



The Lighthouse

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



Matecumbe United Methodist Church

81831 Overseas Highway

Islamorada, FL 33036

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 905, Islamorada, FL 33036

Office Phone - (305) 664-3661

E-mail - matumc@bellsouth.net

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.



"Gift's from God"

"Jesus gave gifts....to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12.

God gives us many kinds of gifts but the gifts of the spirit are not related to our personal holiness. They are given to us for the sake of other people. They are meant to deal with the question of how Christians are to live together in a non-Christian world. Our gifts are intended to help other people know God more intimately.

We never really see our own faults if we are an island. It is in the friction that comes through our contacts with others that we find out who we really are.

Because of God's gift of others and His gifts to others, we can find perspective, balance and grace. If I want to be whole, I must be part of the body of Christ.

"If others don't use their gifts, you get cheated, and if you don't use your gifts, they get cheated." -Rick Warren

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Let's Stick Together, Learn Together!

There are lots of ways we keep you informed about all of the great things happening with our church family.

We want you to join us! You will be welcomed with open arms.

Big Screen: *Kathy Sill provides announcements "on the big screen" prior to our Sunday church services, in addition to the announcements appearing in the weekly bulletin. Join*

Sunday email: *Sunday mornings we send an email that includes announcements and the sermon or program from the previous Sunday. If you aren't getting the email please let us know so we can add your email address to the mailing.*

Newsletters: *Periodically we send news via a multi-page newsletter with stories and photos about the people and the events that make our church family special and united.*

Face Book: *We have a FaceBook page where we post the weekly sermons and special events. Look for it.*

Church Website: *Go to www.matecumbeumc.org*

You can read stories about the history of the church, listen to previous sermons, read about church members and more.

Check the Sunday email for regularly scheduled events:

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Stained Glass: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lady Card Players: 9:30 to 12 pm on Tuesdays

Men's Breakfast – Thursday 7:30 a.m. at Lorelei.

Bible Study: Thursdays at 7 pm with Rob Kolb

Hope: Romans through March 2022;

Love: John - April - June 2022

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March 2022

The Library in Fellowship Hall

Check out all the great books in the church library that you can borrow! Religious books, inspirational books, educational books and popular novels too.

Prayer List: Please remember those on our prayer list and others who are struggling: Emily Vecella, Marlene



Law, Sherra Woolet, Lois Stormont, Toni Kenworthy, Lou Ann, Lind & Larry Balog, Blake Bennett, Pat, Larry Rail, Eugen, Judy Nicholson, Russ, Jim Reynolds, Eugen, Dasha Dmitrievna, Donna Ring, Zanna, Candy Curd, Emma Kuchynskaya,

Slava, Larisa, Marlene Law, Dr. Poppy Bristow, Joan Larouche, Linda Whitman, Mike & Stacy Ennis, Baby Henry Rolter, Art Bain, Doug Conklin, Susan Payton

Church Tours:

If you have family or friends who would like to tour our church, see the stained glass windows, and learn about the fascinating church history dating back to 1890, Carol Wagner is available for tours most every Tuesday. Call the church office. Thank you Carol Wagner.

And speaking of the fascinating church history: in the early 1900s a little frame Methodist church was moved down the ocean by barge from the north end of Upper Matecumbe to the beach where Cheeca now stands. A cemetery was established next to the church on the beach. The little church was destroyed by the 1935 hurricane but Pioneer Cemetery can still be visited on the grounds of Cheeca.



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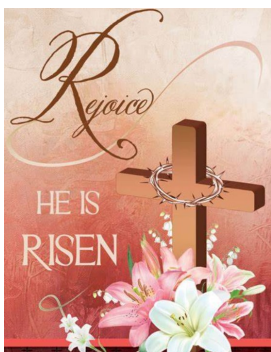
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Snowbird Appreciation Dinner This Sunday



Following the church service March 27, there will be a dinner in Fellowship Hall. All, including guests and visitors, are invited.

Please join us!



Holy Week schedule.....

some details are incomplete at this time, but watch for announcements:

April 10 Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursdayshort service, communion, and simple supper in Fellowship Hall.

Friday, April 15Good Friday Services at noon in our sanctuary by Upper Keys Interministerial Association.

Easter Sunday, April 17..... 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at Cheeca Lodge and regular church service at 11:00.



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March 2022

The Book Club



February's book club read was **Squire Rushnell's - When God Winks - How the Power of Coincidence Guides Your Life**. The book was viewed favorably and many shared their own moments of coincidence that they now recognize as a God wink. The author has several books in his "God wink" series.

Ten gals gathered for a meeting of the Book Club on March 16. Most had read **Mitch Albom's book, "The Stranger in a Lifeboat"**, with all agreeing that it was a must read book. Then, many other selections read by individuals, were reviewed. One book reappeared as super entertaining, **"Carrying Albert Home"** (Albert is a pet alligator being driven from WV to FL in the 1920's to be returned to the water.) We do enjoy the trading around of books with each other.

The group is reading **"The Mount of Olives" by Michael Ivanov** for the April 20 meeting. It is a short read, so again, members will be reviewing other individual selections.

Book Club Prayer Project: Kim Youngblood's work brings her in contact with Florida Keys children with problems, especially due to troubling family situations. Some months ago, she talked about a young lady who she felt would be a good candidate to live in the Methodist Children's Home. The gals were motivated to draw a prayer circle around this girl after reading the **Circle Maker by Mark Batterson** earlier this year.

The Matecumbe United Methodist Church has been long and strong supporters of the Children's Home and it would be extremely rewarding to help a Keys' child at this fine facility.

We ask others to join us in our prayers.



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"It's All the Lord's Doing!"

It seems like just months ago, **Borden Makepeace** was greeting us with a smile as we entered the church, standing in the Narthex handing out the Sunday bulletin every week. The constant smile hid the pain Borden was suffering from serious back issues.

And then in 2021 Borden had complicated back surgery. As recently as December 2021, Borden attended church every Sunday in a wheelchair, concerned his paralysis was permanent. But Borden wasn't about to give up. He worked diligently with a physical therapist and now Borden is walking once more. For those of you that know Borden you know that he has total trust in God when he says about his recovery "It's All the Lord's Doing!" And Borden's smile is ever present.

Jack Munro has been struggling with headaches for a year now. At a recent Sunday church service, Pastor Bob invited Jack to come to the front of the church and numerous men of the church joined Jack and the pastor as they prayed for him and anointed his head with oil. In the Bible, anointment was believed to provide for both the physical and the spiritual healing.

"Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James. 5:14, 15).



The Munros left to return to their home in Washington this week.

To read about the Munros, Borden Makepeace and other members of our church: [Click here.](#)

Add Jack and Borden to your prayers.

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Making a Difference in 2022

What is your plan to help the church in 2022? What can the church do to help you?

How Lucky can One Church Be?

So many years ago Pastor Bob said yes to the nudging of the Holy Spirit and answered the call of God to do His ministry. And many years into that ministry, at a time when the Matecumbe Methodist church was struggling a bit, Pastor Bob arrived to assist us! We now cherish Pastor Bob and his entire family. Yes, he preaches an inspiring sermon every Sunday that makes us cry, laugh, and think deeply about everyday life. And he manages to get us out of worship in time to beat the Baptists to lunch. He encourages us when times are tough, he laughs with us and makes us smile, he sings to us, he mentors us and reminds us of how a good Christian lives his life. And he does more. He has friends around the country who come to Islamorada to share their faith and talents with us. Pastor Bob and his clan make our church special, every Sunday and every day throughout the week.



In February the **Burchfield Brothers** came from Nashville and performed an incredible concert for our church service that Sunday...making music that inspired our souls, Jon with the classical guitar and Ben with a mallet kat (similar to a marimba) and Ben whistled tunes too, to our delight.



The congregation also welcomed the Paveys' good friend, **Joy Griffin**, an internationally acclaimed missionary and inspirational speaker who certainly left us all stirred by her enthusiasm, love and hope. She is a living demonstration that miracles do happen. We all need a strong faith and Joy absolutely left us with renewed hope for the world, and confidence we can all make a difference.



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Tetyana Pate

Billy Pate was famous in Islamorada, an extraordinary back country guide, known for his fly fishing records, as an author, water skier with Dick Pope, Jr., and a true Southern gentleman. In 2004 he found Tetyana Kushynskay in Ukraine. She was a concert pianist and teacher. Billy had the good sense to marry her and bring "Yana" to Islamorada. Billy died in 2011.

How lucky we are to have special music on Sundays played by Yana Pate.

With the war raging in Ukraine, Yana has struggled, worried about family still there, including her mother.

At a recent church service, the congregation stood as Yana played the Ukrainian national anthem. Plenty of tears were shed.

On March 10, Yana was relieved to report that she had just received a text message that her mother is ok.

Let us all pray for Yana, her family and the Ukraine.

Rob Kolb recently addressed the congregation about the critical importance of stewardship. Below is the message he shared.



Why did Jesus talk about money and use money or valuables so often in His parables? I believe it is because money is a tangible, measurable item people can relate to. It is difficult to measure our faith, but we all know our income. From the beginning of the nation of Israel, God said His people should fund His work and ministry by giving a tenth of their income and to trust in Him that the remaining 90% would be sufficient to meet their needs (and more).

If Christians today would trust Him with this promise, our churches would be healthy and effective for the Kingdom of God. Unfortunately that is not the case. Instead churches are closing. From 2010 to 2019, 1000 more churches closed each year than opened. That is a loss of 10,000 American churches in a decade. And since the pandemic began, it has gotten worse.

Usually there is more going on than just a lack of money when a church gets in trouble. Often, a church loses its focus and purpose to serve God and evangelize the lost. In 2010 Matecumbe United Methodist Church was one of those churches in trouble. We couldn't pay our bills, and things were getting worse every month. But we had a faithful few who trusted God and gave generously. We were also blessed with church members associated with the stained glass ministry and the Columbarium who pitched in to keep us going.

Pastor Bob recently preached a sermon on revival and renewal, using the story of Hezekiah in II Chronicles. He believes that story still serves as an example of what we can do today. When people renew their commitment to God and His mission, generous giving is a natural accompanying response. Our renewal and revival began in 2012 when Pastor Bob and Marcia arrived and set about focusing our attention on God and His Son, Jesus.

For MUMC it has been a slow process, but a decade later, we are a growing, giving church with a missions fund that can now give to ministries outside our church. Praise God that He is faithfully keeping His promises. Praise God for the faithful few who demonstrated their faith with their time, talent and treasure in difficult times. And praise God we at MUMC trust Him and He is a generous rewarder to the faithful.

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Our Church Has a Mission, In Fact it has Many

Contributed by Nicole Pavey Butler

Stained Glass Groupies

Meeting every Tuesday (9am-4pm) and Thursday (1pm-4pm) a mix of year round and seasonal members come together and share their talents for creating beautiful stained glass pieces. This group has created almost all of the beautiful stained glass that we are surrounded by on Sunday morning in the sanctuary and the proceeds from the pieces that have been sold have provided hurricane glass and doors for the church facilities. Contact Kathy Sill (contact info) for questions about fees and details.

Men's Breakfast

An opportunity to get to know other men in the church and the community is always exciting. No agenda is ever set for this men's breakfast. It is simply a time to enjoy the company of like minded men and enjoy a great breakfast. Come pull up a seat any Thursday morning at 7:30, currently at LoreLei's Restaurant in the Cabana. A time for conversation and encouragement open to men of all ages and interests.

Sunday School

On Sunday morning at 9:30 those interested in further teaching from the Bible come together and enjoy an opportunity to take part in discussion and learn from other leaders and resources. It is a great time to expand our knowledge and understanding of Christ, Christianity and what we can do to grow as individuals and as a community. Our current Bible study is "Experiencing God" led by Ed and Victoria Kattel

Tuesday card players

On Tuesday there are many that come together from the church and community to take part in a little friendly competition. A great chance to learn a new game or bring a friend and introduce a new game to the group! Come join us for a round of Samba, Bridge and other games 9:30am to 12 pm in the church fellowship hall.

Bible Study

Sometimes studies in the morning are not an option for those with busy schedules. That is ok, we have many in that situation and have an opportunity to meet Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We are currently studying the book of Romans, led by Rob Kolb

Children's Home

We support many local and international missions with a heart for children. An offering is taken every 5th Sunday along with a jar placed in the Narthex to collect loose change each week. That offering and all the change is combined and counted to present to the United Methodist Children's Home in North Florida to help ease the financial needs for the children there.

Caring Heart Ministry

Each 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month a volunteer group meets and provides meals for those in our community in need. Some are convalescing, house bound or just in temporary need, due to family emergencies and illness. This group recognized that we need to be there for one another as a church in the Islamorada community. Let us know if you would like to volunteer, or if you know someone in need. Responsibilities include donations, food preparation, food delivery and organization.

Open Prayer Time

Each week on Monday the church is open from 9 am -12 pm, anyone is welcome to come spend time in prayer. If you would like to make an appointment for a private time of prayer, feel free to contact the church office at 305-664-3661.

