

THE

SANIBEL LIGHT



Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
2050 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, Florida 33957



September 2020 ~ Vol. 41 No. 9



Dear Church Family,

It has been a long, hot summer! And here on Sanibel it will continue to be summerlike for at least another month, if not two! I am beginning my vacation September, returning to work on October 12, but due to the corona virus, we will not be taking any extensive trips this year. I plan on doing some biking, reading, yoga and maybe a few day trips with Linda. (She has already warned me she has a "honey-do" list waiting for me as well!)

While I am "away" Pastor Deb and the rest of the staff will keep things going. We will have a couple of guest preachers as well, The Rev. Rich Kirschner will be preaching this coming Sunday, September 6, and our Associate Conference Minister the Rev. Leslie Etheridge will be on board on Sunday, September 27.

The Executive Committee met by conference call last week, and has made a couple of important decisions. First, the TENTATIVE plan is to return to in person worship on Sunday, November 1. All the appropriate safety precautions will be taken at that time including masking, social distancing, and so on. (More details to follow.) We will continue to livestream at that time for those who are unable to join us in person. The Executive Committee will reconvene mid-October to reassess the situation and if the circumstances dictate change the November 1 date to a later time.

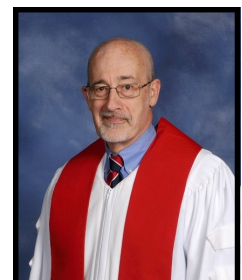
Second, it is with real regret that we have determined that the Christmas Eve Beach Service will not be held this year. There is real question as to whether we could even get a permit for it due to its potential size. This is a one-year decision, and we have notified the city that we fully intend to resume the service in 2021. We will, of course, hold Christmas Eve services here at church (assuming in person worship has resumed) and online. Again, more details to follow.

We so appreciate your continued support. Your kind notes and e-mails, your words of support on the phone, your financial gifts, your patience as we have negotiated new ways of using technology have truly meant a world of difference to all of us on staff and in lay leadership positions.

Blessings,

John

John H. Danner
Senior Pastor



Message from Pastor Deb

Dear SCUCC family and friends;

As you read this our Preschool has just opened for the year. Normally this is a joyous time especially for me as I welcome back the kids, teachers, and their families. I'm usually down in the Preschool once a day, even if it's only for minutes to check in with how things are going, or for chapel each Friday. But as we all know, this is not a normal or usual year.

The decision whether to open was discussed extensively by Pastor John, me, Director Ana Abella, chair of the Preschool Committee Pam Cokes and other of your church leadership. We concluded that while in an ideal world we would remain closed until the pandemic had been brought under control, your preschool offers a needed service to the parents in our community. Many of the families in our preschool are working low-wage essential jobs during this pandemic and need affordable and quality childcare. Your professional and loving staff of teachers have provided a safe and nurturing atmosphere as well as a quality education for a diverse student body for almost 7 years.

So we reopened with the agreement of the teachers as well as many precautions and modifications. We have reduced the number of slots available for students to 12 to meet the recommended guideline of no more than 10 people gathered in a room. Each student will be prescreened before entering the classroom, including having their temperature taken. Our teachers will be masked and/or wearing face shields-one of our students reads lips as part of communicating- as well as wear gloves that will be changed multiple times a day. The children will be washing hands every time there is an activity change, as well as after extended interaction with other students or teachers. Classes and activities will be held outside when possible. The already judicious cleaning schedule was expanded to include more times during the day that our teachers will wipe down surfaces and increased the complete cleaning by our custodial service to each day. And the classrooms are closed to all visitors- including myself. Other precautions and procedures are being implemented. If you would like details of the complete plan, please let me know. Director Ana Abella can also be contacted to answer your questions.

No, in many ways this is not a normal year. Yet some things are as usual. You are providing a needed service to the wider community through the Preschool. Our students benefit not only from the professional skills and training of our teachers, they are nurtured by their love and care as well as their obvious joy in doing so. Our small class sizes allow us to provide the extra attention some students need as they flourish and grow. We are blessed by the presence of these students, their families, our opportunity to support them, and most of all our teachers. Thank you for your continued support of the Preschool, especially in this unusual and challenging time.



God's grace and peace,

Deb Kunkel

Pastor Deb





TEACHING & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Summer Seminars

Our next Sunday Summer Seminar Series starts on September 9, entitled "The Other Big Six Leaders of the 1963 March on Washington plus One". With the death of Congressman John Lewis, those often referred to as the "Big Six" who were responsible for the 1963 March on Washington For Jobs and Freedom have all passed. The contributions to the March by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis are widely celebrated. But what about the other four of the Big 6: James Farmer, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young? Or Dorothy Bright who is included by some historians as one of the Big 6 responsible for the march? Join Pastor Deb as she shares about their lives, how they became part of the March, where they agreed and where they diverged, and their impact today. The first session will be on Zoom on Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m.. The remaining sessions will be September 20, then skip to October 4, and October 11 at the same time.

To join in the Seminars go to Zoom

Meeting: 765 9162 5142

Password: SEMINAR





Help Beirut Recover from Disaster

The Mission and Benevolence Committee invites you to prayerfully consider taking part in our offering to support the UCC Disaster Ministries response to the tragic August 4 explosion in Beirut, Lebanon To take part in this offering, please send your check to the church office made payable to SCUCC with “Beirut Explosion Recovery” written on the memo line. 100% of your donations will go towards the recovery thanks to your previous generous OCWM support that has helped build an infrastructure that is already in place and responding.

Donations will be used as part of a multifaceted program to meet both physical and psychosocial needs created by the blast that left over 150 dead, 6,000 injured, destroyed neighborhoods that have left at least 300,000 homeless as well as damage up to 15 miles away. The blast also severely damaged two hospitals, further hampering the ability to provide help. Recovery efforts are being coordinated with the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD), a long-time Global Ministries partner, to help provide food, rent and other essentials to 200 families made homeless in this disaster. FDCD will also offer workshops for those who have experienced a great deal of trauma and distress as a result of the explosion, especially children, including those who have lost loved ones, whose homes were destroyed or who witnessed the explosion.

Please note that you don’t have to wait until the congregation makes an official appeal if you would like to donate to UCC Disaster Ministries’ response to a recent or current natural disaster, such as the ongoing fires in California or Hurricane Laura recovery. Send you donation to the church office with the recovery effort or area on the memo line of your check and it will be forward to the UCC Disaster Ministries where 100% will be used in their response and recovery efforts.



BITS
BOBS



Do you have an article or important information you'd like to be published in the next issue of the newsletter?? Email sandy@sanibelucc.org by the 25th of the month to make the publish date of the 1st



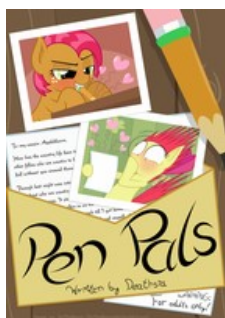
Zoom Coffee Fellowship Sundays 11:10 – 11:30 a.m.

We are meeting virtually for fellowship each week at 11:10 a.m. over Zoom. To be part of Fellowship, go to www.zoom.com, and when prompted enter in the Meeting ID: 89915502094 and Password: Fellowship

Each week one of our pastor's will host and open the time with a simple question for people to share about. Grab your own coffee and cookie and come catch up with each other.



IS
AVAILABLE ON
OUR WEBSITE
TO MAKE A
DONATION OR PAY
YOUR PLEDGE



Be Pen Pal

Would you like to be a pen pal to one of our members living in assisted living and nursing care centers during this time of pandemic restrictions. This is a chance to remind them that even though we cannot visit we still think about them and care, especially those who find it difficult to use a computer or phone. To become a pen pal, please email Pastor Deb at deb@sanibelucc.org, and she will match you with someone to write to on a regular basis.

Beit Luria invites you to a Rosh Hashanah lesson with

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

Rabbi at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, Sanibel, Florida & former President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism

Wednesday, 2 September 2020



The Torah describes Rosh Hashanah in very brief terms. (See Leviticus 23: 23-25 and Number 29:1-6) These two short passages are all the Torah tells us about what is one of the biggest if not the biggest celebration during the year. In our time together, we will explore how and why the significance of Rosh Hashanah has grown so exponentially to become the major Holy Day it is today.

7 PM SAST / 1 PM EDT
ZOOM ID: 286 736 6382



GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Importance of Mangroves

The Green Team is delighted that Lee County through its Conservation 20/20 program is negotiating with Eden Oak, owner of a parcel of land on Shell Point Blvd at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee near the Sanibel Causeway. Eden Oak is proposing to dredge and fill 36 acres of mangrove wetlands to build 55 residential homesites with docks, including the excavation of a new canal and the creation of a boat basin with additional docks. According to the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation, the plan would create new sources of pollution from runoff and create boat traffic in sensitive habitat used by a number of threatened and endangered species, as well as put more people in the coastal high hazard area and add traffic to the evacuation and emergency access on Shell Point Blvd.

July 26 was the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, so this is a good time to highlight why mangrove forests are some of the most valuable ecosystems on our planet and need to be preserved. "Their unique biology enables them to thrive in a wide variety of conditions that most other trees would find toxic. They tolerate both high and fluctuating salinity and take root in salty, low-oxygen soils. This makes them ideally suited for the ever-changing coastal environment.

Bridging the gap between land and sea, mangroves are teeming with life. They serve as nursery habitat for many marine fish and invertebrate species that find food and shelter among the submerged roots. Vast numbers of fish, mollusks, clams, oysters, crabs, birds, and other animals make their homes amid mangroves, creating an ecosystem abundant with food for animals as well as humans. Coastal communities rely on this habitat for food security, livelihoods, and recreation the world over.

Although mangroves have great value for their intrinsic biodiversity, they also benefit communities that are working to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate. Mangrove roots stabilize coastal soils, reducing erosion and flood levels during storms, while forests buffer shorelines from the full impact of waves. These flood protection benefits alone exceed \$65 billion per year. Additionally, mangroves absorb atmosphere-warming carbon dioxide and sequester this carbon for centuries in the underlying soil. It's estimated that mangrove forests store three to five times more carbon in their soil per acre than other tropical forests.

Despite the numerous benefits that mangroves provide, their global decline has been staggering. In the past 50 years, it is estimated that half of the world's mangroves have been lost by habitat destruction, coastal development, and overharvesting. As a result, these forests are now some of the most threatened ecosystems on Earth.

The inclusion of mangrove protections in climate policy can be a triple win for countries, strengthening communities' efforts to adapt to changing environments, mitigating the effects of climate change, and helping to build resilience. These protections also can help ensure that the biodiversity and climate benefits of these critical ecosystems are safeguarded for generations to come."

https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/07/23/mangrove-protections-can-provide-conservation-wins?utm_campaign=2020-07-28+Latest&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew



Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957
Office: (239) 472-0497 Fax: (239) 472-5939
Website: www.sanibelucc.org
Pastor Danner's Blog:
www.periwinkleponderings.blogspot.com



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Facebook &



Next Drive-Up Food Drop Off



Get your bags ready for the September No-Contact Drop Off Food Drive with Bat Yam on Thursday, September 3. Food and paper good donations are collected the first Thursday of the month from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

under the church portico- you do not even need to get out of your car. The clients of F.I.S.H. and the Gladiolus Food Pantry will benefit again from your generosity. If you would like to help with future No-Contact Drop Off Food Drives, please contact Pastor Deb at deb@sanibelucc.org

Staff: John H. Danner, Sr. Pastor (john@sanibelucc.org); Deborah Kunkel, Assoc. Pastor (deb@sanibelucc.org);
Ran Niehoff, Pastor Emeritus; Linda Convertine, Parish Nurse (linda@sanibelucc.org);
Sandra Simmons, Office Manager (sandy@sanibelucc.org); Jordan Jones, Assistant Office Manager (office@sanibelucc.org);
Preschool Staff: Ana Abella, Director; Shelby Ambrosio, Teacher (3 Yr. Olds), Amy Forman, Aftercare & Substitute Teacher
Sunday School & Nursery Staff: Kathy Monroe, Director; Nursery Attendant: Barbara Freeman
Elwood Smith, Music Director; Norm Libby, Organist; Sound Guy - Bob Eidem; Blended Service Musicians: Shawn Allison, Abbey Allison, Dave Dust;
Missionaries— Mark Knowles & Daniel Murry-Knowles (Lesotho); Debbie & Larry Colvin (Ghana)

