



SEPTEMBER 2023

Siesta Key Chapel

God's Treehouse



Key Notes
NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

God of sabbath rest and holy play,
of great adventures and quiet days,
we acknowledge and offer thanks
for the privilege of worshipping together at Siesta Key Chapel.

To be able to lay aside our daily work each Sunday morning,
whether in person or online, at the Beach or in the Chapel.
To fellowship, sing, and pray in unison with the company of believers.
To absorb the beauty of creation, and engage in relaxation.

We acknowledge that slow and easy days
are not a luxury available to all people.
We acknowledge that all creatures need times of
play and adventure, fellowship and reverence.

If we are able to travel this September, we ask for protection along the way.
If we are with our families and loved ones, we ask for relational harmony.
If we have been overworked, we ask for respite and renewal.
If we have been starved for beauty, we ask for a generous serving.
If we are yearning for fun, we ask for times of delight.

May we dunk ourselves in cool waters;
breathe clean air;
be comforted by dear friends;
and eat healthy food.
May we be nourished by rich conversation;
play and be childlike;
sleep plentifully and peacefully,
and know that you are God.

This month, this day,
may we feel vibrant and alive in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ruth*

[Liberally adapted from "A Litany for Vacation" by Fran Pratt]



HURRICANE IDALIA - Pastor Ruth

Friends, should you need any assistance or are able to offer assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia, please call or email the church, so that we might lend a hand to one another in Christian love and care.

CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth



As we are continually reminded, God will lead the way! We just need to listen and follow.

When the decision was made to continue "Chapel on the Beach" weekly through the summer, there were many questions. Will the new time be too early for people to come? Will it be too hot for people to come? And the big question, "Will people come"?

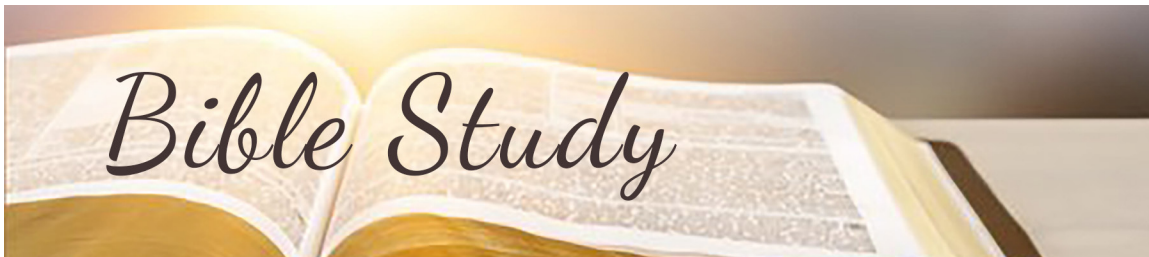
We are pleased to say that people have continued to come. We have a core group of "regulars" that are faithfully there every week. In fact, they all join in to help unload the chairs and load them back up, distribute bulletins, and help with other tasks. We also continue to get vacationers and those just out for a stroll on the beach who stop to enjoy the service.

Pastor Ruth, Barry, Connor and Zach have done a great job with the service, logistical setup, and music which has helped make Chapel on the Beach successful.

The number of people attending summer beach services has ranged between 35-50 and a number of "four-legged" congregants as well. And as always, we are thankful for the perfect location at Patriots Point Pier provided to us by Mike Cosentino.

With God leading the way we know that our beach ministry will continue to flourish and grow!

All are welcome to join in the joy of worshiping God in nature at Patriots/ Sunset Pier, 10 Beach Road. **Sunday mornings at 8:30AM.**



"BIBLE 101"
SKC Bible Study, Summer/Fall 2023

Have you ever wondered:

What came first, the Exodus or the Exile?

Join in our Timeline Project!

Have you ever thought:

*I wish I had learned "x" in Sunday School or Confirmation Class;
Lord, I'm eager and ready to learn/refresh/make the Bible relevant
to my life today.*

Engage in lively discussions about the Bible; curiosity and questions cheered!

What: Six-month study of the Bible: Overview & deeper exploration

Who: Members, Neighbors, and Visitors all warmly welcomed to participate

Where: Siesta Key Chapel Fellowship Hall

When: Once/month on specific Wednesdays, **10:00am**-11:00am

Bring: A physical Bible (extras will be available); notebooks optional

Notes: Classes are Free

Coffee and light refreshments will be served

No RSVP needed; just show up whenever you are in town.

Bring a friend!

Dates:

Wed. June 28

Wed. July 12

Wed. August 16

Wed. September 13

Wed. October 4

Wed. November 1

Looking ahead: Bible Studies Winter 2023 & Spring 2024:

December 2023: Advent Bible Study

January, February & March 2024: Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for all

MEMBERSHIP - Margie Kraft

Welcome New Members!



Basia Betancourt



Tish Harman



Caroline Harman



Jen Hershey



Liz Hershey

New Members received August 13, 2023

Basia Betancourt

Basia (Polish for Barbara) holds a PhD in Economics from Georgetown U, and is newly retired as the Senior Economist for the US Department of State. Her husband Ernest is retired from the US Army Band, and they split their time between Palmer Ranch and Bethesda, MD. Basia loves our friendly church with its relatable sermons and warm fellowship. Basia joins SKC as a Full/Active Member.

Tish & Caroline Harman

Tish is the mother of Conner Stigner, SKC's wonderful Director of Music, and **Caroline** is Conner's sister. They hail from South Bend, Indiana, and have been joyfully worshipping at SKC for the past year and a half, along with their faithful dog Laine, who was a participant in SKC's Blessing of the Dogs this summer. Tish & Caroline join SKC as Full/Active Members.

Liz & Jen Hershey

Liz grew up in Lancaster, PA in Amish country. She farmed, raised eight children, and is a lifelong church-goer. Liz joins SKC as an Affiliate Member; her home church is in PA. **Jen** is a Neurosurgery Advanced Practice Provider, most recently at U. of Pittsburgh. Her father was a Mennonite and her great-grandparents planted their church in PA. Jen grew up in the Brethren church and is the eighth of eight siblings related to Milton Hershey of chocolate fame! Jen joins SKC as a Full/Active Member.

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



It is hard to believe that September is upon us again! Our **Siesta Key Chapel Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday September 27th at 9AM in the music room. In the interim, all are invited to dip their toes in the water at Worship each Sunday in September. Simply join us at 9:15AM in the Chapel for a brief rehearsal of the hymns in preparation for leading Worship together!

Our music program is more than just “singing” and “choral music”. Together we offer an eclectic variety of musical styles and instrumentations that spark joy and emotion in each of our services. Each and every voice that feels called to do so is welcomed!

If you are interested in singing at the Beach Service, please reach out to Conner for more information.

Our SKC Concert Series will take place from January through April 2024. Check the upcoming newsletters and bulletins for updates. Like last year, the themes and styles will run the gamut from Classical to Jazz to Musical Theater and more!

I’m grateful to all who have reached out to me over the summer with thoughtful ideas and suggestions! I welcome all of these! Don’t hesitate to email or pull me aside after Worship. Conner’s email: music@siestakeychapel.org

Peace,
Conner



BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

It's been a very busy Summer for Buildings & Grounds. Some of the Summer projects include:



- 230+ Palm Trees and 8 Grand Oaks Trimmed
- (1) Large Australian Pine in the Back along with (3) other Dead trees were removed
- We also have Bees in our Owl Box - They are in a good location and not damaging any trees so they'll be our neighbors for a bit.
- We have new Paver Block Aprons on the The Gleason Entrances to the campus - we are working on the proper gravel fill for the remaining part of the campus driveway.
- HVAC issues continue to be addressed as the excessive heat created stress on some of the older systems. More of our HVAC systems now have WiFi control and scheduling to assist with Control and and savings in that area.
- Landscape improvements continue with planting and irrigation at the Ocean Blvd Monument Sign. We are working on extending irrigation to additional gardening areas.
- A Lot of effort has been placed on clearing out excessive "stuff" in all the classrooms to assess, improve, and better utilize the spaces we have on campus. Thanks to those that have worked tirelessly on this task.
- All Chapel Sliders were repaired and lubricated. Each Slider now has a deadbolt for ease of locking and improved security.
- Contractors have been contacted and are working on Lighting in the Chapel, Pavilion Ladies Room improvements, Window Cleaning and deck pressure washing.



THE BIG CLEAN - Pat Chandler-Smith & Joyce Tucker

“The Big Clean” was a productive and well-organized effort to declutter and organize possessions at Siesta Key Chapel. Sorting through items to determine their fate—whether to keep, sell, donate, or discard—was a necessary step in maintaining the chapel’s functionality and appearance.

The involvement of a dedicated team played a crucial role in the success of this undertaking. The team was led by Clerk of Session **Pat Chandler-Smith** and Elder **Joyce Tucker** and supported by staff members **Bary Cline** and **Karen Davare**. Their commitment to this project highlighted their dedication to the chapel’s upkeep and improvement.

The subsequent SKC garage sale event marked the next phase of this project. The decision to move all sale items to the lower level of the chapel for the August 26th sale was a practical approach to condense all items into one location. Despite the steamy morning, the team prepared for the sale, supported by additional volunteers including **Nick Pearce, Sam Tucker, Marsha Rhodus, and Debbie Yates**. Some of the items remaining after the sale will be listed for sale online; all other items will be donated to benefit local charities.

In the end, “The Big Clean” achieved its goal, resulting in a more organized and functional space within Siesta Key Chapel and creating easily accessible storage for useful items. The effort has not only improved the physical environment but also showcased the positive outcomes that collaboration and proactive measures can bring.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - Marvin & Doris Cundiff

We would like to wish our warmest congratulations to Marvin and Doris Cundiff on reaching the remarkable milestone of their 67th wedding anniversary! We were thrilled to celebrate this special day with them Sunday August 27 after worship. They brought a beautiful spread for the fellowship table with flowers and food, including a scrumptious cake, ice cream, chocolate-covered strawberries, assorted pastries, and flavorful nuts. Here's to many more years of happiness, love, and cherished memories together.



ALL-CHURCH BRUNCH - Margie Kraft



All-Church Brunch
Village Cafe
Sunday, September 24
5133 Ocean Blvd, Siesta Key
RSVP: by September 22
Chapel office: 941-349-1166
administrator@siestakeychapel.org
or Sundays sign-up on the deck
Let us know if you would like to carpool.

SEPTMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5 6:30pm NA	6 3:30pm Girl Scouts	7 7pm AA	8	9
10 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	11	12 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	13 10am Bible Study	14 2pm Graduate Theological Class 7pm AA	15	16
17 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel	18	19 6:30pm NA	20 3:30pm Girl Scouts	21 10am-4pm Chamber of Commerce 7pm AA	22	23
24 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel 11:30am All-Church Brunch	25	26 10am - 4pm Chamber of Commerce 4:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA	27	28 7pm AA	29	30

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	2	3	4 10am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts	5 7pm AA	6	7
8 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel	9	10 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	11	12 7pm AA	13	14
15 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel	16	17 6:30pm NA	18 3:30pm Girl Scouts	19 7pm AA	20	21 SKC Hosts Presbytery Meeting
22 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel 11:30pm All-Church Brunch	23	24 4:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA	25	26 7pm AA	27	28
29 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel All Saints Day	30	31				

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bruce Schewe
- 2 Jim Kraft
- 6 Greta Marcum
Janet Steele
- 12 Craig Holliday
Dennis Block
Maggie Valenta
Pat Chandler-Smith
- 17 Marian Kovacs
- 20 Craig Linn



DEACONS - Gary Rhodus



"Write a Card" Table

Write a Card 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 the Deacons will add the stamp and make sure it goes out in the mail.