

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Worship Celebration

January 12, 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 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
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Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: This is the day that God has blessed us with.

All: Let us rejoice and be grateful for it.

One: Let us sing, listen, pray and be in community;

All: Knowing that where two or more are gathered, God is present.

One: Let us come before God with open hearts and minds;

All: Ready to receive God's grace and inspiration.

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #7 (on p. _)

Opening Prayer (together)

Holy One, we have begun another new year. But while the page on the calendar has turned, many of the struggles, uncertainties and anxieties from the year past remain.

In this New Year though, as in every year, You have given us everything we need to do our part in bringing our lives, this nation and the world closer to Your vision for them. You have given us all the material and spiritual gifts we need to make peace, provide justice and create reconciliation. You have offered us your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.

Open us up to it. Open us up to the courage Your spirit offers. Open us up to the honesty it demands. Open us up to the compassion and wisdom that are its gifts.

You have given us everything we need to make things better - to make them right. Now give us the will to do Your will.

Amen.

Music Meditation

A Time of Prayer with The Lord's Prayer

(Please use the wording most meaningful to you.)

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Music

***Presentation of Offering and Congregational Response**

(Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, #48)

*To God, all glorious heavenly light
To Christ, revealed in earthly light
To God the Spirit, now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise*

***Prayer of Dedication**

We offer You now, O God, this part of all You have blessed us with. We offer it not because we have to, but because we want to. And we want to because You not just bless us but call us to be a blessing to others. May it be so.

Amen.

Ministry of the Word Mark 1:4-11, 16-20 (on p. _)
(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Mark 1:4-11, 16-20

Message

Dr. Mark Boyea

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #404 (on p. _)

Blessing

Postlude

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

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“You are imperfect, you are wired for struggle, but you are worthy of love and belonging.” Brown, American professor and author

“Live in confidence that when God looks at you, God sees beauty. God sees value. God sees Hope.” Tammy Maltby, American speaker and writer

“It’s not our job to play judge and jury, to determine who is worthy of our kindness and who is not.” Josh Radner, American actor and director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget Review After Worship Today!

Please note that the Trustees will be hosting a 2025 Budget Review Session immediately after Worship today in Fellowship Hall. There will be an abbreviated Fellowship Time opportunity to get refreshments, followed soon after by the presentation and a chance for you to ask questions.

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.

Church 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 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.

“Ask the Minister” Sunday – February 2

Our next “*Ask the Minister Sunday*” will take place on **Sunday, February 2**. Instead of a Message that morning, Mark will address as many of your biblical, theological and spiritual questions as time permits.

So get those questions in ahead of time to Mark by email at mark@sanibelucc.org, text them to 908-477-5426, or just come ready to ask them that morning.

These regular “change ups” from the Sunday norm continue to be both informative and enjoyable.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Our first unit for 2025 begins THIS TUESDAY, January 14!

“Church on Sunday, Citizen on Monday” Tuesdays

Tuesdays: January 14 and 21; February 4, 11 and 25

7:00-8:15pm on Zoom

In conjunction with the start of a New Year as well as a time of government transition, this five-week unit will explore what it means for us to live as citizens who are Christians in a nation that is religiously and spiritually diverse.

Our sessions will be grounded in the work of Professor Emeritus of Religion and Christian ethicist Eric Mount, exploring issues related to economics, governance and the environment, with an emphasis on Mount's "Three C's" of Covenant, Community and the Common Good.

Each session will be sufficiently independent to accommodate those who are unable to participate in all of them. We hope you will consider joining in on all or any of these timely and needed discussions.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet this Thursday, January 16, 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.

The Choir Welcomes New Members!



Our Choir has been growing this fall, with several new members already, and is looking forward to welcoming even more singers.

If you enjoy singing, or have always wanted to sing, but never quite managed it, this is the perfect time to join in. Our group rehearses at 4:30 PM on Wednesday afternoons, and often goes out to eat at Jerry's afterward.

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.

From the Mission & Benevolence Committee

After a two-year pause following Hurricane Ian, the Sanibel UCC in conjunction with Bat Yam Temple is pleased to announce the return of the monthly Food and Paper Products Drive.

When: Every Third Wednesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Church Parking Driveway

Each organization will supply 2–3 members to accept drive-in donations of:

1. Non-perishable food items
2. Bath and kitchen paper products

Collected donations will benefit local neighbors in need through F.I.S.H. and the Gladiolus Food Pantry.

How to Volunteer:

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



“Adopt a Sunday” Fellowship Hour

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:

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 back of Fellowship Hall. Serving is easy, and help will be available if needed.

1. **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.
2. **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 January Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Men's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting **this Tuesday, January 14th at noon at the Palm Grill in the Woodlands Common**. Please make reservations with Candy Atchison at JimAtch@aol.com or 561-714-4655.

Shell Point Women's Group February Luncheon

The Sanibel Congregational UCC Shell Point Women's Group will have its next monthly luncheon meeting on **Friday, February 14th at 11:30am**. **The location is yet to be determined**. Please make reservations with Emily Kletzien at 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.



Ushers Needed

We have ushers lined up through January, but if you would like to be added to the contact list, please reach out to Inky Meng at inkymeng@hotmail.com.

Interested in being a Liturgist?

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Sunday Worship these last few months.


If you are interested in being a Liturgist, dates are open for March, April and May. Please send an email to skbhannon@aol.com with all of the dates you are available to read, and I will contact you in return.

Happy New Year!

Sharon Hannon



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 SCU  mmunity.



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 Thursday.**

Assisting With Today's Worship Celebration

Liturgist:

Ushers:

Ministers: All Members and Friends of SCUCC

Moderator: Neal Halleran Vice Moderator: Kathy Y. Carter

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

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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