



The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"



April 24, 2020

Church Services and Activities Cancelled thru at least May 15.



From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of Salvation through your Son Jesus Christ.

Thank You:
For forgiveness when we fail.

For the strength of humility when we are tempted by pride.

For the joy of helping when we see people in need.

For the assurance that we are special when we feel inadequate, alienated, and overlooked.

For Your quiet but powerful presence when we feel all alone.

For the joy and laughter that refreshes when life gets too serious.

Thank You:
For the confidence of friends and the healing

love of family, and

The knowledge that "Your faithfulness continues through generations" and

"Your love endures forever."

Amen



Matecumbe United Methodist Church

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YouTube Services

Pastor Bob Pavey is providing weekly services during these difficult times. Click on title you wish to listen to.

March 22, 2020: ["We will not Fear"](#)

March 29, 2020: ["Why Me?"](#)

April 5, 2020: ["A Week to Remember"](#)

April 12, 2020: ["The Price of my Salvation"](#)

April 19, 2020: ["God's Heart Remedy"](#)

REMEMBER the Church.....

During this historic pandemic, the church services have been canceled and no offering plate has been passed for weeks now. But the church expenses continue – salaries, utilities, etc. Please remember the church during this time of need.

ONLINE Tithing and Giving... Now Available!

It's so easy! Please give it a try.

You can now contribute to the church, safely and easily using your credit card... with a highly secured encrypted system that the church has set up with the bank. [Click here](#) to donate. For more detailed instructions [click here](#).

Communion May 3

You may receive communion during the May 3 YouTube church service. Bread and wine in small sealed containers will be available to pick up in fellowship hall, Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. If they can't do a pick-up, you may use cracker/bread and a drink. We use grape juice at the church.

Staying Connected ...

Click on any of the highlighted words – links to websites or pages of the church website – all intended to keep us connected:

[Church website](#) – Don't forget to check regularly. [What's New](#) feature of the website to make it easy to see what and when changes are made.

[Bulletin Board](#) on the website where a variety of announcements can be posted.

[Photo gallery](#) – loads of photos

[Our People](#) to read about people that make our church special. Who would you like to see us add?

[Calendar](#) – for meetings, birthdays, etc.

[Links of Interest](#) – local news, missions, and more

[Church YouTube Account](#) - listen to any of Pastor Bob's recent sermons and a variety of spiritual music by Pastor Bob, Richard Russell or the Island Quartet.

[Face Book](#) page for Matecumbe United Methodist Church

Alma Dalton's 96th birthday!



What a grand birthday it was this past Wednesday. Alma sat in her yard as fire trucks, police cars and dozens of vehicles carrying friends paraded by tooting horns, playing music and dropping off gifts and cards. Alma's birthday was big news in town. [Click here](#) to read the front-page story.

Prayer List...

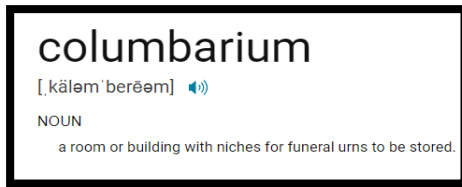


If you know someone on the prayer list, why not reach out to them or to a family member. Your call, card or email may mean the world.

Rev. Dick Smith, Jay and Carol Richard, Emma Kuchynskaya, Slava, Larisa, Dorothy Hertel, Anne Krampitz, Ralph Harding, April Dugger, Sarah Belotto, Don Light, Alma Dalton, Tania Martin, Ray Law, Paul and Ceilia Raia, Karen Lucas, Janet Lewis, Randy Baad, Glenda Whitman, Jim Reynolds, Ron Valdes, Elizabeth Stanley, Beth Nichols, Gary Nichols Jr.

Do you know someone else who needs our prayers now? Let Jan Grewe know at jangrewe@bellsouth.net or call her at 305-393-6196 and she will notify the Prayer Warriors. Or email the church: matumc@bellsouth.net

Columbarium...What is that?



Back in 2004 Donna Cockerham went to a memorial service for a friend at the St Justin Martyr Catholic Church in Key Largo. The church had a small walled columbarium for church members only, all in a beautiful garden setting. Donna had never heard the word columbarium before but when she left the emotional service, she knew she needed to learn about it.

Donna's mother had just passed away and she realized what an asset it would be to have a beautiful place in the Keys to honor and remember loved ones... one available to people of all faiths. And so, she began intensely researching to learn more about this new word... columbarium ... and to find a location where a non-denominational memorial garden could be created.

What better spot than the land between the Hurricane Monument and the Matecumbe United Methodist Church where at one time in history, the church parsonage was located.

The next step was finding persons with like thoughts and financial support for a project like this. She soon found them ... three close friends at Church and a trusted long-time employee of the family business. They joined with excitement to make the dream come to fruition.

With the support of many local professionals, a community garden where folks can have a quiet place to visit, reflect and remember loved ones was created.

Donna now has several plaques placed on the Memory Wall in memory of special relatives, including an infant grandson as well as Niches provided for her family. She is happy to have a place to go to feel close and visit with those no longer with us. And all of us are happy she made this happen, not just for the Matecumbe United Methodist Church, but for the entire community. There is plenty of space left so spread the word.

[Click here](#) to go to the **Matecumbe Memorial Gardens** webpage to learn all about the niches where the remains of two family members can be placed or the Memory Wall where a plaque will honor loved ones.



Let's Read

What better time to connect with the church book club... whether you are a regular participant or not? Since the Florida Keys are in a virtual lockdown, the church book club decided this is the perfect time to bring readers together at least electronically. As the Covid-19 crisis has confined us to our homes, a sliver of a silver lining is that it has provided a chance to catch up on our reading... one of the few pursuits that remain unchanged.

We invite any of you who have been reading during this period of isolation to send us a short review. Or at least send us titles of the books you think others would love too. We'll create a list of favorites that can be included in future newsletters along with some reviews.

Jim Winstel has provided the first review: "Harbinger" by Johnathan Cahn

After having finished the "Epicenter" at Pastor Bob's suggestion, I decided to expand my limited knowledge of mid-eastern history by reading this book regarding the events leading up to the 911 attack on The World Trade Center.

The events and parallels to Isaiah 9:10 in a sequential manner opened my eyes to some possibilities that may be in our not too distant future. This was a good read.

Birthday Celebrations....



Think how thrilled these people would be if you called or sent a birthday greeting!

May birthdays... (did we miss anyone?)

May 4:

Carol Majors

May 5:

Diane McKinley

May 15:

Gail Gargano

May 28:

Kim Youngblood



Ron Wagner... in his own words

From *Stories from the Skiff: March 04, 2009*

Being born in Miami in 1948 was a lucky start for our family as my father would take me and my two brothers to Islamorada in search of simply amazing fishing opportunities in the early 50's. Our favorite fish was the Permit which we did off 3 bridges: Indian key, our favorite haunt along with Channel 5 and Long key. Along the sides of those bridges they built catwalks, wooden walkways that you could safely fish from. As a kid, I remember laying on my stomach peering through the spaces between the boards and counting the schools of permit and tarpon that sat in back of the bridge pilings. My dad only wanted to hook and catch permit. Strictly sight fishing, we would pitch small finny crabs to a permit we were after and if a tarpon came over to eat it, we would pull it away from him. No way were we to want a Tarpon on a crab. We used some stout tackle back then and a monster Tarpon could drag you all over that bridge, not to mention perhaps rip the outfit right out of your grip. And over those early years, we caught perhaps 1000 permit to 42 lbs. there. I believe the Wagner family has caught that many. Catching the crabs was fun as we would walk the Oceanside flats early in the morning and dip net them as they scurried from our approach. Once we had a couple dozen, it would be a mad dash to catch the prime tide change that they prefer to feed. This we did what seemed like every weekend, coming down from the mainland, leaving at 3 a.m. and fishing as hard as we could for just one type of game fish. We were addicted beyond belief as permit filled the insides of our family's heads. I think today, all I have to do is blink and they are there. And years later I'm still hooking them at the same places my father took me too.

I got married right out of High School in 1966 and with my wife Carol and a newborn daughter, we left the north and moved to Islamorada. Working for a tackle shop was just right for me and besides on my lunch break, I could drive down to Indian key bridge and hook up a permit quickly. Or I would wade the flats off sea oats beach and throw the fly rod for Bonefish. The first Bonefish I caught there was in 1968 and it weighed 12 lbs. What a lucky guy. We lived right across from the Green Turtle Inn on the bayside and I would fish anytime I could. During the time working, I hate that word, I would meet the elite anglers of the area and the best guides anywhere. I spooled their reels, cleaned their drags, dipped their shrimp. I was a Kid and enjoyed it.

The tackle shop was sold so my next step was to open my own almost right across the street called Wagner's Tackle Shop where the new liquor store is today at mile marker 82. And there the wife and I would meet baseball legend Ted Williams who stopped in most early mornings. We would talk fishing until customers would come in the doors and cause

Ted to leave. He would invite me fishing, I never refused as Carol would mind the store. She was a natural for selling tackle. We would leave very early either going for Tarpon in Sandy Key basin or running up the Cape to Little Shark River where the Reds and Snook were always waiting. I learned a lot from him, most importantly to do it to the best of your ability. This sticks with me today like it was yesterday. Why not be a guide, Ted said, I'll be your mother and show you the ropes. Forget being indoors, get out in the fresh air. You can do it.

To make a long story short, I got my coast guard license in 1968 and the rest of the years that I have guided, I would not want to change a bit of it. I fished out of then called Islamorada Yacht Basin, now the Lorelei, for 25 of those years, and a couple of other places but prefer the solitude of trailering. Each day I thank the Good Lord for all my blessings he has given me and my better half. Those people I had the pleasure to know, 43 great years here in paradise. My home now on the other side of the Green Turtle. Straight line it is maybe 200 yards from where it all began. That is most amazing. All of this because of my passion to go fishing. I leave you with this:

GOD NEVER MADE A MORE CALM, QUIET AND INNOCENT RECREATION AS FISHING



Carol and Ron's pride and joy... the historic Red Cross House built after the 1935 hurricane... and lovingly maintained by the Wagners for the last 40 years ... one of few Red Cross Houses remaining in the Keys and surely the nicest!

Time to Share More Photos





**Happy
Birthday
Alma!**

