

KEY NOTES



Siesta Key Chapel

God's Treehouse

Newsletter

May 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***



Springtime continues to be filled with the joy of practicing new ways of **"being the church"** in the world. Rather than imagining floating on heavenly clouds in the sweet by-and-by, Siesta Key Chapel is actively joining in what God is doing through us this season.

Young Life participated with vigor in *Chapel on the Beach* on April 23, and in Christian Education and the 11am Chapel service on both April 23 and 30. Eight youth, 3 leaders, and 2 small siblings were warmly welcomed into the life of Siesta Key Chapel. Their honest **testimonies** and clear **love for Jesus** offers us a fresh take on what "being the church" looks like for us today.

The SK Chamber of Commerce **Easter Egg Hunt**, held on our Chapel grounds, was a morning of **colors, laughter and community**. One hundred and fifty small children, live animals, a firetruck, games and fun was shepherded by a dozen SKC staff and volunteers, working in harmony with the Chamber, Rotary, Girl Scouts, and a variety of other local organizations.

Chapel on the Beach welcomed 150 worshippers on Palm Sunday and over 200 on Easter Sunday. The Easter morning early arrivals enjoyed a **rainbow** at Patriot's Pier, followed by a **waterspout** and distant thunder and lightning that sent us hightailing up to the Chapel for the beach service. The sanctuary was packed with joyous worshippers in bathing suits and Easter outfits; a sight to behold. The common theme afterward was variations on: *"I've never been inside this church before; what a beautiful, nature-filled space to worship God!" "I feel like I've come home."* *"Surely God is present in this place."*

The most recent Class of **New Members** at SKC did not ask, "What can the church do for me?" Instead, the most frequent question we heard was, "How do I sign up to volunteer at **Beth-El?**"

All-Church Brunches, Men's Fellowship and Knit & Sew continue to offer **opportunities for fellowship** that spill out into caring for others with gratitude and appreciation for the gifts we have been given by our gracious God, including the community of saints surrounding us at SKC.

On Easter Sunday, the people of SKC gratefully met the generous \$50,000 **MATCH CHALLENGE**, resulting in \$100,000 for a new church project of mission and ministry. From the pulpit, a **church-wide challenge** has been given: **memorize the 23rd Psalm** until we all can speak it with confidence and assurance, knowing that **Jesus is the Good Shepherd**, making us lie down in green pastures for rest and restoration; leading us beside still waters to partake of the Water of Life, and challenging us to lovingly do the same for our neighbors.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

May it be so.

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ruth*



Good Friday, Stations of the Cross
Downtown Sarasota

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Greetings!

What an exciting season we have had musically here at Siesta Key Chapel! On April 16th we hosted the **Sarasota Piano Trio** playing works by composers from across the world including Brazil, France, Italy, and Spain. **The Romm Trio** joined us April 23rd for another brilliantly executed eclectic concert. Be sure and join us on Sunday May 7th at 3PM for an educational Opera concert given by Sarasota Opera veterans **Nicholas Martorano and Elizabeth Novella.**

I was particularly proud of the music on Palm Sunday! **Tim Smith** joined us in the morning to sing Faure's *The Palms* as well as the solo section in the Robert Ray piece *He Never Failed Me Yet* that we sang as postlude. We sang the latter as the finale of the Gospel Concert Tribute to Robert Ray later that afternoon at which **Michele Pruyn** sang the solo. Palm Sunday happened to fall on April 2nd this year which happened to have been my 30th birthday. I mentioned it to no one; however, to me there was no better birthday gift, admittedly to myself, than to be able to share a concert of music that I learned from some of my mentors that I hold in the highest regard. From the commentary that I've heard, it seems that many at SKC appreciate Gospel, Jazz, and other music not necessarily within the scope of common church repertoire. If that is something that I can bring to the table- I'm grateful for that alone!

I'd like to thank **Dr. Martha Stiehl** for her participation in our Easter services. Our scheduled beach service was curtailed by thunder and lightning... the first time ever! The Beach Service was moved to the Chapel. Surprisingly, the turnout may just rival the Coronation of King Charles happening on May 6th! After both services Martha played Widor's *Toccata*, an extraordinary feat of finger dexterity. I learned from her husband that it has been a favorite of hers since they met fifty years ago! I'm elated that she continues to share her talents with us!

Our **Jazz Pentecost Service** will take place at the 11AM service on May 28th. It promises to be both a fun and exciting event. Please consider singing in the choir! Rehearsals will take place each Wednesday at 9:30AM in the music room. All are welcome. Choir will take a hiatus post Pentecost, through the Summer, until September. Hope to see you at rehearsal!

Musical Joke of the month:

Lawrence Welk's and Dick Clark's first tip to make a Bandstand???
Take away the chairs.



Congratulations Fred Teeter!
Voted
Volunteer of the Year
at Bay Haven School
of Sarasota County Schools.

Siesta Key Chapel

Free Will
Offering

CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS



**SUNDAY, MAY 7
3 PM**

Soprano, Elizabeth Novella
Baritone, Nick Martorano



A program filled with some of the greatest hits of opera and musical theater, this concert will illustrate the development of classical singing over time - how it has changed and evolved over the course of hundreds of years.



**4615 GLEASON AVE., SIESTA KEY
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CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth

Patriot's Pier (10 Beach Road) is experiencing an ever-growing gathering of worshippers who find **faith and fellowship** at *Chapel on the Beach*. The half-hour contemporary service offers a variety of music and musicians, scripture, prayer and an inspiring message, along with a free, light breakfast. Join us, and invite your friends and neighbors to meet us at the beach on Sunday mornings. All are welcome to join in the joy of worshipping God in nature every Sunday at 9:00am through May 28.





Young Life participation in *Chapel on the Beach* and 11am service.



EASTER EGG HUNT

This year the Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce annual Easter Egg Hunt was hosted by Siesta Key Chapel. The kids had a wonderful time hunting for eggs, the weather was beautiful and everything went seamlessly. Additional activities included craft tables, meeting the Sarasota County Mounted Police and their horses, viewing reptiles and other animals from the Big Cat Sanctuary and Jungle Gardens, a local fire truck, food trucks and photos with the Easter Bunny. It was a joyous event we look forward to hosting again next year.



Photos courtesy of Samantha Ponzilla Media



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Julia & Mark Musto

Sundays through May 28

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

Continental Breakfast will be served

May 7.....Rick Chenoweth - Beach Ministry

May 14.....Craig Holiday - SKC Architecture;
The History and the Architect's Inspiration

May 21, 28...Dr. Chris Cortman - Forgiveness Revisited



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Dick Ulrich

Next Meetings - May 9 & 23

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!

All are invited on May 28
immediately following worship
~sponsored by Men's Fellowship~

Rev. Dr. Paul Kirbas



On Sunday, April 30, Dr. Paul Kirbas offered a class in our education hour that was entitled **“Dissecting the Bible: The Surprising Twist that Happens when we look Deeper into the Scriptures”**. Using the example of a TV show back in the 70’s and 80’s called Quincy ME, the class began by recalling that the show often started with a simple understanding of a possible death, until a deeper investigation of the Medical Examiner revealed an interesting twist, that changed everyone’s thinking. Likewise, the Bible is filled with scriptures that often lead us to simple understandings, but a deeper dissection of those passages leads to a

very different idea of what the passages might be saying, or in some cases, what they might not be saying. Using four different passages, Dr. Kirbas led us through a dissecting examination that revealed surprising insights that can cause a whole different idea of what the passage is all about. From the cliff hanging ending of the Gospel of Mark, to a real punch found in the poetic words of I Corinthians 13, from what seems like a multiple personality in the book of James, to a conspiracy surrounding Paul’s supposed words about women keeping silent in the church, in Quincy ME style, the class dissected these passages to reveal surprising revelations.



MEMBERSHIP - Margie Kraft

All-Church Brunch at Skillet's

Date: Sunday, May 21

Time: 12:30 PM

RSVP: by May 19

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

Location: 8635 S. Tamiami Tr. #4 Sarasota, FL 34238



All-Church Brunch, April 23 at Keke's

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Martin Henderson
- 4 Scott Duink
Tim Gannon
- 6 Judy Barnhart
- 17 Roger Rowen
- 18 Charles Keidel
Rick Chenoweth
- 19 Jerry Van Dyke
- 24 Joyce Stephens
Karen Hastings
Suzanne Gross
- 25 Faye Doll



get well soon!



"Write a Card" Table

See Deacon Mickey Shoop at the *Write a Card* table after worship on the deck to brighten someone's day with a card of Thanks, Happy Birthday, Get Well Soon, Thinking of You, or Sympathy. Cards are available for you to personalize. Address the envelope and Mickey will add the stamp and make sure it goes out in the mail.

Graduate Theological Foundation

Siesta Key Chapel served as the host location for the taping of the graduation exercises of the Graduate Theological Foundation. The Foundation is an Indiana Chartered Institution that offers graduate degrees for ministry professionals, often coming from underserved communities around the world. Dr. Paul J Kirbas serves as the President of GTF. The mission statement of the Graduate Theological Foundation is "Bringing light into the world, through interfaith, international, multicultural education since 1962".



In keeping with this mission statement, the graduation exercise was an interfaith experience. Dr. Tony Stultz, the GTF professor of Buddhist Studies, offered a reading from the Buddhist text The Dhammapada. Dr. Ruth Smalt read a passage from the Christian New Testament. Rabbi Ann Feibelman, who serves as a hospice chaplain in Sarasota, read a passage in both Hebrew and English from the Hebrew Scriptures. Dr. Mohamed Benkhaled, the Imam of the Islamic Society of Sarasota and recent graduate of the Graduate Theological Foundation, read a passage from the Koran, first singing it in Arabic, and then reading it in English.

Graduate Theological Foundation, *continued*

GTF professor and Vice President at Notre Dame University Dr. Hugh Page offered the graduation address. His address, entitled "Toward Transformational Models for Ministry in a Fragmented World", lifted up three strategies for the role of ministry in the current world situation, and celebrated the way in which the Graduate Theological Foundation is uniquely positioned to address those strategies.

Once the video is edited and finalized, it will be available for viewing by the wider community. You can learn more about the foundation's work by visiting its website, www.gtfeducation.org. The foundation wishes to thank the Siesta Key Chapel and its staff for the wonderful hospitality that was offered. The chapel served as a perfect setting for the taping of the graduation exercises.

Siesta Key Chapel is Dog Friendly



Come join us in worship with all your family members which includes your dog. The deck surrounding the Chapel and covered pavilion is a comfortable space with livestream of the 11AM service. Enjoy worship in this relaxed environment. Fellowship after the service includes coffee & goodies for you and treats for your dog. Get to know other dog lovers and take a walk along the nature path to end a beautiful morning.



Ruby-Sue



Boo



Ruby-Love



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 7pm AA	5	6 3pm Funeral
7 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship with Communion 3pm Concert Series	8	9 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	10	11 7pm AA	12	13
14 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	15	16 6:30pm NA	17 4:00pm Session (off-site)	18 Presbytery @ Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	19	20
21 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship Second Chance Last Opportunity at fellowship hour 12:30pm All-Church Brunch	22	23 8:00am Men's Fellowship 6:30pm NA	24	25 7pm AA	26	27
28 9am Chapel on the Beach 10am Adult Christian Ed. 11am Worship Pentecost Jazz Service 12pm Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Hall	29 SKC OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day	30 6:30pm NA	31			