

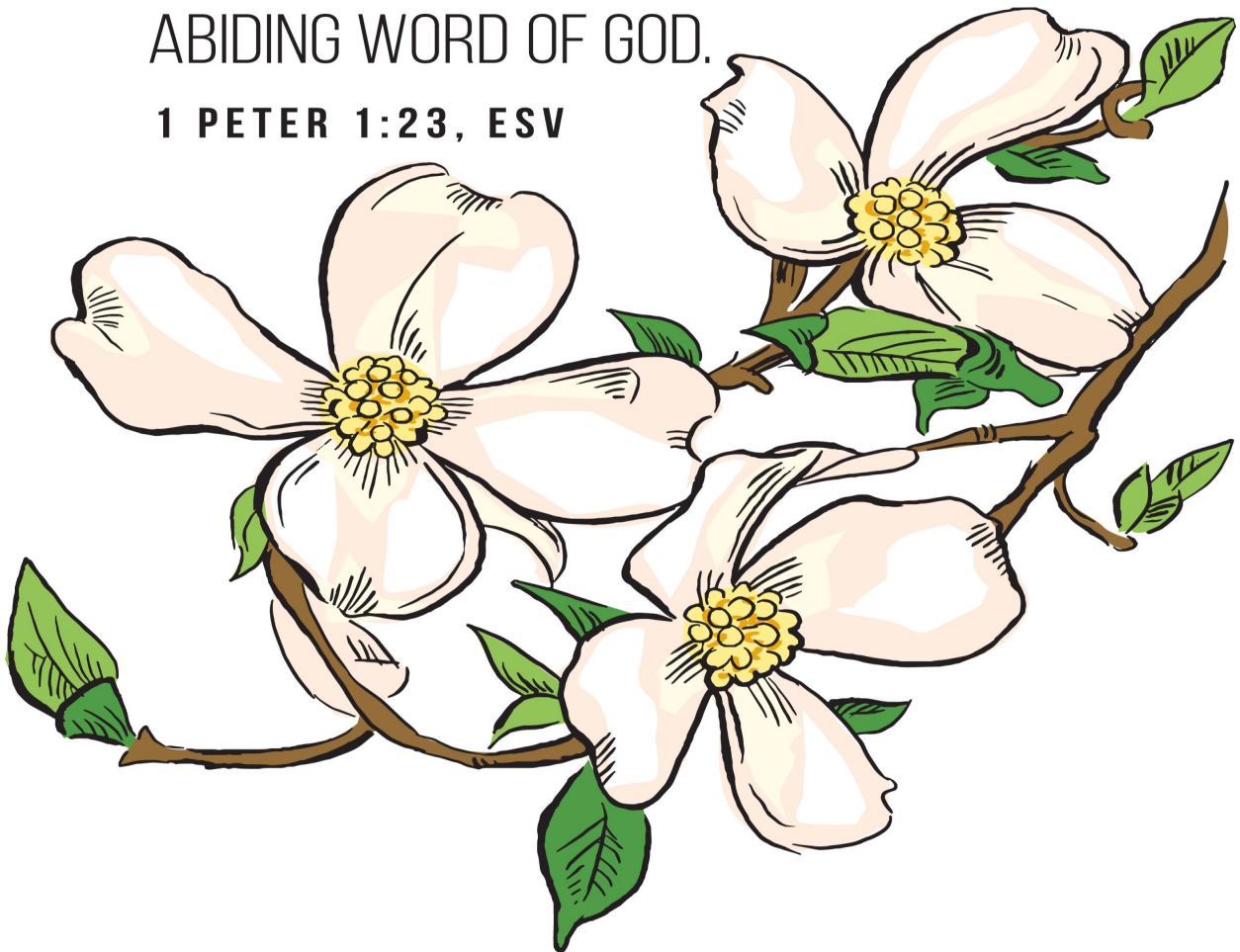
A PUBLICATION OF CHURCH ON THE HILL IN BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

VANTAGE

*You have been
born again...*

THROUGH THE LIVING AND
ABIDING WORD OF GOD.

1 PETER 1:23, ESV



April 2024

Pastor's Page



“Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us,
be a crimson cressed east.”

This is from a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem. Strictly and archaically, to “easter” means to turn towards or travel to the east. East is the direction from which the morning light gathers and the sun dawns. Resurrection is thought of as coming from the east. Many old graveyards are laid out in such a way that the feet of the buried face east. So that, when Christ comes again, the dead will figuratively sit up and come face to face with our Lord.

But Hopkins isn't talking mainly about a direction. He's talking about the risen Lord working within us, eastering within us. To easter means so many things. Jesus brightens the darkness within us. He easters within us, leading us, guiding our steps, directing us—through the storm, through the night.

Christ easters in us. Jesus rubs off on us. Jesus quickens our pulse toward seeking to do what is good. Christ helps us hear the longing in our brother and sister. He helps us hear the cries of distress from those who stand in need.

Christ easters in us. Jesus orients us to the wonder and awe of creation. Christ easters in us, so the glory of God's love passes from hand to human hand. He easters in us, and by doing so, we're remade into a better shape. He stiffens our resolve to do good in the world, to stand up against what's wrong.

Jesus easters in us still.

Jesus easters in us always, kindling perfect light at the edge of every darkness.

The risen Christ easters in us until we rise to the eternal light that shines neither from the east nor the west nor the north nor the south, until we are alike in resurrected glory.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Tom



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

If you are interested in participating in worship service by being a lay reader,
please speak with Pastor Tom

April Teachings

April 7
John 20:19-23

Peace Now

We're willing to trade away peace for excitement or stress or goals or dreams, which is fine of course in many ways. After all, it's not like you can have an important goal and accept the stress of raising two or three children and expect a peaceful existence. This just doesn't happen. Still, we also need to know that the willingness to sacrifice peace for other things can cost too much. Too often we trade too many things, too many lesser things, for peace and the power of peace. Psalm 34:14 says, "...Seek peace, and pursue it." Paul the Apostle joined in on this when he wrote, "Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up building." Amen, Paul!

April 14
Luke 24:28-35

Small Looms Large

Some things from God are small, and that's all you get. In fact, lots of important things are small things. This is how it is. Scripture says, "whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." Of course, the opposite is also true: If you can't trust someone with the little things, they can't be trusted the bigger. Legendary basketball coach John Wooden said, "Little things make big things happen." Small is always the new big for God's people!

April 21
Guest Speaker,
Lynn Buttner

FAITH! It's personal.

Have you given much thought to what you actually believe?? Let's explore that. You may find that although your beliefs could have changed over the years, your faith may actually be stronger than ever.

April 28
Psalm 119:1-9

Preach!

I know this can sound strange to some people who think Christian faith means we're supposed become more like Christ: Christ is already taken. The truth is scripture is filled with some amazingly individualized, very authentic, and real people. Jesus said God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, three different people. God was the Lord of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and his sister Miriam, Jesus, and his mother Mary. Or, as one Hasidic Rabbi by the name of Zusya famously said, "In the life to come, they will not ask me, 'Why were you not Moses?' They will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'" Preach!

Team Reports

Moderator's Report—We are GOOD Stewards!

Sarah Hugus

News for June 2024

Beginning October of last year we have shared our worship space on Sundays with Lifepoint Church. Our Sunday Use Agreement with Lifepoint ends in May. Our capacity to facilitate their needs on Sundays are tapped out and their numbers of eager worshipers on a Sunday continue to grow. They have loved worshipping and gathering in our beautiful property.

We were approached in early 2024 by a smaller start-up church who would also like to share our space. Pastor Tom and vision Ministry Team members had several conversations with Radiant City Church (RCC) and began negotiating with them. Since they are a smaller church and desire to use additional parts of our facility over most days of the week, we agreed to accept their offer to compensate Church on the Hill for a period of 4-1/2 years. A final agreement was signed in March by Radiant City Church and COTH. They desire to cooperate in enhancing our spaces, clearing out unneeded stored items, and partnering with us in various ways when possible. The Upper Room will mostly be reserved for their everyday use, plus Sunday School spaces, monthly men's and women's breakfast gatherings, in addition to worship on Sunday from 11:30 am-2 pm. They will install equipment in a smaller area of the chancel than we allowed for Lifepoint Church.

We appreciate that Lifepoint was here for these months which has provided important income to COTH. In the near future, we will welcome Radiant City Church and their diverse membership into our beautiful church building.

We continue to host Centro Benificente Espirita/UDV church. They worship mostly on Saturday nights, and at least 2 times per month. They use our Fellowship Hall, two classroom spaces, and the kitchen for a light meal. Their leadership is very responsive to our requests and they do amazing cleanup after their time here - often just before Sunday morning. They have assisted with building maintenance needs and contribute to food and other drives.

We are also pleased to host 10 recovery/

support groups every week at Church on the Hill! These meetings also make a contribution for their space use.

Being good stewards of our property extends to having two construction companies use our lower parking lot 6 days a week! This income for parking spaces has been wonderful. We thank Bob M. and Pastor Tom for answering these phone calls months ago. Parking for construction workers downtown is very limited. It is great having them and their fees. They follow our rules of when they can arrive and leave and are respectful of our residential neighbors.

The Moderator is here for YOU! Any and all questions can be directed to the moderator at: sarahhugus@outlook.com

TEAMS/Member Care Update

Jeannie Clinton, Team Lead

The Member Care Team has been busy making calls and sending cards to COTH members and friends who may not be able to attend services in person at this time. Special Easter greetings will be mailed out during Holy Week. If you or someone you know needs to hear from the Member Care Team, please contact Jeannie Clinton at 561-901-5935 or jeannieclinton1@gmail.com.

Publicity and Promotions Update

Jerry Clinton, Team Lead

I'm in the process of purchasing new banners for the front of the church. There is a vendor that works with the UCC and already has designs that can be customized. I've given my suggestion for customization, and they are creating mock ups for the VM to consider .

In Sympathy



We have recently learned that Betsy Beasley died from complications related to dementia in August of 2023, at 94 years young. Betsy was a member of Church on the Hill for 12 years.

She and her late husband, Ken, were "snowbirds," and originally from Indiana. She had moved to Colorado full-time several years ago to be near her four sons and their families. Betsy was a faithful Sunday worshiper and Bible Study/Prayer Warriors group participant for many years.

Events & Notes

BCEO

All are invited to eat out, Dutch treat, almost every Thursday evening. This group has been active, except during the pandemic, for about 20 years. We all make suggestions and decide where we would like to eat. We try to change up the location to suit everyone. When YOU would like to attend, please RSVP to Bob Murphy: 610-996-7827.

Here is the April line-up:

April 4
Papa Giuseppe Pizza Restaurant
900 Linton Blvd
Delray Beach 33444
561-272-8585
Menu at papagiuseppecafe.com

April 11
Le Val de Loire French Restaurant
1576 SE 3rd Court (The Cove Shopping Center)
Deerfield Beach 33441
954-427-5354
Menu at le-val-de-loire.com

April 18
The Cove Waterfront Restaurant and Tiki Bar
1754 SE 3rd Court (The Cove Shopping Center)
Deerfield Beach 33441
954-421-9272
Menu at thecovedeerfield.com

April 25
Duffy's Sports Grill
1750 S Federal Highway (The Plaza at Delray)
Delray Beach 33483
561-276-3332
Menu at duffysmvp.com

Bon Appetite!



Recent work on our Memorial Garden has been Completed—Thanks to Bob Grenadier & Adam.

Book Buzz

Book Buzz participants enjoyed a great discussion again and enthusiasm for the book was high. Several members were unable to attend and there was a problem with time so my apologies for the mix-up. Revelations by Mary Sharratt would interest anyone interested in early Christian women's abilities to engage in contemplative forms of spirituality. We highly recommend it.

The next book that we discuss will be: The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks We will meet on Friday the 5th of April at 10:00 A.M.

I am leaving the group as leader and we will be discussing the future of Book Buzz. Please consider coming, even if you don't read the book. Watch this space and the Sunday bulletins for the next Book Buzz, day and time.



St. Patrick's Day Celebraters; more photos on pg. 6

Events & Notes

Helping Hands Make Light Work

Have you ever wondered where your offerings go?

- o Worship service at least every Sunday morning with extra services during the year.
- o Live stream and made available as a stored video, our worship service, enabling folks who are shut in or who live far away the opportunity to be inspired by COTH Sunday worship services.
- o Annual support for refugee Bashar Sakreet in Lebanon. Helping build affordable housing for farm workers in Immokalee Florida.
- o Being a safe space for meetings of 10 different recovery/support meetings every week.
- o Providing affordable worship space for two different churches outside our denomination.
- o Offering an affordable and beautiful wedding venue for church members or folks from outside our church alike.
- o Subscribing to The Upper Room, a devotional/meditation guide, which we mail to folks and make available in person.
- o Maintaining licensed spaces for a visiting private preschool.
- o Providing modest support for people in extreme need who come to our church, needing some financial assistance.



Well wishes . . .

to Jen and Michelle and their children, Grayson and Addie who are moving to North Carolina!

(right)

birthday wishes for Pastor and other celebratory shenanigans during after-worship fellowship time.



Information & Reminders

Offering / Donation / Pledge Options

Cash/Check: offering plate on Sundays or by mail

Credit/Debit Card/ACH: Simply use the QR code to donate. You can also access this option using the DONATE tab on our website:

www.churchofboca.org

Or by Zelle: (no fees)
office@churchofboca.org



Questions? Just ask at the office and we will help!

Upper Room Devotionals 2024

These periodicals are released every other month.

March/April is available now!

<https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

Prayer Requests

Please contact Pastor Tom with needed prayers.

Text him at 561-306-5208 or email him at

tomlaceypastor@gmail.com or to

COTHPRAYERS@gmail.com.

Email Communications

Please let us know if you would like to receive electronic copies of the weekly worship bulletin and Vantage newsletter by sending us a note at office@churchofboca.org

Stay in touch for the latest news/photos!

- **Facebook:** Church on the Hill-Congregational Church of Boca Raton
- **Twitter:** @UCCchurchboca
- **Instagram:** @ChurchoontheHill_
- **Website:** www.churchofboca.org

Stay Connected

Did you move? Have you changed your USPS address? Would you prefer to receive our monthly Vantage newsletter via email? If you answered YES to any of these questions, please send your contact information or changes to be placed on our church email list to:

office@churchofboca.org. Thank you!

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/05 Barb & Doug Briggs

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/01 Marit Hasmats-Lacey

04/03 Elise Lacey

04/03 Lucas Lacey

04/05 Cameron Lacey

04/08 Melissa Halsey

04/08 Owen Halsey

04/10 Jack Hinshaw

04/10 Grace Jenkins

04/17 Wendy Hinshaw

04/19 Lorraine Folino

04/20 Janet Hymans

04/20 Courtney Lacey

04/23 Thomas Brown

04/23 Roberta Stetson

04/24 Charlotte Codo

04/24 Adlai Jourdin

04/27 Tammy Stamm

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Vantage Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday April 15th at noon

All articles, pictures, or announcements for the next Vantage are due.

Sunday Bulletin Deadline

Every Wednesday at noon

Sunday Bulletin Announcements are due on Wednesday each week.

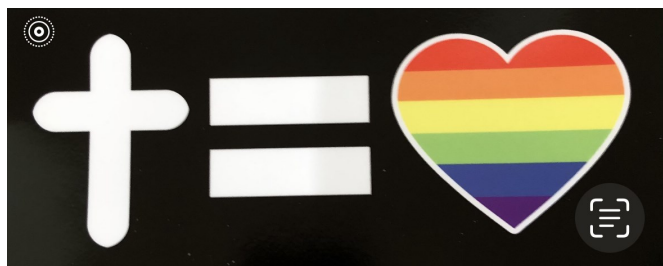
Email items to: marrrom33@gmail.com

ONA Covenant Statement

ONA Covenant adopted January 13, 2019

At Church on the Hill, we affirm that every person has worth as a unique creation made in the image of God. We recognize, value and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We believe that through diversity, all can worship together and grow in a faith that transcends our differences.

Accordingly, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, inviting and welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons into the full life and ministry of Church on the Hill, as well as persons of every race, culture, age, ability, gender and economic status.



Church on the Hill

Address: 251 SW 4th Avenue
Boca Raton, Florida 33432

Office Phone: (561) 395-9255
E-mail: office@churchofboca.org
Web site: www.churchofboca.org

Pastor:

Tom Lacey

Cell/work phone: 561-306-5208 email: tomlaceypastor@gmail.com

Church Moderator:

Sarah Hugus

sarahhugus@outlook.com

Prayer Requests:

cothprayers@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service

In-Person & on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bocaucc/

Staff

TV Monitor & LiveStream Administrator:

Marit Hasmats-Lacey

Accounting Manager / IT Consultant

Markus Asch

Worship Song Leaders:

Guest Musicians

Accompanist:

Georgene Barger

Sexton:

(Jan-Pro Co.)

Volunteers

Office & Grounds: Sarah H, Kathy B, Bob M, Thomas B,
Lois F, Dan S., Faye F., The Hinshaws,
Barbara & Larry L., Mena, Adam

Photographer: Marit Hasmats-Lacey

Property:

Bob Murphy

