



The Lighthouse

Matecumbe Methodist Church

"Bringing the light of Jesus Christ to our Islands"

Matecumbe Methodist Church

81831 Overseas Highway

Islamorada, FL 33036

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Website – matecumbeumc.org

Office hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Worship Service Sunday - 11:00 am

[YouTube Services](#)

Don't miss any of the weekly services. [Click here](#) to select the Sermon you would like to hear.



A Time to Worship

In 1963 Diane Fossey, California-born geologist left the comfort of her home to move to Africa. There she lived among the rare, gentle mountain gorillas of Rwanda that were threatened with extinction due to poachers.

She began her mission on the sides of a 14,000 foot tall, rain-shrouded volcano, and after several years, the gorillas came to accept her as one of their own. She named them, cradle their babies, cried with them when they mourned their dead.

After 18 years with the gorillas, she became like them growing among them, and they were her friends. When faced with danger, she bravely defended them. In the early hours of December 27, 1985 she was knifed and murdered apparently by poachers whose trade she had sought to destroy. She died for those she came to save.

2000 years ago, Christ left the comfort of his home for humanity. Identified with us, learned our names, wept with us. And He, too, died for those He came to live among and to save.

February 14 will be the beginning of lent, a time of remembering the death, and resurrection of the Savior. A time to worship.

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Want to Join Matecumbe Methodist?

We will be receiving members on February 25th. Please contact the office or see pastor Bob.

Please add to your prayers:

Karen Buono, Faye Harding, Hamilton family, Jen Leak, Phyllis McIntosh, Richard Riggs, Galen, Jim Winstel, Russ & Sherri, Mike Painter, Borden Makepeace, Jon Hamilton, Pastor Bob & Marcia, Bill Morton, Scott Ross, Rob Cummings.

* Please call the church office to update the names on the prayer list.

PLEASE COME JOIN US:

Sunday School: @ 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study: on Thursday's @ 4:30 pm with Rob Kolb, Fellowship Hall.

Library: Opens Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 to 12 a.m. Amazing selection of books.

Stained Glass: Tuesday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Men's Breakfast: Thurs 7:30am at Lorelei.

Lady Card Players: 9:30 to 12 pm on Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall

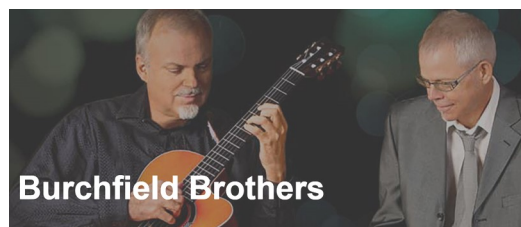
Worship Team: Practice on Wednesday @ 7:00 pm. If you like to sing—join the group, for a service, the season, or year 'round.

Gratitude Jar: Please stop and write on a gratitude card and drop it in the jar. We will put it on the board. Thank you!

Children's Home – Please remember to bring in your loose change for the jar in the Narthex that goes to helping these children. Next offering will be **March 31**.

Book Club: February 21 @ 11:30, bring your lunch.

ASH WEDNESDAY 02/14/23 Sanctuary will be open 9 to 11 a.m.

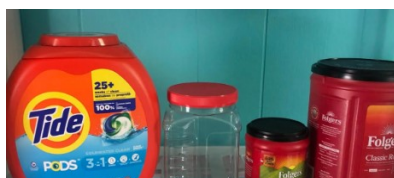


February 11, 2024 Concert: At the 11 am church service, a Burchfield Brothers concert as they celebrate 30 years of touring. With Jon on classical guitar and Ben playing Irish Whistles along with the Mallet Kat, their gospel and mountain music will enthrall you.

The Matecumbe Methodist Church Ministries: Our Ministries are our way of serving God. Your help is greatly appreciated! Read about all the ministries further down in this newsletter (pages 4-5).

And please help through your financial contributions and through your volunteer time, effort and ideas. Current needs:

1. Both the folks at the Nursing Home and the Children's Shelter really appreciate personal hygiene kits. Contribute \$10-\$20 occasionally to provide these kits. See Nan.
2. Nan Inches is planning a free shopping day soon at the Nursing Home. Donate clothes, mugs, figurines, stuffed animals, blankets, hats, etc.
3. Nan's Art events require loads of supplies. Contribute \$\$\$, art supplies or plastic containers.



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**POTLUCK
SUNDAY**



If you haven't been joining in to enjoy lunches after church or the men's pancake breakfasts, you're missing delicious food and good times with the church family! Watch for the notices so you don't miss the next Matecumbe Methodist event.

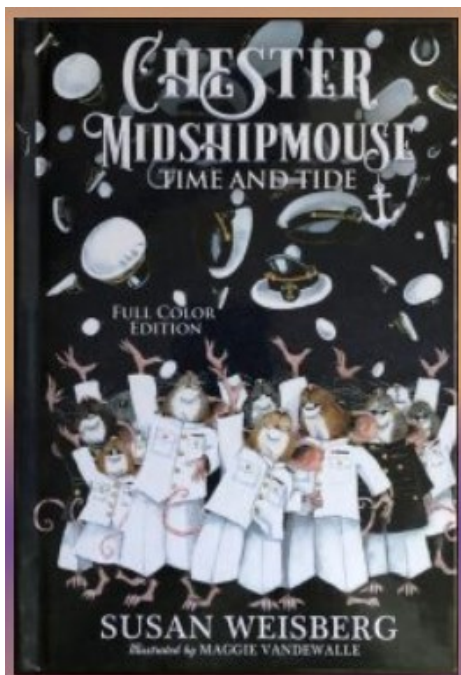


Book Club

Ten of the church gals met for their monthly Book Club meeting on January 13. A highlight was Susan Weisberg showing us a copy of the third in a series of books she has written and had published. The latest is "Chester Midshipmouse... Time and Tide". Congratulations, Susan.

Robin Henderson gave a rave review of a book written by a friend of hers....."Secret Book of Flora Lea". And then we heard of lots of other good "reads".

The next meeting will be on February 21, and, again, we will share what we have been reading individually, and bring our own lunches, to start at 11:30. (Reminder to all..... our church library is overflowing with wonderful books. Anytime someone is in the building, ask to be admitted if you would like some to borrow.)



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God's Church and the people who make up His Church are of preeminent concern to Him, so it is not surprising that when 1000s of faithful congregations of believers needed and wanted to continue worshipping in Spirit and in Truth guided by sound Biblical doctrine, God provided a way.

Both before and after the disaffiliation process from the United Methodists, our Matecumbe Methodist church council discussed and unanimously agreed that affiliating with the new Global Methodist Church will best serve the organizational and spiritual needs of our congregation. Now we need to know if you, the members of our church, agree to join the Global Methodist Church and to accept its guiding principles and doctrine.

There will be a presentation this Sunday that briefly outlines the council's thoughts as to why this is a good decision. Here are a few of the major points that guided us in our unanimous decision.

1. The Global Methodist Church is temporarily adopting the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline. It is those principles we agree with as Methodists, and those principles that were not being followed that precipitated the need to disaffiliate. We anticipate the final Global Methodist Book of Discipline will be in keeping with Wesleyan teaching with which we agree.
2. Oversight is biblical and practical for the long-term health of a local church.
3. The Global Methodist Church is creating a smaller organization with less bureaucracy.
4. The apportionment to the Global Methodists will be much less than previously paid to the United Methodist Church. They will assess us about 6% of our income as compared to the almost 15% we previously paid.
5. There is no Trust Clause, meaning all local church property is owned by the local congregation.
6. Finally, the Global Methodists are not putting any burden on local congregations if they want to leave the Global Methodist Church in the future.

This is an important decision we are making, and we ask our members to approach this vote thoughtfully and prayerfully. The vote will be held over several weeks starting in late February. A majority vote in favor of affiliating with the Global Methodist Church is needed for us to proceed.

Much more information about the Global Methodist Church is available at globalmethodist.org

Matecumbe Methodist Church Ministries (Page 1 of 2)

Ministries are our way of serving God: helping us connect with God, to share His love with others, and help others in need. The Matecumbe Methodist Church helps in so many ways. We are presently supporting 5 International ministries, providing \$1,000 to each of the organizations below.



Rice and Beans: Focuses efforts on educational resources, providing stable meals, building/upgrading communities. We have supported them since April Dugger introduced us to their work. Marcia and her granddaughter went to Costa Rica and saw this work firsthand. They are helping the people to keep children in school, providing supplies, food and repairing the schools.



The International Leadership Institute (ILI), has a passionate commitment to change history by accelerating the spread of the Gospel. Joy Griffin, who visits and inspires our church family regularly, is the co-founder. Joy has a deep passion for equipping leaders around the world to do the Lord's work and to see the Gospel spread.

Innerlight Ministry spreads Christianity with outreach in the United States and in Asia. The Christian school in Bangladesh continues to serve around 800 students from Christian, Buddhist and Hindu backgrounds. In this Muslim nation, minority groups are indoctrinated with Islam in the public schools. Our ministry partners welcome minorities to attend and learn about Jesus. The current Bible project is the translation, printing and distribution of the first Bible in the Kaobrung language. Those in Myanmar continue to struggle daily. It has been three years since the military coup and life is still dangerous for Christians there. The feeding program for Christian orphanages has been able to operate this year but it is not possible to visit them. Please continue to pray for a miracle for this nation.



One Mission (OMS): Since the start of the war in February 2022, OMS has invested thousands of dollars into Ukraine relief, shipping tons of food and supplies into the country from Hungary for distribution. Additionally, they have hosted and supported refugees in Budapest, and supported a trauma camp for widows and orphans of Ukrainian soldiers.



Bluewater Surrender: A local group that has started an orphanage in Guatemala. In 2015 BWS purchased property in Ensenada, Guatemala to be used as a children's home "Casa Aqua Azul" for abandoned and abused children, and a mission base. They take teams of people from here every year if you are interested in participating in a mission.



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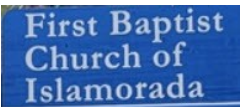
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Matecumbe Methodist Church Ministries (Page 2 of 2)

The international ministries that the Matecumbe Methodists support financially is just the beginning. The church supports so many other causes throughout the year with special donations and hands on volunteer efforts by our church members.



Samaritan Purse and Operation Christmas Child. Every year since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Recently, our church has been filling as many as 50 boxes as part of this program. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.



Community Ministry, the Food Pantry helps children, seniors, families and individuals in need in our area. We can help by donating food, especially helpful: cereals, canned meats and fruits, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soups, rice (1-2 lb bags)



Florida Methodist Children's Home, with their main campus in Enterprise FL. It is a diverse ministry that includes residential care, therapeutic group care, foster care, emergency shelter, independent living assistance, and community child care. Our members bring loose change for the jar in the Narthex for the children. Each month

that has a fifth Sunday, our church has an offering to support the ministry of the Children's Home.



Florida Keys Children's Shelter, here in Islamorada, is dedicated to providing the best possible solutions for abused, abandoned or neglected children. Our church provides frequent dinners and an evening of games, crafts and fun for these children. Contact Nanette Inches to help or call the church office.



Oasis Nursing & Rehab on Plantation Key, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week provides nursing, and Long-Term Care and rehab facilities. Thank you Rob Kolb for providing weekly Bible Study at Oasis. In addition members of Matecumbe Methodist provide regular activities for residents: A free shopping boutique with items donated by church members, Arts and Craft Days, and special events. Contact Nanette Inches to help or call the church office.



Our own Stained Glass group—creates lovely stained glass crosses and angels distributed to people in the community who are struggling with difficult situations, just to remind them that there are people that care and are thinking of them. If you know of anyone who would benefit from an angel or a cross, get in touch with the stained glass folks at the church on Tuesday, or call the church office.

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A resident of Islamorada for 30 years now, Jill Zima Borski has enjoyed the opportunity to tell the stories of the Florida Keys from January 1, 1995 to the present -- on and off but mostly on, as she likes to say -- for the Free Press and the Keys Citizen, as well as Keys-based magazines. She loves the opportunity to tell people's stories, as people are infinitely fascinating, albeit vexing from time to time! For stress relief, she turns to copious exercise -- religiously swimming a mile, biking 21 miles or kayaking Tavernier Creek.

Jill's athletic accomplishments include walking on to her Duke University swim team in her junior year and earning a letterman's jacket and having completed an Ironman-distance triathlon in the Texas Hill Country in the 1990s when she got lost on the course -- which was haphazardly marked with posted signs -- and had to complete 123 miles cycling after swimming 2.4 miles in a lake, and then run a marathon.

Jill wrote *Know That I Have Lived*, a memoir-style short-story book, available online that covers highlights of what she learned growing up in Florissant, Mo., Pittsfield, Mass., Gainesville, Fla. and then on to universities, earning a B.A. from Duke University and a Master of Science degree in Telecommunications from Indiana University-Bloomington. A second memoir, *Know That I Have Loved*, is written about life since coming to the Keys but wallows when it comes to publishing it.

Curious and creative, Jill has enjoyed participation in the Art Guild of the Purple Isles for years, as well as its art shows. Although no longer a member of the art guild, Jill donates her time painting canvases and Christmas tree ornaments for local entities including the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, on whose advisory board she serves.

Jill is involved in community organizations such as the Just Older Youth Center, whose motto is "not your grandparents' senior center," Wild Women on the Water and the Florida Keys chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

An avid traveler and student, Jill's vagabond spirit enables her to explore the world and its wonders. Having visited 34 countries including Mongolia, Ukraine and most of Europe, she always is ready to pack a backpack or bag and go to places she has never been. Jill learned French and German in high school, and pursued Spanish and Italian after that -- mostly through on-the-ground learning, so foreign languages do not hold her back. About two years ago, she started housesitting and pet-sitting which has given her opportunities to house- and horse-sit in the Loire Valley area of France, and in more easily-reached places such as Boise, Portland, Austin, and Huntsville. For Jill, it's not a question of why, but more like "Why not?!"

Another "why not" moment: she appeared on Wheel of Fortune a few years ago and won a trip to Aruba and \$10,000.

Jill is a product of a loving family. Marvin and Elizabeth Zima bore six kids, three girls and three boys and Jill is the second oldest. Her parents, retired, live in Weston, Fla.

Upon moving to the Keys, Jill met and married a lifelong artist, Tim Borski, who originally was from Wisconsin. As parents of two sons, Josef, 23, and Gus, 20, Jill's love for and pride in them is endless. Both are earning college degrees and Jill is fearful they will be entrepreneurs like their parents, which isn't the easiest row to hoe. The Borski Boys are sensitive but strong, honest and mostly hardworking, and independent with their own talents, interests and senses of adventure.

Discovering Matecumbe Methodist Church (MMC) and getting to know and be involved in its congregation has been a blessing. She marvels she never worries about how long the services are because she is so engaged in its atmosphere and being surrounded by its wonderful members.

As for the future, it's more of the same: writing, exercising, traveling, learning, pet-and people-caring, and attending MMC.

A star in our midst! Garrett Gomila



Son of Rene and grandson of Paul and Jan Grewe, Garrett, at age 13 is an amazing young man and super athlete. Though only an eighth grader, Garrett is on the high school track team as a distance runner. He also participates in numerous community races. In his most recent 5K races, he finished 1st in one and 2nd in another, for his age group— finishing each in just over 21 minutes. He is now training to run in the famous Seven Mile Bridge Race on April 13 this year. His goal... "To do the best I can."

Track isn't his only sport. Garrett started playing tennis at age 8. And is now an assistant coach at the orange/green experience level, typically working with young players from 5 years of age up to about 10.

He is planning to try out for the tennis team next year at Coral Shores.

For now, Garrett is working diligently to improve his skills and endurance, practicing tennis four times a week and running four days. We are so lucky to have such a talented young man in our midst. And to top it off—he is a real gentleman, kind, and intelligent. He'll go far.



A lesson about God's love in song! GOD and DOG by Wendy Francisco, as sung by our own Susan Bateman during the Sunday church service January 28.

I look up and I see God, I look down and see my dog.

Simple spelling: GOD; same word backwards: DOG.

They would stay with me all day; I'm the one who walks away.

But both of them just wait for me and dance at my return with glee.

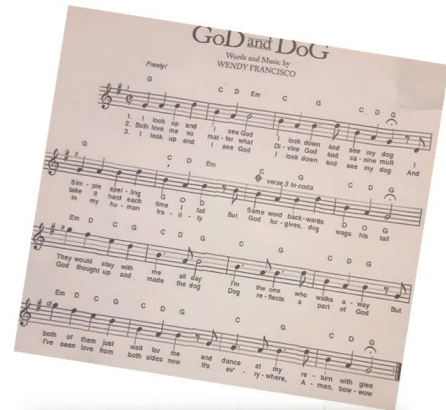
I can't match their love for me.

Both love me no matter what, Divine God and canine mutt.

I take it hard each time I fail, but God forgives; dog wags his tail.

God thought up and made the dog. Dog reflects a part of God.

I've seen love from both sides now. It's everywhere, Amen, bow-wow!

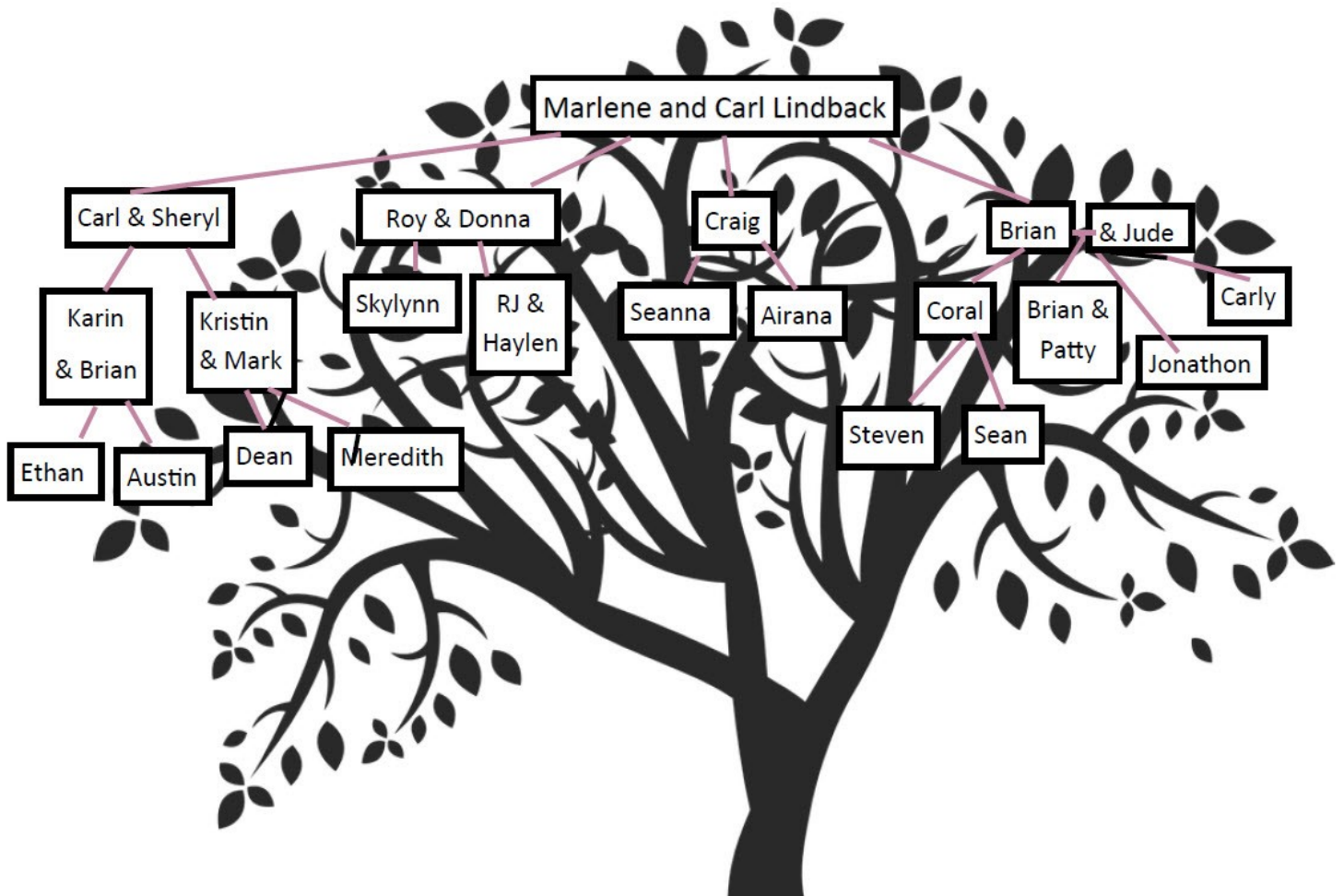


Susan and MAC

Big Part of the Church Family: The Lindbacks

Strong families make strong churches. Do you ever wonder about who belongs to whom in the back row on Sunday mornings, with so many Lindback kids, grandkids and great grandkids? We got it all figured out (with help from Haylen Lindback).

[Click here](#) to read Marlene Lindback's story and the stories of numerous other members of the church family.



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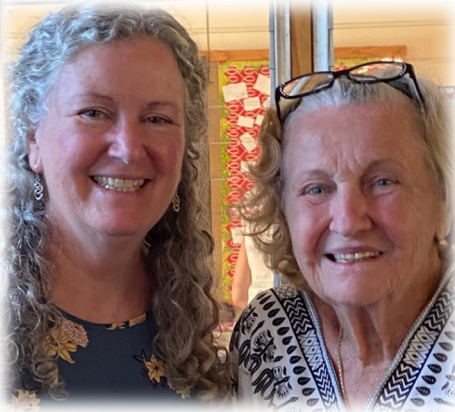
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Photos of our Church Family



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What a wonderful
Christmas Season
it was!



Kick off the season
PANCAKES
WITH
SANTA
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9
8:30 - 11:30
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