



Where faith happens and love abounds!

May 2018

PALM FRONDS

Issue 22285

From the Pastor

I begin with these words by the great spiritual writer Henri Nouwen (1932-1996):

“Celebrating a birthday is exalting life and being glad for it. On a birthday we do not say: ‘Thank you for what you did, or said, or accomplished.’ No, we say: ‘Thank you for being born and being among us’. ... Celebrating a birthday reminds us of the goodness of life, and in this spirit we really need to celebrate people’s birthdays every day, by showing gratitude, kindness, forgiveness, gentleness, and affection. These are ways of saying: ‘It’s good that you are alive; it’s good that you are walking with me on this earth. Let’s be glad and rejoice. This is the day that God has made for us to be and to be together’” (from *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*, ©1994).

Although Nouwen is writing about personal birthdays, his words are also food for thought as we prepare to celebrate the third great festival of the Christian year, Pentecost. Pentecost, sometimes referred to as the “birthday of the church,” is the day when that motley mix of disciples was set on fire by God’s Spirit (*see Acts 2*), just as Jesus had promised. And nothing was ever the same again.

Just as we can sometimes take others for granted, we sometimes take the church for granted. We may note church anniversaries but, too often, the church becomes just another item on our to-do list, just another meeting, just another mingling of our social circle.

Pentecost reminds us that the church is more than *just* these things. It reminds us of the goodness of God in the past *and* that the Spirit is how God continues to burn in the human heart. The Spirit is God’s love for each one of us. Moreover, the Spirit is the bond of love between Christ and his people. Pentecost is the day when we can look at each other, remembering that the beauty of God’s gift comes to us as we are, and say, *“It’s good that you are walking with me on this earth.”*

As we discern what it means to walk together in all God’s ways, we are empowered to model a way of being community that does not obliterate our amazing diversity. We are energized to make possible the marvelous contribution of each and every part to the life of the whole. We do that *“by showing gratitude, kindness, forgiveness, gentleness, and affection”* with each other in the faith community; in the life of the world we do that by working for justice, equity, and peace among all people.

In addition to our individual dates of birth we all share this day of spiritual birth into the Beloved Community of God’s people. It is a birth that unites us to Christ and one another; it is a birth that calls us to accountability, responsibility and mission. Let’s make this Pentecost Sunday a day to renew our commitment to the life of the Spirit unfolding at the Church of the Palms. Let’s make this Pentecost a day to be glad and rejoice that God has made us to be together.

Pastor Brad



**Sunday, May 20
10am**

**Special Church Family
Service for Pentecost**



*Everyone is invited to wear
red as we celebrate the gift of
the Spirit*

*Reflections on the gifts of the
Spirit and what it means to be
people who have God’s Spirit*



*If you can read in a language
other than English and are
willing to help with a
scripture reading, contact
Pastor Brad*

May Worship - Sundays, 10 am

May 6 – 6th Sunday of Easter - *Holy Communion*
Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
Sermon: *Rooted*

May 13 – 7th Sunday of Easter
Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; John 17:6-19
Sermon: *Disciples in Body and Spirit*

May 20 – Pentecost Sunday
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 29:19-23
Sermon: *Fired Up!*

May 27 – Trinity Sunday
Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
Sermon: *A Place at the Table*



Prayer Ministry

Thursdays, 10:00 am-10:20 am, in the sanctuary
To list a joy or concern listed on the prayer list, fill out a Prayer Request form in the pew and place it on the offering plate or call the Church Office. Requests are lifted in prayer at Prayer Ministry every Thursday.



Prayer Requests received during April

Marilyn (Barbara Small's sister) healing from a fall + Barbara Small + Diane Longwell + Barbara Davis + For Family & Friends of those who died: Beverly Wagner (died April 17) , Jim Wilson, Miss Mary Mazeay + Thanks for God's love & mercy + For the people of Syria, especially the children + For peace

And our shut-ins:

Dot Cooper, Barbara Daum, Linda Dick, Marlene Hambleton, Dorothy Jones, John Mann, Ellen Mason, Miriam Mabrey, Barbara Miller, John Nemire, Henrietta Smith, Harry Wagner, Lorna Zirbel

Bible Study

Thursdays, 10:30 am-11:45 am
In Fellowship Hall

During May, studies will be using the *Still-Speaking Devotions* published on Mondays. Copies will be available at Bible Study but can be previewed on the United Church of Christ website at www.ucc.org, click on "Daily Devotional". *There will be no Bible Study session on May 31.*



Everyone is welcome! Just bring an inquisitive mind & open heart!



The Leadership Council met on Monday, April 23rd; all 7 members & Pastor Brad attended. The following items were on the agenda:

- Ministry Team, Financial, & Pastoral reports were reviewed and accepted
- The first Super Sunday was evaluated & plans made for Ministry Team meetings through August
- A discussion was held on financial issues related to calling a new pastor
- Names were brainstormed to serve on a Search Committee
- Next meeting is Monday, May 21, 6:00pm.



"The Same God" – New Music Video

Filmed at the Church of the Palms!

To view the video visit www.shawnthomasonline.com and select "pics/vids" in the "media" drop down menu. We were privileged to offer our space to Shawn and have him perform at the March Easter egg hunt. We hope to have him back soon!



May 6th, 11:30 am-12:45 pm

Super Sunday is when all Ministry Teams meet for 1 hour followed by a 10-minute update and closing blessing.

Ministry Teams do the day-to-day planning for programs, activities, events and on-going physical plant and staff needs of the Church of the Palms. So, if you have ideas...volunteer!

2018 LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION/LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Moderator	Joycelyn Patrick
Vice Moderator/Administration Team Facilitator	Bud Scott
Treasurer	Barbara Sinclair
Clerk	Karin Cogswell
Mission Team Facilitator	Linda Reilly
Faith Formation Team Facilitator	Colleen Putnam
Spiritual Life & Celebration Team Facilitator	Susan Moore

MISSION TEAMS

Administration: Margot Beck, Genelle Groh, Jay Putnam, *Barbara Sinclair, Treasurer*
responsible for Budget & Finance, Property, & Personnel matters of the Congregation

Mission: Jean McFadden, Lizz Sanders, Barbara Small
responsible for developing & promoting specific opportunities for service & outreach in keeping with the mission statement of the church

Faith Formation: Andy Berg, Charles Mory, Deirdre Scott
responsible for Christian education & spiritual growth for all ages

Spiritual Life & Celebration: Bev Drolette, Polly Champ, *Karin Cogswell, Clerk*, April Nobles
responsible for Worship, Music, Membership, & the communal life of the Congregation

Pastoral Relations Team: Genelle Groh, Jean McFadden, Susan Moore
Provides 1) spiritual, emotional, & material support for the Pastor; 2) a forum to facilitate an open and nurturing relationship between Pastor, Leadership Council, & Congregation; and, 3) reconciliation of any problems of mutual concern that arise.





EXCITING NEWS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING



- A decision was made to require a purchase order *in advance* for any purchases over \$100. Any expenditures over \$250 must be approved by the

Leadership Council in advance.

- It was decided to reduce the size of our refuge bin from 4 yd. at \$142.71/mo. to 2 yd. at \$71.51/mo. & eliminate the recycle bin at \$81.57/mo. This will save over \$1,800/year.
- Discussion of repairs to the stained glass window in the sanctuary and to the Fellowship Hall air conditioning units was held & bids are being sought.



Thank you to everyone who honored Earth Day by participating in the Interfaith Power and Light “Faith Climate Week” by signing postcards and taking part in this campaign. We ended with 49 cards mostly directed to Marco Rubio, as well as Bill Nelson, but in addition to both FL Senators we

had representation from 7 other states.



Your Mission Team has been engaging with the Interfaith Network to meet Community needs in Delray. We hosted a successful gathering of this group on Thursday, April 12th and all team members plus other Church of the Palms members attended along with reps. From Temple Sinai, St. Paul’s Episcopal, and The Homeless and Housing Alliance, and Jewish Family services. We are learning more about what services are available, where the gaps are and how faith communities can help meet the needs.

Our continued giving to the Food Pantry is vital!!! So please remember to bring your contributions on Sunday. Unopened, unexpired food that snowbirds may be cleaning out, bring in for the food pantry as you prepare to fly north. Feeding programs for the summer are under discussion especially for kids who eat at school but when school’s out it puts a strain on family food resources which are stretched further.

Reflections on *Sacred Conversations on Race*

10-12 members and friends came together on five Wednesdays in Lent. We began with a presentation by Pastor Brad on the biblical perspective on race which clarified the teaching of Jesus on inclusion of all races. In following sessions we viewed a DVD on the history of amity building between races in this country. Many topics were explored in small group discussion including white privilege, colonization, how we form perceptions and racial stereotypes as a result of early experience. The *Race Amity* board game, *Breaking Down Barriers* provided a safe way to talk about race. It was a wonderful experience for all our participants and the primary conclusion of all of us is that we need to keep it going. The church owns 2 copies of the game and it is an exceptional tool requiring little or no preparation to facilitate, so we hope Faith Formation may continue with monthly or more frequent meetings. Let us know if you are interested.



Decided to purchase a new Sunday School curriculum for the Fall, *Deep Blue Kids* by Cokesbury



Discussed having monthly Spiritual Retreats for the Summer instead of Bible Study.

Discussed continuing *Sacred Conversation on Race* on a monthly basis (*see Mission Team notes above*).



Spiritual Life and Celebration



The first meeting was a brainstorming session on the topics of communion, caring for the congregation and welcoming visitors, and celebrating with our church family, having fun together thus bringing us closer as a church family.

Priorities include:

- *Involving more church members in preparing, serving and cleaning up on Communion Sundays. This has been the purview of the Deacons but is now open to anyone who is a church member;
- *Creating a culture of hospitality for visitors.
- *Nurturing church members, friends, shut-ins and temporary shut-ins.



Music Notes

Our Chancel Choir will finish singing for the season on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th. The members of the choir have spent many hours during the past months preparing the Sunday worship music, anthems for special services, and the Cantatas. Everyone is grateful for their dedication and work they have done. The choir will resume on World Communion Sunday, October 7th.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)
Ed Krynicki



Something to Consider

“Psychologists have demonstrated that feeling grateful is good for the heart, that gratitude strengthens individual health and wellbeing. If that is true for individuals, it is true for communities and countries as well. To feel grateful together moves us from ‘me’ and ‘my’ political opinions toward ‘we’ and the good of ‘our’ community.



~Diana Butler Bass

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks



The Women's Fellowship will be meeting throughout the summer this year. Meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month, starting with May 1st, then June 5th, etc. Meetings will begin at 10:30 am at the church. See you there!



May Birthdays

- 2 Henrietta Smith
- 9 Harry Wagner
- 12 Polly Champ
- 19 Joe Rugare
- 27 Barbara Small
- 27 Joyce Flick
- 30 Barbara Miller
- 31 Claire Powell



MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday – Friday 9am-1pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's hours on days indicated; generally from 9am but always call first to be sure he is available.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour 11:30am – Super Sunday Ministry Teams meet</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Ascension Day</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm - Gong Show Fundraiser at Delray Beach Elks Lodge</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am Worship <i>Recognition of 2018 Graduates</i> 11:00 am - Social Hour</p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 PENTECOST</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour</p> 	<p>21</p> <p><i>Palm Fronds Deadline</i></p> <p>6 pm Leadership Council meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours from 1pm</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 TRINITY SUNDAY</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour</p> 	<p>28</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OFFICE CLOSED</i></p> 	<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></p>		

Mission Ministry Team

...offers this opportunity to have a fun night and help feed hungry children over the summer.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TALENT CONTEST

PRESENTED BY:  Delray Beach Initiative

HOSTED BY: **MC SARGE**

DELRAY'S GONG SHOW

A FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT:



NOT ONE HUNGRY HOMELESS STUDENT
DELRAY BEACH
A Delray Beach Homeless Taskforce Initiative



Saturday, May 12th 2018 @7:00 PM -10:00 PM

Delray Beach Elks Lodge, 265 NE 4th Ave

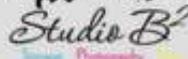
Delray Beach, FL 33483

Tickets are \$25 Dinner, Show & Silent Auction

Find out more at www.DelrayBeachInitiative.com or email Tickets@DelrayBeachInitiative.com



Jack's Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant



Sandwich Man

ATLANTIC AVE MASSAGE



ANTHONY'S
ITALIAN PIZZA

HARVEST



SARGE



EDWARD A. ZURAW & CO.





CROS Ministries

Caring Kitchen Update: The Caring Kitchen is having to make some changes. They are still serving meals and running their Food Pantry, just a little differently than in the past. The schedule is listed below. One change is that they are not accepting clothing or household donations until further notice.

If you have questions about the Caring Kitchen transition or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact Rev. Juanita Bryant Goode, Director of Engagement, who is heading up the transition at jgoode@crosministries.org.

Caring Kitchen Meals

noon to 1:00 pm weekdays

MONDAY – Resurrection Life Fellowship

TUESDAY –Cason UMC; Enter on south side

WEDNESDAY – St. Matthew’s Episcopal;

THURSDAY –Cason UMC; Enter on south side

FRIDAY – St. Matthew’s Episcopal; Parish Hall

SATURDAY– 9 am; Bag Lunches at Cason UMC

SUNDAY - 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm; Delray Beach Haitian United Church Of The Nazarene

Now more than ever we need to continue to support CROS Ministries and their Food Pantry through our gifts of canned and dry goods.



Attendance and Offerings

March

Average Attendance: 77

Giving \$8,721.83

Total income **\$11,288.83**

Total Expenses \$26,219.09

Total (\$14,930.26)



No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, no matter who you love, you’re welcome at Church of the Palms United Church of Christ where faith happens and love abounds!

Church of the Palm; United Church of Christ

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info@churchofthepalms.net

Rev. Brad S. Lutz, Designated Pastor
Edward M. Krynicki, Minister of Music
Elaine Reinhardt, Pianist
Nancy Hart, Office Manager
Elnora C. Mitchell, Bookkeeper
Milan Charles Sunday School Teacher
Shawn Antman, Jeanrony Esther, Sextons

Joycelyn Patrick, Moderator
“Bud” Scott, Vice Moderator/Administration Team
Karin Cogswell, Clerk
Barbara Sinclair, Treasurer
Linda Reilly, Mission Team
Colleen Putnam, Faith Formation Team
Susan Moore, Spiritual Life & Celebration Team

... and many amazing volunteers!