



The Lighthouse

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



Church Services canceled until June 21.

A few activities already resumed... check [calendar](#) in website for scheduled activities



From the Pastor's Desk:

"Prayer"

The words of Jesus to his disciples on good Friday night; "watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak".

Jesus the omnipotent Son of God felt it necessary to rise each morning before dawn to open His heart to His Father in prayer. Should we not feel even more compelled to pray to Him who is "the

giver of every good and perfect gift." (James 1:17) He has promised to provide for all our needs.

We do not know all that Jesus gained from His time in prayer, but we do know this—a life without prayer is a powerless life. It may be a life filled with much activity and noise, but it will be far removed from Him who day and night prayed to God.

Perhaps the best advice from scripture is "Pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks."



Matecumbe United Methodist Church

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E-mail - matumc@bellsouth.net

Website - matecumbeumc.org

YouTube Services

Pastor Bob Pavey is providing weekly services during these difficult times. [Click here](#) to select the Sermon you would like to hear.

ONLINE Giving to MUMC

Learn how... [click here](#)

Staying Connected ...

Click on the highlighted words to keep connected:

[Church website](#) – Do not forget to check regularly.

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

[Church YouTube Account](#) - listen to any of Pastor Bob’s recent sermons and a variety of spiritual music

[Facebook](#) – for Matecumbe United Methodist Church



Prayer List...

If you know someone on the prayer list, why not reach out to them.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rev. Dick Smith | Janet Lewis |
| Jay and Carol Richard | Randy Baad |
| Emma Kuchynskaya | Glennda Whitman |
| Slava | Jim Reynolds |
| Larisa | Ron Valdes |
| Dorothy Hertel | Elizabeth Stanley |
| Anne Krampitz | Beth Nichols |
| Ralph Harding (and Faye too) | Gary Nichols Jr. |
| April Dugger | Susan Bateman |
| Sarah Belotto | Dawn LaVoice (C Wagner’s niece) |
| Don Light | Elaine Vlaun |
| Alma Dalton | Vicki Clancy |
| Tania Martin | Ari Poholek and family |
| Ray Law | Eadie Sheilby and husband Ren |
| Karen Lucas | Joan LaRoche (surgery next week) |

Someone to add to prayer list?

Contact Jan Grewe at jangrewe@bellsouth.net or 305-393-6196 and she will notify the Prayer Warriors.

Or email the church: matumc@bellsouth.net

Men’s Breakfast

Green Turtle Thursday June 11, 7:30 am

Communion

Sunday June 7. You can pick up the elements ... bread and wine. at Fellowship Hall today, 9 am to 5 pm. Or provide a substitute from home.



BOOK LIST

Whether you can join us for book club meetings or not, if you have read some good books, help us add to our Book List. If there are any

books you really loved, send us a brief review – just a couple sentences so folks will know what it was about the book that you loved.

[Click here](#) to see the Matecumbe United Methodist Church **Book List** and to read reviews.

“LIVE” Book Club

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 17, at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall and again we will share our newest reads. Always glad to have new folks join us.

Tuesday Games

Time to get a little social? Next Tuesday, June 9, we will resume our gathering in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. to play Samba, Rummikub, or whatever. Always happy to have new attendees. All games are easy to learn.

Puzzle Time....

[Click here](#) to go to all the previous puzzles along with answers!

Puzzle #6: The Psalms Puzzle

Verse	Complete the scripture using the available words
Psalm 9:9	The LORD is a _____ for the oppressed, a _____ in times of trouble.
Psalm 9:17	You, LORD, hear the _____ of the afflicted; you _____ them and you _____ to their cry.
Psalm 16:7	I will _____ the LORD, who _____ me even at night my heart _____ me.
Psalm 31:24	Be _____ and take _____ all you who hope in the _____.
	counsels desire encourage heart instructs listen LORD
	LORD praise refuge strong stronghold

Virtual Memorial Day

The Matecumbe Historical Trust presented the first ever virtual Memorial Day Tribute to our Veterans, moderated by Barbara Edgar. The video tribute was filmed at the Hurricane Monument in Islamorada, Florida 2020... but without the normal crowd. It was emotional to watch the American flag fluttering in the breeze at the Hurricane Memorial, to hear the National Anthem and God Bless the USA sung by Dan Furmanik, prayers by Pastor Bob Pavey and Tony Hammond, words from Mayor Forster, the American Legion, DAR. If you have not already watched the video, here it is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1Ux7RyfZF4>

June 1: Hurricane Season

The official start of hurricane season was June 1. If a storm necessitating evacuation hits this year the COVID-19 guidelines will certainly complicate things. See this article from the local paper:

<https://keysweekly.com/42/hurricane-shelters-coronavirus/>

In times of disasters, information is a powerful tool. A digital hurricane kit can help you get the information you need. From tracking storms to finding gas, there are links to help you weather the storm: [Click here](#) for links.

Checkpoint ended

The Florida Keys were closed to visitors on March 22 to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Monroe County reopened to visitors Monday, June 1, by suspending the checkpoints on U.S. 1 and State Road 905 and allowing lodging establishments to take guests at 50 percent occupancy.

Monroe County lodging establishments, like hotels, campgrounds, vacation rentals, and other transient-licensed establishments are required to implement sanitation procedures and follow the American Hotel and Lodging Association COVID-19 guidelines for enhanced cleaning practices. The timeline for removing the 50 percent capacity restriction for lodging will be determined later.

Airport screenings and bus restrictions were also lifted. Should the Florida Keys experience an increase in cases, restrictions may be heightened and/or amenities may again be closed.

Monroe County residents are urged to continue to follow directives set by the State, County, and municipalities to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including wearing masks in public settings, limiting group sizes to 10 or less, and physically distancing from others by six feet. More information on COVID-19 efforts in Monroe County can be found at www.monroecountyem.com/covid19. Tourism-related information can be found at <https://fla-keys.com>.

Wear It Cloth Face Coverings

WEAR IN PUBLIC INDOOR SETTINGS over your nose AND mouth to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

RESTAURANTS Facial coverings can be removed while eating and drinking in a restaurant, employees must keep them on the whole time.



ROUTINELY LAUNDER AND MACHINE DRY to disinfect.

DO NOT TOUCH eyes, nose, or mouth when removing a face coverings and wash hands often.

FACIAL COVERINGS INCLUDE scarfs, bandanas, handkerchief, buff, or other similar cloth covering.*

***SAVE N95 MASKS FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**



With the reopening of the Florida Keys to visitors, it is now more important than ever to continue to wear a facial covering as required by Monroe County Directive 20-08. This directive is in place until further notice.

Care Packages

This week, Nan Inches, Carol Wagner and Lee Gannaway put together packages to brighten the day for the folks at the nursing home. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, ladies!





The Munros

by Jeanne Munro

Jack and I were both born in Tacoma Washington and met when I was a social work major at the University of Washington and Jack had returned from Sacramento California to

take a job as a quality control inspector at Boeing. No truer polar opposites could have been attracted to each other. While having similar core values, our individual approach to life has created 51 unique years of marriage.

We have raised 3 highly successful daughters, lived a somewhat “hip” existence on a 30-acre farm in the early years and had two wonderful careers. For the past 44 years, Jack has owned and operated a pet, farm, garden, and feed store. I was the director of a Washington State agency for many years working with people with disabilities who were seeking independence and employment. I worked with congressional staff to help develop the Americans with Disabilities Act in the 1990’s.

We have traveled a lot (49 states, Mexico, Canada, and parts of Europe). We chose our Florida retirement home 20 years ago after our first visit to the beautiful Florida Keys. In Washington, we now live on 8 acres of gardens and garages (for Jacks cars) when not in the Keys. It is the best of both worlds as we enjoy the fruits of our labor, our children, grandchildren, and God’s Grace.

We chose Matecumbe UMC because it felt so much like our home church, Colby UMC. Both churches have strong common features:

- 1) Strong loving faithful people.
- 2) Both have had fantastic faith-building years along with prior years of conflict with pastor and church family.
- 3) Both have Biblically based, missionary focused, musical Pastors
- 4) Both have great music
- 5) Both have a group of strong women trying to keep things interesting
- 6) Both Churches have the same challenge---an older congregation trying to find ways to 21ST Century people.

We have always been active in our Church families. I have held every office in the 45-year membership at Colby including multiple years as Chair of the church council and Pastor Parish committee. Jack served as Trustee. At Colby, Jack is the thinker/doer/go to guy. I am the implementor/activist.

Covid-19 has had major impact on both churches. Because Washington was the 1st state with major impact, our Colby church was one of the first to do Facebook Sunday service including communion. Colby also figured out how to have church meetings on Zoom. Now we even do a prayer group and Sunday fellowship hour on Zoom. The Pacific NW Conference of Methodist churches (WA, OR, ID, AL) has directed all churches to develop a 4-phase reentry plan with social distancing, no singing etc. (You do remember the large church choir that practiced together then every member got Covid19 and several died). I am on the committee to develop Colby’s plan for specializing in alternative worship.

We have been trading information between the two churches to share experiences and to find new ideas. Both churches enjoy the Web services...in fact we do Sunday morning with one church and Sunday evening with the other. Colby has a daily devotional Facebook post done by a variety of people that followers seem to enjoy. And the weekly newsletter in both churches are a hit. Many people are working hard to make this time of Covid-19 a time of connecting with each other in alternative ways.

We all must remember that God is with us. His Church is not the building, it is the people of the faith community. If you want to connect to discuss alternative church activities, email me at jmunro47@yahoo.com



Gerry and Jerry Ferris



Gerry's best friend was getting married to Jerry's brother. Both Jerry and Gerry were part of the wedding party and met

at the wedding for the very first time. Jerry was instantly attracted to this lovely bridesmaid, Gerry. After the wedding reception, Jerry and Gerry went out together ... their first date! And Jerry announced at that time that he planned to marry Gerry. Talk about a match meant to be, despite the confusion presented by having almost identical names.

Gerry was in college in Albany and Jerry was in the Navy in Chicago and both went back to their respective "homes" following the wedding. Two weeks later, Jerry surprised Gerry, showing up at her doorstep for a second date! Her response being "You should have called first." Jerry immediately offered to run down the street to a pay phone booth to place a call. Although they were living far apart most of the time, 18 months later they got married on New Year's Eve, 1966. Now 54 years later they know each other so much better and are still best friends and deeply in love.

After graduating from high school, Jerry headed to college in Mitchell, South Dakota to play football and shoot pheasants! After four years, his football scholarship ended but he had not yet earned a degree, so off he went to the Navy. His Navy tour ended June 1967, six months after the Ferrises were married... and finally they would be together for nearly the first time! Gerry had her degree and Jerry wanted to complete his, so they headed to South Dakota so he could finish college.

Gerry was what would have been considered a progressive easterner, raised in the city. She fell in love with this small western town of Mitchell, South Dakota with its wooden sidewalks. Gerry had been raised a Catholic and was surprised that the Catholic Church in Mitchell was still conducting services in Latin.

This small town had many underprivileged children. Gerry got a job teaching in the elementary school and loved making a difference in the children's lives. She enthusiastically reports "The kids continually made my day... they knew hardship and helped me understand what that was like."

After getting his degree, Jerry worked as a field rep in the insurance industry for a few years, but then Gerry and Jerry headed back east to Saratoga Springs, NY. And there they learned, often out of necessity, the benefit of hard work and ingenuity.

Jerry eventually started his own insurance company and later a real estate company. They started a family and were blessed with two daughters, Stephanie and Colleen. Gerry was a "stay at home mom" though still working diligently, but now out of the home. Before long she was watching her own young children while also babysitting others. And for ten years the Ferrises had an antique/furniture refinishing business they ran out of their home. A warm, wonderful family home it was where over the years all the kids in the area loved to gather.

The Ferrises were never afraid of hard work and setting goals, knowing this is what would make life more rewarding and perhaps easier in the end.

After the girls were older, the Ferrises moved to a lakefront home on Lake Desolation in Middle Grove, New York, 12 miles from the family home in Saratoga Springs where the girls grew up.

One of the most fascinating parts of the Ferrises life is Jerry's dedication to swimming. Jerry found that after giving up the physical workouts of college football and then the Navy, plus adding a few bad habits, his weight had gotten out of control and it was time to correct that.



"I looked at myself and knew I was in trouble."

Goal time! He knew he needed exercise and as a kid he loved to swim. At his birthday party in 1982 he went swimming in Lake George, NY and later told

Gerry he was going "to swim Lake George next summer." When she said he just had, he replied he was going to swim the 41-mile length of the lake.

After that, he established more goals – eventually deciding to swim the English Channel.

Where was Gerry during these pursuits? She was right by Jerry's side... the cheerleader and a very dedicated "pursuit planner," a critical function for sure. Gerry was so involved that she often had the feeling she was swimming all those miles right alongside Jerry.

This was no occasional hobby...so much training but Jerry's determination led him to become an elite world class distance swimmer.

Lake George – 41 miles, Sacandaga Reservoir – 29 miles, Manhattan Swim – 28.5 miles, Oneida Lake – 29 miles, 7 of the Finger Lakes – and this is just a few of the training swims. All in preparation for the grand prize – the English Channel – an unbelievable experience.

[Click here](#) for details of some of Jerry's swimming exploits including a news article and a vintage video.

Later Jerry undertook yet another outdoor adventure. He had an insurance customer who was instrumental in designing the snowmobile trails throughout the state of Vermont – a major attraction there. Through Jerry's connections, this man helped the state of New York develop a track and, of course, Jerry had to volunteer to try it out – an 1800 mile course that took Jerry 2 weeks to navigate, alone, in the icy cold New York February weather... missing both Valentine's Day and Gerry's birthday.

What an adventure that turned out to be – with Jerry breaking through the ice on a lake with his snowmobile – submerged in the ice to his hips in the middle of nowhere. He heard a barking dog and followed the sound. That led him to a house where a couple was willing to interrupt their Valentine's Day dinner to help get the sled out of the lake, provide a warm place to spend the night and fix him a hot lasagna dinner. Jerry remains thankful to that barking dog.

The Ferrises' love of water brought them to the Keys several decades ago.... warm water this time. Jerry started scuba diving and soon learned to love what is beneath the surface after spending his swimming events on the surface. He still goes out several times a week. Jerry has been diving with Key Dives at Bud 'n Mary's through five different owners. On the dive boat, they call him O.J. – Old Jerry.

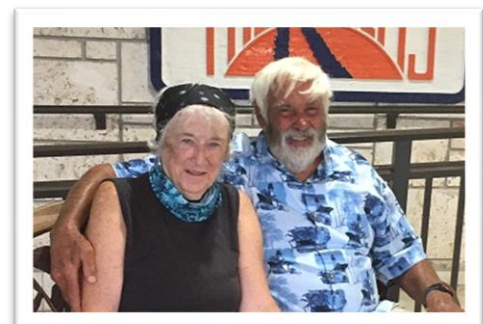
Now Gerry has more time for friends and books. But perhaps her very favorite pastime is college basketball. She is an absolute fanatic, even studying the inter dynamics of the teams, along with the background of the players from most all the major college programs, the scores, rankings and more. While she follows numerous teams, her favorite is Duke. The occasions she holds dear and will always treasure – being able to attend the Final Four twice, especially the time Duke won it all.

One weekend they decided to attend the Matecumbe United Methodist Church. They loved the experience and Pastor Bob. They are now members and cannot get

over the friendly, warm environment they experience being a part of our church family. Gerry will tell you she loves the spirituality they found at MUMC... a deep sense of aliveness and interconnectedness.



And we are all so happy to have such a special couple as a part of our church. We all look forward to getting to know them even better upon their return in the fall from Middle Grove, New York.



Photos: For future newsletters... the photos we will be including are photos that you, our members, provide. If you like to see photos of your church friends, help by providing photos for our newsletters and our website. Everybody feels closer seeing friends photographically while distancing!

Send photos to Sue Miller
smillerinkeys@gmail.com



Pastor Bob went out with a fleet of graduates from Coral Shores to offer a blessing. After taking pictures with their robes on it was time for a swim.

He reports: "Beautiful day. Great young people with a great future."



The Winner

And the winners of the quilt: The Balogs – look how comfy Larry looks with that lovely quilt! And the photo to the right – Larry's beautiful stained-glass heart he made for his wife for their anniversary. (Larry – a stained-glass groupie!)

