



Siesta Key Chapel
God's Treehouse

NOVEMBER 2024



Key Notes

NEWSLETTER

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

From the Pastor's Desk



*Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
May you walk in grace and live in peace.
(Ephesians 1:3-14)*

November is here, bringing with it pumpkins and a time change; friends returning from up north; and Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. We are firmly on our way to recovering from the devastation of back-to-back hurricanes. Our congregation is once again worshipping God in the Chapel; holding Bible Study; and breaking bread at All-Church Brunches and Men's Fellowship Lunches.

It's also election season, and the world holds its collective breath. How then shall we "*walk in grace and live in peace?*"

I turn to Will Willimon, professor at Duke Divinity School, who in turn considers Karl Barth's classic, *The Epistle to the Romans*, in his recent reflection entitled, "On Not Giving Politics the Last Word" (*Journalforpreachers.com*.)

Barth, writing in the days leading up to Nazism and WWII, and Willimon, a highly respected living theologian writing at the cusp of this November 5, 2024 election, share similar thoughts on what truly matters in these days of angst and foreboding: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

In a world of lies and disinformation, God has given us not only the way and the life but also the truth—Jesus Christ, our judgment, our deliverance. By paying attention to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can do the main business of the church, daring to listen to and to talk about the God who is, rather than prattle about culture's godlets. To live in truth and love, not to give sovereignty to human entities rather than to God, is to embrace our extraordinary opportunity to testify that the world and all that is in it is God's. That an itinerant mid-eastern Jew from Nazareth, who lived briefly, died violently, and rose unexpectedly, is even now busy reconciling the world to God.

Like Karl Barth and Will Willimon, I encourage you to ask, "What is our gracious God up to in this unique time and how can we be part of what God is doing?" Because what God may be up to is so much more interesting than our anxieties about the future.

From the Pastor's Desk *continued*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
(Psalm 46:1-7)

*May you walk in grace and live in peace.
Pastor Ruth*



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Mission Agency sent their National Recovery Team to Siesta Key Chapel to tour hurricane damages with Pastor Ruth and Barry. The Team was accompanied by both our Synod Executive and General Presbyter, and the Stated Clerk of PC(USA). It was a powerful time of shared resilience, thoughtful response, and prayer for SKC. [Click here](#) to view the Presbyterian Mission article.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

Hurricane Helene Summary

Close to 2ft' of water in Lower Chapel, Lower Music Room and Lower Pavilion Elevator Buildings – this includes the Electrical Room and the Garden Closet

1. Rainbow Remediation Contracted
 - Cleared out all LL contents of Chapel, Music and Elevator areas
 - Cut Drywall at 4' Line through out
 - Cut out Cabinets and Shelving
 - Removed Carpet and Tile and Rugs
 - Electrical Outlets were submerged
2. (5) Lower-Level HVAC Units and (2) Dehumidifiers Flooded and no longer working
3. Elevator Pit Flooded with 4 ½' of Water
4. Irrigation Well Pump Flooded
5. No real tree damage just lots of debris, pine straw that was washed away, moved and deposited throughout the East side of the Campus.
6. Hazeltine began Cleanup and was ¾ Done when Milton Struck



Hurricane Milton Summary

1. Roughly 6" of Water again in same Lower Levels but drywall was already removed.
2. Rainbow International Remediation
 - Cleaned Floors, Studs and Mold Spraying over several Days
 - Installed Drying Fans that ran for several Days in all locations
 - Pumped water out of Elevator Pit
3. Tree Damage – Lots and Lots of Branches and Debris
 - Large Cedar Leaning on Music Ramp and Building primarily damaging the ramp railings
 - Memorial Garden Pine fell on the NE Chapel Outside Stairwell damaging ramp railings
 - Several large pine trees around the campus had large branches snapped and hanging over buildings and walkways
 - North and East Campus are still full of Debris
4. Elevator Assessment is working
5. Fire Alarm Systems and Sprinkler Systems are all working again



PICNIC WORSHIP SERVICE in FELLOWSHIP HALL



Joy abounded on Sunday October 27, as God gathered us together for an in-person worship service, picnic, and enthusiastic fellowship. Eighty-seven folks gratefully praised God to the rollicking tunes of an Appalachian ensemble, with our Confirmation Class leading us in prayer and psalm, and volunteers offering ice cream sandwiches during the energetic Postlude. Scripture was read, the Word was proclaimed, and souls were filled with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Praise be to God!



MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind"

-C.S. Lewis

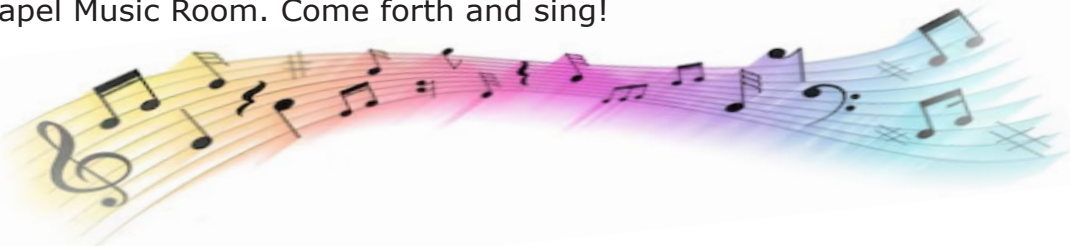
Wow! What a month we have had! Things happen, plans shift, and we move forward. Below is a cursory glance at the coming eight weeks of our SKC Music Ministry Calendar:

Advent Lessons and Carols will take place in the Chapel on **Sunday December 8th at 10:30AM**. 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! Mark your calendars now!

An exciting addition to our church liturgical calendar that you won't want to miss this year is a prayerful **Advent Vespers Service** to take place on **Wednesday December 18th at 7:30PM**. Also known as Evensong, Vespers is a service of evening prayer that includes candlelight, scripture, music and prayer.

Our **post-Christmas Hymn Sing** this year falls on **Sunday December 29th** at the 10:30AM service in the Chapel. The theme will be "Calypso Christmas" and feature steel drums, Caribbean percussion, and Christmas songs!

Are you 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 Christmas 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 November 6th at 9:30 AM in the Chapel Music Room. Come forth and sing!





**Men's Fellowship at Marina Jack
Thursday, November 14 at 12 Noon**

2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL

RSVP **Dick Ulrich**

rduputter@aol.com

302-379-6276

All-Church Brunch at Village Cafe

11:45AM Sunday November 17

5133 Ocean Blvd, Siesta Key

RSVP by November 15

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



Ukulele at Siesta Key Chapel

Sarasota Strummers welcome you to jam with them Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. All levels of players are welcome from beginner to advanced. Make new friends and share the joy of music.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 3 Beth Murdock
Scott Ramsey
- 4 Scott Duink
- 5 Sara Block
- 7 Jane Werling
Janet Wick
- 25 Kay Wagner
Tiffany Conner
- 29 Steve Bartlett



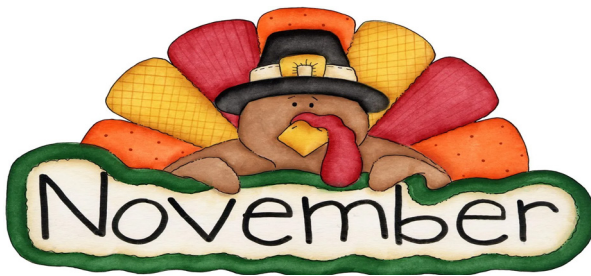
DEACONS - Mickey Shoop



“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.



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



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	2 6:30pm NA	3	4 7pm Ukulele Group	5 7pm AA	6	7
8 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	9 6:30pm NA	10	11 7pm Ukulele Group	12 7pm AA	13	14
15 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	16 6:30pm NA	17	18 7pm Ukulele Group	19 7pm AA	20	21
22 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	23 6:30pm NA	24 5:30pm Family Service with Live Nativity 8:00pm Candlelight Service with Communion	25 	26 Church Office Closed 7pm AA	27	28
29 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	30 6:30pm NA	31 				

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor (Rev.RuthSmalt@siestakeychapel.org)..... The Rev. Dr. Ruth H. Smalt
Chapel Administrator (Administrator@siestakeychapel.org)..... Karen Davare
Technology & Building Operations (Barry@siestakeychapel.org)..... Barry Cline
Music Director & Organist (Music@siestakeychapel.org).....Conner Stigner
Bookkeeper (Jessica@siestakeychapel.org).....Jessica Benoit

SESSION

Pat Chandler-Smith (2024)(1) clerk@siestakeychapel.org.....Clerk of Session
Rick Chenoweth (2024)(1) beach@siestakeychapel.org.....Beach Ministry
Tim Gannon (2026)(2) bgt@siestakeychapel.org.....Buildings, Grounds & Technology
Sherry Davis (2026)(2) finance@siestakeychapel.org...Finance/President of Trustees
Margie Kraft (2025)(2) membership@siestakeychapel.org.....Membership
Joyce Tucker (2024)(1) nominating@siestakeychapel.org.....Nominating
Marsha Rhodus (2024)(1) personnel@siestakeychapel.....Personnel

DEACONS

Mickey Shoop (2024)(1) deacons@siestakeychapel.org.....Moderator
Betsy Andrews (2025)(1)
Tim O'Neil (2026)(1)
Nick Pearce (2024)(1)
Beryl Perry (2026)(1)

