



Siesta Key Chapel

Newsletter

JANUARY 2023



From the Pastor's Desk

Tis the season... for wise men to visit the Baby Jesus (**Epiphany**)...for the **Baptism of Jesus** by John the Baptist...for the **Work of Christmas** to begin.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman)

What does **The Work of Christmas** look like for the people of Siesta Key Chapel these days? As always, we begin with **Jesus**. Born a child in Bethlehem; baptized in humility and obedience in the River Jordan; walking alongside us as **Emmanuel, God-with-us**; Jesus shows us the way to keep our eyes on God as we care for one another with gentleness, compassion, courage and love.

Through the on-going activity of the **Holy Spirit**, we respond to the energizing call to join with others in the Christian journey, by:

Singing our faith, praying and praising God
and being fed by scripture and sermon together each Sunday morning;

Engaging with joy and commitment
through time, talent and treasure throughout the week;
sharing in activities of Fellowship,
Mission & Outreach in our connectional life together.

Beginning January 8, **Chapel on the Beach** will be held every Sunday at 9:00am; our new **Adult Christian Education** series, thanks to **Julia Musto**, will be held at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall with a fresh slate of presenters and intriguing topics; leading into 11:00am worship. **Bible Studies, Men's Fellowship, Knit & Sew, Chapel Choir, and All-Church Brunches** are going strong, always open to newcomers and returnees alike.

How will you engage in opportunities for Christian living in the New Year? May 2023 be a year of joy, as together, we follow the way of Jesus.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Ruth

Christmas Eve Live Nativity



Christmas Eve
Eastern Screech Owl in pavilion

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Merry Christmas and Happy 2023 to all!

This coming March will mark one full year of my tenure as Music Director at Siesta Key Chapel and I could not be more gleeful. The Christmas services were everything that I had hoped and more. We bore witness to the birth of Christ with services that musically ran the gamut. We experienced British Carols, French Carols, Creole Jazz, African rhythms and texts, contemporary hymns and songs, and more! The hallmark of our music program is its diversity. We create music in all styles and that is an exceptional trait. Hopefully everyone enjoyed it!

As we ring in the 2023 calendar year we are already over a month into the liturgical year which began with the First Sunday of Advent on November 27, 2022. During Advent, you may have noticed Pastor Ruth wearing purple stoles. A majority of the candles on the Advent wreath are also purple. This historically regal color signifies times of penitential preparation. As such, it is used both for Advent as well as Lent. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are the themes of each Sunday's respective candle. The rose color on the third Sunday highlights the anticipatory joy of the coming of Christ at Christmas, even in the period of waiting.

Immediately following Advent, of course, is Christmas! White, a symbol of holiness and purity, is used here and on days that mark pivotal events in the life of Christ, such as Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, as well as Easter, Trinity, and Christ the King Sundays. Sundays marked with white have great significance to our understanding of Jesus as God.

After the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, we enter into the first section of the largest period of the liturgical year, Ordinary Time, which is signified by the color green. What comes to mind when we think of the color green? Grass, perhaps? Plants? Hedges? Palm trees? All of the above give images of life. During this time the readings often remind us of the life we have been given to fulfill the mission of Christ's church here on earth.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, to take place on February 22nd this year, and is also marked with the regally penitential color of purple. The Lenten season culminates in Palm Sunday where Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem on a donkey to large crowds. All four of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) have accounts of this event. We use purple for Holy Week!

Maundy Thursday is predicated upon everything to do with Chapter 13... not the bankruptcy proceeding but rather the Gospel of John. The term 'Maundy' is derived from the Latin word 'Mandatum' which means commandment. In Spanish the word is "Mandamiento". Depending on the translation, the scripture reads as such: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." On this date we commemorate the Last Supper and Jesus' example. The church is then stripped bare in preparation for Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, and the succeeding 49 days, are marked with white and gold. Pentecost is the only date on the liturgical calendar for which the color red is prescribed. Red, a representation of fire, is oft associated with the "tongues of fire" spoken of in the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit comes to the early church. The Monday after Pentecost we return to the aforementioned season of Ordinary Time. The liturgical year culminates in the late November celebration of Christ the King which, similar to Easter, has a white and gold theme.

Speaking of Pentecost, I am extremely excited to announce that we will once again host a Jazz Service this year with the full complement of Jazz musicians to truly celebrate those "tongues of fire". Pentecost falls on Sunday May 28th, 2023 so mark your calendars now! We will also be announcing the Spring concert series to be held at the "same Bat time, same Bat channel"- twice a month on Sundays at 3PM. Schedule to be announced in the coming weeks.

Interested in joining our **Chapel Choir**? There are two opportunities for you and anyone that you may know! Our regular Wednesday rehearsals will resume on January 25th at 6:30PM in the music room. If this schedule doesn't quite fit with yours there is no reason to fret! Join us at 9:00AM on Sundays to practice for worship. We are happy to have you!

As always, a moment of levity- What is Good King Wenceslas' favorite type of pizza?...*Deep pan, crisp, and even.*

STEWARDSHIP - Sheryll & Dwight Wilson



STEADFAST, TRUSTWORTHY, COMMITTED

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
(Matthew 6:21)

Thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon our church through your generous year-end giving and your pledges. Total 2023 pledges are just under \$300,000 and still growing.

We promised more definition around the agencies Siesta Key Chapel supports directly, through the Peace River Presbytery and through our per capita contribution to General Assembly, and here it is:

Siesta Key Chapel

About 10% of the Siesta Key Chapel budget is committed to Outreach to:

Our Community

Beth-El Farm Workers, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army of Sarasota, Second Chance, Last Opportunity, Connect Our Kids, Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center

Our Nation

Young Life, Samaritan Purse, Resurrection House

Our World

Raramuri Project (Mexico), Cooperative for Ed (Guatemala)

Peace River Presbytery

About 2.5% of the Siesta Key Chapel budget is committed to the our Presbytery, which support the Presbytery administration support and outreach to:

Mision Peniel Farmworker Ministry, Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center, FLAPDAN (Disaster Assistance), Missionaries Dan & Elizabeth Turk (Madagascar), Presbyterian Homes and Housing Foundation Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance

PCUSA

About \$1,200 of the Siesta Key Chapel budget is remitted to the PCUSA General Assembly as a Per Capita Contribution, which support the General Assembly administration support and outreach to:

Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis, Kenyan Scholarship Fund, Nicaraguan Community Partnership, Helping Hands Peru Partnership.

It's never too late to pledge!

CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - 9am every Sunday beginning Jan. 8



Chapel on the Beach services continue on Siesta Key Beach. (Access #2 Sunset Pier at the end of Avenida Messina.) December 18 saw wonderful attendance with 42 people, 7 dogs and much joy in worship.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Julia Musto



Sundays January 8 through April 2

Classes are held in Fellowship Hall at **10:00 AM**

Continental Breakfast will be served

Jan. 8 – Kickoff - Julia Musto

“The Story of the Bible”

Jan. 15, 22, 29 – Dr. Chris Cortman, 3-part series

“Anxiety in the modern age: Treating anxiety with a faith-based mindset”

Feb. 5, 12, 19 – Chaplain Chuck Moffett, 3-part series

“Parables of Jesus through a Jewish Middle-Eastern lens”

- 1) The Parables of the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep
- 2) The Parable of the Prodigal Son
- 3) The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Feb. 26, Mar. 5 – Elder Carson Brown, 2-part series

“Joy – The Christian roots of happiness and emotions”

March 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2 – Dr John Parks, 4-part series

“Spiritual and moral issues in American fiction:
Short stories to challenge our faith”

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Dick Ulrich



Beth El Toy Drive

The total receipts for the toy drive were \$665.00. That money was used to purchase 104 toys. In addition, four individuals who contributed bags of toys added another 50 toys to the total count. Thank you to all who contributed and also to **Jerry & Gretchen Van Dyke** for delivering the toys and working from 2-6pm handing out food to at least 600 family units.

Join the men of Siesta Key Chapel at 8am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. This month we meet on **January 10 and 24.**



CALL FOR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation and corporation of Siesta Key Chapel is called for Sunday, January 22, 2023, following 11:00AM worship, in the Sanctuary and via zoom. We will receive a summary of the Annual Report for 2022, and present the 2023 budget.

**All annual reports are due to the Church Office & Clerk by
Monday Jan. 9, 2023.**

Siesta Key Chapel Bible Study

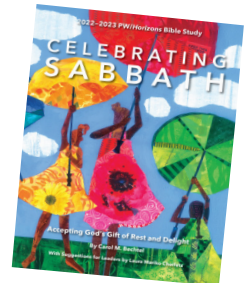
CELEBRATING SABBATH:

Accepting God's Gifts of Rest and Delight

Overview:

- Sponsored by *Presbyterian Women of Siesta Key Chapel*
- October 2022-April 2023
- Open to ALL women and men; members, visitors, and friends
- Drop-in format; no registration required
- Study Guides (\$11) available from Ruth Ulrich Sundays after worship or in the Administrative Office during the week
- **Bay Village** - 10am
- **Siesta Key Chapel** - 12 noon with light lunch

- Wed. January 4, 2023
 - Lesson 4: **Sabbath & Surrender**
 - Exodus 16
 - Lesson 5: **Sabbath & Servitude**
 - Genesis 2:15, 3:17-19; Exodus 31:12-18, 35:1-29, 36:1-7
- Wed. February 1, 2023
 - Lesson 6: **Sabbath & Hospitality**
 - Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Wed. March 1, 2023
 - Lesson 7: **Sabbath & Self-Care**
 - Luke 13:10-21
- Wed. April 5, 2023
 - Lesson 8: **Sabbath & Justice**
 - Isaiah 58
 - Lesson 9: **Sabbath & Community**
 - Acts 2:42-47



PET-FRIENDLY WORSHIP



Siesta Key Chapel is pet friendly.
We welcome pet lovers to bring their fur babies to Siesta Key Chapel to worship with us Sunday mornings at 11 am. The weather is beautiful and we have comfortable seating on our covered pavilion deck where you can enjoy the service and music. Walking our nature trail is a pleasant way to complete your visit. Come worship and meet other pet families that find fellowship at Siesta Key Chapel.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brad Vincent
- 2 Betsy Andrews
Rev. Julian Alexander
- 6 Ethel Okker
- 11 Irene Curry
- 13 Scott Getty
- 14 Sue Newquist
- 18 Barbara Deist
- 19 Dale Deist
- 20 Aerial Keidel
Dwight Wilson
- 21 Gary Emmick
- 27 George Loesel



NEW SKC WORSHIP SCHEDULE - beginning Jan. 8

EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday Jan. 8, 2023 through Sunday April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday)

9:00AM



Chapel on the Beach

10:00AM



Adult Christian
Education

11:00AM



Worship at
Siesta Key Chapel



January

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10am Chapel Worship 11am Rev. Julian Celebration	2 Church Office Closed	3 6:30pm NA	4 Sabbath Bible Study 10am Bay Village 12 noon SKC	5 7pm AA	6	7
8 NEW TIMES! 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship with Baptism & Communion	9	10 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	11	12 7pm AA	13	14
15 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship 12pm Budget Workshop	16	17 4:00pm Session 6:30pm NA	18	19 7pm AA	20	21
22 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship 11:45pm Annual Congregational Meeting All-Church Brunch At Keke's immediately following Congregational Meeting	23	24 8:00am Men's Fellowship 6:30pm NA	25	26 7pm AA	27	28
29 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:45am New Member Inquiry Class 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship	30	31 6:30pm NA				

February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Sabbath Bible Study 10am Bay Village 12 noon SKC	2	3	4
5 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship with Communion	6	7 6:30pm NA	8	9 7pm AA	10	11
12 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship "Souperbowl Sunday"	13	14 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	15	16 7pm AA	17	18
19 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship	20	21 6:30pm NA	22 12 noon Ash Wednesday Service	23 7pm AA	24	25
26 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship 12pm Church Brunch	27	28 8:00am Men's Fellowship 4:00pm Session 6:30pm NA				

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - Julian Alexander is 106!

Happy 106th Birthday Rev. Julian Alexander. The celebration was held following Sunday worship on New Year's Day. Members filled Fellowship Hall to share in the celebration, sing Happy Birthday, and enjoy cake and coffee. A big thank you to **Sheila Benjamin** for the festive decorations and setup in Fellowship Hall.



Rev. Sam, Rev. Julian, Rev. Ruth



Happy 106th Birthday Cake



Singing Happy Birthday to Rev. Julian

NEW MEMBER INQUIRY CLASS

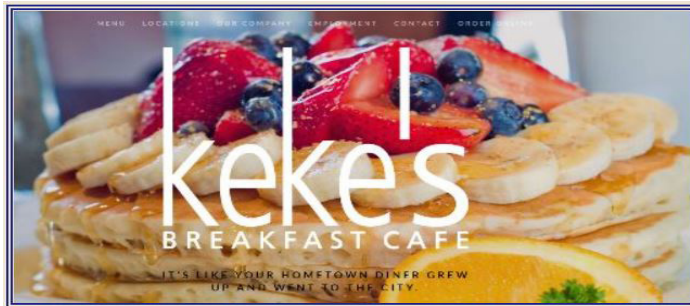
Sunday Jan. 29 at 9:45am in Classroom 4.
Light breakfast provided.

All are welcome to learn about membership at Siesta Key Chapel,
and get to know the Pastor and members of Session.

RSVP to Margie Kraft, Membership Chair,
Membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org
or call the Chapel Office (941-349-1166).

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Sunday Jan. 15, immediately following worship, Treasurer Sherry Davis will hold an informal budget workshop to present the 2023 draft budget and answer questions prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting the following week.



Next All-Church Brunch will be at Keke's

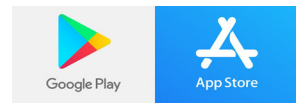
Date: Sunday January 22
Time: Immediately following the Congregational Meeting
RSVP: Required by January 19
Call: Church Office 941-349-1166
Email: administrator@SiestaKeyChapel.org
Sign-up: Sundays at the Coffee Table
Location: 3456 Clark Rd, Sarasota, FL 34231

Instant Church Directory App - Instructions for use



The SKC member directory is created in Instant Church Directory. You can access the directory on your phone by downloading the phone app. Using this app is a quick and easy way to find the most current member contact information. Below are instructions.

- Open the App Store on your phone
 - Android phones - Get it on Google Play
 - Apple phones - Get it on the App Store
- Download the App called Instant Church Directory
- Set up your login/password using the email you have listed in the directory and enter a password of your choosing.



Once logged in you can view all members listed along with their contact information.

The image on the right is the phone view after logging in.

Anyone who would like help in setting this up may contact Karen in the Administration office at 941-349-1166 to arrange a time to come in with your phone.

