



Siesta Key Chapel
God's Treehouse

OCTOBER 2024



Key Notes

NEWSLETTER & **HURRICANE UPDATE**

4615 GLEASON AVE, SIESTA KEY ■ 941-349-1166 ■ SiestaKeyChapel.org

HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE

Dear Members & Friends of Siesta Key Chapel,

Our prayers and deep concern go out to everyone impacted by Hurricane Helene. Pastor, Deacons, Session and Staff continue to reach out to try to make contact with all of our members. We want to check on how everyone fared, and if anyone is in need of any assistance. If possible, please call or email the Church Office with any updates on your situation. As you likely know, cell service, home phone service and internet is spotty at best, even at the Chapel, so we would appreciate your help in making contact with us. We are tracking the status of anyone with whom we can make contact and their needs.

Here is what's happening at the Chapel:

- Approximately two and a half feet of water intruded throughout the Lower Level of the Sanctuary, Music Building (Knit and Sew room) and the storage room under the Pavilion including the elevator, leaving behind significant damage to our facility.
- No worship services or meetings will be held on campus until the Session deems it safe. Pastor, Staff and Session are the only ones allowed on site at this point please, for everyone's safety. We have live power and obviously a lot of water which is not a good mix. No volunteer clean-up crews please.
- Every Sunday morning until we can once again meet in person and livestream, Pastor Ruth will post a short message, related Bible verses and prayers on our website.
- We are in the process of actively meeting with our insurance company, insurance adjusters and water remediation businesses to assess the scope of the damage and decide on next steps. Happily, Presbyterians are known for doing things "properly and in good order."
- We give thanks that those who came before us had the forethought and determination to build God's Treehouse up high, and to install hurricane shutters. While still shuttered to give the newly restored A/C time to reestablish proper humidity levels, the Sanctuary appears to be in good shape, Praise the Lord.
- The Office, Classrooms 3 & 4 and Fellowship Hall (all on the upper level) came through fine.
- **We will continue to communicate regularly with updates as available.** Note that the Chapel does not have steady internet, so the staff is working a mixture of on-site and at home where they can access the internet and all of the tools required to support the Chapel.
- No steady internet also means no virtual services for the time being.
- Our *Chapel on the Beach* services are also on temporary hold, as the north end of Siesta Key Beach by Patriot's Pier at Sunset Point was destroyed in the Hurricane. We will regroup and let you know of a new plan once it is in place.

Hurricane Prayer

God of wind and waves, we join together in prayer for our island community, neighboring barrier islands, all of Florida, and the entire southeast including Montreat Presbyterian Conference Center. We ask for your protection and guidance, granting strength to those impacted by the fury of nature and facing the significant rebuilding efforts of their homes and communities. May we find solace and the support of our church family and neighbors, where acts of kindness and solidarity shine brightly amidst the chaos. We extend our thoughts to the wildlife and natural habitats that are vulnerable during this time. May their ecosystems recover swiftly and may we give renewed attention to our part in caring for creation. We lift up all those involved in rebuilding and recovery efforts. Help us to stand united, ready to lend a hand and offer comfort to those in need. Amen.

Pastor Ruth & Tim Gannon (BG&T) for the Session of SKC



The **Siesta Key Rotarian** volunteers, overseen by a professional, are available to muck and gut, remove wet belongings, cut drywall, etc. They are inviting people on Siesta Key whose homes have been affected by Hurricane Helene to contact them directly at www.RotaryFL.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CHAPEL

- Welcome Desk Greeters
- Ushers (1x/month or substitute)
- Liturgists (Scripture readers)
- Fellowship Coordinator (sign up volunteers to bring goodies for after worship)
- Communion Preparers (1x/month)
- Office Volunteers (variety of helpful tasks)
- Choir Members (In-season & Special Sundays)
- Handbell Ringers (Special Sundays)

Please call or email the Church Office (941-349-1166, administrator@siestakeychapel.org) and we will happily get you connected and trained. **Volunteering is a great way to make friends and build community!**



From the Pastor's Desk



Visiting another island in late August—the island of Nantucket where I served my former church—I spent time with a clergy friend, the Rev. Carr Holland, pastor of the seasonal Siasconset Chapel. The East end beach by his Chapel is one of the first places in the country the sun can be seen rising. We mused together about how our islands have the opposite “in-season.” As the cold winds start to blow up north and his congregation heads for warmer climates, Siesta Key Chapel opens her arms to welcome them. **Ours is a shared faith that we live out**

in harmony; an ebb and flow, as with time and tides. A dear friend and summer parishioner in my Nantucket church, Sam Turner, was a member of Siesta Key Chapel in the winters. When the time came for Sam to be called home to heaven, both churches celebrated his life, and Nantucket flew me back north to preside at his burial. **For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all** (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Our faith informs our daily life and world view through scripture, prayer, sermons and times of reflection. Sunday morning hymns encourage us to think theologically about the God-given rhythms of our lives. When we worship our Creator, we are reminded that the spiritual energy of our Christian life is **love of God and love of our neighbor**. As we begin to gather together again on Siesta Key this fall season, I encourage you **pay attention to opportunities to be renewed, to serve, and to grow in Christ**. On the beach or at the Chapel, breathe deeply as you enter worship, greet one another, and praise the Lord in unity.

In this newsletter you will find opportunities to be fed as well as to **find the place God calls you to deepen your faith this season through volunteering in the life of the Chapel**. It is my hope and prayer that each person who visits God’s Treehouse and its beautiful wooded grounds—whether for the first time or the hundredth time—will find a welcoming place to worship God in community, to pause and be renewed, to be an active part of our faith family, and to find yourself truly at home. Thanks be to God.

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ruth*

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Pastor Ruth

Siesta Key Chapel's three Middle School girls—Megan, Olivia, and Olivia—are actively **engaged in the exciting journey of Confirmation Class.**

In September, we were **commissioned** during worship:

Pastor's Statement to the Confirmands: *The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. The grace bestowed upon you at your baptism is sufficient for your calling. By God's grace, you are enabled to grow in the faith.*

Clerk's Question to the Congregation: *Will you, the people of Siesta Key Chapel, continue to nurture these young people in their faith journey, as we promised at their baptism?*

Congregational Answer: *We will, with God's help.*

September found us meeting both **in the Chapel and on the shoreline of the beach**; we've created a **River of Life** in the Sanctuary, and **dialoged with a Seminary President** about deep questions of the faith. We've been listening to faith stories; memorizing the names of the **books of the Bible, Psalm 23, and The Lord's Prayer**; and **choosing our life scriptures.**

In October, we will be planning our mission activity, participating in worship leadership, and beginning our Statements of Faith. Please encourage these courageous young ladies as they seek to make their parents' and grandparents' faith their own, **building a strong foundation to scaffold onto for a lifetime.**



CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth

Our half-hour contemporary service offers a variety of music and musicians, scripture, prayer and an inspiring message, along with complimentary fresh coffee and bakery. All are welcome to join in the joy of worshipping God in nature.



NEW IN-SEASON SERVICE TIMES

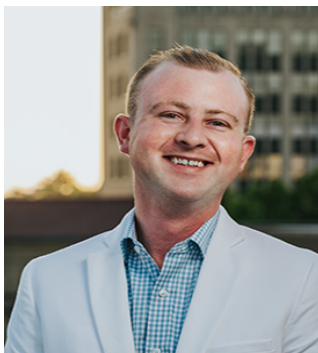


9:00am
Chapel on the Beach



10:30am
Worship in the Chapel

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Sunday, October 27th - 10:30AM. Mark your calendars for our annual **Picnic Service** that will include a **Blessing of Dogs!** All of the music will be inspired by the many great **Appalachian Gospel Bluegrass** groups featuring virtuosic fiddle, percussive banjo, familiar melodies, driving rhythms and tight vocal harmonies.

Sunday, November 3rd, both at the beach as well as worship in the Chapel, we will commemorate **All Saints Day** with bagpiper Gary Reinstrom. Sidebar: Bagpipes are woodwind instruments that use vibrating reeds to produce their sound. Pipes that play only one constant pitch, called drones, give the bagpipe its unique sound!

Advent Lessons and Carols will take place in the Chapel on **Sunday, December 8th.** A delightfully eclectic array of music from the world over will work in tandem with scripture to give us a taste of the Advent and Christmas seasons. The service will feature not only a harpist but choral music and rhythm from Africa, England, Spain, and more!

Our **Post-Christmas Hymn Sing** this year falls on **Sunday, December 29th** at both the beach service and the service in the Chapel. The theme will be "**Calypso Christmas**" and feature steel drums, Caribbean percussion, and Christmas songs.

Interested in singing for our Advent and Christmas services either at the beach or at the Chapel? **Now is your opportunity to join our Siesta Key Chapel Choir** and sing in concert with our world-class Schantz Pipe Organ, work alongside renowned area musicians, and experience a wide array of diverse music! **No experience is necessary** and one need not read music to join. Our regular Wednesday morning choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday, October 6th at 9:30 AM in the Chapel Music Room. **Come forth and sing!**



BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

Summer is winding down and Building, Grounds & Technology will soon be getting ready for the Fall and Christmas Season.



The stubborn electrical circuit problem in the Chapel area was finally located and resolved. The lighting for the Gazebo Cross, Gazebo stairs and Lower Chapel Stairwell were impacted by this circuit tripping every time groundwater saturated to a certain level.

Ajax Paving has moved their equipment out of our property and were very thankful for allowing them to use the property for staging. As agreed to initially, Ajax Paving will return the grounds to their original condition over the next few weeks.

Three new signs were added to indicate the presence of a County drain field berm along Gleason Ave. Moving forward there will be no parking on these Berms.



The Owl Box just west of the Chapel is again thriving with Honey Bees, helping Siesta Key Chapel do our part in pollinating Siesta Key.



ALL-CHURCH BRUNCH - Margie Kraft

**All-Church Brunch at Village Cafe
11:45AM on Sunday, October 20**

5133 Ocean Blvd,
Siesta Key, FL 34242
RSVP by October 18

Sign-up is at the visitor's desk or
call/email Margie Kraft 941-323-5900
membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org
or Office Administrator 941-349-1166



*Picnic Service
with Blessing of the Dogs!*

Sunday October 27th at 10:30AM

Mark your calendar and prepare for a spiritual and musical celebration combining faith, music, and a special blessing for dogs. The bluegrass style, known for its deep roots in Appalachian culture, will provide a soulful and lively backdrop to the service.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

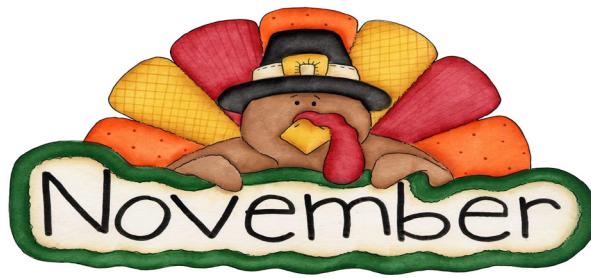
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 5 | Barbara Betancourt | 24 | Cheryl Gannon |
| | Beverly Chenoweth | | Rev. Issa Saliba |
| 13 | David Young | | Susan Loesel |
| 16 | Bryan Murdock | 25 | Carolyn Pruyne |
| 21 | Sherry Zoller | 27 | Bill Donaldson |
| | | 28 | Joan Heina |





October

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
No scheduled events due to hurricane cleanup						
6 No Worship Service due to Hurricane cleanup	7	8 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	9	10 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	11	12
13 NEW SERVICE TIMES! 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel Confirmation Class	14	15 6:30pm NA	16 10:30am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts	17 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	18	19 Presbytery at Bradenton UPC
20 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 11:45am All-Church Brunch	21	22 6:30pm NA	23	24 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	25	26
27 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Picnic Service with Blessing of the Dogs Confirmation Class	28	29 4pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA	30	31 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA		



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Set clocks Back
3 All Saints Sunday 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion Confirmation Class	4	5 Election Day 6:30pm NA	6 10:30am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts	7 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	8	9
10 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel Confirmation Class	11	12 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	13	14 4:30pm Wedding Rehearsal 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	15 4:30pm Wedding	16 8am MOD Architecture Symposium
17 Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel Confirmation Class	18	19 4pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA	20 3:30pm Girl Scouts	21 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	22	23
24 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 11:45am All-Church Brunch	25	26 6:30pm NA	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving  7pm AA	29 Church Office Closed	30

GIRL SCOUTS - Out of Door Academy



It's wonderful to see the continued growth and community involvement of the Girl Scouts from the Out-of-Door Academy. Siesta Key Chapel is a welcoming space for this vibrant group of young girls and their leaders. This year, the troop has expanded from 32 to 50 girls, ages 5-10, across four levels: Kindergarten Daisies, 1st-grade Daisies, Brownies (2nd & 3rd grades), and Juniors (4th grade).

The troop's activities not only include working on badges but also participating in community service. This fall, they are collecting items for Mothers Helping Mothers, assembling Thanksgiving meal bins for a local underprivileged school, and preparing pillowcases and small toys for pediatric patients at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. The leaders, some of whom are former Girl Scouts themselves, along with parent volunteers, are dedicated to fostering a spirit of friendship, teamwork, and service among the girls. The support from the Siesta Key Chapel is greatly appreciated by the troop.

-Cassie Watson, Troop Leader

