



# The Lighthouse

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



March 27, 2020

**All Church Services and Activities Cancelled thru the end of April. We hope to bring the church to you with YouTube sermons and our email updates.**

With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

It's a song that more than 350 years later can be found in the hymnal.

God has been very good, but even when life becomes difficult, St Paul says "Give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thess. 5:18). The Palmist reminds us that "the Lord is good and His love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Pastor Bob Pavey



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

The year was 1637 and the place was Eilenbery, Germany. Germany and all of Europe were at war. Eilenbery had sustained heavy damage in three

separate attacks and thousands of refugees arrived adding to the chaos. Luxuries disappeared, food was scarce, disease was rampant and life was extremely difficult. Rev. Martin Rinkard was the only pastor in that community and his journal records that in one year, he conducted more than 4500 funerals.

It would seem that there was nothing for which to be grateful. No earthly reason to be thankful and yet, in that same year (1637), Pastor Rinkard wrote these words:

Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way,



**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)

# Helping others

**There is no greater joy than knowing you made a difference in someone's life... especially now.**

It is certainly easy to get caught up in your own fears and concerns. But it's important to remember that we're all in this together.

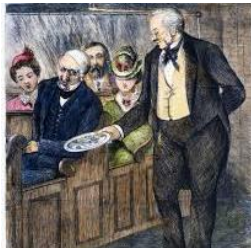
**We're isolating ourselves now so we can embrace each other again as soon as possible.**

By focusing on the needs of others and supporting our community, we will feel much better ourselves.

**The mission of our church is to help those in need. Now the church needs our help in order to fulfill its mission.**

## Operating Expenses Continue

**While the regular church services and all church activities have been canceled, the regular operating expenses are continuing, including salaries, utilities, and maintenance.**



Your regular church offerings will mean more now than ever as we approach the time of year when the church attendance dwindles for summer.

## You can help... Send a check

MUMC  
P. O. Box 905  
Islamorada, FL 33036

**Thank you for your support of Matecumbe United Methodist Church and our mission to lead others into an authentic, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

## Online Donations

The church is working to create an easy way for members to contribute to the church online, especial while Sunday Services are on hold.

**Philippians 4:5-6 "The Lord is at hand. Do not be anxious about anything."**

## STATE OF EMERGENCY

We are all being asked to take unprecedented steps to protect ourselves and those around us. Please pay attention to the guidelines and requirements we are being asked to adhere to. We must all work together to end this crisis.

**To keep informed** – the newspapers are posting online updates often and are not requiring a subscription: Click here: [Miami Herald](#) [Keys Weekly](#) or [Free Press](#)

**Free Lunches** - Mike Forster of Mangrove Mikes is providing free meals from 11 am to 1 pm. at the café. What a service! Delivery to the elderly can be arranged as well. This is a huge undertaking – you can help with donations:

<https://www.mangrovemikesendeavors.com/>

Send us an email if you'd like lunches delivered.

<mailto:matumc@bellsouth.net>

## Community Mission at Baptist Church

Our church has long participated in the local community mission at the Baptist Church. It is more critical than ever. This past Tuesday evening "meals to go" were provided and the pantry food was made available. Efforts are underway to get food donations so that the mission can continue.

## YouTube Sermons

Pastor Bob Pavey continues to provide his weekly sermons to instill greater hope and faith during our difficult times. Once this week's sermon is available on Youtube, we will provide the link.

Although we sent the last link to approximately 100 church members, over 350 people have listened to Pastor Bob's March 22 sermon "We Will Not Fear."

Link: <https://youtu.be/kveSeO8W5SU>

## Church Family: Here to Help



As our community, state, nation and the world face this terrifying pandemic, we are all thinking of those we love and those in our church family.

**If you need help in any way... let us know. Reply to this newsletter.**

<mailto:matumc@bellsouth.net>

## Church Library

While the public libraries are closed, our church library might be the perfect place for you to find reading material...there are religious books, fiction and non-fiction novels, motivational books, arts and craft books and more. Contact Barbara Haudenschild at [Barbhaut@gmail.com](mailto:Barbhaut@gmail.com) so she can make arrangements for you to visit the library in Fellowship Hall.



This is such a great time to get caught up on all the books you have wanted to read. We have the prior Book Club selections in the library. And if you read a book you love, join us at our monthly book club when we get back to normal to tell us about it.

## Ways to support the church and community during the current crisis:

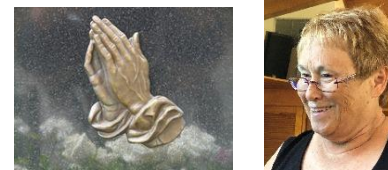
**Pray** regularly for your family, friends, the church, the community, America and the world.

**Be a church ambassador** by helping those with special needs:

- Stay in touch with the elderly
- Shop for those that are high risk
- While staying physically isolated, connect with friends, family and neighbors via phone calls, texting, emails... especially those who are alone.

**Please contribute** financially if you are able. This crisis has impacted so many people and organizations including the church.

## Prayer Warriors



Now more than ever there are so many people needing our prayers. "Prayer Warriors" are notified when someone is in need of our thoughts and prayers. Through prayer we can all be used by God to touch the lives of people who are suffering.

During these troubled times, keep in touch with our church by adding your email address so you can become a Prayer Warrior. Pray for the church, the community, America and the world.

Contact Jan Grewe, [jangrewe@bellsouth.net](mailto:jangrewe@bellsouth.net) or 305-393-6196 to become a "Prayer Warrior" so you can help us pray or have us pray for you.



Do you miss our church family as much as we miss you!!!



Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace.



