzie Albert and the SCUCC Choir, solos from Charlene Gulbrandsen and Kelly Johnson, the Sacrament of Communion, and a Dramatic Reflection from Mark.

The following day, on **Good Friday at Noon in the Sanctuary,** we offered a contemplative time of readings, music, and silent reflection focused on ***The Seven Last Words of Christ***.

Then, of course, on **Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10am in the SCUCC Sanctuary**, we celebrated the triumph of God's ways embodied in Jesus over the ways of violence and death with a time of spirit-filled music, brass musicians, prayer and a Message from Mark.

Finally, we closed out the month of April with the return of our friend and regular guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes, as Mark was away.

In **May**, we begin the month with our next ***Ask the Minister Day*** **on Sunday, May 4.** Instead of a Message that day, Mark will answer as many of your biblical, theological, spiritual and personal questions as time allows.

On that same day, we will also celebrate the **Sacrament of Communion** as a spiritual community.

Then, on **Sunday, May 25**, Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes will once again serve as our guest Preacher as Mark will be recovering from his surgery on May 20.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in remembrance of Memorial Day.

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

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** or text/phone call: 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 GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues in May on the following Thursdays at **10:30am on Zoom:**

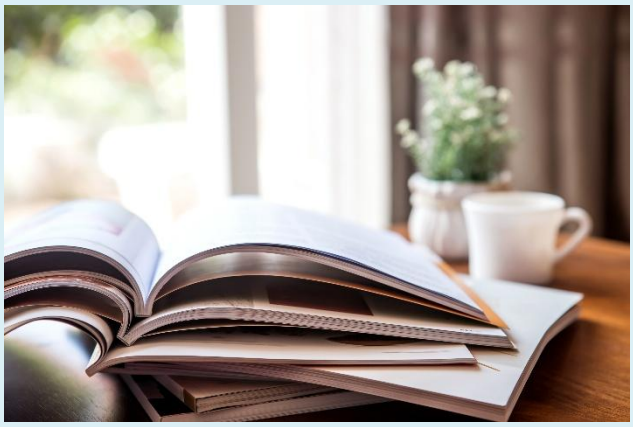
May 8
May 15
May 29 (tentative)

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.

SPIRTUAL EXPLORATION

Our most recent Spiritual Exploration Unit has concluded.

The topic and schedule for our next unit has yet to be determined.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

AMERICAN OPERA SCENES AND ARIAS

Including music by Carlisle Floyd, Gian-Carlo Menotti, George Gershwin, and Leonard Bernstein

On May 18 at 2:00pm we will present an extraordinary performance of excerpts from American operas and also from West Side Story and Candide by Leonard Bernstein.

Our music director, Mackenzie Albert, will lead professional singers and graduates of FGCU in both solos and scenes from major American operas, staged and beautifully sung by a quartet of outstanding artists. This concert is being developed in collaboration with Dr. Jeanie Darnell, who heads the FGCU Bower School of Music vocal department.

Don't miss this exciting performance.

Please mark May 18 on your calendar, and, since it's a terrific outreach to the community, we hope that you will bring friends, family, and neighbors to this event.

MUSIC@SCUCC

SUNDAY, MAY 18 AT 2:00 PM

AMERICAN OPERA SCENES AND ARIAS

THE FGCU BOWER SCHOOL OF MUSIC VOCAL SUPERSTARS

join professional singers showcasing favorite scenes and arias from Bernstein, Menotti, Floyd,

FGCU
Bower School of Music & the Arts

All Are Welcome at the Music@SCUCC Concert Series!

Scenes from Menotti's The Medium and Floyd's Susannah
Bring Him Home from Les Misérables
Bernstein favorites including Maria, Glitter and Be Gay, and more

All MUSIC@SCUCC concerts are free.
A reception with the artists will follow the performance.

SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH CHRIST

The Music @ SCUCC Series
at 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957
Free will offering at the door • 239-472-0497

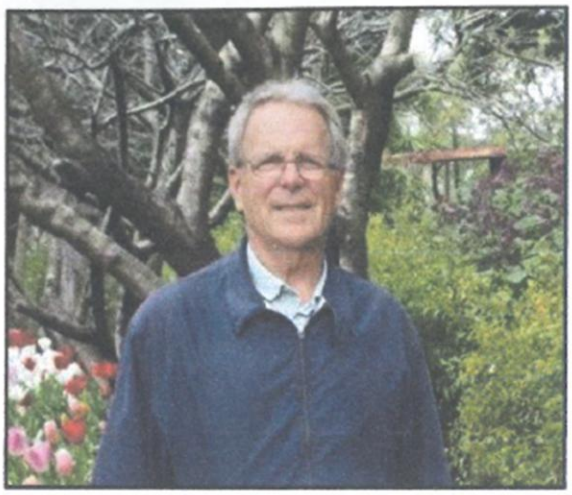
ART DISPLAY

We are delighted to continue showcasing the beautiful and scenic art creations from our talented members and the Sanibel community, on display in Fellowship Hall.

A heartfelt thank you to Carol Good for her dedication, countless hours of organizing the pieces, and her encouragement to those eager to learn the art of painting and drawing. Her passion and commitment have truly brought this vision to life.

Thank you to all who contribute to the beauty and creativity of our community.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



ABOUT THE ARTIST
PETER ZELL

Peter Zell is an oil and watercolor painter who retired to Sanibel Island in 2005 after a 32-year career as a trial lawyer in Southern California. While working and raising his family, he enjoyed art as an avocation and occasionally took art classes at Santa Ana College and other venues in Orange County.

Since retiring from his law practice and moving to Florida, Peter has received many awards in art competitions throughout Southwest Florida, including 2nd place at the Winner's Circle Exhibition in 2007. He was nominated for best new artist in the Angel of the Arts competition in Fort Myers in 2008 and was featured as an emerging artist by **Grandeur** Magazine in Fort Myers. In December 2018, Peter was one of four Southwest Florida artists profiled in **Gulf Shores Life** magazine. **Times of the Islands** magazine featured an article on his artwork in its February/March 2019 issue. His paintings have been accepted by the Butler Institute of American Art for its summer exhibitions in Youngstown, Ohio (2013 and 2015).

Peter has participated in a number of solo and group shows on Sanibel, Captiva and Fort Myers and currently exhibits his paintings at Big Arts on Sanibel Island, the Sanibel Public Library, the Captiva Community Association, and the Sanibel Community House. He is a past president of the Sanibel-Captiva Art League.

Peter enjoys painting "en plein air" year-round in Southwest Florida. He has participated in and won awards at national plein air competitions in Punta Gorda, Cape Coral and Fort Myers Beach. His artwork may be viewed at Bubbly Latitude Gallery on Palm Ridge Road in Sanibel.

Contact: pbzell@aol.com

Meet Our Church Leaders

Shirley Furry Witte
Music Committee Chair

My involvement with this church came in the Fall of 2011 when I was called to substitute for the organist who had encountered a medical problem. I ended up playing at the church for several months and it was a most fortuitous gig. Enjoying the church, I signed up for "small group dinners" where I met George Witte, a recent widower, and we were married a year later on the beach by John Danner. I've been singing and making music here ever since.

I have a degree in English from The Ohio State University and taught English for awhile; however, I have played piano since I was 7 and all paths seemed to lead to music. Through volunteer work with musical organizations, I eventually turned that into a career in Arts Management. Spanning 25 years, I was Executive Director of three different symphonies: West Virginia, Hartford, and Southwest Florida which is what got me to Florida.

I grew up in Ohio, have lived in six different states, have sung in several church choirs, and accompanied many ensembles. As I moved around, I usually opened a piano studio and have taught dozens of students in four different states. You will always find me where the music is as it has shaped my whole life.

Between us, George and I have five children and 13 grandchildren, so we have a tribe to keep up with. We spend summers in New Jersey, George's home state, and love to travel, but I'm always happy when we come back to Sanibel. I have chaired the music committee at the church for several years, but am now turning that task over to Ellen Hoeltgen to bring fresh ideas to our program.

Meet Our Church Leaders

Janet Hurley
Treasurer

Janet Hurley is a self-described numbers nerd who is happy playing with spreadsheets and distilling data into understandable themes. Janet was born and raised in California and moved to New York City after graduate school. Thinking she wanted to be a lawyer, she earned a J.D. and LL.M. Once in New York, she was drawn into the world of finance. She was a Managing Director at several large New York investment banks, where she ran a global financing business. Since retiring in 2010, she has volunteered on several boards, often as Treasurer.

In 2014, when the second of their two sons went off to college, Janet and her husband Dave moved to Sanibel, so he could fish in the winter. They continue to spend their summers on Fire Island in New York. (Yes, they own two beach houses located in hurricane flood zones!) When Janet arrived in Sanibel, her friend and neighbor on Fire Island, Mary Ann Bennett, encouraged her to join SCUCC. Since joining SCUCC, Janet has served as head of the Endowment Committee and head of SCWIM.

After reading that it's important to try new things as you age, Janet decided to take a painting class last year. To her great surprise, she discovered she likes painting. She now regularly attends Carol Good's Tuesday watercolor class.

Janet and her husband Dave recently decided to get two Labrador Retriever puppies, replacing dogs they lost several years ago. They are currently very busy raising their new "children." They have discovered that puppies are easier when you are younger.

Trivia: you probably don't know that since retiring, Janet has run twenty marathons (slowly). She regularly does the New York Times crossword, and every other puzzle that comes with the games subscription. She has a collection of Lego kit cars that she assembled herself, gifts from her supportive husband (as a child, Janet felt deprived that only her brothers got Erector Sets and other building toys). She is also researching an idea for a book, a biography of a New York art dealer who associated with some of the most famous names in the art world during the 1960s and 1970s.

HEALTHY HAPPENINGS

Why Food Dyes Matter

The FDA's recent decision to ban Red Dye No. 3 marks a significant step toward improving public health and food safety. This petroleum-based dye, commonly found in candies, baked goods, and even medications, has been linked to cancer in laboratory animals and behavioral issues in children.

Red Dye No. 3, also known as FD&C Red No. 3 or simply Red 3, has long been used to give foods a bright, cherry-red hue. However, studies have shown that high doses of Red Dye No. 3 can cause cancer in laboratory rats, leading to the FDA's ban. Although food manufacturers have until January 2027 to phase out this dye, the risks associated with it highlight the importance of scrutinizing food labels.

But the problems don't stop there. Red Dye No. 3 has also been associated with behavioral issues in children, such as hyperactivity and inattention. California's Environmental Protection Agency reviewed 25 studies on synthetic food dyes and found that over half linked artificial food coloring to negative behavioral outcomes in children. Red Dye No. 3 is not the only synthetic dye raising concerns. Many other dyes commonly found in the food supply have been linked to health issues, including:

1. Red Dye No. 40 (Allura Red AC)
    - Found in: Soft drinks, candies, snacks, and condiments.
    - Health risks: Linked to hyperactivity, irritability, and potential allergic reactions.

2. Yellow Dye No. 5 (Tartrazine)
    - Found in: Chips, cereals, and baked goods.
    - Health risks: Associated with irritability, restlessness, depression, and allergic reactions.

3. Yellow Dye No. 6 (Sunset Yellow FCF)
    - Found in: Beverages, candies, and processed foods.
    - Health risks: Linked to hyperactivity, allergic reactions, and potential carcinogenic effects.

4. Blue Dye No. 1 (Brilliant Blue FCF)
    - Found in: Frostings, candies, and beverages.
    - Health risks: May affect neurological function and memory.

5. Blue Dye No. 2 (Indigo Carmine)
    - Found in: Candies, snacks, and dairy products.
    - Health risks: Linked to hyperactivity and allergic reactions.

6. Green Dye No. 3 (Fast Green FCF)
    - Found in: Mint-flavored products, desserts, and beverages.
    - Health risks: May cause allergic reactions and has shown carcinogenic effects in animal studies.

7. Orange B (No known manufacturers are still using this, but it is still approved)
    - Found in: Sausages and casings.
    - Health risks: Linked to potential carcinogenic effects.

8. Citrus Red 2
    - Found in: Orange peels.
    - Health risks: Considered a carcinogen when ingested.

9. Caramel Coloring
    - Found in: Soft drinks, sauces, and baked goods.
    - Health risks: Contains 4-MEI, a potential carcinogen.

10. Synthetic Brown Colors
    - Found in: Baked goods and sauces.
    - Health risks: Linked to hyperactivity and allergic reactions.

European countries have stricter regulations on synthetic dyes, often requiring warning labels on foods containing these additives.

Avoiding synthetic food dyes may seem daunting, but it's achievable with the right knowledge. Here are some actionable steps.

1. Read Labels Carefully

   Synthetic dyes are listed on ingredient labels as "FD&C" followed by a color and number (e.g., FD&C Red No. 40). Familiarize yourself with these labels and avoid products containing synthetic dyes.

2. Choose Natural Alternatives

   Many food companies now offer products made with natural colorings derived from plants, such as beetroot, turmeric, or spirulina. For example:

   - Natural Candy Store: Offers candies colored with natural dyes.
   - Annie's Homegrown: Produces mac and cheese with colors from spices like paprika and turmeric.
   - Simple Mills: Provides baked goods free from synthetic additives.
   - Miss Jones Baking Co.: Provides baking products free from synthetic additives

3. Opt for Whole, Unprocessed Foods

   Foods in their natural state, such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, are free from synthetic dyes. Build meals around these wholesome options.

4. Find Substitutes for Common Processed Foods

   Here are some common foods with safer alternatives:

   - Candy: Swap Skittles for YumEarth Organic Fruit Snacks.
   - Soda: Replace bright-colored sodas with sparkling water flavored with natural fruit essences.
   - Breakfast Cereals: Choose organic options like Magic Spoon instead of artificially dyed brands.
   - Snacks: Opt for The Good Crisp Company or Bare Snacks instead of artificially colored chips.

5. Support Brands Committed to Clean Ingredients

   Many companies are moving away from synthetic dyes due to consumer demand. Brands like Aldi, Whole Foods' 365, Trader Joe's, and Primal Kitchen prioritize clean ingredients.

Why This Matters

Synthetic dyes are not just aesthetic additives; they can impact physical and mental health. By reducing or eliminating these dyes from their diets, people can experience:

- Improved focus and behavior, especially in children.
- Reduced risk of allergic reactions.
- Peace of mind from avoiding potentially carcinogenic substances.

The FDA's ban on Red Dye No. 3 is a vital reminder of the importance of scrutinizing what goes into our food. While this dye and others like it are prevalent in processed foods, there are many ways to avoid them by choosing natural, whole, and minimally processed options.

"All of the nine currently US-approved dyes raise health concerns of varying degrees. Red 3 causes cancer in animals, and there is evidence that several other dyes also are carcinogenic. Three dyes (Red 40, Yellow 5, and Yellow 6) have been found to be contaminated with benzidine or other carcinogens. At least four dyes (Blue 1, Red 40, Yellow 5, and Yellow 6) cause hypersensitivity reactions ." Kobylewski & Jacobson (2012) International Journal of Occupational & Environmental Health

During a press conference on April 22nd RFK Jr. unveiled a plan to start phasing out eight synthetic food dyes in the American food supply. Some nutritionists and dietitians say that it is best to avoid artificial food dyes, while others say more research needs to be done and the potential negative effects are still unclear. I have presented you with facts from an article from the National Society of Health Coaches and other sources. Research for yourselves and see what you think. Remember, it's always important to research the research.

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

I pray for refreshing for those who are discouraged, peace for those who are anxious, and endurance for those who are tired.

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

If the Worship celebration on Sunday is a welcoming and meaningful experience, and you also enjoy a nice hour of Fellowship after, please thank a hard-working Deacon. Of course, many people, including our hard-working Minister and our Director of Music are the major contributors, but your Deacons provide Liturgists, Ushers, the beautiful flowers, and Communion. In addition, they also help plan and carry out Memorial celebrations and special services.

We are very proud of our Fellowship Time and special events, and the hard work that goes into making them joyful experiences.

If you see these folks, please thank them for their hard work and dedication to the congregation of SCUCC:

Joan Burns, Mary Cavendish, LaMoyne Ebner,
Sherry Halleran, Sharon Hannon, Engrid Meng,
Judy Palaia, Jane Ramseth and Linda Winn.

Thank you,
Shirley Akins
Chair, Board of Deacons

REQUEST FROM THE HEALTH MINISTRY

Calling all Knitters

The Health Committee needs your help in giving one of our programs a new start. We have a Prayer Shawl program that needs knitters to make the shawls. We hope the knitter will say a prayer while they work. Linda Convertine will then give a shawl to our ill members and those who are unable to leave home.

The shawls are approximately 4 ft. by 2 ft. using soft and thick yarn. No pattern is needed. If you are not a knitter, please consider donating yarn. Any questions, contact Pam Rothmann Cokes at **pamrothcokes@gmail.com**.

UPDATE: Opportunities to Make a Lasting Gift

As we move forward with our rebuilding efforts, we have exciting plans to enhance our campus. We invite all members and friends to sponsor or contribute to these meaningful projects that will have a lasting impact on our congregation and our community.

- New Parking Lot Lighting - light cost $29,500 plus tbd (maybe $10,000) cost to repair wiring.
- Beautiful Front Landscaping with partial irrigation is starting soon! Irrigation is $27,500, and cleanup, plantings, dirt, mulch, and labor was negotiated to 127,500. The plans are available in the office.
- Lower Level Rebuild for Offices & Meeting Rooms - still obtaining bids $400,000- $800,000
- Memorial Garden Upgrade & Possible Expansion - $60,000-$120,000
- New heat-pump / high efficiency AC units required for fellowship hall to be installed very soon - $35,200
- Potential Solarization - Starting at $100,000 (dependent on chosen options)

Every contribution makes a difference, and we welcome your input on the design and vision of these projects.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss a potential gift, please contact the trustees!

DIANA DAY

TRUSTEE

FROM THE GREEN TEAM

Why Planting Butterfly Gardens Matter

Butterflies are rapidly fluttering out of existence from coast to coast, according to a new assessment published Thursday, at a rate that scientists worry could upend ecosystems and undercut pollination that sustains America's crops.

The total number of butterflies in the contiguous United States has declined 22 percent over a 20-year period, according to a study in the journal Science, as shrinking habitat, rising temperatures and a toxic array of pesticides kill off the delicate insects.

The study, published Thursday in the journal Science, is the most comprehensive tally of U.S. butterfly populations to date.

Nick Haddad, a Michigan State University ecologist who co-wrote the study, said he once had a hard time believing his neighbors when they told him they see fewer butterflies than in the past. "In my mind, I was nodding, thinking, 'Oh, they just went out on a bad day,'" he said. But now, the data has him convinced. "Butterflies are vanishing from the face of the earth," he added.

The crisis for butterflies is part of a troubling downturn in the number of bumblebees, fireflies and other insects that has been observed in Europe, the Caribbean and other places worldwide. It could signal a potential "bugpocalypse" that scientists are fiercely debating — a shift that may spell trouble for both nature and society.

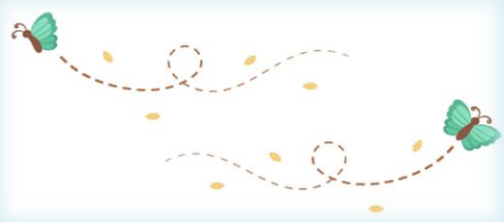
The loss of insects — “the little things that run the world,” as naturalist E.O. Wilson once put it — has dire implications for ecosystems in which birds and mammals rely on them for food and plants depend on them for pollination. Farmers and gardeners, meanwhile, may be losing allies that act as pollinators and natural pest control.

David Wagner, a University of Connecticut entomologist not involved in the study, said butterflies act as a “yardstick for measuring what is happening” among insects broadly. He called the new findings “catastrophic and saddening.” “The study is a much-needed, Herculean assessment,” he wrote in an email. “The tree of life is being denuded at unprecedented rates. I find it deeply disheartening. We can and must do better.

Researchers looked at over 12 million butterfly observations taken in 35 different monitoring programs across the contiguous United States from 2000 to 2020 for the study.

Some of those observations involved walking a predetermined path and noting every butterfly seen. Other counts were as informal as jotting down butterflies observed during a park visit. Both professional scientists and dedicated amateur enthusiasts collected crucial data.

“Scientists could not get all the data we used,” Haddad said. “It took this incredible grassroots effort of people interested in nature.”



> Yet other butterfly counts, such as one run by biologist Jeffrey Glassberg in Westchester County, New York, involved teams of people canvassing landscapes 15 miles in diameter for every fluttering insect they could see.

Glassberg, who has been surveying the area for more than four decades, has witnessed about 10 species vanish. Among the lost is the ghostly white butterfly called Acadian hairstreak, which he suspects has retreated north as the climate warms.

“It kills me,” said Glassberg, who founded the North American Butterfly Association. But the butterfly counts his organization runs, he added, are important for building the next generation of butterfly lovers. “You can’t save them if people don’t care about them,” he said.

Between 2000 and 2020, the total population of butterflies shrank by over a fifth, according to the study. A third of butterfly species showed significant declines while only 3 percent — nine species — experienced gains.

Among the kaleidoscope of species in steepest decline in the United States are the Florida white butterfly found in the Everglades and Keys, the Hermes copper butterfly native to Southern California and the tailed orange butterfly fluttering near the U.S.-Mexico border. Over 100 species have declined by more than 50 percent.

The findings likely underestimate the true scale of loss, said Wagner, since the researchers did not have enough data to make assessments of some of the rarest species also likely in decline.

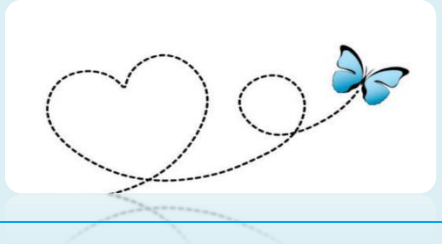
But Matthew Moran, a biology professor at Hendrix College who has been skeptical of an insect apocalypse, cautioned the study only looks at two decades of data and may not show a full picture of long-term trends. “However, it is clear that over the last 20 years, this group of well-studied and popular insects has undergone large declines, which should be concerning,” he added.

Three major factors weigh on butterfly populations, according to the researchers. Roads, homes and other development are cutting up and stamping out meadows where butterflies once flew. And rising temperatures due to human-caused climate change are drying out vegetation in the habitats that remain. “Every butterfly you see was a caterpillar that ate a plant,” said Collin Edwards, a quantitative ecologist who led the study. “So conditions that are bad for plants are going to be bad for butterflies.”

Many butterfly species tend to be doing better in the northern portions of their ranges, the researchers found, suggesting they are fluttering to higher latitudes to keep cool. The drought-stricken Southwest saw the steepest declines.

But the third and likely most important driver behind the butterfly bust is the boom in pesticide use since the 1990s, according to Haddad. In a previous study, he found the shift toward insecticides called neonicotinoids was the major cause for butterfly decline in the Midwest. “That’s what I think is most worrisome,” he said.

At least one butterfly he has personally studied — the Saint Francis’s satyr, found only in North Carolina — may have already gone extinct. Its decline is documented in the study, which looked at data up to 2020, “but it actually could be gone by now.”



More than 30 butterflies are protected under the Endangered Species Act. The latest butterfly proposed for the list is the iconic monarch.

Unlike bears and birds and many other threatened animals, insects breed quickly. If given a chance — meaning if people restore meadows and minimize pesticide use — they can rebound in a few generations.

The researchers hope their findings act as an alarm bell for a public that loves to paint murals of butterflies and release them at weddings, but, they said, still does too little to protect them in nature.

“They’re beautiful, right?” Haddad said. “I do think there’s a way that butterflies enrich our lives through thinking about biodiversity that isn’t possible for all other insects.”

Even planting a few butterfly-friendly flowers in your garden helps. If everyone did this, butterflies would have many places to eat, rest, and reproduce all over North America!

Adapted from:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/03/06/butterfly-decline-research-population-crisis/
by Dino Grandoni

Linda Graf
Green Team Committee

Choir Appreciation Sunday

This year's Choir Appreciation Sunday was a joyful celebration honoring our dedicated Choir members who work so hard to enrich our Worship celebrations through music. It was a day filled with gratitude, beauty, and harmony.

Special thanks to our Deacons and Church Administrators Jenny Chacon and Tammy Flatley, who thoughtfully arranged every detail - from the warm and inviting room decor to the generous and delicious brunch.

Each Choir member was presented with a red rose as a small token of our deep appreciation for their time, talent, and commitment.

We are also grateful to the Music Committee and our gifted Music Director for guiding us through an inspired season of music.

We look forward to the blessings and musical offerings of next year with joyful anticipation!

An Evening for Aspiring Artists

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who participated in the recent Paint and Sip event hosted by the members of Bat Yam. The night began with wine and light hors d'oeuvres, setting the tone for a relaxed and joyful gathering. Guided by the enthusiastic instruction of our talented artist, participants let their creativity shine.

A terrific musical playlist filled the room, adding inspiration and fun to the atmosphere. Thank you to everyone in our Bat Yam and SCCUC community who joined together for this special event with our spiritual neighbors. It was truly an evening of creativity, connection, and community spirit.

Bat Yam Passover Seder

On April 12th, Bat Yam Temple of the Islands joyfully celebrated their Passover Seder—an evening filled with spiritual fulfillment, renewed appreciation, and heartfelt contemplation. Rabbi Sunny uplifted the gathering with beautiful songs and inspiring stories that deepened our understanding of the rich Passover rituals and the significance of this sacred time.

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated and made the evening so special. We are especially grateful to the dedicated committee members of Bat Yam for their thoughtful planning and care in organizing such a meaningful celebration.

BOOKED FOR LUNCH 2025

Due to schedules changing, the Booked for Lunch session scheduled for May 8th has been canceled.

We will let you know when dates are scheduled for the Fall.

Participation At SCUCC

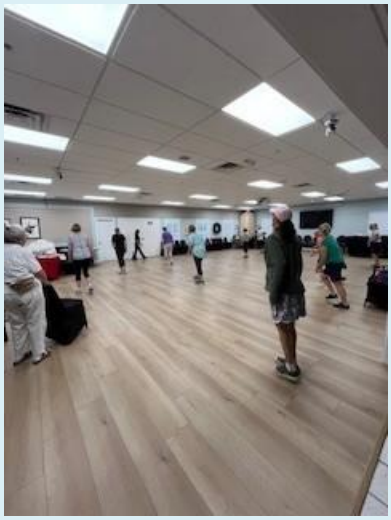
Be An Artist

Join Carol Good on **Tuesdays** in Fellowship Hall at **11:00am** for painting, conversation and fun. A time and space to explore your creative side.

Get Healthy

Santiva Islanders with Mahnaz Bassir for cardio & strength on **Monday, Wednesday & Friday.**

During the summer, there will be one class per day, starting at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

May 1: Dan Pace, Thomas Poole

May 3: Marion Eidem

May 7: Roy Gibson

May 9: Nancy Curtin

May 11: Carolyn Kaempffer

May 12: Deborah Kunkel

May 14: Gail Creager

May 17: Carol Jeschke

May 18: Barbara Cecala, Barbara Konz

May 19: Pat Goulait

May 21: Mim Sargent, Sherry Scherer

May 22: Scott Crater, Tom Nelson

May 25: Sherry Halleran

May 26: Ed Rand

May 27: Jo Ann Triftshauser

May 28: Ronald Graf, Frank Palaia

May 29: Doug Jacobson, John Royse, Chet Sadler, Lynda Swart

Happy Birthday Everyone!

Shell Point Women's Group May Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Women's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting on **Friday, May 9th at 11:30am. The ladies will meet at the two round tables located outside the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common.** Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at **emily.kletzien@gmail.com.**

Shell Point Men's Group May Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting on **Tuesday**, **May 13th at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. Please make reservations with Bruce Findley at **bruce.findley@gmail.com**.

Dinners for 6, 7 or 8

One of our most loved offerings are the social gatherings known as "Dinner for 6, 7 or 8", which meet during season (Fall through early Spring). If you would like to participate, or find out more, please send your name, email address and phone number to Shirley Akins at **akinsteach@gmail.com**.

Ushers Wanted

Please reach out to Inky Meng if you would like to be added to the contact list to help serve as an usher at Worship. She can be reached at **inkymeng@hotmail.com**.

Become a Liturgist

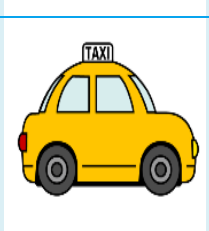
We are asking for readers this summer, for our Sunday Worship Celebrations. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Sharon Hannon at **sbkhannon@gmail.com**. **All members are welcome to become Liturgists.**

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.



JUNE 2025 SANIBEL LIGHT DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for submissions to the May edition of the *Sanibel Light* is **Friday, May 23, 2025.**

Please send all submissions as a Word document to:

Jenny Chacon, Church Administrator at **jenny@sanibelucc.org**

AND

Tammy Flatley, Assistant Church Administrator at **tammy@sanibelucc.org**

YOU'VE GOT PLANS: SANIBEL & CAPTIVA

SANTIVA ISLANDERS

THESE ARE THE ONES THAT REQUEST A SIGN UP

May 7-Island Night at Hammond Stadium click here

May 10 - Saturday Brunch at the Lighthouse Cafe click here

May 14- Bunko Party & Pot Luck Dessert click here

May 20 - Leisure Lunch at Wickies Lighthouse Restaurant — RSVP by 5/19/25 by calling Erika Arnowitz at (239) 472-4775, ext. 107 or emailing her at *erika@fishofsancap.org.*

Go to their website for more information, or to sign up

https://santivaislanders.org/activities-1

SCCF SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

https://sccf.org/calendar/

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, please send a request by email to 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

Scan QR Code to donate through PayPal.

Mark Boyea

mark@sanibelucc.org

239-312-8673

Jenny Chacon

jenny@sanibelucc.org

239-312-8670

Tammy Flatley

tammy@sanibelucc.org

239-472-0497

office@sanibelucc.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00-3:00pm

SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH CHRIST