

Volume 44 Issue 9 & 10 September 1, 2021

This Month's Worship Services

Sunday, September 5th

7:45 AM Sanctuary
10:00 AM (Traditional)
Sanctuary & Livestream

Sunday, September 12th

7:45 AM Sanctuary
10:00 AM (Traditional)
Sanctuary & Livestream

Sunday, September 19th

7:45 AM Sanctuary
10:00 AM (Traditional)
Sanctuary & Livestream

Sunday, September 26th

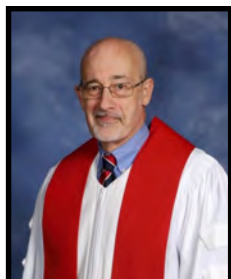
7:45 AM Sanctuary
10:00 AM (Traditional)
Sanctuary & Livestream



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Meet Our Pastors



Rev. Dr. John H. Danner
Senior Pastor



Rev. Deb Kunkel
Associate Pastor



Letter from Pastor Danner

Dear Church Family,

As autumn approaches, we are moving into a time of transition. As you know, Pastor Deb will be finishing out her ten plus years with us on October 31. She will be preaching that morning as we bid her farewell. We have been blessed by her presence among us.

It will be a major change for us as I will be serving as your sole pastor. Be assured we are working out ways to compensate for the change, and I will continue to offer a variety of educational experiences. Those for September and October are highlighted elsewhere in this edition of The Light.

Our new Director of Music, Mackenzie Albert, has jumped in with both feet, and promises an exciting musical agenda for the coming year. She and organist Norm Libby are working out a variety of details, and we plan on continuing our popular Special

Music Sundays, including Bluegrass Sunday, MLK Jazz Sunday, Mardi Gras Sunday and visits from Suncoast Brass. As Mackenzie reassembles the choir, I urge you to volunteer to be a part of this integral element in our Sunday worship.

Thanks to Al Taylor, Building and Grounds Chair for the Trustees, our facility has a shiny new coat of beautiful paint! It looks great. And as I write this Carol and Ron Periard are heading up the effort as we engage in a major upgrade of our technology for livestreaming and other functions.

I am so grateful for all those who have helped us as we've continued to navigate the pandemic. While we are not out of the woods yet, we are laying the groundwork for an exciting season ahead. Our staff has been exemplary and has often gone the extra mile. Please thank them as you encounter them! And

our lay leaders led by Moderator Lynda Swart have worked diligently to help us move into this transitional time. The Search Committee, headed up by Neal Halleran, has begun its work and will keep us all posted as they look for your new Pastor. Meanwhile, I am eager to share the months ahead with you in anticipation of my retirement at the end of April.

Please keep the church in your prayers. This is a vibrant community of faith! And together we can and do make a difference here and beyond!

Blessings,

John



Letter from Pastor Deb

As I write this, I still have two more months before my last day with you. However, this will be my last column in the Light, so I want to share some final reflections through this forum.

I arrived in June 2011, delayed a few weeks by an emergency gallbladder surgery, excited at the chance to be in Sanibel and admittedly slightly nervous at how this would turn out. Was the emergency surgery on the day I was supposed to move a portend of things to come?

Happily, it was not. Instead, it was an opportunity for me to experience the warmth and care that this congregation shares with each other. Through challenges and joys this congregation comes together to express the hospitality and compassion that Jesus calls his followers to emulate. Not perfectly of course. However, more times than not, you exemplify the love of neighbor that reflects your love of God, and God's love for you.

We've laughed together, cried together, even disagreed together. "Together" is the key word. When this congregation strives to collectively face challenges while celebrating their love of God and others, it

not only gets through tough times, but it also thrives. How many other churches could raise enough money to sponsor a Habitat House in a little over a week? Your generosity goes beyond financial resources, but also includes time, effort, and compassion.

CoVID-19 has disrupted our ability to easily gather in person. You are currently addressing the challenges of how the pandemic and changing demographics effect the church finances, as Pastor John's upcoming retirement raises questions on what pastoral staffing this church requires and can afford. Add in the personal challenges you each experience and at times the result is heightened anxiety, concerns about what's next, and tension. Unsurprisingly, there has been disagreements about the best way to address these challenges. Yet this congregation has gotten through such times before and come out flourishing and vital. I have no doubt that you can do this again.

I have worked beside so many of you on committees and boards, outreach and children and youth ministries, and of course in worship that I dare not list any names for fear of leaving anyone out. Know that I appreciate you all and hope I have

added to your efforts as you have added to mine.

I do want to take another opportunity to thank my Senior Colleague and friend John Danner. I have learned so much from you. More importantly I appreciate your support and friendship. Even when we have disagreed, or perhaps especially when we have. I will miss having you one office away to bounce ideas off, give me advice, strategize with, and yes, even have you come into mine to share your puns.

I can look back on these past 10 years with fondness. Even when there were rough spots. I hope that you can forgive mistakes I made upon the way and offer forgiveness for any you feel you made. This congregation and time here have enriched my faith journey and I pray that I have in some small way enriched yours.

Saying goodbye is bittersweet. So I will leave final goodbyes until my last day on October 31. Serving as your Associate Pastor is an honor, and I am so very glad Greg and I came here.

God's grace and peace,

Pastor Deb

Sunday Summer Seminar Series

Each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom

Women of the Civil Rights Movement: How they helped shaped the Civil Rights movement in the 20th Century

September 5th features Septima Clark



September 13th: features Pauli Murray



September 20th & 27th: Eleanor Roosevelt: Her beliefs, her faith.
A review of the influences in Eleanor Roosevelt, including faith, that shaped her
fights for human rights, Civil Rights, and to end poverty.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85419397325?pwd=QlJxejJERHBFQkdjbGtuS2grMjA3dz09>

[Meeting ID: 854 1939 7325----Passcode: Seminar](#)

Adult Education Offerings for October from Pastor Danner

Summer Sunday Seminar Series continues in October

October 3 & 10 “Just What IS Critical Race Theory?”

This two-session course will explore the history of critical race theory and its contributions to conversations about race and racism. Often misunderstood, critical race theory brings much to the table, including an examination of basic perspectives around the issues surrounding race today and how they relate to faith.

October 17 & 24 “Just What Does It Mean to be Bisexual, Transgendered or Non-Binary?”

As an Open and Affirming Church we declare that we welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Most folks have a fairly clear understanding of what it means to be gay or lesbian, but what does it mean to be bisexual, transgendered or non-binary? This course will explore the differences between gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as the various aspects of sexuality in relationship to faith.

All sessions are held in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom at 9:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85419397325?pwd=QlJxejJERHBFQkdjbGtuS2grMjA3dz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1939 7325----Passcode: Seminar



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

“The Passion Story: Luke 19-24”

Our Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, October 19 at 10:00 AM. Classes will be held in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. Bring your

own Bible and join us as we explore the story of the trials, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82937178101?pwd=Tmx5cVNFTHo1Q3BWdROE1OSHhuZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 3717 8101

Passcode: LUKE



Have you heard that 21 Monoclonal Antibody Treatment centers have been established throughout Florida. The newest centers in Bonita Springs and Immokalee have been opened within the last two weeks. The centers are open 7 days a week and are able to handle about 300 persons per day.

Monoclonal antibodies are like the antibodies your body makes to fight viruses and other bugs, but they are made in the labs of pharmaceutical

companies, like Regeneron. They're designed to target the coronavirus spike protein. When the antibodies bind to the spike protein, they block the virus from entering your body's cells. If the virus can't enter cells, it can't make copies of itself and continue spreading within the body.

If a person is already sick, that means monoclonal antibodies prevent them from having severe symptoms that require hospitalization.

If someone has been exposed, monoclonal antibodies can fend off the virus to prevent them from becoming sick in the first place.

The monoclonal antibodies given for

coronavirus (Regeneron) started out being given via an infusion but can now be given via a subcutaneous injection.

They have been reporting great success at the treatment sites and feel that they have prevented many of the recipients from developing severe symptoms thus avoiding hospitalization.

The criteria for treatment is quite broad as being over 50 would cover many of us. For more information go to floridahealthcovid19.gov

Caring for you and your health,
Linda Convertine,
Parish Nurse

Special Offering for Disaster-beleaguered Haiti

by Carol Fouke-Mpoyo

A UCC Haiti Appeal seeks to raise \$100,000 for immediate relief and longer-term recovery for the thousands of people in Haiti who are reeling from sequential disasters.

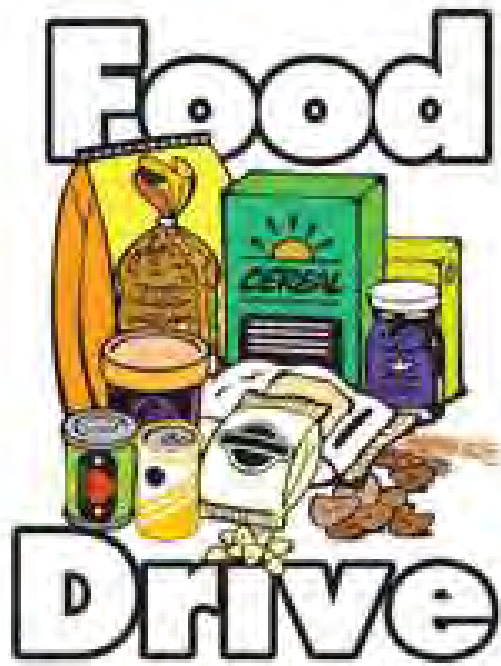
These include the deadly, destructive 7.2 earthquake August 14 in western Haiti, and Tropical Storm Grace hit August 16. The resulting flooding and mudslides are likely to add misery to the earthquake zone and to hinder the search and rescue of survivors.

Thousands (2,307 as of August 22) are confirmed dead and additional thousands injured due to the earthquake. The UCC is working with Global Ministries, Church World Service, and the ACT Alliance among other partners, all of which are currently assessing the situation for damages and needs.

UCC Global H.O.P.E. team leader Joshua Baird was in touch with the partner networks on August 16 and said that the ACT Alliance reports that more than 60 percent of the people of Haiti have been impacted by the disaster. Both the ACT Alliance and Church World Service have spoken about “significant infrastructure challenges,” with road closures due to civil unrest compounded by earthquake damage. Immediate needs include water, due to the corruption of water tanks, and first aid. They note that there are not enough hospital beds in existing, structurally safe facilities.

Please consider donating to this offering for both immediate and long-term needs after these disasters. Donations will be sent to the UCC Disaster Ministries. 100% of your donations will go towards relief and recovery thanks to your generous annual support to OCWM.

To donate make your check payable to “SCUCC” and put “Haiti” in the memo line, then place in baskets at rear of sanctuary or send to the church office. And thank you!



Next Drive-Up Drop-Off Food Drives September 2 & October 7

The recent surge of cases in the Delta Variant increases the importance of our joint effort with Bat Yam Temple of the Drop-Off Drive-Up Food Drive. They are held the first Thursday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to benefit F.I.S.H. and the Gladiolus Food Pantries. Put your food donations in your car's trunk or rear, drive up to the front of the church to our friendly volunteers,

and pop the trunk or hatch. Our masked and gloved volunteers will unload your donations, and then wave to you thanks with a friendly smile. (It's there, you just can't see it behind their masks.) Specially needed items are peanut butters, jellies, canned or dried beans, kids cereals, canned protein such as chicken or tuna, and rice, but all donations are welcome (sorry, we can't take fresh meat or produce, or items requiring refrigeration.) The next two are:

Thursday, September 2

&

Thursday, October 7

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Green Team Share

Getting Cleaner and Greener Is Personal: Hand Sanitizers and Fragrance and Soft Plastic

During the pandemic, the first product I sought was hand sanitizer. I was surprised to learn that even hand sanitizers can contain harmful chemicals. The most popular and best-known brands are not necessarily the ones rated highest by the Environmental Working Group (EWG). Ingredient lists are not always provided for products, and when they are, they are usually long and in microscopically tiny print.

But then when it became hard to find hand sanitizers in stores, I learned that they are easy to make and probably even safer than more expensive alternatives. The only essential ingredient is 91% isopropyl or rubbing alcohol, but if you want the consistency of a gel, simply combine 2 parts (say 2/3 cup) Isopropyl alcohol with 1 part (say 1/3 cup) aloe vera gel.

The first general lesson I learned from hand sanitizers is to avoid anything that contains **“fragrance”** or “scent” or “parfum.” Companies are not required to disclose what chemicals are in “fragrance” because it’s considered a trade secret. Even though fragrance sounds harmless, it may be any of over 3000 chemicals in the U.S. – including many known carcinogens, endocrine-disruptors, neurotoxins, allergens, and other potentially toxic ingredients!

Fragrance is found in most personal care products including sunscreen, shampoo, soap, body wash, deodorant, body lotion, makeup, facial cream, skin toner, serums, and exfoliants. It is also in laundry and dishwashing products, air fresheners, candles, feminine care products, clothing, and even packaging, so look for unscented ones or ones scented with essential oils. The bar soap I’m using now is made from olive oil and the shampoo has essential oils. My deodorant is not only unscented but also has no aluminum. I use coconut oil as a skin moisturizer and mineral oil or petroleum jelly work equally well; none of them get inside the body. You can buy a glass diffuser for essential oils to replace air fresheners or scented candles.

75% of products that list “fragrance” contain phthalates since the latter are preservatives that make the fragrance last longer. Phthalates are potential hormone-disrupting chemicals linked to serious health issues and they’re banned in many other countries, such as Canada, South Korea, and the European Union.

They are also a plasticizing agent in soft plastic, pvc, some toys, and food packaging like cellophane, paperboard, and plastic bags. So in order to avoid phthalates, you also need to avoid soft plastics especially in contact with food and drink. Try to buy food in bulk without packaging. Take your own cloth bags to the grocery to take food home in. Carry water in a stainless steel water bottle rather than plastic. Replace plastic cooking utensils with metal or silicone ones. Replace your plastic salad spinner with a stainless steel one (which I also use to wash all my fruits and vegetables in baking soda). More on other products to replace plastic next time.

Best wishes for a clean and green autumn,

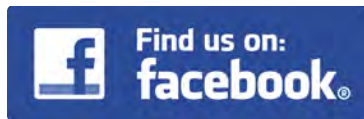
From the **Green** Team



**Sanibel
Congregational
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The Shell Point Men's Club of our church will have it
regular second Tuesday of the month meeting on
September 14th at noon at the Palm Grill.



Reservations are requested by contacting Bob Sheldon at
rsheldon18@msn.com or by phone 239-590-0371



**Submission Deadline
for newsletter items
is the 25th of each
month. Please send
your article/item to
sandy@sanibelucc.org**

Thank you



Robert Erskine
Richard Meyer Jr.
John Frymoyer