

MARCH 2024



Siesta Key Chapel
God's Treehouse



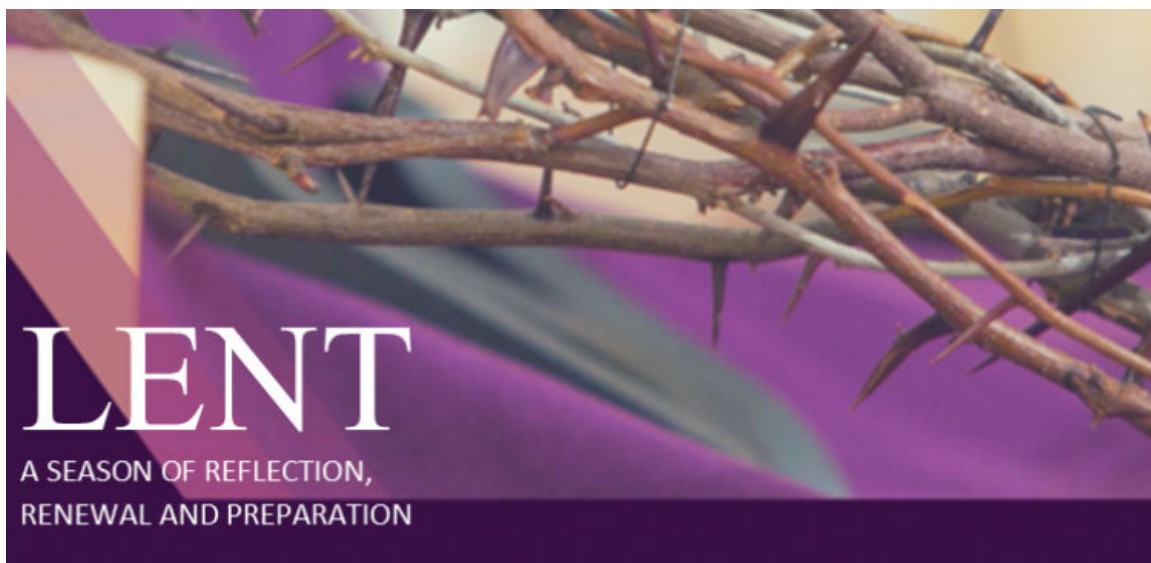
Key Notes
NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk



Friends, we are now in the season of Lent, the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Forty days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Nineveh to repent, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness.

During Lent, engaging in intentional devotional practices such as daily prayer, group Bible Study, and Adult Christian Education classes helps us experience and understand the depth of God's love for us. And doing good works—caring for those around us who are poor or otherwise in need—turns us away from self-focus so that we can see the love of Christ that is always present around us.



From the Pastor's Desk, *continued*

I invite you to let this poem by Ann Weems wash over and challenge each of you, as together we seek to observe a holy Lent:

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Lent is a time to take time to let the power  
of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up  
and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...  
Lent is a time to allow  
a fresh new taste of God!  
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,  
for thoughts come unbidden.  
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future  
knowing our past.  
Give us courage, O God,  
to hear your Word  
and to read our living into it.  
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven  
and give us the faith  
to take up our lives and walk.

~~~~~

Loving God, as we walk our Lenten journey, guide us on the path that leads to you. Fill our hearts with gratitude, strength and peace. Help us to grow closer to you this Lent through the practice of prayer and actions of care. In your name we pray, Amen.

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ruth*

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Greetings!

Happy March! It is unbelievable that we only have a few weeks left until Easter! Below are highlights of some of our upcoming musical events here at Siesta Key Chapel. Mark your calendars!

On **March 10th** we will host the **Lido Beach Commodores Dixieland Band**, featuring singer extraordinaire **Ariel Blue** at the **10:30AM service in the Chapel**.

You won't want to miss the world premiere of a brand new work written by longtime friend of SKC, **Tim Smith**, entitled **"Jesus the Man: A musical examination of the life and humanity of Jesus of Nazareth."** The event will take place on **Sunday March 24th at 3:00PM in the Chapel**. A wide array of musical styles speak to Jesus' life and mission.

April 20th at noon we will play host to organist **Gavan Mcvey**, University of Florida student and brilliant performer, for a recital that will **showcase our Schantz pipe organ**.

On **Sunday, May 19th**, Pentecost Sunday, we will continue our annual tradition of a live jazz service led by **Kevin Çelebi and the Harmonic Sanity Jazz Band**. This will take place during our **10:00AM worship service in the Chapel**.

Our final event of the season will take place on **June 30th**, fittingly, at Patriot's Pier where we host our beach services. The **First Brass Ensemble of Sarasota** will present a concert of time honored patriotic music that will have us all tapping our toes. Beach service starts a 8:30AM, Flag raising & **concert at 9:00AM**.

I am very much looking forward to these events and can't wait to see you there! As always, do consider joining us for **choir rehearsals** each **Wednesday at 9:30AM through March 27**, or simply show up for rehearsal at **9:45AM prior to 10:30AM worship! All are welcome!**

Best,

Conner M. Stigner, Director of Music and Organist

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline



It seems the after-effects of last Fall's "Saltwater" storm events have claimed two of SKC's large Oak trees on the back of the property behind the Chapel. In addition to the Salt Water events, the Arborist said that the many years of compacted driveway soil around and near the two trees was also a contributing factor.

In addition there is a large double pine in the front parking area that seems to be dying as well. It's sad to see these majestic trees go away, but unfortunately removal is necessary for the safety of all those that use parking areas on the property.

Irrigation improvements continue as landscaping plans are being made for the Memorial Garden Area and the Ann Blechta Garden.



CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth

Chapel on the Beach services continue to grow, with **165-200 attendees** these past few weeks, all joyfully praising God on the beautiful Gulf shore. Children, college students, vacationers, local residents, dogs, and even a bald eagle gather together for this **casual, half-hour service at Patriot's Pier@ Sunset Point on Siesta Key Beach** (corner of Avenida Messina & Beach Road.) Beach chairs are provided for the first hundred people, or bring your own. Come join us at **9:00am each Sunday**, and enjoy coffee, fresh baked scones and muffins, and a time of fellowship, music, prayer, scripture, and a short homily. All are welcome to join in the joy of worshiping God in nature at Patriots/Sunset Pier, 10 Beach Road.

Sunday 9AM Service



Ash Wednesday 6PM Service



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Julia & Mark Musto

9:30AM Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall

March 3: Chaplain Chuck Cheech, Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Spiritual Care in a Healthcare Setting

How to talk to people in the hospital without embarrassing yourself and others.

March 10: Rosemarie Tamunday-Casanova
Navigating the Financials of Home Care

Valuable insights into payment options, insurance coverage, and financial planning for long-term home care.

March 17: Carson Brown
Christianity and Holidays: St. Patrick's Day Edition

We all love celebrating holidays like Valentine's Day and Thanksgiving, but we don't always take time to consider the Christian inspiration behind them. Celebrate this St. Patrick's Day by learning about the man himself, and the Christian history and tradition interwoven with this holiday celebrated by secular and religious alike.



MAUNDY THURSDAY - Tables for 12



Thursday, March 28 at 5:30PM

Come sit with Jesus at our Tables for 12
Reenacting the Last Supper

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tim O'Neil

Men's Fellowship is a Christian organization for the men of Siesta Key Chapel and their male friends. The group meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month**. The gatherings begin at **8:00AM** 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.



Left-Right: Pete Barnhart, Nick Pearce, Frank Jurenka, Roger Sandt, Sam Tucker, Scott Duink, Tim O'Neil, Jerry VanDyke, Dick Wilsen, Dick Ulrich, Len Wilson, Jim Kraft

Men's breakfast was great with a former member attending, Len Wilsen. Breakfast was prepared by Jerry and Scott. Thank you both! Jerry's expertly executed scrambled eggs were raved over. We asked Pastor Ruth to come take a group photo. Her reward, of course, was Jerry's scrambled eggs. Main discussion today centered around an **ice cream social and a pancake breakfast** prepared and hosted by Men's Fellowship. Details to be discussed at the **next meeting on February 27 at 8AM**. We did decide donations from one of the events would go toward funding Christmas again for Beth-El children. We also need volunteers to do some transplanting in the Memorial Garden. We are still looking to bring more of our regular members plus as many new members into our fold with each new meeting. Please consider attending this important outreach of The Chapel! Good food, camaraderie, and discussion are on every meeting's agenda!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Memorial Garden spruce up



Ray Lynds, Jim Kraft, Scott Duink, Dick Ulrich, Dick Wilsen, Greg Anderson

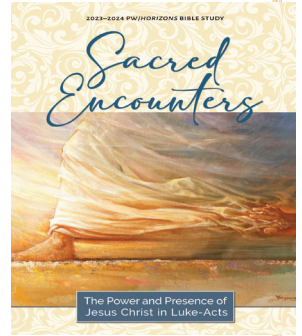
Bible Study, January-March 2024

Sacred Encounters: The Power & Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Two Wednesdays/month at 10:00AM
in Fellowship Hall.
Light breakfast provided. All welcome!

March 6 Lesson 8: *Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship*

March 20 Lesson 9: *People Encounter Jesus
Through the Work of the Disciples*



KNIT & SEW - Ruth Ulrich

Judy Barnhart sourced new beads and patterns then shared the instructions with the group. We will appreciate all their hard work when the new Chrismons adorn the Chapel Christmas tree in December.

March 12 at 9:30AM is the next Chrismon workshop.

Knit & Sew Group making Chrismons



Standing: Janet Wick, Faye Doll, Mickey Shoop, & Ruth Ulrich
Seated: Susan Scheppler, Judy Barnhart, Doris Cundiff, Marilyn Miller,
Mary Jane Smith & Susan Koch



SOUPerbowl Sunday Canned Soup Drive

Thank you for your generosity in donating 84 cans of soup plus \$10 to help feed the hungry in Sarasota!
~Olivia Bell, SKC Youth member



Thank you to **John and Robin Shobert** for updating the SKC exterior bulletin boards with current information. We appreciate your dedication to volunteering.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for the **Welcome Desk** to greet visitors, answer questions and ask them to sign in and wear a name tag. Contact the church office at 941-349-1166 or administrator@SiestaKeyChapel.org

DEACONS - Mickey Shoop



"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.

*Please welcome our new members
received January 7, 2024*

*Full
Members*



Cindy Allegretto



Brad & Cheryl Freeman



Kevin Gatewood & Cynthia Kragthorpe



Mark & Susan Schepler

*Affiliate
Member*



Debra McMillan

Cindy Allegretto came to Sarasota from Lynwood, NJ, in 1994. Her daughter was married here at Siesta Key Chapel. Cindy is a regular worshipper at SKC's beach service.

Brad Freeman is from Mt. Kisco, NY and CT; now retired from a career in information technology. Brad and Cheryl moved to Siesta Key five years ago; Brad is active in the Ukulele group that meets at SKC (although he is not fond of *Tiptoe through the Tulips!*)

Cheryl Freeman finds the SKC Beach services a deep joy. She is interested in being involved in our Beach ministry. Cheryl regularly brings friends to our Chapel on the Beach service.

Kevin Gatewood is from Cleveland, Ohio; he moved to Sarasota 1½ years ago, and is finding joy at the beach, with their dog Holly, and in his engagement to Cynthia.

Cynthia Kragthorpe was born in TX, moved all around the US, and has been active in a wide range of denominations. She moved to Siesta Key 10 years ago, and has been worshipping at SKC for years. Cynthia loves nature, the outdoors, and travel, and is joyfully engaged to Kevin.

Debbie McMillan is from Ontario. She came to Sarasota when her sister lived here, and they served the Lord as caregivers for their mother. Debbie's children & grandchildren are in Canada (9th grand on the way!) so she goes back and forth as a dual citizen. Her life verse is "*The joy of the Lord is my strength.*"

Mark Scheppler, from Illinois, just moved here with his wife, Susan, in July; his new happy place is Siesta Key Beach. Mark and Susan are glad to have found Siesta Key Chapel as their new home church.

Susan Scheppler lived in Illinois her whole life, and after the stresses of moving, now finds beach life relaxing. Mark & Susan were delighted to be present at the recent birth of their first grandbaby in Scotland.



April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Easter Monday Office Closed	2 6:30pm NA	3 6pm All-Church Sunset Greet & Eat at Siesta Key Beach	4 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	5	6
7 9am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion 11:30am Men's Fellowship Ice Cream Social	8	9 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	10	11 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	12	13
14 9am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	15	16 6:30pm NA	17 3:30pm Girl Scouts	18 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	19	20
21 9am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	22	23 8:00am Men's Fellowship 6:30pm NA	24	25 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	26	27
28 9am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	29	30 3pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA				

All-Church Sunset Greet & Eat

Wednesday, April 3 from 4PM-8PM

Sea Turtle Pavilion, Siesta Key Beach

Bring an appetizer or dish to pass.
Paper goods, lemonade, water, and
soda provided. Picnic tables are available
or bring your own chairs for the beach.



MEMBERSHIP - Margie Kraft



New Members Are Joining

New Member Class

March 3 at 9:30 am

with light breakfast in Classroom 4

To attend or for questions please contact:

Margie Kraft, Membership Chair
941-323-5900

membership@siestakeychapel.org

All-CHURCH BRUNCH

Keke's Breakfast Cafe

Sunday, March 24

12 Noon

RSVP by March 22

Sign-up at the visitor's desk or call/email

Margie Kraft 941-323-5900

membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org or
Office Administrator 941-349-1166



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Margaret Todd | 18 | Malin Parker |
| 2 | Linda McDonald | 19 | Dr. 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 Briody Perry |
| 13 | Christina Halverson | 31 | Carol Magee |
| 14 | Beryl Perry | | Xiujuan (Lucy) Gu |
| 17 | Greg Anderson | | |
| | Mary Margaret Kandler | | |

