

Art Enhances the Lenten Experience



As we are in the season of Lent, art is currently being featured as an integral part of Lent at **First Congregational UCC/Sarasota**, **Coral Gables Congregational UCC** and **Good Samaritan Church/Pinellas Park**. At First Congregational it is part of the Artful Prayer program. For two hours on Thursday mornings during March, a team of facilitators will be providing participants with various art supplies to use expressing and exploring God's sacred presence. At Coral Gables "The Art of Lent" series (pictured) employs art as a source of prayer, meditation, study and devotion using paintings to enhance the Sunday worship scripture passages and at other opportunities during the week. The "Lent in Art" program at Good Sam offers virtual art tours and discussions via Zoom on Monday mornings.



The **United Church of Gainesville** annually compiles a Lenten devotional with daily readings, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and concluding with Easter Sunday. This year's is titled *The Work of the People* ([View Here](#)). The 54-page booklet contains artwork and photos by church members to complement poems and reflections by the pastors and church members along with pieces from noted writers and figures (including Mary Oliver, Emily Dickenson, Dorothy Day and Anne Lamott), scripture passages and book excerpts. The cover painting of Mission St. Dolores (pictured) by **Sue Littell** and other images included are works by church members; **Diana**

Tonnessen created artwork included in the devotional, which are also used as banners.



Supplementing the devotional booklet is an interactive art practice observed at Sunday worship during Lent. The congregation's Lively Arts Committee has designed stained glass-like art hangings that are along the sides of the Sanctuary. Each bears the focus word for every Sunday in Lent, and congregants are being asked to add color and bring them to life. Each Sunday a question appears in the bulletin that relates to the theme of the day. As worshippers depart the Sanctuary, they find a table with pens, markers and colored paper. Congregants are invited to respond to the question of the day by writing a word or phrase or drawing a picture on a piece of colored paper. The papers will be added to the week's artwork colorfully representing *The Work of the People*, which is the Lenten theme. The first question this week was "What do you need to move forward?"

Next week we'll explore other ways art enhances the overall worship experience.