

**PASS-A-GRILLE BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday Worship

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

DECEMBER 3, 2023 • 10:00 AM • PAGCHURCH.ORG

**Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling, Pastor
Signe and Todd Webb, Associates for Children and Youth Ministries
Dale Williams, Choir Director and Organist/Pianist (10:00)
Winston Culler, Music Leader for the 8:30 Service
Anthony Wright, Worship Streaming Director
Stacey Jackson, Church Administrator
Kristy Gilbert, Church Bookkeeper
Traci Hitchcox, Media Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Bell and Rafiq Kaid, Cleaning Services**

**727-360-5508
107 16th Avenue, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706**

Announcements

Meet and Greet Our New Interim Pastor Today After the 10 AM Service

Let's get together and socialize with Dr. Elnes, our new Interim Senior Pastor. After the 10 AM service walk over to the Fellowship Hall for informal conversation, laughter, and a light fare of refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

Book Drive for MASTR Kids • now through December 10

Outreach Ministry is striving to provide a new hardcover picture book for each of the 59 students in grades K-1 in our Tutoring Angels program with MASTR Kids. Each book should be wrapped and have a note attached with the name of the book and the author. Wrapped books may be placed in the box in Fellowship Hall by December 10. See Vivian Fueyo or Jeanie Griffin with any questions.

Thrift Shop Open House • Sunday, December 10 from 11 am until noon All welcome!

Note that the Thrift Shop will be closed December 23 through January 1.

Book Club • Tuesday, January 9 at 12:30

Join us for a discussion of "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar.

Yoga • Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 am

All are welcome to join Jeanne Salvo in Fellowship Hall.

Help Needed

Please contact Francie Nelson at maryfrancesnelson@gmail.com or (607) 425-2787 if you are interested in being added to our list of memorial reception helpers. You will be contacted to determine your availability as needs arise.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Wilma Beerman, Laurie Kirby and family, Bill Murray, and our servicemen and women

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas in Five Carols

December 3 Advent I	Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
December 10 Advent II	Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
December 17 Advent III	Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes "Down to Earth, as a Dove"
December 24 (10am) Christmas Eve	One morning service only at 10am Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
December 24 (4pm) Christmas Eve	Children's Service Signe Webb and Puppeteers
December 24 (7pm) Christmas Eve	Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes "Joy to the World!"
December 31 New Year's Eve	One Service ONLY at 10 A.M. Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This table is open to all people. All are welcome to be part of the sacrament, which is offered through COVID friendly packets available at the front.

The Invitation

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” #122
(Verses 1 and 2)

THE MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

You can now give a donation via Venmo to (727) 200 - 2785 or by scanning the QR code below.



THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Finale from Concerto No. 5” G. F. Handel

Visitors, before you leave, please visit our welcome table and help us stay in contact with you by filling out the Visitor Contact Card.

DECEMBER 3, 2023 • 10:00 AM

The message of Advent competes with a consumer economy that prefers we jump to the big finish, instead of slowly preparing for an encounter with the Divine. ~ Book of Ecclesiastical Order

THE WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

To anyone who is searching, *you are welcome here.*

If you're searching for an accepting community, you are welcome here.

If you're searching for the healing love of God, *you are welcome here.*

Come, stop searching and be part of worship.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

In this house, we value peace. Peace is central to our understanding of the faith.

Please extend a word of peace by saying, “The peace of Christ be with YOU.”

THE PRELUDE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. McDonald/Nelson
George Alexander, Cello

THE CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Here is the ember of hope:

In a story passed down through the ages...

In a love surpassing all loves...

In a God who sacrifices self...

In the birth of a child, full of light and love...

Came Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel, God among us.

The ember, whose flame will kindle the world.

THE OPENING HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Signe Webb

*All children wishing to attend Faith Formation are invited to leave **at this time.***

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS Isaiah 7: 10-16 Muriel Kehoe

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too easy for you to weary mortals that you weary God also? Therefore, the Lord God will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse evil and choose good. But before the child knows how to refuse evil and choose good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Micah 5: 1 - 5a

Now you are walled around with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel upon the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

THE ANTHEM

“Every Valley” Victor Johnson
Chancel Choir and George Alexander, Cello

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1: 20 - 22

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet.

THE SERMON

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

THE ANTHEM

“O Come, Emmanuel” Elaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir and George Alexander, Cello