



Siesta Key Chapel



NEWSLETTER

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



Fun Fact: **A group of alligators is called a congregation!** And like alligators, our congregation is, at times, quietly meditative, as on **Ash Wednesday**, yet also ready to spring into action, as on **SouperBowl Sunday**, and with our **giving MATCH challenge**. We, too, enjoy being by the water, as evidenced at our delightfully expanding **Chapel on the Beach** services.

On Ash Wednesday we held our noontime service in the Chapel, followed by a **pop-up sunset service at the beach**. The scene was something like a movie (*O Brother, Where Art Thou?*) with people hearing music, seeing people gathering by the cross, and streaming out of the water, from under colorful umbrellas, and all along the shoreline, until there was hardly any sand to be seen in a large circle around the pier. Approximately 90 people felt the Spirit's nudge, with around 50 coming forward for the imposition of ashes at the end of the service, which lead right into Mike Cosentino's flag ceremony and a stunning sunset. Along with Ash Wednesday, we are seeing 100-145 attendees on our weekly **Sundays at 9am Chapel at the Beach**. God's Word is being proclaimed with joy!

Many thanks to **Youth Olivia Bell**, who spearheaded our **SouperBowl Sunday** canned soup drive for the local food pantry. Through your generosity, we received 110 cans of soup and \$90, to share with those whose bowls are not so full this season.

Please enjoy the abundance of church activities this month, including a wonderful Concert Series, interactive Bible Studies, Men's Fellowship, Knit & Sew, All-Church Brunches, and plenty of volunteer opportunities (Easter Egg Hunt helpers; Scripture reading; Ushering; Office Volunteer corps...) I look forward to seeing many of you in your Girl Scout sashes, vests, and beanies when we celebrate **Girl Scout Sunday** on March 12. Thin Mints (and other G.S. cookies) will be for sale on the Pavilion by a local Scout troop!

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Grace & Peace, Pastor Ruth

CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - 9am every Sunday through May 28



MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Greetings!

Lent is upon us and Easter is unbelievably imminent. Musically, Lent is often marked with hymns in minor keys. Think *"Forty Days and Forty Nights"* or *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we "are dust, and to dust [we] shall return." (Genesis 3:19) reminding us of the fall of Adam and Eve from a state of innocence in the Garden of Eden. During this season many are called to fast or reflect upon past personal sins. Maybe you celebrate "Fat Tuesday" and then give up sweets, carbs, or your nightly glass of wine until Easter Sunday. In our readings we hear about Jesus' temptation in the desert and the journey to the cross. All of this may seem to be a complete one eighty degree turn from the joy we experienced just weeks ago at Christmas; however, the Christmas and Lenten season are more intertwined than we might believe.

This past December, a great friend of mine by the name of John T. Kyler, a Catholic musician and theologian, wrote an article entitled "Should Christmas Music be Less Joyful?" In this article we are reminded of the four canticles in Luke's Gospel regularly associated with Christmas that we should keep in mind during this season of Lent.

1. The Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant." (Luke 1:46-48)
2. Zachariah's Benedictus: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them". (Luke 1:68-69)
3. The Angels' Gloria: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those who He favors" (Luke 2:14)
4. Simeon's Nunc Dimittis: "...for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."

Through these canticles we are reminded of the peaceful and redemptive love of our God as well as our own salvation. Let us not look upon this season as one of darkness but one of great light in which we remember the importance of the daily resurrection we are granted through each sunrise. One in which we can triumph over sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, and all hatred. Each sunrise provides us with a new birth.

On Saturday February 18th we hosted a group of young organists from Dr. Laura Ellis' organ studio at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Five undergraduates took part in an organ crawl of Sarasota churches. We began with our beautiful Schantz organ at SKC before driving over to St. Boniface to try out their gorgeous Möller pipe organ. After a lovely lunch downtown they traveled to Church of the Redeemer before heading back home Saturday afternoon. We hope to have these young organists back again in the fall or next spring on our Concert Series.

Speaking of the Concert Series- we started off the Spring on a thrilling Latin note with a string quartet playing chamber music composed by Latin American composers from Mexico, Brazil, Columbia and more. Many noticed that the melodies from these compositions have been turned into popular songs over the years. We had over fifty people in attendance and look forward to having YOU join us on March 19th for a Jazz concert featuring Michele Pruyne and Kevin Celibi's Harmonic Sanity Jazz Band playing Gypsy Jazz. This is a bit different from our Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller archetype of what Jazz is; however, you are sure to enjoy it! Please come and bring your friends!

Beginning March 1st we will begin **9:30AM choir rehearsals in the music room** for those that are interested in singing for either the 9AM Beach Service or our 11AM worship service in the Chapel. Please stop by and try it out! No musical experience required!

Joke of the month:

Every year I tune in to Dick Clark's New Year's "Rockin' Eve" but they just keep dropping the ball!



STEWARDSHIP - Sheryll & Dwight Wilson, Co-chairs



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

MATCH CHALLENGE: The 2023 Matching Challenge has only **40 more days** until the closing date, reflecting the **forty days of Lent** leading up to Easter. To date, we have received a total of \$8,030 towards the \$50,000 available matching from an anonymous donor. A big thank you to the 17 households who have already stepped up to the challenge!

Amounts received represent 16% of the total possible matching amount. Please take some time out of this coming week to prayerfully consider making a matching gift. Don't forget to add place a note with your gift or write "MATCH" to the memo line on the check. Just imagine –what could Siesta Key Chapel do with \$100,000? It takes a congregation to build a church, so help Siesta Key Chapel in **Building the Future Together**.

PLEDGE: If you haven't pledged, it is never too late (seriously, never). If you'd like to verify we received your pledge, call the office. [Note: MATCH donations are above and beyond Stewardship Pledges.]



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Julia & Mark Musto

Sundays January 8 through May 28

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

Continental Breakfast will be served



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”



March All-Church Brunch will be at Carrabba's

Date: Sunday, March 26

Time: 12:30 PM

RSVP: Required by February 24

- Call: Church office 941-349-1166
- Email: administrator@siestakeychapel.org
- Sign-up: Sundays at the Coffee Table

Location: 1940 Stickney Point Road, Sarasota

March



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Sabbath Bible Study 12 noon SKC	2 Presbytery @ Naples 7pm AA	3	4
5 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship with Communion	6	7 3pm Jurenka Condo Meeting 6:30pm NA	8	9 7pm AA	10	11 Set clocks ahead
12 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship, Girl Scout 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 w/bagpiper 3pm Concert Series	20 8am-3:30pm Presbyterian Women Retreat at Siesta Key Chapel	21 6:30pm NA	22	23 7pm AA	24	25
26 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship 12:30pm All-Church Brunch	27	28 8:00am Men's Fellowship 4:00pm Session 6:30pm NA	29	30 7pm AA	31	

April



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Palm Sunday Worship with Communion 3pm Concert Series	3	4 6:30pm NA	5 12 noon Sabbath Bible Study at SKC	6 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Tables for 12 7pm AA	7 12 Noon Good Friday Service	8 9am-12pm Easter Egg Hunt at SKC
9 Easter Sunday Service 9am Chapel on the Beach 11am SKC Chapel	10 SKC OFFICE CLOSED	11 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	12	13 7pm AA	14	15
16 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship 3pm Concert Series	17	18 6:30pm NA	19	20 7pm AA	21	22
23 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship 12:30am All-Church Brunch 3pm Concert Series	24	25 8:00am Men's Fellowship 4:00pm Session 6:30pm NA	26	27	28	29
30 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship						

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Margaret Todd	18	Malin Parker
2	Linda McDonald	19	Rev. Margaret Towner
4	John Matsock		Lisa Getty
5	Jeanine Anderson	21	Lois Mast
8	Lisa Holliday	22	Margaret Young
9	Doris Cundiff	23	Frank Jurenka
	Gretchen Van Dyke	28	Gail Jurenka
10	Eleanore Saliba	30	Erica Perry Briody
13	Christina Halverson	31	Carol Magee
14	Beryl Perry		Xiujuan (Lucy) Gu
17	Greg Anderson		
	Mary Margaret Kandler		



Happy Birthday - Dick and Ruth Ulrich



Thank you Dick and Ruth for your many years of volunteer service.

Siesta Key **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Siesta Key Chapel 9:00 am - Noon

4615 Gleason Avenue - Siesta Key, FL

Advance Registration Required

siestakeychamber.com or 941-349-3800

\$12 per Child (ages 1-6) includes Egg Hunt, Activities & Goody Bag

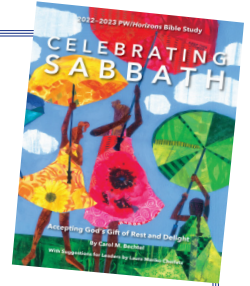


Presented by
SIESTA KEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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
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- **Siesta Key Chapel with Bay Village** - 12 noon with light lunch
 - **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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Dick Ulrich



Next Meetings - March 14 & 28

Men's Fellowship is a Christian organization for the men of Siesta Key Chapel and their male friends. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, the gatherings begin at 8:00 A.M. with a light breakfast and Christian fellowship, current topics, study, and stories. All men are welcome and it is a wonderful way to start the day, with good old-fashioned fun and laughter in a relaxed atmosphere. Invite a male friend!