



## The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"



### Matecumbe United 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](mailto:matumc@bellsouth.net)

Website – [matecumbeumc.org](http://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.



### Three Crosses

We have just celebrated Easter, and all that it represents. But the cross of Christ, though Central, never stands alone. That day there were three crosses on that hill and that was no accident.

- On one cross was a criminal, who cried out to Jesus for forgiveness.
- On the other cross was a poor soul who tried to find some relief by cursing Jesus. He added his voice to those who taunted and mocked the Lord. This was one for whom Jesus was giving his life.

The lesson for us to learn here is how close a person can be to Jesus, and still miss Him. This thief could not have been more than a few feet away from Him. He undoubtedly heard every whisper that came from the lips of Jesus. God had brought Jesus this close to the thief, so the thief might make peace with Him, but instead he cursed Him.

It is possible to be this close to Christ and still miss Him. One of the disciples missed Him. One could be in church and miss Him. John Wesley did until he was 35 years of age. The tragedy of human history is that many who are closest to Christ miss Him.

He is closer than you think. We must not miss Him.

# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

**Library:** Opens Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 to 12 a.m.

**Sunday School:** ended for summer

**Please add to your prayers:** Charity Rebl, Jeanne Monroe, Lea Hillman, and Arlene Martin

**Stained Glass:** Tuesday 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Men's Breakfast:** Thurs 7:30am, Lorelei.

**Bible Study:** Thurs @ 4:30 p.m. with Rob Kolb in the Fellowship Hall

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

**Worship Team:** Practice on Wed 7:00 pm.

**Children's Home:** Thank you for your generosity, we collected \$ 1,107.

**Outreach:** Next shopping day for the Nursing home will be May 23. Bring age appropriate women's and men's clothing, shoes, accessories and light-weight blankets to the church office or fellowship hall. Help May 23 needed too! *Personal shoppers, set-up and take down!!!!* Call Nanette at 412-310-5001

**Food Pantry:** Please bring non-perishables food for the food pantry.

**May Birthdays:** 4 Carol Majors -5 Diane McKinley - 12 Nicole Butler □ 15 Gail Gargano - 28 Kim Youngblood.

**May Anniversaries:** 1:Linda & Larry Balog; 25: Cale & Margie Smith.

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 2

Next week, Pastor Bob and Marcia will be going to Indiana for the wedding of their granddaughter, Paige Pavey!



---

On Sunday, May 21, Rob Kolb will be speaking. His talks are always a true inspiration. [Click here](#) to read about Rob and other church members. How lucky we are to have him as a member of our church family.



---

On Sunday, May 28, Pastor Tony Hammond will be with us. Tony is the retired pastor from Island Community Church, but he grew up at MUMC and we love when he returns to impart his motivation.



---

### At a Crossroads ...

Our church recently voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. That decision is scheduled to be voted on at the August 5 special session of the Florida Annual Conference. If the vote there is approved as expected, we will have an official disaffiliation date of September 1, 2023.

---

**Our Missions:** [Click here](#) to read about our church missions and local outreach. Our help matters! It makes a huge difference in the life of so many.... prayer and praise, giving and loving.

# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 3

## The Russell—Knudsen Family

### Happy Mother's Day

She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the teaching of kindness is  
on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:26

Families that make a difference in a community are often headed by mothers who built a strong foundation of love, responsibility, generosity, faith. The Russell - Knudsen family is the perfect example of a family of mothers who impacted the children they raised as well as our church and our community.

**Consider all the special mothers in that family tree! Let's start with Virginia!**

**Virginia Russell Hollowell:** One absolute gem of a lady and as grand as a mother could be: mother of Rich and Juanita Russell Knudsen. Was her strength, love and determination a result of her own childhood and the tragedies she overcame in her life? Her dad died of spinal meningitis when she was six; her mom died a year later from the same disease. Virginia spent the next ten years in an orphanage. She married Warren "Bones" Russell in 1947 and then moved to the Florida Keys. She lost an infant son in 1955. Then they lost the family home to Hurricane Donna in 1960, and to a fire in 1967. In 1973, Bones died of lung cancer. She explained that it was her faith in Jesus that provided strength, comfort, and healing for each challenge. Virginia died May 11, 2007, shortly before Mother's Day that year. [Click](#)

[here](#) to read her story and listen to a song by Rich and the Island Quartet dedicated to Virginia.



Rich Russell:

*Simply put, my mom, Virginia Russell Hollowell, was the best person and the finest Christian witness I've ever known. She was devout in her walk with the Lord and guided Juanita and I along the same path. She was slow to anger and quick to praise. She was a strict disciplinarian who held Juanita and I accountable for all our actions. Her encouragement and support were present for everything Juanita and I attempted in life. She was highly intelligent, had a work-ethic second to none and her integrity was beyond reproach. She was my richest blessing in life.*

# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 4

It is no wonder that Rich Russell would find a superb wife, Mary: an amazing mother to his children. **According to Rich:** *Mary was born to be a mother. Her passion and commitment to raising our three kids is unrivaled. Her devotion to making each of our kids "the best version of themselves" has been her #1 goal in life. She personifies love, empathy, adaptability, resiliency, resourcefulness, and compassion. She has always modeled the Christian walk she promotes for each of our children. Even though each of our kids are grown and out of the house, they remain her highest priority each and every day. She has always been and continues to be the "rock" and sustaining force in our family.*



**Taylor Russell adds:** *I am thankful every day for our mom. She is one of kind! From going out in the boat to pull stone crab traps with me, traveling to Alaska to help my bother with his family and the towing business. She even flew to Colorado to help my sister with her move. She does it all! We couldn't be any more blessed to have such an involved and loving mother to us ALL!*



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 5

### The Knudsen branch of the Family Tree:

What a love story when Juanita found Ken while just a sophomore at Coral Shores High School! [Click here](#) to read about the Knudsens (and others in our church family)

Ever wonder why Ken is sometimes missing from church on Sunday mornings? About once a month he travels to visit with his mother, Cynthia. *"My mother is so remarkable...the toughest person I've ever known and still going strong. When I was a youngster, she ruled the roost. Now 92 and totally blind for the last 4 years, she still lives alone... and never complains. We share loads of laughs. I think back, with a smile, at the times when I was just 7 or 8 and she made sure my hair was perfectly combed with Vitalis before sending me off to school. In my opinion she was one of the top light tackle anglers ever from 1950—1990."*

**Ken about Juanita:** *How could I have been so lucky to find a wife like Juanita? Juanita's strong religious belief, brought me closer to the Lord as well. I was surely blessed to have two incredible mothers in my life... my own mother and the mother of my children.*

**Richelle Knudsen Samuels and K.C. Knudsen:** *Our Mother was a Mom like none other. She gave us life, nurtured us, taught us, held us, believed in us, hugged and kissed us but most importantly she loved us genuinely and unconditionally. There are not enough words to describe just how important our Mom is to us and what a powerful influence she continues to be. Love and miss her everyday. Until we meet again. Always and Forever.*

**Livy Samuels (age 14) on her mother, Richelle:** *My Momma is the sweetest and most down to earth person you will ever meet. Her bright and beautiful smile always makes my day better. I love when I get to spend even the shortest amount of time with her. She is the one person I can talk to about anything without feeling judged. The love she gives my siblings, my Daddy, and me is unconditional and true. I love her with my whole heart.*

**Livy's thoughts about her grandmother, Juanita:** *Though I was only nine when my Lolli passed away, I remember almost everything about her. She treated me as if I were a princess and believed I did no wrong. Her heart was full of love, laughter, and relationships. Wherever we would go she'd run into friends immediately. She always cared for me, made me laugh and smile, and gave me comfort. There is not a day that goes by that I don't miss her.*



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 6

### Easter—

believing in Jesus' death and resurrection



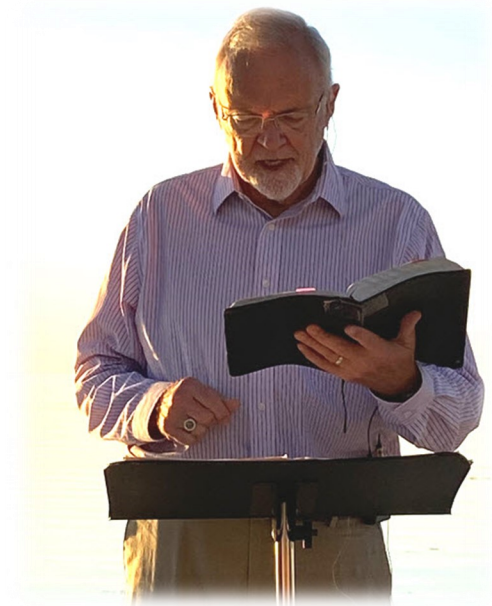
# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
*"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"*

Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 7

**An amazing sunrise service at the beach at Cheeca.**



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 8

### Florida Keys Children's Shelter—Local outreach program

The parties are a huge success. Recent theme was a fun night "glow" party. We had hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, onion rings and corn-on-the-cob. Fresh squeezed lemonade with fruit, cane pops, cookies, cupcakes and sherbet. Outdoor games and karaoke. They had glow necklaces, bracelets and glow tattoos.

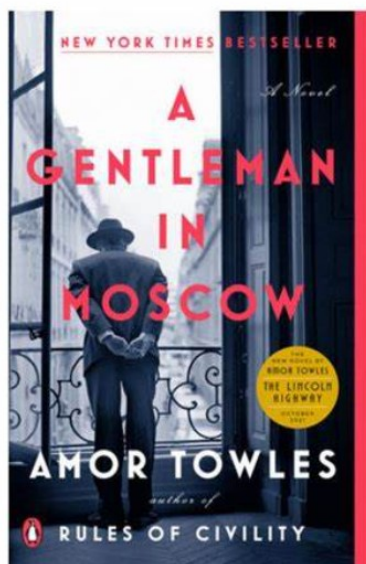
**Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped make it a special evening!**



## Book Club

Book Club.....just a small group attended the April meeting to discuss "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah, but still an enjoyable time.

We are continuing to use the sets of books offered by the Monroe County Libraries, choosing "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles for our next meeting, on May 24 @ 12:30. Copies are available in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch! Even if you don't have a chance to read the book, come anyway! You'll love the time spent together.





# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 9

### Still In Search of Yard Sale Volunteers

Looking for someone to organize a yard sale at the church grounds — opportunity for members to “part with treasures” while helping the church raise money. We just need a couple organizers. Call Barbara Haudenshield if you can help. 412-862-7466



**May 9 Message from Jeanne Munro:** I am slowly recovering from my broken hip surgery. I am in a rehabilitation center. I can only put 50 pounds of weight on my right hip so I am learning to use a walker to distribute the weight and to do all my activities of daily living and walking. Right now I am able to walk about 50 feet. I will be here at least 2 more weeks before I can go home. Continue to pray for a successful rehabilitation.

[jmunro47.jm@gmail.com](mailto:jmunro47.jm@gmail.com)



**TONIGHT!!!** Florida Keys Children's Shelter kids will be our guests at 6 pm, May 12 for a fun night.... Fiesta Friday. There will be “minute it to win it,” games, prizes, tacos, mango milkshakes, fried Mexican dough (sopapillas), and music karaoke.

Please contact Nanette at 412-310-5001 if you would like to help.

**And please consider a donation to help with the costs!**

**Go Gordie:** Several months ago the Treasure Village Montessori School Sea Dragons represented Monroe County in the Special Olympics, traveling to the State Unified Basketball competition in Tavares, Florida. They have worked hard while showcasing acceptance, leadership, teamwork and positivity. Gordie, (front row second from the left) son of Renee and grandson of Jan and Paul Grewe, was a Special Olympics hero on the team! Congratulations Gordie!



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 10



Wishing Carol Wagner the very best! The smiles are hiding sadness as the ladies say goodbye to Carol. She quietly has done so much for Matecumbe United Methodist Church over the years! One difficult lady to replace. We are all hoping she and Ron will find their way back to Islamorada real soon.

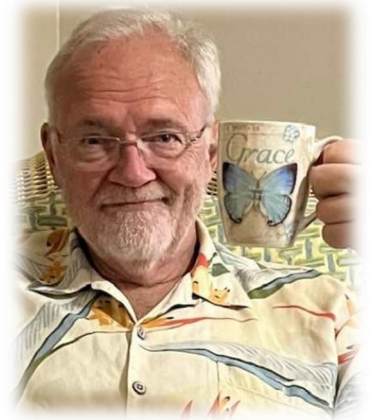


# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
*"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"*

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 11



**What a wonderful  
church family we  
have!**

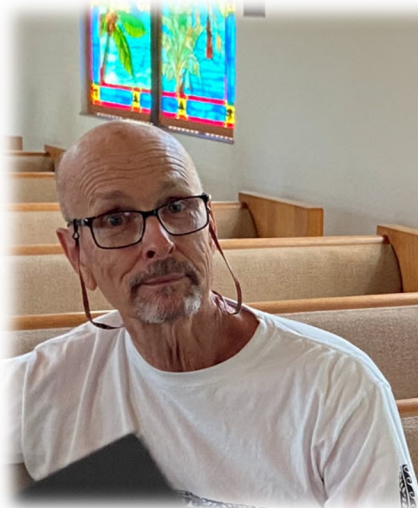


# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
*"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"*

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 12



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"

## POTLUCK SUNDAY

If you haven't been joining in to enjoy monthly lunches after church, your missing delicious food and good times!

Below are a couple recipes that folks have enjoyed. Tell us what recipes you'd like.

### Barbara Haudenshield's Corn Pudding

1 can of creamed corn  
1 can of whole kernel corn, drained except  
For 1/2 cup of liquid  
8 oz. of sour cream  
1 egg  
1 stick of butter  
1 teas. sugar  
1 box of Jiffy corn muffin mix  
Dash of salt  
Mix all together in 1 1/2 qt. Casserole.  
Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees.  
(Double recipe in 9 x 13..still 1 hour)

## Matecumbe United Methodist Church

May 2023 Page 13



### Sue Miller's Cabbage Noodle Bake

1 medium cabbage, shredded  
8 ounces of noodles  
1/2 pound bacon, well done, crumbled  
1 can condensed cream of chicken soup  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
2 cups Swiss cheese grated

Boil noodles and cabbage until done, approximately 11 – 12 minutes

Combine with bacon, soup and butter

Place in 9 x 11 baking dish

Top with cheese

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes