



Deep  
In Our  
Hearts



***Christ Congregational United Church of Christ***  
***A Dynamic Community United in God's Love, Shaping A More***  
***Just and Compassionate World.***

**MARCH 17, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

***ST. PATRICK'S DAY***

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*"Suffering without understanding in this life is a heap worse  
than suffering when at least you have a grain of an idea  
what it's all for." – Ellen J. Barrier*

**THE REV. CANDACE THOMAS, PASTOR**

**JAY HARRAGIN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

**GRAHAM BRYAN, MUSICIAN**

**JOAN CAMPAGNA, LITURGIST**

**JACK SMITH, USHER**

**14920 SOUTHWEST 67<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA 33158**

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***\*Indicates please stand if comfortably able***



## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE**

Leader: The Light shines in the Darkness

**ALL: And the darkness cannot put out the light!**

#### **\*WORLD PEACE PRAYER (*Unison*)**

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe. Amen.

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: New life rises!

**All: That which rises, must first fall and die.**

Leader: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

**All: The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.**

Leader: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

**All: And God will raise us up anew. Amen.**



**\*HYMN    “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”    (No.197, NCH)**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.

**\*THE COMMANDMENT OF JESUS (John 15:5, 12)**

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:    John 12:20-33    NRSV**

**Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal



life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

### **Jesus Speaks about His Death**

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC “What Wondrous Love Is This” Craig Curry**

#### **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (Unison)**

**God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.**

#### **WORDS OF GRACE-Pastor**

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them. Trust that you are forgiven,



that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with you. In the name of Christ, Amen.

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PRAYER SONG    “Sweet Hour of Prayer” (No.505, NCH)**

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care.

And bids me at my Maker's throne,

Let all my needs and wants be known.

In seasons of distress and grief,

My soul has often found relief,

And oft escaped the tempter's snare

By your return, sweet hour of prayer.

**TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION    (You are invited to open your heart to the movement of the Holy Spirit).**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Unison)**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.    Amen.**



## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY - Pastor**

As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the life of the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. Trust God will use it for the building of the kingdom of God that is emerging among us.

## **MUSICAL OFFERING "Open Our Eyes" Bob Cull**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" (No. 433, NCH )**

**MESSAGE: "Do You Want to See Jesus?"**

**\*HYMN: "I Am Yours, O Lord" (No.455, NCH)**

**\*COMMISSION- Pastor Candy**

God's people, go out and nurture this world so that new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. Amen.

**\*BENEDICTION**



## ***Welcome to Everyone!***

***Whoever or whatever brought you to our Sanctuary or our Facebook on-line worship service this morning, we believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in you joining us. We hope that you feel the Holy Spirit in our service of prayer and praise. At Christ Congregational Church we strive to love one another as God has loved us and welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. Therefore, we are an Open and Affirming church, loving, and welcoming all people in all of God's variety, including racial, ethnic, and economic diversity, gender diversity and expression, sexual orientation, and physical and mental abilities.***

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** Do you have joys or concerns you would like lifted in worship? Please call or text Pastor Candy at 925.640.9289, or email her at [cccpastor@att.net](mailto:cccpastor@att.net) by 10 am Sunday morning.

*Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.*

### **REMEMBERED IN OUR CONTINUING PRAYERS**

***Helen Wiley, Joan Hansen, Maggie McDowell, Paul LeGrand, Frank Tirb, Joy Reid, Daniel Best, The Family & Friends of Rev. Tom Franzman, Linda Soltys, Abigail Castro, Rocio Tafur-Salgado, Shawnalee Vassell, Gary Pearson, Mary Ann Dente, Rochelle, Theresa Gambrell, Don Warner and Julie Henkel.***



**ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT CCC?** About the United Church of Christ? Pastor Candy would be happy to meet with you to talk about our Christian faith, your spiritual journey, and to discuss what church membership means. Please let her know if you're interested!

**FOR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS**, please call *Pastor Candy* at 925-640-9289 or you may call and leave a message with the Church Office, 305-235-9381.

**ONLINE GIVING** We invite you to use our online giving option as a quick, simple, and secure method to make your pledges and any ancillary contributions. Clicking on the "Give Online Today" button at the bottom of our weekly newsletter or by going to our website at <https://christcongregationalucc.org> and clicking "online giving." You will be redirected to the secured Moon Clerk site which will allow you to enter your credit card information.

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** occurs at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays.  
**ZOOM Meeting ID:** 856 1964 5746.

**Choir Practice** takes place before worship on Sundays at 9:15 in the Sanctuary.

**CCC WOMEN** will have a book discussion on *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano following their April 20th meeting. All are welcome to participate.



**TODAY:** After worship Micheal Gold from the Bermont Gold/Raymond James investment group will give his presentation after worship in Kelsey Hall. A light lunch will be served. All those interested are invited.

**ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7th ,** Daniel Hillis, a representative from Morgan Stanley/Graystone Investments will share his presentation.

Each of these financial planning companies is being considered as CCC commits to hiring one to manage the church's assets. Council will determine which company will serve the church. Your thoughts and comments to Council members are welcome.

A light lunch will be provided.



**EASTER LILLIES** may be ordered for \$12 each through Cindy Ketzle.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM/PASSION SUNDAY.** Please gather in Kelsey Hall shortly before worship. We will process with palms from there to the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY IS MARCH 24th.** Plan to be present for the Mediterranean potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Kelsey Hall, with the Order for Foot Washing and Holy Communion, followed by a Tenebrae service in the Garden Chapel.



 Today's beautiful floral arrangement has been dedicated by  
Rita Falk-Smith.

### LENTEN SCHEDULE

**Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary and on Facebook.**

March 17th

March 24th Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28th Maundy Thursday—Time to be announced.

March 31st Easter

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 17, 2024 to March 24, 2024

Today	10:30 am	Worship in the Sanctuary & on Facebook Live
	Noon	Bermont Gold/Raymond James presentation with lunch
Mon. Mar. 18	6:30 pm	ZOOM Bible Study Meeting ID: 856 1964 5746
Thurs. Mar. 21	7:00 pm	Council Zoom Meeting
Sun. Mar. 24	10:30 am	Worship in the Sanctuary & on Facebook Live



**BECOME A CITIZEN**

# **FREE CITIZENSHIP DRIVE!**

Sponsored and Organized by  
Christ Congregational Church, Florida  
Immigrant Coalition and EnFAMILIA




**April 6th, 2024**

**Redland Community Center  
29264 SW 159th Ct.  
Homestead, FL 33033  
10:00am to 2:00pm**

## **Eligibility Requirements for Citizenship:**

- Must be 18 years or older
- Must be a Legal Permanent Resident for 5 years OR 3 years if married to a US citizen.

 **CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
[christcongregationalucc.org](http://christcongregationalucc.org)

**enFAMILIA, Inc.**



**To Register Call:**

**1 (888) 600-5762**

**Or visit our website at:**

**[flic.org/events](http://flic.org/events)**

**SCAN  
ME**



## **Bring all of the following information and documentation with you to the event:**

- Green Card (even if expired)
- All passports used in the last 5 years.
- Home/School/Employment history for the last 5 years (or 3 years if married to a US citizen).
- Children's Information such as date of birth, previous addresses.
- Marital History (Information about past spouses)
- If you have been arrested, cited or given a ticket, you must bring your Certificate of Disposition for each incident.

## **What to bring for a fee waiver:**

- 2022 or 2023 tax return OR
- Food Stamp/SNAP/Medicaid award letter OR
- SSI letter (Social Security Income)







**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# **Vision & Mission**

## **VISION**

**A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY UNITED IN GOD'S  
LOVE, SHAPING A MORE JUST AND  
COMPASSIONATE WORLD!**

## **MISSION**

A compassionate community of faith,  
working for justice, striving for peace,  
serving our neighbor, providing an open  
and inclusive space that welcomes ALL  
while faithfully following in the radical  
loving ways of Jesus.



March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**"Deep In Our Hearts"**

*The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Jeremiah 31:32*

One of the distinct features of many United Church of Christ conferences, associations and congregations compared to other faith communities is their commitment to become Open and Affirming (O&A). O&A is a stance of radical welcome to LGBTQIA+ people. Because church communities have historically been places of hurt and exclusion, it is even more imperative that churches who are Open and Affirming take a strong and public stance.

A little over a year ago, the ONA Coalition welcomed a new executive director, The Rev. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh. According to a UCC news story that came out at the time,\* She is the first Black woman to head the coalition. "I am honored and excited for this opportunity," she said. "I realize how important my selection is, and I recognize the magnitude of what this opportunity will mean for the LGBTQIA+ community. I accept this challenge because the coalition has laid the sturdy groundwork to make its next steps forward in reimagining and revisioning, with regeneration as a goal."

Roseboro-Marsh has more than 16 years of experience as a clinician. Her particular focus has been working with clients who identify as LGBTQIA+, as well as those who also identify as African American with an active religious and/or spiritual practice.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Katrina to our team because of her unique voice, energy and experience," said search committee chair and Coalition Leadership Team member the Rev. Derek Terry. "With the current attack on queerness in schools and communities across the country, we feel an obligation to protect and ensure the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community."

Terry added that "while some work to erase the experiences of BIPOC people from the pages of history books," Roseboro-Marsh will "increase our advocacy work through an intentionally more intersectional approach."

Roseboro-Marsh is ordained clergy and holds ministerial standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. She is married to the Rev. Tana Roseboro-Marsh; they reside on the east coast with their Morkie, Xola Darling Roseboro-Marsh.

\*<https://www.ucc.org/new-ona-director-global-ministries-exec-among-recent-hires/>



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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