



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

Website – matecumbeumc.org

Office hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday



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.

May 2021

Today We Honor Mothers



My wife is a great mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Both Chris and Nicole were born with birth defects. Chris's required attention and Nicole required special care. Both are fine today because Mar-

cia was a great and loving care giver (The doctors helped a little also.)

She swore she'd never be a minister's wife but she's been a good one. We have served four churches and she has been highly involved in each one serving on two district boards and as director of district women among other things.

She loves God, her grandchildren and the sunshine of the Keys...and me. She is a great wife and mom and she is loved.



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What Losses for the Church and the Community



Alma Dalton passed away on April 3, 2021, just days before her April 24th birthday when she would have been 97.

What a life she lived. Born in Key West, Alma was the oldest daughter of James Bertram Pinder and Ida Elizabeth Cothran. Alma married Jack Dalton in 1942. Jack was in the Coast Guard, stationed at Alligator Lighthouse. They had two daughters.

How could we ever forget celebrating Alma's 96th birthday when the pandemic made drive-by celebrations the best way to share special days with loved ones. And Alma certainly was loved and what a celebration it was with fire trucks, sirens, and dozens of cars and trucks decorated for the occasion honking and singing in honor of Alma.

Alma certainly squeezed a lot of living into her years. Alma was just eleven years old when she experienced the devastation of the hurricane of 1935. She was one of just two remaining survivors of that storm.

Back in her era, she attended grade school in a one room school house on Upper Matecumbe and then went to Key West to start high school. She finished high school, living with relatives in Georgia. Alma was devoted to the Matecumbe United Methodist Church, founded by her grandfather.

Alma is survived by her daughter Marge and husband Ted McGraw and her granddaughter Corie and husband Terry Abel along with two great granddaughters.

[Click here](#) to read more about Alma and see a video of her 96th birthday party.

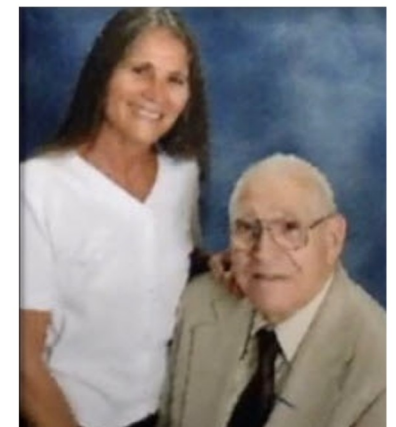


Rev Dick Smith had an amazing send off before he died in March. On March 8, members of the church and his neighborhood gathered at his home in Tavernier to celebrate Dick's life... with him unmistakably enjoying the celebration. And what a joyous celebration

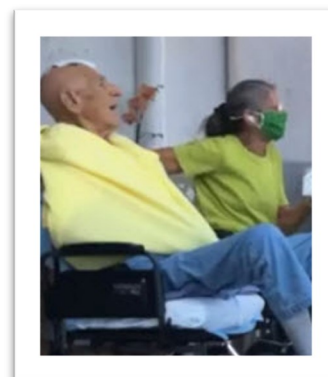
it was with the band playing, people singing and praying, all while Dick sat in his wheelchair clearly thrilled to have one last chance to share Christian love with those he cared for and those who loved him deeply.

Those attending joined Dick as he led them in some of his favorite hymns, singing with joy in his heart though a softness in his voice, all the while being cared for by his devoted daughter Carol, never far from his side.

[Click here](#) to watch the emotional video of Rev. Dick Smith's send off to his spot in heaven. Keep your handkerchief handy.



To read about the fascinating life of Rev. Dick Smith as told by his daughter, Carol, [click here](#). Dick Smith was quite a man.



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Honoring Susan Bateman



Susan Bateman had a conversation with God in 1999, leading to a transformation of our church sanctuary and fellowship hall that took many years to complete. And then a pandemic delayed our salute, intended to honor the lady that created such beauty at Matecumbe United Methodist Church! But finally on April 18, a plaque was hung so that all past, present and future will know about the lady that made such a difference.

It was more than just the beautiful windows, it was a mission. And in Susan's own words:

"We've developed a fellowship and camaraderie among Christians who love to work together for the glory of God. The project has brought us a oneness in purpose and spirit. We've embraced new people in a wonderful fellowship."



[Click here](#) to read more about the windows and see the photos.

"God made me do this"
a quote from Susan Bateman, our beloved designer, mentor and inspiring minister through stained glass, resulting in our beautiful windows.
"Well done good and faithful servant"
Mathews 25:23

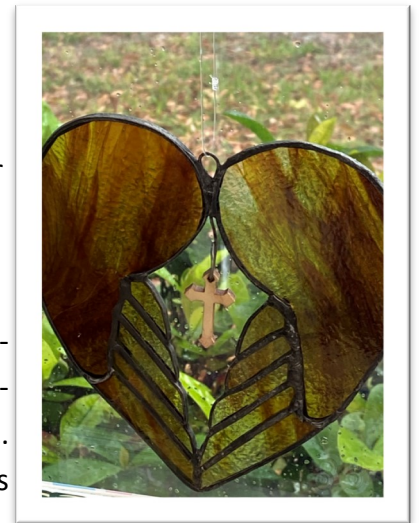
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More Stained Glass Projects

The stained glass group is now making small angels for hospice patients.



They are also working on a much larger project as well... a six foot cross with scrap glass.

The plan is to install on the exterior wall near workshop door at Fellowship Hall.

And there have been Baptisms



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Time to get back to Normal?

Men's Breakfast: Thurs 7:30 am, at the Lorelei

Sunday School: 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Stained Glass: Tues and Thurs 9 am—4 pm

Children's Home: Bring your loose change for the jar in the Narthex. Next offering will be May 30.

Sunday picnic after church: We are going to have our first church dinner, since our shutdown for the Covid virus, after services on **Sunday, May 30.**

To celebrate the coming of summer, grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, and cole slaw will be served. Yes, you heard it, you don't need to bring anything, but donations to defray expenses will be suggested. Please plan to join us.



Mark your Calendar



The Chosen: On Monday night beginning May 17, at 6:30 pm, join us for the first in a series of "The Chosen" - the amazing TV series about the life of Jesus.

The Chosen is entertaining and reviews suggest it is also "very touching and heartwarming. It is inspiring. As a statement of faith, it is beyond what you will expect and you won't be disappointed."

Join us for the show, some popcorn and discussion!

Book Club

Wed May 19 at 10:30 am: The ladies will be discussing "**The Book of Longings**" by Sue Monk Kidd. You will enjoy reading about what happens when 18 year old Jesus meets Ana and her step-brother Judas.

We'd love to have new folks participate! Check out some of the interesting books we discussed in April. If you like to read, please join us.

"**The Four Winds**" by Kristen Hannah - The story is of a family as they struggle through the Dust Bowl/Depression era and the impact the dust storms had on their lives and livelihood. Promises of greener pastures out west drive the family to seek a better life. Kristen Hanna's writing is captivating and you cannot put it down.

"**Maybe You Should Talk to Someone**" by Lori Gottlieb. This book was recommended by Maria as a good self-help book. The author is a therapist who shares the stories of her patients as well as her own as she too seeks help from a therapist to deal with life's challenges.

"**Very Valentine**" by Adriana Trigiani. This is the first book in a trilogy about an Italian family. The setting takes place in Manhattan and Italy as the family struggles to save the family shoe business. Valentine works as an apprentice to her grandmother, Teodora, to learn the shoemaking craft and bring it into the twenty-first century and save the company from ruin.

"**Marching Through Culpeper: A novel of Culpeper, Virginia, Crossroads of the Civil War**" by Virginia Beard Morton. The author provides a historically accurate view of life in the Civil War from the Southern perspective. The setting is Culpeper, Virginia, located between Washington, D.C. and Richmond. The city changed hands multiple times during the war. One reviewer rated this as a better view of the war than "Gone With The Wind".

"**Your Body's Many Cries for Water; You're Not Sick You're Thirsty Don't Treat Your Thirst with Medication**" by Dr. F. Batmanghelidj. The stories included are from twenty years of Dr. Batmanghelidj's clinical and scientific research into the role of water in the body. A lack of water can be a source of stress, chronic pains and many painful degenerative diseases. This condition has been given the name Unintentional Chronic Dehydration (UCD). Dry mouth is not the only sign of dehydration. Drinking water is an easy and accessible option as a first step when something doesn't feel right.

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Matecumbe Memorial Gardens



Matecumbe Memorial Gardens, a columbarium, is located between the church and the Hurricane Monument.

Each "niche" is designed to house the cremains of two family members.

A plaque placed on the Memory Wall will honor loved ones in a quiet garden setting, no matter whether you lost a loved one recently or long ago.

Plaque: \$500

Niche: \$3300

The Memorial Garden is for the entire community. You do not need to be a member of the Matecumbe United Methodist Church to reserve a place in the Gardens.

[Click here](#) for more details or call the church office and leave a message: 305-664-3661



Our Special Music

We are certainly fortunate to have a pastor and many church members with incredible musical talents. Remember that some of the spiritual songs you hear live during church services are also available on our church Youtube account, along with the sermons over the last year. [Click Here](#)

If you missed the song Rich Russell wrote and sang on Sunday, "God's Waiting Room" - [Click here](#). You will love it!

Mother's Day

For Mother's Day 2020 we had a special newsletter honoring mothers. The essays submitted were extraordinary. They deserve to be reprinted this year. Mothers are certainly special people and deserve to be honored over and over again.

Administrative Meeting

The Administrative meeting was held on May 3. A number of great ideas were discussed... opportunities for us to be even more welcoming and involved with our church family, on Sunday and all week long.

The next Administrative Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 5.

Greeters: Please sign up to be one! We are hoping to have volunteers, one at each door, to greet folks coming to church Sunday morning. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sign up for a month. It will mean so much to our visitors to have someone there to welcome them and to hold the door!

Stephen Ministry: Could our church make a program like this work effectively? Don't all of us have difficulties at times?

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

[Click here](#) to read about it.

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Rob Kolb



Rob Kolb was born in Cincinnati, Ohio but spent the first few years of his life moving from location to location through the Midwest as his father worked jobs as a labor negotiator. When Rob was five, the family moved to Venezuela where they spent three years. Rob and his sisters enjoyed many adventures there in the tropical jungle and the high ridges of the Andes Mountains. And so as a very young boy, Rob learned to speak a second language.

When Rob was eight, the family returned to the United States and eventually settled in California where the family spent the next ten years. In 1974, straight from high school, Rob joined the Army. The Army tested him and determined his talent was in learning languages so Rob earned the designation – linguist. And the language he was assigned: Korean. They shipped him off to Korea for a 13-month stint capturing signals coming out of North Korea. He sat near the top of a mountain where equipment was set up to intercept the signals, but during the occasions when the equipment failed, Rob took over. Most days he had plenty of spare time and that is when Rob began reading the Bible and feeling empowered by God as a Christian. Rob managed to get through Leviticus in the Old Testament, and then moved on to the New Testament, while sitting on that mountaintop in Korea.

After Rob returned from Korea, he decided his days as a linguist were done and he left the Army and enrolled in college. After completing one year of school, he got a call from the Army. Wouldn't he please return? Perhaps linguists were in great demand. He insisted that if he could pick the language, he'd return. The Army said that they could not guarantee that he would be assigned German, his language of choice, but he finally gave in and re-entered the Army.

He spent the next five years in Germany, but the language he had to translate there was Russian. And then he spent five years in Texas teaching Russian at the Defense Language Institute, a United States Department of Defense educational and research institution, which provides linguistic instruction to the Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

After serving our country for 20 years, Rob retired from the Army in 1994. While in the Army he got his college degree and now he was ready for a civilian job – teaching high school was the next step – and it was special ed where he was placed. Not an easy thing to do at the high school level.

In 1996 Rob married Joanne and they merged their families – his son and her two sons became close as brothers.



In 1998, Rob went to work for the Boy Scouts of America as a Senior District Executive in Silicon Valley! He had been a scout master for 15 years while in the Army, so the Boy Scouts were near and dear to his heart.

Eventually the Boy Scouts moved Rob to the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base on Lower Matecumbe where he was director of programming from 2007 until 2015. Rob and Joanne bought a "1935 Hurricane House" on Beach Road, becoming the very first non-Pinders to reside in the home. In 2015 the Boy Scouts sent Rob to their headquarter in Texas where he was the program specialist for all Boy Scout outdoor programming.

In August of 2020, Rob retired from the Boy Scouts and returned to his home on Beach Road and back to the Matecumbe United Methodist Church. We welcome him back! What a great addition he is to our church, with his enthusiasm, Christian outlook and welcoming smile.