

# Connections 2016-2017

Grace and peace as we launch into what we pray will be a year *filled* with **VIBRANT** worship, **MEANINGFUL** adult educational opportunities, and moments of reaching out with God's love in hands-on **MISSION**. We offer this overview to help you plan for the coming months. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

## Special Concerts:

**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm**, we welcome in concert **the Steel Wheels!** The Steel Wheels are a bluegrass band who bring a soulful and faithful message to our church. You can visit their website: [www.thesteelwheels.com](http://www.thesteelwheels.com) to listen! Tickets will be \$20 in advance, call the church office to purchase.

**Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm** we are proud to welcome **Vincent Dubois** for a Solo Organ Recital. Mr. Dubois is a titular organist at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, France since January 2016. Mr. Dubois also serves as General Director of the Strasbourg National and Superior Conservatory in France.

## Special Workshops:

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm**, we welcome **Rev. Kay Mutert** to our church. This is All Saints Day weekend. This is a time when our memories toward the beloved family and friends we have grieved and said "Good-bye" to, we welcome Kay for a workshop on healing through labyrinths. Kay will offer us her insights for spiritual growth. You will have an opportunity to walk a labyrinth or sit in peace. We will conclude the day with a healing service. A light lunch will be served, a free will donation to cover the lunch will be accepted.

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm**, I am pleased to offer a workshop: ***Finding YOUR Why***: experiences and expressions toward the **WHOLISTIC** Life. This workshop will help us explore the fuel for your life and ways to be open to God's guidance. A light lunch will be served, a free will donation to cover the lunch will be accepted

## Special Events:

**Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, all day** we will host the **Florida Conference UCC Fall Gathering**. There are **MANY** ways YOU can help. Please sign up to greet, usher, and help us extend our ***extravagant*** welcome to folks from UCC churches across the state of Florida.

**Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, all day** is our **Christmas Bazaar!** Nancy Kavanagh is organizing tables of wonderful crafts and creations! You can help out by coming to shop, bringing **LOTS** of friends, and volunteering by emailing Nancy at [npkav@hotmail.com](mailto:npkav@hotmail.com)

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm** a **Reader's Theater of Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol** in Syster Hall. This is a **fundraiser** for our Youth Group Ministries!

## Worship

In the coming months we will dive into and dwell in three amazing books of the Bible: From mid-August to mid-November, we will explore the book of *Exodus*. From mid-November through mid-April, we will dive and dwell in the *Gospel of Luke*. From mid-April to June, we will engage the sequel to Luke known as *the Book of Acts*.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**, we will open our hearts prayerfully on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the day that is etched in our memories. It also marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Wes' ordination.

**Beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will return to two services at **9 am and 11 am!** This is also World Communion Sunday.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>** is our *Annual Gathering of the Waters* worship service. We celebrate the ways our lives converge and flow together. ***Bring water from where you traveled this year.***

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** – All Saint's Day, **Rev. Kay Mutert** will be here to help lead us in worship. (*Please see the previous page for a description of the workshop she is leading.*)

**November 20<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Extravaganza.** We once again welcome special guest musicians from the Sarasota Orchestra Along with our combined choirs to help us celebrate God from whom all blessings flow.

**November 27<sup>th</sup> – Advent begins** and we make our way to the stable where love's pure light is born anew and afresh for us. Our theme for Advent will be: **Converge!**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Three services at **4 pm, 7 pm, and 11 pm.** Services at 4 pm and 11 pm celebrate communion. ***Special guest musicians*** at all three services! **All** are welcome to join in singing to the One who has eternity dancing in his eyes

**Sundays, December 25 and January 1** – **ONE** service on each day at **10:30 am**

**Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday,** we are delighted to **welcome Rev. Geoffrey Black**, former President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ who will be here to preach and lead worship.

**Wednesday March 1 – The Season of Lent begins.** We immerse ourselves in this sacred time of preparing our hearts and calmly plotting resurrection in our lives. ***Services at noon and 6:30 pm.***

**Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday Service and Celebration of Confirmation.** We will gather around the table where ALL are welcome along with our youth who have participated in our confirmation program this past year.

**Friday, April 14 – Good Friday Services**

**Sunday, April 16** – Come and add your voice to the chorus of “Alleluias” for all Sarasota to hear! We will welcome guest musicians who will help us make a joyful noise!

## Fellowship

We have two amazing **Bible Study Groups**:

*Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm* at Lakewood Ranch Hospital.

Meeting on August 16, 23, 30; September 6 and 27; October 4, 18, 25;  
November 1 and 29 and December 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Wednesday mornings at 11 am* in Syster Hall.

**Both** groups will study *Exodus* in August, September, October, and November.

**During Advent, we will discuss Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*.**

We have three amazing **Book Groups**:

Starting September 15<sup>th</sup> we will be discussing, Jim Wallis' book, *American's Original Sin*. Please call the church office to RSVP (*Please note: this is in place of Breakfast and Books which will resume in January.*)

Ready Readers meets on the **third Thursday** of the month at noon in the library.

Evening Readers meet once a month on Tuesday evening at 7 pm at member's homes.

**Good Grief Group** meets on the **first Friday of every month at 10:30 am** for support, conversation, and a safe space to reflect on the ways to work through loss.

**Women's Fellowship monthly meetings** ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month starting October.

**Men's Fellowship monthly meetings** ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd at 8 am.

**Collage** (LGBTQ support and friendship group) meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at IHOP on Tamiami after church.

**Hiking Group** is newly formed and will offer three opportunities this fall to explore the glory of God's creation together. Please watch future bulletins and newsletters for more information.

**FEAST** (Friends Eating and Studying Together) will meet Thursday mornings **March 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 10:30 am to noon.**

## Mission

**Family Promise** hosting weeks are: **October 16-22** and **January 1-7, 2017**. Dates for 2017 will be published soon.

First Sunday of the Month collection for All Faith's Food Pantry: as we are fed at Christ's table so we seek to feed others. Gifts are always accepted, monetary gifts are especially welcome.

SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity). We will host our House Meeting after church on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**! This is our chance to share in the sacred conversation of where we believe the light of God's justice needs to shine brighter in our community.

Community Problems Assembly with ALL SURE churches will be on **October 24<sup>th</sup>**. **March 13<sup>th</sup>** will be our Rally. **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** is the GREAT Nehemiah Action Assembly. **May 8<sup>th</sup>** is the Celebration. *Locations and time for the SURE gatherings will be announced.*

**Christmas Love Offering** will benefit local organizations reaching out with God's love.

**Easter Love Offering** will benefit global organizations reaching out with God's love.