



December 2023



First Congregational UCC

Advent

The word Advent means “arrival.” At the heart of this church season is a mixture of preparation and expectation.

The days are seasoned with moments of nostalgia, missing a loved one, getting caught in the hustle or bustle or maybe feeling like your inner Charlie Brown is lamenting, “Doesn’t anyone know the true meaning of Christmas!?!?”

If that is the case, let me invite you on **December 10 ~ A Christmas Like None Other** ~ A time of reflection, renewal, and resting in God’s love. Whether you find yourself grieving, longing, hurting, or just not in the “spirit of the season,” join Pastor Wes at **12:30 p.m. in the Oasis Center** for a time of quietness and sharing outside of the hustle and bustle of the season.

Honestly, I think we could all use a moment to breathe and be in the middle of the season. To remind and recenter us that the One we eagerly await and prepare for and expect comes to us born a baby in a barn. We need to tell ourselves this story time and time again because it doesn’t make linear logical sense. The story is strange compared to the stories of the world today. God as vulnerable? God is not in the splashy and spectacular? God is not immediately and instantly making everything better?

Remember, Jesus is born and drops off the radar of the world for 30 some years before his baptism. Hold that.

Office Hours

Pastor Wes:

Mon. - Thurs.: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sherry Glover:

Mon. - Tues.: 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wed. - Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mark:

Mon. - Fri.: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Greg:

Tues. - Sat.: Various Hours



Worship ~ 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Worship ~ 11:00 a.m. in person in the Sanctuary and livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Not everything is neat and tidy which is why I have changed the Mapping Your Life series from the last few years, into a new format I am calling:

**The Wayless Way ~ Your Life as a Curriculum. (NEW offering for 2024)
(Hybrid in the Oasis Center and Zoom)**

As we begin a New Year, we will launch twice monthly conversations centering around a book with Pastor Wes weaving insights from scripture and inspiration. You do not need to attend all the sessions, but there will be a thread that will run from session to session.

- **January 8 & 29:** “Build the Life You Want” by Arthur C. Brooks & Oprah Winfrey
- **February 12 & 26:** "Hope Leans Forward" by Valerie Brown
- **March 11 & 25:** “The Return of the Prodigal Son” by Henri Nouwen
- **April 8 & 22:** “No Cure for Being Human” by Kate Bowler
- **May 13:** “The Seventh Story” by Brian McLaren

On each of the Monday’s above, we will gather at **4 p.m. and finish by 5:15 p.m.** For more information, specific reading plan, and to register for the conversation, **please contact Pastor Wes.** Please know we do not want buying five books to be a barrier or burden. We will have a few to loan out and scholarships are available. I hope you will sign up with me.

Finally, worship is what is at the heart of this holy season. Because the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24th, the Worship Team decided to begin Advent earlier than others in the Christian church—we are always a bit on the cutting edge around here. The first Sunday of Advent, lighting the candle of **Hope**, will be on November 26th.

WORSHIP

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary ~ (Livestreamed every Sunday at 11 a.m.)

Peace

December 3 ~ Advent 2 ~ lighting the candle of **Peace**. Reading from Luke 1:28-38, and we will pause at the Communion Table where all are welcome.

Love

December 10 ~ Advent 3 ~ lighting the candle of **Love** as we celebrate Christmas Around the World. Members of the Worship Team along with Pastor Wes will help share holy traditions as we continue our journey to Bethlehem.

Joy

December 17 ~ Advent 4 ~ lighting the candle of **Joy**. Pastor Wes, and our amazing choir with special guest musicians, will center our hearts as Bethlehem appears on the horizon and a star guides us to the stable. Pastor Wes will preach on Luke 1:46-55 ~ Mary’s Magnificat!!!

Christmas Eve ~ All services in the Sanctuary with candlelight and beloved carols!



Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m.** ~ *Pre-service music begins at 3:45* with guest musicians, **Betsy Hudson-Traba**, flute and **Fernando Traba**, bassoon. On this holy night, we will blend poetry by soaking in God's love. Pastor Wes will preach on Luke 2. We will celebrate **communion** together. All are welcome to come and behold God's radiant beam of love.
- 7:00 p.m.** ~ *Pre-service music at 6:40* with guest musicians **Natalie Helm**, cellist; **Meghan Jones**, violinist; and **Phoebe Powell**, harpist. Our Chancel Choir will share special anthems and carols. Our children, youth and families will process the figures of the creche. With a holy hum that hovers throughout the entire service, we celebrate God's arrival in our hearts, homes, and world. Pastor Wes will preach on Luke 2. We especially encourage all who have family visiting to this service. **THIS SERVICE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED.**
- 11:00 p.m.** ~ *Arrive early at 10:40 to hear the beautiful pre-service music of cello, violin, harp, and organ.* Featured guest musicians from the Sarasota Orchestra are **Natalie Helm, Meghan Jones, and Phoebe Powell** (*see 7:00 p.m. service description*). Pastor Wes will preach on Luke 2. **Communion** will be celebrated at this service and as the seconds tick toward Midnight we join our voices in singing, "Silent Night" for all Sarasota to hear.

New Year's Eve ~ December 31 ~ ONE service at 11 a.m.

We will end 2023 worshipping the One who is the Creator, Author, and Conductor of life. We will honor Kwanzaa. All are welcome to come with prayers and praise on the cusp of 2024.



A Christmas Like None Other ~ December 10th

A time of reflection, renewal, and resting in God's love. Whether you find yourself grieving, longing, hurting, or just not in the "spirit of the season," join Pastor Wes at **12:30 p.m. in the Oasis Center** for a time of quietness and sharing outside the hustle and bustle of the season.

Poinsettias ~ \$10.00 ea.



Please place your Poinsettia orders and dedication requests with the office by **December 17th**.

Stewardship Update Intention of Giving 2024

The Budget, Finance and Stewardship Team **ARE SO EXCITED** about the **extraordinary generosity** of our congregation. Your donations bring our church's vision, mission, and core values to life. We encourage you, if you have not already done so, to return your Intention of Giving pledge card. You can mail your card to the church or drop it into the offering plate on Sunday.

During this stewardship season, we again say "thank you" for the many ways each of you blesses our church. You prove time and again what a giving and gifted church we are.



Join the Zoom Conversations



COLLAGE 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 11 a.m. ~ COLLAGE is our LGBTQIA+ and Ally Group. All are welcome to join our COLLAGE group on Zoom for support and faithful discussion.

Tuesday Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m. ~ We meet on Zoom to discuss the upcoming Sunday Bible passage.

Wednesday Bible Study @ 11 a.m. ~ **HYBRID** in the Oasis Center to discuss the upcoming Sunday Bible passage.

SCOR (Sacred Conversations on Race) 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 3 p.m. ~ **HYBRID** in the Oasis Center.
***No SCOR on December 27th.**

*Zoom links available
through Pastor Wes*

Save The Date ~ Thursday, December 7th

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Kwanzaa Community Celebration

Betty J. Johnson Library

RSVP to Lois (cellololoma2@gmail.com)



A celebration of the principles of Kwanzaa, celebrating African American's through story, art, and wisdom, and community connections.

All are welcome!

Core Values of the First Congregational United Church of Christ (draft of November 14, 2023)



First Congregational United Church of Christ, rooted in Sarasota with a passion for God, all God's people, and God's planet, prayerfully seeks to be a light to the world. We covenant with God and each other to honor racial justice and people of color in all we do. We are open, affirming and allies of LGBTQIA+ people. We seek creation justice, learning to actively care for our planet. We commit to study, learn and live these values:

Worship ~ to **praise** God joyfully through music, prayer, word and reflection.

Welcome ~ to **embrace** all in love and friendship.

Belonging ~ to be a Christian **community** offering acceptance, connection and support to all.

Caring ~ to **respect** and **serve** God's planet and God's people in need, near and far.

Justice ~ to offer **support** to and **advocate** with all groups experiencing injustice, particularly marginalized communities.

Faithfulness ~ to **trust** in God, **follow** where the Holy Spirit leads and **grow** in the image of God for the sake of the other.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES ~

Food Collection for All Faiths Food Bank ~ December 3rd



November: 25 bags = 460 lbs.

You are amazing! **In just two months, we have collected 820 lbs. of food.** All Faiths Food Bank looks forward to our donations to serve those in need. **We will continue our collections the first Sunday of every month.**

All Faiths appreciates any items in jars and/or cans along with items that have a long shelf life like pasta, pudding, Jello, etc. The old standby items of peanut butter, jelly and spaghetti sauce are also needed. Please give what you think people will enjoy with an expiration date of mid 2024 or later. There will be a basket in the narthex labeled **ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK**. Please place your items in the basket or next to it if the basket is full.

Thank you for your generosity in these times of increased food insecurity ~ *Your Food & Hunger Group*

Christmas Love Offering



Every year the Mission Team has two major fundraisers—Christmas Love and Easter Love. At Christmas we concentrate our giving on local charities while the Easter focus is for national and worldwide charities. With each Love Offering we choose one organization that supports each of our three covenants. This year we have chosen:

- **Betty J. Johnson Library** ~ Racial Justice Covenant
- **ALSO Youth** ~ Open and Affirming Covenant
- **Partners for Green Places** ~ Creation Justice Covenant

We are also supporting the following non-profit organizations who work hard to help our neighbors in need. We will be talking about some of these organizations in church during December:

All Faiths Food Bank
Children First
UCC Christmas Fund

All Faiths Backpack Program
Resurrection House
Second Chance Last Opportunity

Baby Basics
Family Promise
SURE

We have been able to talk with representatives from each charity and again this year their needs have changed. Many are adding to their programs as the needs in our community continue to grow. So, dear friends, we are asking everyone to please be even more generous this year to help these programs stay on their feet. Last year we raised \$16,000, and we have set our **goal at \$20,000** this year.

Please write your check to the church and put **Christmas Love** in the memo line.
Your Mission Team thanks you for your support.



You are a blessing to our community.

Jan Andersen, Jan Kamm, Gretchen Friend-Jones, Nancy Taylor, Terri Crawford

Family Promise Update

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



We had an amazing response to the Cake and Ice Cream Fundraiser. We raised **over \$2,000** for Family Promise. Executive Director, Tara Maffei, was overwhelmed by the friendliness and generosity of our church and when she heard the results, she said **"amazing."**

Your generosity continues to be inspiring, and we truly appreciate it.

Family Promise Co-Coordinators
Dotty Reed & Ellen Marsey



Angel Tree Gifts ~ Due December 3rd

A heartfelt Christmas thank you to the "Angels" who selected a Salvation Army tag and purchased gifts for a child or senior in need. **All 70 tags were chosen!**

Please remember to deliver your unwrapped gifts by **December 3rd** to the church or the Salvation Army on Tuttle Avenue.



We hope that by providing gifts for others, your joy is increased this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

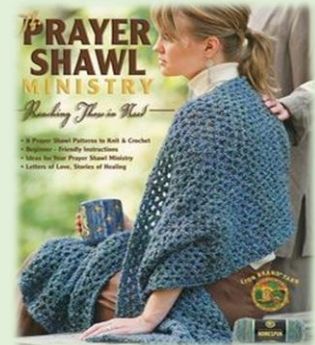
Blessings ~ *Sandy Smith, Fellowship/Special Events Chair*

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ December 5th

Calling all knitters and crocheters! The next gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will be on **Tuesday, December 5th from 2 – 3:30 p.m. at Carol Hagglund's home.**

Contact Carol for address and directions (carol.hagglund@gmail.com) or (813-767-3782)
Contact Lindsey Huddleston (630-338-9294) for more information.

Refreshments will be served.



Community Meal ~ December 26th

The monthly community meal that we continue to provide at St. Paul Lutheran Church feeds those who are hungry and in need of fellowship. Our guests are treated to a Sandy Smith home cooked meal. The home-baked items provided by our church family add a sweet treat that is heartily enjoyed. What's not to like about homemade Christmas cookies?



Our mission is to feed the hungry and offer fellowship to our guests.



Please volunteer with on-site set-up/serving/clean-up functions at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall. We also need your **home-baked Christmas cookies.**

Please join us on **December 26th from 4-6:30 p.m.** Thank you for all you do for those in need.

Volunteer and/or inquire for more details: Carol Hagglund at carol.hagglund@gmail.com.

SURE ~ Save the Dates

Rally: Tuesday, February 27 ~ 6 p.m. ~ Bethlehem Bible Church (1680 18th St.)

Nehemiah Action: Monday, March 18th ~ 6:30 p.m. ~ First Congregational UCC

Celebration & 25th Anniversary: April 8th ~ First Presbyterian



CREATION JUSTICE NEWS

Eco-Summit ~ December 5th & 6th



Sarasota will host the largest Eco-Summit the city has ever seen. There are numerous speakers and events, looking for positive ways to address environmental sustainability.

Several Green Team members are excited about the Eco-Summit and will be attending:

*Alleyne Kess, Cheryl Beller, Pamela Gore-Meade, Lucy Tobias,
Gary Pike, Jim Butterworth, and Sarah Melcher.*

Butterfly Garden Notes ~ New Trees on Campus

As fall has come, we can see that this extra dry summer has been hard on the vegetation on our campus. However, the Green Team has been faithfully watering our new plantings so things look good in the butterfly garden.

During the dry summer we had very few butterflies but now it seems they are returning. We have seen Gulf Fritillaries and a Giant Swallowtail. The Monarchs should be returning soon.



Come and look at our new coffee bushes, one of which was planted by Gary Pike, a new member of our group. After extensive pruning of the red-flowering jatropa, in a few months we should see a new growth of red blooms!

Some of our other new native plants are the two blue Stoke's Asters, and another Starry Rosin, a yellow flower toward the center back of the garden. Our native Porter Weed has really taken off. Take a walk behind the Labyrinth, and you will see new buds ready to bloom on the Marlberry tree! Encouraging signs of growth are visible on the Slash Pine in front, and the Southern Magnolia.

We hope you take a cool fall stroll around campus enjoying our native plants!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT NEWS



COLLAGE Christmas Party (LGBTQIA+ and Allies welcome)

December 16th ~ 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Sandi Armstrong's home

Please bring Hors d'oeuvres or desserts

RSVP to Sandi at sjarmstronglcsw@comcast.net



Bring a gift (\$15 or less) to participate in the "White Elephant" gift exchange.

December COLLAGE Hybrid/Zoom Meetings: Zoom/in-person ~ Oasis Center

December 12th @ 11 a.m.

December 19th @ 11 a.m.

NO December Box Luncheon ~ See you in January!

RACIAL JUSTICE COVENANT NEWS



Sacred Conversations on Race (SCOR) ~ December 13th



SCOR meets the **second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 3 p.m. ~HYBRID~ in person at the Oasis Center or on Zoom.** We will not meet on December 27th to observe the Christmas holiday.

~ December 13th ~

"My road trip through the whitest towns in America"
TED Talk by Rich Benjamin



*Rich Benjamin,
Social Observer*

If you have any suggestions, please let Jim Crumel and Pastor Wes know. In the meantime, please know there is **ALWAYS** space and a place for you to join in this conversation.

IN OTHER NEWS . . .

Brady Sarasota ~ 7th Annual Vigil For All Victims of Gun Violence ~ December 8th @ 6 p.m.

Please join us in our Sanctuary on **Friday, December 8, at 6 p.m.** to hear our featured speaker, Erica Dorsey, whose son Aaron continues to recuperate from a gunshot wound to the head during the summer. Aaron is 13 years old and was riding his bike at the time of the shooting. Almost since that day, Erica has told his story in order to lobby for a change in our gun laws.



Special music will be provided at the vigil by Sheila Atkins, who has lived in Sarasota for over six decades. She and her husband, former Sarasota Mayor and City Commissioner Fredd Atkins, are well-known community activists who have previously visited our church.

This is one of the many special nationwide tributes to the children and staff killed 11 years ago at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut and to all victims of gun violence, including suicide, domestic violence, and single and mass shootings.

First UCC Women's Christmas Luncheon ~ December 5th Senior Christmas Box Filling Event

Packing Party



Come one, come all to the annual Women's Association's annual Christmas luncheon on **Tuesday, December 5th at 11:30 a.m.** We will fill and wrap Christmas boxes for shut-in seniors (male and female) in our community. **Our goal is to fill and wrap 100 shoeboxes** that will be given to residents of Orchard Place and to Meals on Wheels.

To put us in a holiday mood, we will have a Christmas sing-along. Cost for lunch is \$12.00. **All are welcome.** Please sign up to attend after Sunday worship or call the church office at 941-953-7044. Bring empty shoeboxes and items to fill them to the church narthex. Any questions? Call Connie Toops, 941-379-2373 or ckt55@comcast.net.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW AND UNOPENED
Please, no wall calendars, candles or candy that may melt.

Personal hygiene items include hand lotions, soaps, packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, wet-wipes, hand sanitizer, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, tissues (small for pocket/purse), comb, brush, socks, handkerchiefs.



Stationery items include stamps, magnifying glass, boxed or prepackaged greeting cards, pre-packaged pens, post-it notes, pre-packaged colored pencils, coloring book, small puzzles, Sudoku, crossword books, devotional book, pocket calendar. Small stuffed animals or Christmas ornaments are also welcomed.

Artful Prayer ~ December 14th at 2 p.m. ~ Oasis Center or Zoom

Looking for ways to renew your prayer practice in fun creative ways? Artful Prayer may be for you! No art experience required. A variety of fun one-hour sessions may include poetry, drawing, movement, or music centered around a prayer theme such as gratitude, praise, healing, or exploring your spiritual direction.



Sessions are in-person and on Zoom. Supplies are provided if attending in person. Watch the newsletter and Mid-Week Messages for specific session information and supply list each month.

December fellowship is provided by the UCC Women's Association



December 3rd ~ Birthday Sunday
December 17th ~ Cookies Around the World

Stay tuned to the Mid-Week Message for updates



Provided by:

Terri Crawford, Jane Hunder, Mary Kukainis, Nancy Morris, Connie Toops & RuthAnn Waid

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT . . .



All Saints Day ~ November 5th

Beautiful music by our Chancel Choir
 Lighting of the candles in honor of each Saint
 Angels provided by our Growing & Caring Team

*"Swing low, sweet chariot,
 coming for to carry me home."*



Lindsey Huddleston's
 Liturgical Dance
Stewardship Sunday

November 4th program offered by Windemere Union Church (Orlando)

The interactive history lesson described
 how Indigenous Nations in Florida lost
 their land over time.

*Thank you to our
 Peace & Justice Mission Group for
 arranging and facilitating.*

Come! *By Dale Moore*

Stand with me at the manger in Bethlehem. Let's stand over here in the corner, kind of in the shadows, between these two cows where we will be out of the way. Would you believe a lamb just curled up on my feet? The smell of hay and the oil burning in the lamp hanging from the low beam, permeate the air. It's almost stifling.



Mary, her gown askew and stained with blood, her dark hair hanging down over her damp forehead, is leaning against the cool stone wall and humming to her new baby cradled in her arms. I cannot even begin to imagine the thoughts spinning round in her head. "How can this be? How is this all possible? How do I mother this child, this special child? Will Joseph stay with me, or will he now decide to put me and the baby away? Oh, Joseph! My Beloved husband." Joseph! He's standing off a bit by himself, over near the opening watching her. This has been quite a night. Helping Mary give birth to her baby is not at all the same thing as birthing sheep. He's exhausted...and worried. "What will people think? Who is the father of this child? Certainly not me!" Looking at Mary he stares lovingly at this young woman, hardly more than a girl. "Poor child! It is all so surreal." Even in the dim light he can see her tiredness in the slump of her shoulders and the nodding of her head. But then what should anyone expect after the journey of these past few days and now giving birth. She had had a vision. He himself had had a vision. Was it real? They had spent evenings, he and Mary, talking ... about her vision ... about his vision. And then there was the miracle of Elizabeth. But what would the priests in the temple make of all of that when Joseph presented the boy for circumcision? And if our families knew the truth about her being pregnant before ... They could ... they could actually stone this beautiful young woman now nursing her son for the first time.

There is some kind of hubbub just beyond Joseph outside the circle of light. Men crying and singing and rejoicing and babbling. As the small group crowds into the light, we see men of all ages, big men, rough looking men, smelly, crude men ... shepherds, by the looks of them and they literally fall in adoration before Mary and the baby. One young man gently lays the lamb he is carrying at her feet and backs away in silence. The leader of the group tells Joseph they saw angels in the fields over the sheep. They too saw angels? Not just AN angel, BUT ANGELS who told them to come here. So it was not just he and Mary, but these uneducated, poor men watching sheep out in the fields, who had seen angels.

So from our corner, we see it all. Mary, Joseph, the baby, the shepherds. And if we stay long enough, we will get to see the wise sages who have traveled hundreds of miles from the East to join those who are here now. Wait a minute! To have traveled that far and arrive when they did, they must have been compelled to start their pilgrimage even before the child's birth. While they are definitely not of David's lineage, they endured the weariness of travel, the dangers along the route, the confusion at Herod's Court, and then their own angels telling them to go home by a different route, all to kneel before this very common-appearing baby and his young mother and to present their very rare and expensive gifts. What compelled them to come?

Mary, Joseph, the child, the common working shepherds, the wealth, and wisdom from far away are all here. Then suddenly I am struck by who is not here. The inn keeper who gave the couple shelter is not here. He's missing all that is happening right here in his own grotto. He opened the doors to them, but he, himself, never came in. And what about his other guests at the inn? He did not lead a single one of them to the Christ. Why? How did he miss it? Was it because he was too busy taking their money for room and drink and food? Were they reveling too late or were they just too tired to see the star shining right above their head? The streets of Bethlehem were teeming with travelers, so many that there had been no more room in any inn in town for them. Now, they were of the house and lineage of David and so from childhood had heard the prophecies that from their family, their tribe, would come a Messiah. But none of them bothered to follow the smelly shepherds down the "alley" to the stable. None of them took time to ask why these men were so excited. The sages had encountered many on their way, yet apparently none of them chose to join the caravan so that they could be here. And where was Herod and his crowd? Those who thought they wielded all power could not be bothered to come to see what all the fuss was about. Was there not one of those who said to Herod, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written;" not one who said, "I think I'll go, too?" So many, so close, and yet they missed it.

As I stand here in the corner with this cow pushing against me, as I stand here trying to take it all in, I wonder ... how could they not be here ... and, oh, yes, how is that in my busy world where people still do not see or take notice, where prophecies are great for Sunday morning sermons, but not for Monday's workplace, how is that I was so blest to be led here? When ... where did the angel appear to me?



December Birthdays



December Anniversaries



- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 12/3 | Judith Hansen
Elizabeth Anne Hawkins
Mary Picott | 12/18 | Stephen Landers
Patricia McClure |
| 12/4 | Marjorie Short | 12/19 | Douglas Fields |
| 12/6 | Dotty Pickett | 12/20 | Bill Grubb
Clara Menchinger |
| 12/8 | Marsha Kindall-Smith
Dorothy Markell
Norma Smith | 12/24 | Maria Duprez |
| 12/9 | Christy Bergsma
Carol Seltzer | 12/25 | Rev. Carol Jean Miller |
| 12/10 | Isabel Traba | 12/26 | Michael Carone |
| 12/11 | Elaine Hallice | 12/27 | Sheila Gossett
Len Murray |
| 12/12 | Janet Kamm | 12/29 | Edward Carrington |
| 12/13 | Marilyn Lewis
Kristi Weiland | 12/30 | Pamela Gore-Meade
Felix McElroy III |
| | | 12/31 | Gary Laparl
Patricia McCloskey |

- 12/22 ~ Bill & Pat Grubb
- 12/23 ~ Irving & Deborah Woods
- 12/26 ~ Douglas & Carol Fields
- 12/27 ~ Colonel George Francis & Rachel Taylor
- 12/27 ~ David & Susan Mitchell
- 12/27 ~ William & Susan Pallatto
- 12/28 ~ Jim & Teri Grob
- 12/28 ~ Charles & Beth Hawkins
- 12/29 ~ Bud & Becky Rives
- 12/30 ~ Larry & Norma Smith



Ken Bieber

Phyllis Collins

Bill Moore



**90+ Wise Birthdays
~ Card Shower ~**

12/6 ~ Dotty Pickett

12/20 ~ Clara Menchinger

12/31 ~ Patricia McCloskey



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC CHURCH
1031 Euclid Ave
Sarasota, FL 34237
www.uccsarasota.com



The 2024 Flower Chart is NOW ready for YOU! Do you have a special occasion coming up this year? Would you like to celebrate at an upcoming Sunday service?

Each Sunday, there is an opportunity for two bouquets. **The cost is \$40 per bouquet, payable to the church.**

Please sign up for a Sunday by emailing admin@uccsarasota.com
We are grateful for the fresh flowers every Sunday that bring the beauty of God's creation into our worship space.

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Contributing Photographer Susan Moore
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***We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
in the Florida Conference of the UCC.***

Telephone: (941) 953-7044; Fax: (941) 952-5245

Email: office@uccsarasota.com; Website: www.uccsarasota.com

We are worshipping on-line via Livestream each week at 11 a. m. and the service is posted to our website for streaming by 1 p.m. each Sunday afternoon.

