



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

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.

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • 10:00 AM • PAGCHURCH.ORG

Announcements

Racial Justice Ministry Book Discussion • Sunday, February 25 at 11 am

“Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson, is an auto-biographical novel of a young African American lawyer fighting for the rights of the wrongfully convicted. Stephenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. His law practice is dedicated to those most disparaged: the poor, the wrongly condemned and women and children trapped in the criminal justice system.

Book available at the welcome desk, church office, Tombolo bookstore or online.

Movie available on Prime and YouTube.

Concert on the Pavilion • Thursday, February 29 at 7 pm

Featuring Hits of the Brits. Suggested donation \$10.

Net proceeds to benefit Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

Book Club • Tuesday, March 5 at 12:30 pm

Join us in the library as we discuss “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah.

Survey of Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church, UCC

In August 2023, a survey of our congregation was conducted. The survey results are now available at pagchurch.org. The survey was designed to assess the congregation’s views regarding the desired qualities and characteristics of a Senior Pastor and of a vibrant community of worship. The results provide some demographic information as well as views and opinions of those who participated at that particular time in the church’s life. Congregations are organic and dynamic communities. We recognize the results of this survey may not be an ideal representation of the whole church community. Yet, the results have provided numerous insights for us to consider as we plan for future ministries. We thank all the people who participated in it.

If you have any questions regarding this survey,
please contact the church office.

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Wilma Beerman, Anne Ciriello, Deb Flack, Kay Frye, Gerry Ingram,
Bob Whitcomb, Phyllis Winans, and our servicemen and women**

Gifts of the Dark Wood Worship Series

This 7-part series delves into the concept of finding meaning and purpose through life’s most challenging and uncertain times, symbolized as the ‘Dark Wood’. It suggests that experiences traditionally seen as negative — failure, emptiness, and doubt — are in fact crucial opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. It challenges the notion of avoiding life’s darker moments, instead proposing that these periods are rich with hidden gifts. The series will serve as a guide to embracing life’s uncertainties and leveraging them for deeper self-discovery and spiritual development.

The series is based on Pastor Eric’s book, Gifts of the Dark Wood:
Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (and Other Wanderers) (Abingdon, 2015).

February 14: What is the Dark Wood? (Matthew 4:17; 5:1-12)

February 18: The Gift of Uncertainty (Exodus 3:1-14a; 1 Corinthians 13:11-12)

February 25: The Gift of Being Thunderstruck (Job 37:1-5)

NOTE: Thunderstruck and Emptiness are in reverse order from the book.

March: 3: The Gift of Emptiness (Matthew 27:46)

March 10: The Gift of Temptation (Luke 4:1-13)

March 17: The Gift of Disappearing (Mark 5:25-34)

March 24 (Palm Sunday): The Gift of Misfits (Luke 19:28-48)

Gifts of the Dark Woods Small Groups • Starting the week of February 18

A variety of days and times offered. Sign up for your preferred class at pagchurch.org.

Book available at the welcome desk and church office.

MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

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



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Allegro”

William Boyce

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

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Exploring the unknown requires tolerating uncertainty. ~ Brian Greene

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome. We are glad you chose to worship with us today,
and we want you to feel welcomed regardless of your ethnicity, language,
or nationality, gender or sexual orientation, age, station in life, or status.

Know that in this church, none of that matters today, or any other day.

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

PRELUDE

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on the writings of Thomas Merton

Creator God, we have no idea where we are going. We do not see the road ahead.
We cannot know for certain where it will end.

We lift our uncertainty to you.

Sustaining God, we really do not know ourselves. The fact that we think we are following your
will does not mean we are actually doing so.

We lift our wandering selves to you.

Guiding Spirit, lead us by the right road, even if we can’t see it. Help us to trust in your Divine
light, though we may feel lost and in the shadow of death.

We place our trust in you, praising your name with gratitude. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Praise to the Living God”

8

(Verses 1, 3 and 4)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Signe Webb

TESTIMONY

Michael Brill

GIFT OF MUSIC

“Jesus Is My Song of Grace”

Joseph Martin

Erin Dickerson and Andy Shultz, Duet

All children wishing to attend Faith Formations are invited to exit at this time.

TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 3: 1-14

Deborah Kenneda

Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So, Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn.”

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Then God said, “I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

God answered, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

PAULINE LESSON

1 Corinthians 13: 11-12

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; but then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

REFLECTION PT. 1

“Gifts of the Dark Wood, Part 1: The Gift of Uncertainty”

Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

GIFT OF MUSIC

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Fanny Crosby

Erin Dickerson and Andy Shultz, Duet

REFLECTION PT. 2

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

CLOSING HYMN

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

#55

(Verses 1, 3 and 4)