



Where faith happens and love abounds!

May/June 2019

PALM FRONDS

Issue 22294

COMING THIS SUMMER!



**...a relaxed, informal,
interactive worship
service that encourages
faith sharing &
experiences different
musical styles.**

Sundays, 10:00am

**July 21, August 18,
September 15**

in

Friendship Center

**Watch for more details
in the Weekly Fronds e-
news, on our website,
and in the next Palm
Fronds.**

Not to be missed!

**A special opportunity to
invite a guest to
experience worship at
Church of the Palms.**

Friends,

One of the insights in our New Beginnings assessment is that spirituality seems to be a low priority in our Congregation. This is like saying that food is a low priority to human life. Without the sustenance of the spiritual life, our souls shrivel and struggle for breath.

What is spirituality? I suspect that if you ask a dozen people that question you might get two dozen responses! The Psalmist suggests that the spiritual life is a longing for God (Psalm 63). As the body hungers and thirsts and then enjoys a banquet, the whole being hungers and thirsts for God and is filled by God. Yet, even this longing is God-inspired; the minute we seek God, we find God already waiting for us. One spiritual teacher has said that the spiritual life is summarized in one word: awareness. Author Mike Yaconelli writes that *"spirituality is not a formula... It is a relationship. Spirituality is not about competency; it is about intimacy. Spirituality is not about perfection; it is about connection."*

The connection we make with God connects us to others and through the bond with others, our relationship with God grows. Our mission, if it is authentic, is rooted in this spiritual connection. We see the divine spark in each person we are called to serve whether they are sitting in the pew next to us or standing at the intersection begging.

Becoming a missional church can only be enhanced by the development of a deep, intentional spiritual life. That means, as Henri Nouwen points out that *"we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God."* It is my prayer for Church of the Palms that you can experience a new beginning of ever-increasing awareness of the presence of God and of the wonder of what it means to be shaped in the image of God.

Blessings, Pastor Brad



RECOMMENDED READING

- *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life and Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life* by Henri J. M. Nouwen
- *What does it mean to lead a spiritual life (Christian perspective)* by Rev. Dr. Kenneth A. Corr:
http://www.explorefaith.org/steppingstones_SpiritualLife_Corr.htm

May Worship - Sundays, 10 am

May 5 – 3rd Sunday of Easter - *Holy Communion* -

Scripture: John 21:1-19

Sermon: *Love Wins!*

May 12 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Recognition of 2019 High School Graduates

Scripture: Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon: *Embracing the Life of Christ*

May 19 – 5th Sunday of Easter – *Holy Communion*

45th Anniversary of Pastor Brad's ordination

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Sermon: *What in the World is Going On?*

Note: Pastor Brad will be away beginning May 24 and will return on Sunday, June 23.

May 26 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister: Rev. John Aarens

June - Sundays, 10 am

June 2 – 7th Sunday of Easter - *Holy Communion*

Guest Minister: Rev. Susan Moore

June 9 – Pentecost Sunday

Guest Minister: Rev. Misti Johnson-Arce

June 16 – Trinity Sunday

Guest Minister: Ms. Lisa LeSueur

June 23 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Brad returns today

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Acts 15:12

Sermon: *Silence in A World of Noise*

June 30 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

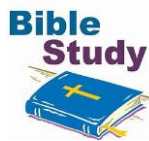
Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-25; John 8:31-38

Sermon: *Oh Freedom*



When we come to worship God, we generally feel as though the preacher and other ministers are the performers, and God is the subject of the performance, and we as the congregation are merely the audience...but this is a terrible misunderstanding of worship. Authentic Christian worship is just the opposite. We are the performers. The preachers and other ministers are the directors of the performance, and God is the Audience.

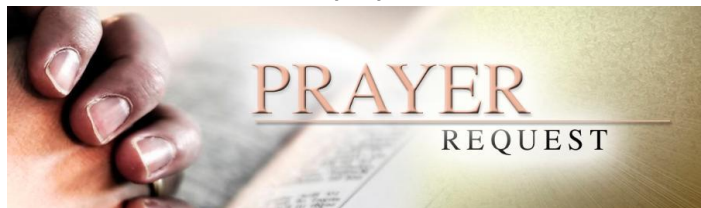
Soren Kierkegaard (CcNet)



Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16

10:30am, Fellowship Hall

Using resources from the UCC daily devotionals with discussion guides that appear on Mondays



- The family of **Dorothy Cooper** who died March 13
- **Karin Cogswell** & family on the death of her mother
- **Nicole**
- **Hunter**, who is grieving the loss of his father, struggling with recovery and faith issues
- **Han's Family**
- **New Beginnings**
- **Migrant Children**
- **Sharon Small**, laid off from job.
- **Gallo Family**, 22 year old son died.
- **Dan Wheeler**, recovery from hospital
- **Clover Miller**
- **Jeff Miller**
- **Pastoral Search**, may be enter a new phase of life in our church – more open, giving and diverse.

For our shut-ins:

Barbara Daum, Linda Dick, Jackie Fusco, Marlene Hambleton, Dorothy Jones, John Mann, Ellen Mason, Barbara Miller, John Nemire, Henrietta Smith, Harry Wagner

TO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST, complete the back of the "CONNECT" card in the pew and place it on the offering plate or call the Office.



**GATHER FOR A TIME OF QUIET
PRAYER FOR OTHERS**

Thursday, May 23

Thursday, June 27

10am in the Sanctuary.



Your Giving is an act of worship!



Online Giving is up and running with several members making their donations through the system. On our website,

click **DONATE** to **make a safe and secure contribution using your credit or debit card, checking or savings account.** The **DONATE** link is also included in the Pastor's weekly email. Choose to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation that gives automatically. Call the office if you have any questions.



Birthdays

May:

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Henrietta Smith |
| 12 | Polly Champ |
| 19 | April Nobles |
| 19 | Joseph Rugare |
| 23 | Killian Hammett |
| 27 | Joyce Flick |
| 27 | Barbara Small |
| 31 | Claire Powell |

June:

| | |
|----|----------------|
| 3 | Dorothy Jones |
| 12 | Amelia Putnam |
| 21 | Kay Nemire |
| 22 | Edith Kutz |
| 25 | Karin Cogswell |
| 29 | Nancy Dixon |



Music Notes

To Worship is to Sing

Our Chancel Choir will finish singing for the season on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. The choir members have spent many hours during the past months preparing for all the services and Cantatas. Everyone is grateful for their work and dedication. They will resume singing in the Fall beginning October 6th, World Communion Sunday.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone)

Ed Krynicki



Thanks to your donations, we gave \$675 to our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.



We are pleased to report that we have concluded our work on the Pastoral Search Profile and the search launched on April 3. The Search Committee will keep you apprised of important developments in the search. We look forward to a successful quest to find our new settled pastor.

The Pastoral Search Committee

Fred Moore, Chair

Margot Beck, Genelle Groh, Jean McFadden,
Charles Mory, Lizz Sanders, Jennifer Volcy



Notes from meetings on March 18 & April 15:

- Approved a new **Designated Term Pastor Covenant**. Pastor Brad will return June 23 on a reduced schedule through September 29, contingent on the Search process.
- Approved holding **Breakfast Church** on the 3rd Sundays of July, August and September as a way to experience a more relaxed worship style and varieties of worship music.
- Approved **replacing wiring, conduit and junction boxes** to the AC units at the front of the sanctuary (\$1450)
- Approved **replacement of office copier** (lease expires) with a new machine from Gold Coast Tech. The contract realizes a savings of approximately \$150/month.
- Approved joining **Delray Chamber of Commerce** in order to participate in the non-profit Council which provides opportunity to further our mission; membership is \$325/year.
- Requested Administration Team to explore **repair of the stained glass window** and to develop a financial plan to address the nearly \$150,000 cost.
- Approved offering **CPR/defibrillator training** for 6-8 persons at a cost of \$25 per person.
- Approved exploring costs to make Friendship Center "conference ready" with appropriate media equipment.
- Cancelled the rental agreement with the Tuesday Current Events group effective May 14.



ADMINISTRATION

- We welcomed **Alexander Castle** as our new Custodian on March 4. His hours are Monday through Friday.

MISSION

- The Mission Team intends to create specific donation box(es) for the Interfaith Committee for Social Services of Delray Beach “Live Fresh Shower Truck” program that provides (through CROS Ministries screening of clients) once per week shower facilities for our homeless brothers and sisters.
- We are appealing to all of our seasonal congregants who are shortly heading out of town to again consider donating to CROS whatever dry goods they might not need or be taking with them. Collection bins are in the sanctuary and Friendship Center.
- We are also in the process of extending speaking invitations to representatives from CROS Ministries, The Lord's Place, Family's First, James Green, Director of the Palm Beach County Community Services, the United Way, the City of Delray Beach, to speak to us about more service opportunities for our Congregation
- We have a large contingent of our addicted brothers and sisters on campus, whose leadership we have discussed inviting to explore worship and/or some other form of secular support and interaction.

SPIRITUAL LIFE & CELEBRATION

- The Butterfly Release which followed Easter Service was a tremendous success.
- In honor of her mother, Dot Cooper's daughter donated Easter Flowers for our shut ins. The Spiritual Life & Celebration team delivered the flowers after Easter services.

FAITH FORMATION

- Along with facilitator Charles Mory, the team now includes **Colleen Putnam** and **Barry Reilly**.
- Beginning Sunday, June 2 through August, children will remain in the sanctuary during worship. The **Kids' Korner** will return at the back of the sanctuary on June 2. Sunday School will resume the Sunday after Labor Day.



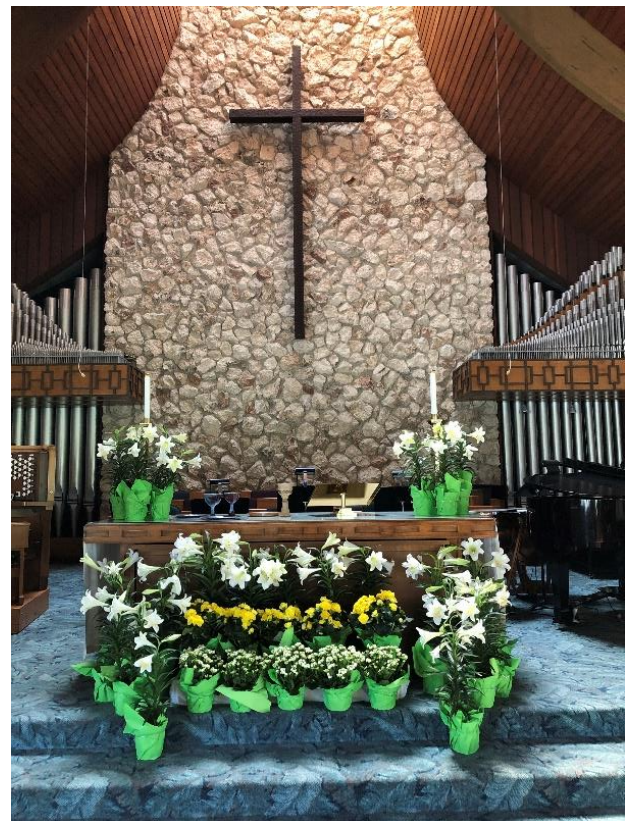
May 12

**Ministry teams meet 11:30am-12:30pm
with a wrap up from 12:30-12:45pm.**

**No Super Sundays in June or July; individual
Ministry Teams will meet as needed. The next
Super Sunday will be August 11.**



Easter Sunday at Church of the Palms





MAY 2019



Tuesday – Friday, 9am-1pm
*Pastor's hours on days indicated from 9am
 but always call first to be sure he is
 available.*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|-----------|--|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 10am - Communion 11:00 am - Social Hour 11:30 am Congregation Conservation – New Beginnings Update | 6 Ramadan begins  | 7 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> | 8 | 9 Office closes at noon <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice | 10 | 11 |
| 12 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 10am -Worship with graduate recognition & Sunday School 11:00 am - Social Hour 11:30am – SUPER SUNDAY meetings | 13 | 14 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> 11am Women's Fellowship Meeting <i>at the Palm Diner</i> | 15 | 16 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice | 17 | 18 |
| 19 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 10am – Communion 11:00 am - Social Hour | 20 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> <i>from 2pm</i> 6 pm Leadership Council | 21 | 22 | 23 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> 10:00am Prayer Ministry 6pm Choir Practice | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> 10am -Worship & Sunday School 11:00 am - Social Hour | 27  | 28 | 29 | 30 ASCENSION DAY 6pm Choir Practice <i>(Last practice until</i> <i>the fall.)</i> | 31 | |



JUNE 2019



Tuesday – Friday, 9am-1pm
*Pastor's hours on days indicated from 9am
 but always call first to be sure he is
 available.*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> 10am - Communion 11:00 am - Social Hour | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> 10am -Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour | 10 | 11 11am Women's Fellowship Meeting | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 10am -Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour | 17 Delray Sing Camp | 18 Delray Sing Camp | 19 Delray Sing Camp | 20 Delray Sing Camp | 21 Sing Camp Concert | 22 |
| 23 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am – Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour | 24 6pm Leadership Council | 25 UCC ANNIVERSARY  | 26 | 27 <i>Pastor's Office Hours</i> 10:00am Prayer Ministry | 28 | 29 10am Dot Cooper Memorial Service at Church of the Palms |
| 30 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am – Worship 11:00 am - Social Hour | | | | | | |



CROS Ministries

CARING KITCHEN MEALS SITES

MONDAY - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm ,
Resurrection Life Fellowship 209 SW 5th
Ave., Delray Beach

TUESDAY - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm , Cason
UMC 342 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray
Beach (Corner Lake Ida & Swinton) - Enter
on south side

WEDNESDAY - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm , St. Matthew's
Episcopal 404 SW 3rd St, Delray Beach. - Parish Hall
across street from sanctuary

THURSDAY - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm , Cason UMC 342 N.
Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach (Corner Lake Ida &
Swinton) - Enter on south side

FRIDAY - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm , St. Matthew's Episcopal
404 SW 3rd St., Delray Beach - Parish Hall across street
from sanctuary

SATURDAY - 9:00 am to 9:30 am, Bag Lunches at Cason
UMC 342 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach (Corner Lake
Ida & Swinton)

SUNDAY - 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Calvary Bible Alliance
Church 898 SW 10th Street, Delray Beach



*No matter who you are, who you love, or
where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome at
Church of the Palms United Church of Christ*

Church of the Palms United Church of Christ
1960 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444

561.276.6347 www.churchofthepalms.net
info@churchofthepalms.net

Rev. Brad S. Lutz, Designated Term Pastor
Theresa Baudier, Administrative Assistant
Edward M. Krynicki, Minister of Music
Elaine Reinhardt, Pianist
Milan Charles Sunday School Teacher
Jeanrony Esther, Alexander Castle, Sextons

Barbara Sinclair, Moderator
"Bud" Scott, Vice Moderator/Administration Team
Karin Cogswell, Clerk
Deirdre Scott, Treasurer
Charles Mory, Faith Formation Team
Lizz Sanders, Mission Team

Susan Moore, Spiritual Life & Celebration Team

... and many incredible volunteers!

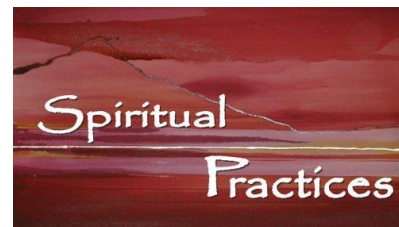


As an **Open and Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ, our goal is to extend to everyone an extravagant welcome in hopes that you will experience the abundant love of God and be inspired to share that love with the world.

What is spiritual practice?¹

Here's a definition to reflect on: *"A spiritual practice is any regular and intentional activity that establishes, develops, and nourishes a personal relationship with the Divine in which we allow ourselves to be transformed."*

There is a wide range of traditional spiritual practices. Each of us figures out what works best for us. Some may take long walks in silence; others wake up and watch the rising sun with a cup of coffee; still others practice yoga, etc. Not all practices qualify as "spiritual practices." In the Christian tradition a spiritual practice must intentionally focus on our relationship with the Divine.



- *What in your life would fit this understanding of a "spiritual practice"?*
- *What aspect of your life might you be able to transform into a spiritual practice with little effort?*

Spiritual practices may be categorized in three types – those that are individual and "personal," upon which the more public or "communal" practices are based and designed to build community. These in turn yield "missional" practices, practices we engage in as we engage in our Christian ministry with others.

PERSONAL

These refer to regular (daily) practices in which we engage, in order that we may be able to express our faith communally out of deep inner conviction and passion, rather than out of duty, custom, or fear.

Meditation + Prayer

Fasting + Study

Simplicity + Discernment

Pilgrimage + Forgiveness

Dying well + Solitude

Submission + Honoring the body

• *As you look at these personal spiritual practices, which one(s) would best suit your personality?*

• *How might you experiment with one or more of these to see if it might open you to God's presence and transform you?*

COMMUNAL

Communal disciplines are intentional, organized ways in which we come together as individual Christians to celebrate our identity as Christians, to build an alternative to the dominant culture based on compassion and justice. The communal disciplines are, if you will, the corporate displays of the transformation which occurs as a result of letting God become the center of life. In turn, they prepare us for the missional disciplines.

Keeping Holy Seasons

(e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost)

Confession + Testimony

Household economics

Keeping Sabbath + Beauty

Worship + Shaping Communities

• *Once you have established a routine of "personal" practices, how might you give expression to your deepening spiritual awareness through "communal" practices?*

MISSIONAL

Missional disciplines address the reality that, as a Christian body, we are sent out. Christian life has this unique characteristic that it is not solely a personal matter; nor is it primarily a community affair. Christian life is about "mission," about being sent out into the world to help bring about God's Dream for humanity. The missional disciplines address the regular, intentional practices which help the church community move out into the world.

Service + Diversity

Justice + Communal Discernment

Celebration + Hospitality

• *As you grow in your openness to God, how are you being transformed, and what forms of "missional" practice might you be called to adopt and contribute to?*



"You create a path of your own by looking within yourself and listening to your soul, cultivating your own ways of experiencing the sacred and then practicing it. Practicing until you make it a song that sings you."

~ Sue Monk Kidd, *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*

¹ For more information visit www.spiritualpractice.ca – you will find information on each of the practices listed above