



The Lighthouse

Matecumbe Methodist Church

"Bringing the light of Jesus Christ to our Islands"

Matecumbe Methodist Church

81831 Overseas Highway

Islamorada, FL 33036

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 905, Islamorada, FL 33036

Office Phone - (305) 664-3661

E-mail - matumc@bellsouth.net

Website – matecumbeumc.org

Office hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Worship Service Sunday - 11:00 am

[YouTube Services](#)

Don't miss any of the weekly services. [Click here](#) to select the Sermon you would like to hear.



God's Amazing Grace

We have just celebrated Easter. On Calvary that day were two crosses alongside Jesus' cross. Each cross has a story.

The thieves on either side of Jesus begin their day along with the crowd, cursing Jesus. As the hours past however, one sensed the difference between Jesus and those raising their voices against him. He heard Jesus ask the father to forgive those who were killing him. That produced thoughts that were unthinkable to him, thoughts like forgiveness. Could there be such a thing for him? If

forgiveness was possible, he wanted it, and if anyone could give it, this thief was probably the one. So he prayed, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

The lessons in the story are many. How far can one go in sin and still find forgiveness? How far from the church and its normal ministries can one be, and still become a recipient of grace? How late can one wait before the hope of Christ's pardon is gone?

This story makes it clear that no one, no matter how far from God, is beyond the reach of the love of Christ. Thank God for that thief's cross as well as for Christ's cross. Thanks indeed, for amazing grace.

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PRAYER LIST –Please add to your prayers: Hamilton family, Karen Buono, Edie Sheibley, Galen, Jim Winstel, Russ & Sherri, Mike Painter, Kyle Hucceby, Sally Kolb, Family of Borden Makepeace, Jon Hamilton, Bill Morton, Scott Ross, Lee Gannaway

PLEASE COME JOIN US:

Sunday School: @ 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study: on Thursday's @ 4:30 pm with Rob Kolb in the FSH.

Library: Opens Tuesdays 9 to 12 a.m.

Stained Glass: Tuesday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Men's Breakfast: Thurs 7:30am at Lorelei.

Lady Card Players: 9:30 to 12 pm on Tues in the Fellowship Hall

Worship Team: Practice on Thursdays @ 6:00

FL United Methodist Children's Home: Please remember to bring in your loose change for the jar in the Narthex that goes to helping these children.

April 24 Administrative Appreciation day.



Borden Makepeace

Our beloved Borden Makepeace passed away at the age of 89, on March 27, 2024.

[Read Borden's biography](#) in the church website, written several years ago. The last paragraph states clearly how we all want to remember this remarkable man: "So when you see Borden and his smile know that this is one special man who has overcome many challenges in his life but has the strength to face each tomorrow with hope, faith, and amazing memories. Always with a smile."

And now we are left with fond memories.

We will always remember Borden Makepeace as we pass that empty seat in the back pew of the church.

There will be a memorial service for Borden on May 18.

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You can learn about the Global Methodist Church at [Florida Conference of the Global Methodist Church \(floridagmc.org\)](https://floridagmc.org).

See the timeline as Matecumbe Methodist Church moved to the Global Methodist church affiliation. [Click here](#).



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Monday, March 25, 2024

Matecumbe Methodist Church
P.O. Box 905
Islamorada, FL 33036
To the Pastor and Laity of Matecumbe Methodist Church:

Welcome to the Global Methodist Church! We received your request to join the GM Church as a member congregation accompanied by the required minutes of your congregational meeting endorsing the doctrinal standards and social witness in our *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* and expressing your desire to be connected and accountable to the Global Methodist Church. On Monday, March 25, 2024, the Transitional Leadership Council approved your request, and your church is now a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church effective Monday, March 11, 2024. Praise God!

Those individuals who are professing members of your congregation are now members of the Global Methodist Church.

When you share this news with your congregation, I encourage you to use the [Wesley Covenant Service](#) as a means of both celebrating your new relationship as a member congregation of the GM Church and renewing your covenant with God.

We will be sending additional information to you in the coming days to address other aspects of your being a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church. I am praying for you as you make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Please be in touch with me if you have questions.

In Christ,

Keith Boyette
Transitional Connectional Officer

Making a Habit of Praying

By Pam Vecella and Kathy Sill

Praying is a common theme in the Bible. In the Old Testament, we see the prophets, David, Moses, Solomon and others praying to God. In the New Testament, we read how Jesus is constantly going off alone to pray. He even took the time to show his disciples how to pray. Many are familiar with the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6: 9-13.

The Lord desires a close relationship with every person. Our prayers allow us the opportunity to talk one on one with God. We encourage everyone to read their Bible and take time give your fears, worries, sorrows over to the Lord through prayer. Believers who accept Jesus as their Savior will spend eternity with Him. Begin today to develop a closer relationship.

If you are not already, we strongly encourage you to consider beginning each day with your prayers and your Bible readings. Even before you look at your phone, pick up your Bible and pray. Personally, if I even peak at my phone, I have suddenly lost 45 minutes or more of my quality time with God. As the Bible says, we are to give our firstfruits to the Lord. So maybe we should also give the Lord our first thoughts and time to Him who created us.

PRAY and ACTS are two acronyms that provide an approach for how to pray:

P – Praise God and give Him all glory

R – Repent of any wrongdoing/sin in your life

A – Ask God for the help you want

Y- Yield to God and have faith that in His perfect time, according to His perfect plan, He will answer your prayer.

A – Adoration - Begin with adoration/worship of God our Creator

C – Contrition – Acknowledge your sins and repent

T – Thanksgiving – Give thanks to God for the blessings He has given to you

S – Supplication – Ask God for His help in meeting your needs

Prayer Journal Challenge:

Take a notebook and start writing your prayers. Simply enter the date and the specific prayer request. Periodically take time to review your prayer journal and mark off the answered prayers. Do this for 30 days and see how your prayer life changes.

Blessings,

Pam & Kathy

Capt. Chris and Ana "Annie" Walter

Chris Walter was born in Philadelphia. After time in Maryland, he moved to the Florida Keys. He has been a deep sea fisherman for nearly 30 years now. He is the captain of the charter boat, Get Bent, out of Long Key.

Annie, was born in Puerto Rico and lived there three years, three years in Illinois, and then on to Miami, graduating from high school there. She attended a number of colleges: University of Florida, Florida International University, FIU Law (J.D.), and UM Law (Masters). Annie now works for the State of Florida as an Assistant State Attorney. While English has always been her primary language, Annie also speaks fluent Spanish.

Captain Chris met Annie while grocery shopping in Islamorada. They quickly learned that they both share a love for God and His great blue ocean. Chris taught Annie how to fish, and of course, Annie fell in love. They married on February 7, 2023 on the beach at Founder's Park.

Recently, they welcomed their daughter, Brooke Alice Walter, to their family. The Walter Family enjoys attending Matecumbe Methodist Church on Sundays where they feel God's forgiveness, love, and guidance.



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Thank you Susan Batement for the wonderful backlit lighthouse cross. You always amaze us with your creativity and your talents.

And I thank God for The Lighthouse, I owe my life to Him.

**Jesus is The Lighthouse and from the rocks of sin,
He has shown the light around me, so that I might clearly see.
If it wasn't for The Lighthouse, where would this ship be?**



If you don't know the story of the church windows at the Matecumbe Methodist Church—[click here](#) for the story from a newsletter a couple years ago. Or watch [the video](#).

It is a truly amazing story!





FLORIDA METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME IS NOW – "RESIDING HOPE"

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was first established in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage. Since that time it has grown into an organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children from across the state of Florida. In addition to providing a higher level of therapeutic residential care in two locations, they also provide foster care and outpatient counseling in multiple counties.

They realized that they had outgrown the Children's Home name, and needed something that better represented the purpose they serve and the care they provide. That new name is **Residing Hope**.

The word hope is commonly used to mean a wish or desire. But in the Bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength of His faithfulness. Residing Hope expresses optimism and the opportunity of a better life of the children and youth they serve. It's that compassionate care that drives everything they do across all of their services and locations.

If you'd like to better understand the importance of the "Residing Hope" facilities, take a few minutes to watch some of the success story videos: [Success Stories | Florida United Methodist \(fumch.org\)](https://www.fumch.org)



The **cross** in the logo represents our commitment to our faith-based values and recognizes our rich history as a Methodist organization.



The **residing heart** reflects the love and care provided through all of **Residing Hope's** services.



The **sunrise rays** are indicative of the hope found in a new day. It also speaks to the hopeful futures that our children and youth are able to find at **Residing Hope**.



The **uplifted hands** in worship demonstrate hope and the promise of transformation that can be found through faith and prayer.

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Thank you so much Chuck Darney

A model of the church, absolutely to scale. What a hobby. It takes Chuck nearly a year to do a model like this—but wait, it is not one model—he made one for the church and one identical one that he will keep.

A fascinating fact: Chuck has done many models of buildings in his retirement years. Each one has a staple from his back surgery years ago! The steps at the front of the Methodist Church model has a tiny railing. It's a staple from Chuck's back!



Welcome New Members to the Church Family

Lisa Emmert, Linda and Tom Handwork, Annie and Chris Walter



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Lovely Easter Sunrise Service at the beach at Cheeca



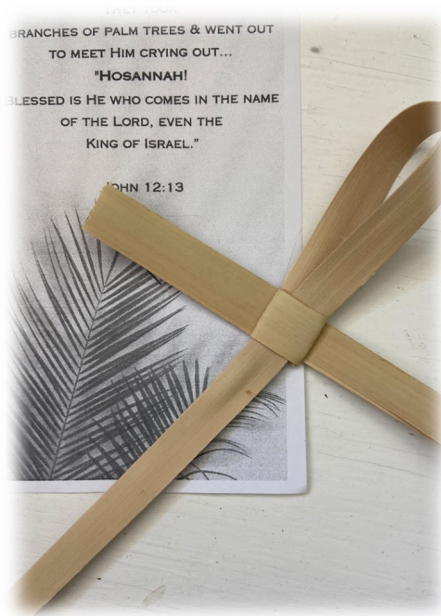
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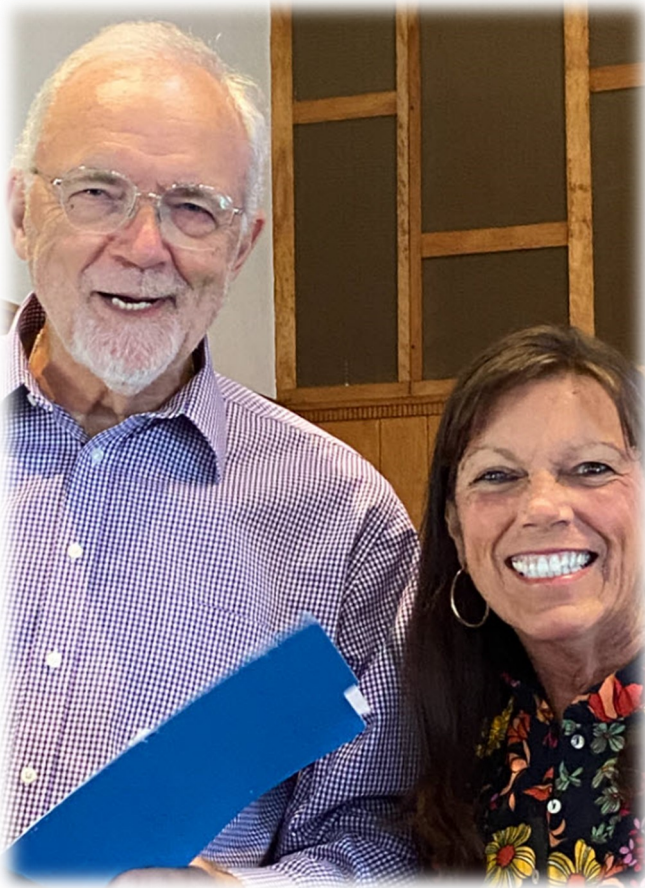
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Wonderful
guests!



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