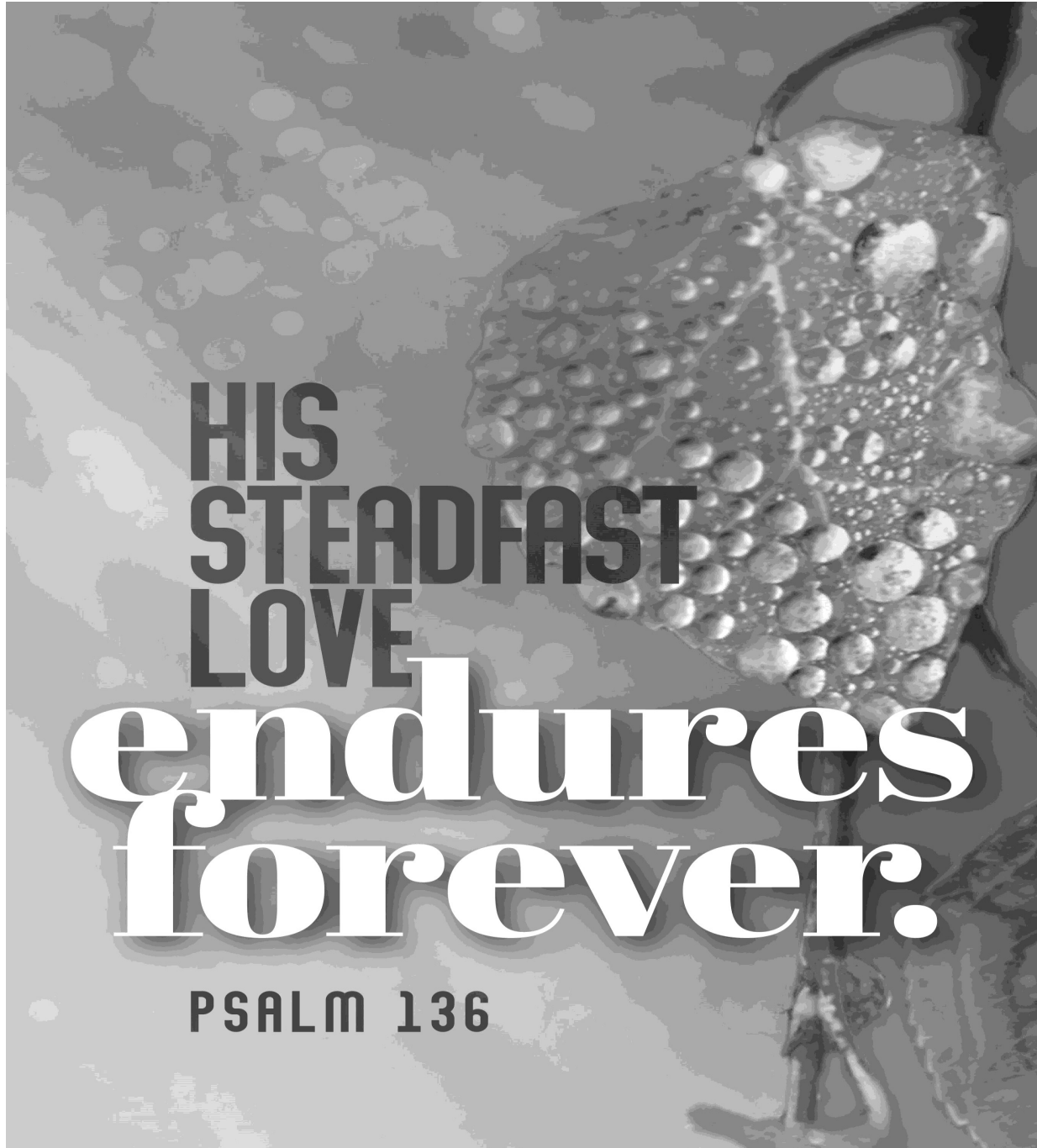


A PUBLICATION OF CHURCH ON THE HILL IN BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

VANTAGE



**HIS
STEADFAST
LOVE**

**endures
forever.**

PSALM 136

February 2024

Pastor's Page



A little knowledge goes a long way sometimes...

“Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the [Thirteenth Amendment](#) abolished [slavery](#) in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and [Frederick Douglass](#). The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing “Negro History Week.” By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, “Negro History Week” had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.” (Black History Month, History)

Great Americans come in all the colors of humanity, religions/no religion, gender/ gender identity, age, original national background, sexual orientation, political leanings. We recognize African Americans because of the tragedy of their original story in being brought to America and the enormity of their contributions once having achieved the right to live their potential.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Pastor Tom

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

February Teachings

February 4
Psalm 46:1-7

God's Got Ya

So many people check out when tough times come. They go on automatic pilot. They get scared. They don't know where to turn. Perhaps we get overwhelmed. Perhaps we simply don't know how to respond. It's true that not everyone is going to know what to do, how to think, what to even feel when a cold wave of reality slaps us in the face. But God has faced all this before. The Lord is more than capable of hanging onto us while we're barely hanging on ourselves.

February 11
Ephesians 3:20-21

Get into Shape

The Lord wants something of real value from you. Your life needs to account for more than can be done by mere human power. God is willing to invest his own strength and might in you to accomplish things that bring glory to the Lord. Don't keep standing in God's way. We all want to be successful in our lives, but the Lord seeks you to accomplish something with your life.

February 18
Ephesians 3:18-19

Beginner's Love

Paul prays that we may "know" the love of Christ "which passes knowledge." How can you know something which cannot be known? But, of course, there's no contradiction here. Though the love of Christ is itself beyond all computation, and can never be truly measured, nonetheless it is our business to learn as much as we can about it, and to receive as much of it as we can possibly contain. We're not finished products. Our love can grow.

February 25
Matthew 5:21-26

Time's Up

Mathematics teaches us that "the shortest distance between two points is a straight line." The shortest distance between two people is a straight line. A straight line like: "I was wrong," or "I haven't been honest with you" or "Your actions hurt me," or "I love you too much to allow our relationship to crumble." And that's what Jacob did. He ran a straight line to Esau when he saw him and hugged him. "Then," the Bible says, "They wept." Reconciliation requires vulnerability.

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 February line-up

February 1

La Condesa Mexican Restaurant
3320 Airport Road
Boca Raton 33431
561-931-4008
Menu at lacondesamexican.com

February 8

Stella's Pizzeria
19585 State Route 7
Boca Raton 33498
561-770-1150
Menu at stellasbestpizza.com

February 15

Maggie McFly's Boca
6000 Glades Road (Town Center at Boca Raton)
Boca Raton 33431
561-418-6688
Menu at maggiemcflys.com

February 22

Flanigan's Seafood Bar and Grill
45 Federal Highway
Boca Raton 33432
561-395-4699
Menu at Flanigans.net

February 29

Cuban Cafe Restaurant
3350 NW Boca Raton Blvd. (Plumtree Centre)
Boca Raton 33431
561-750-8860
Menu at cubancafe.com

Bon Appetite!

Annual Meeting - February 18 at 11:10

Plan to attend. Team Reports will be presented along with the 2024 budget. Come celebrate as we look back at the year that was and forward to the weeks ahead. Refreshments in Fellowship Hall that day.

Book Buzz

Book Buzz participants enjoyed a great discussion of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Many of us especially enjoyed her unique voice. We especially enjoyed the chance to learn about a bit of WWII history that many of us did not know much about - the German occupation of Guernsey Island.

The next book that we discuss will be: The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride We will meet on Friday the 2nd of February at 10:00 A.M.

The new year means another payment of the yearly member dues to the Florida Conference of the UCC.

Please remember Your Florida Conference UCC Dues! \$15.00, for every congregation member, to the Florida Conference of the United Church or Christ. When you pay, be sure to designate the reason on your check or memo.

A Unique Opportunity Awaits You

Please check out a very special series in the Alabaster Jar podcast that examines the intersections of faith, art, women, and theology. On Thursday February 1, and each Thursday thereafter, an episode will be released focusing on Women in the Bible and the Church, as depicted in sacred art, by highlighting a new website called the Visual Museum, located at www.visualmuseum.gallery. The Visual Museum provides a visual record of the impact made by women in ministry and leadership in the early church through the medieval era. The power of art is used to illuminate and explore incredible women's stories in the Bible and early church, as well as their lasting impact on faith today. Our own Christine Calareso Bleecker created this special podcast series and gives a sneak peek in a conversation on what you can expect! Her interview can be found here on Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7mWKYJowJQ7V49pPusNC3U?si=9588a8453af24c8d>

or on Apple <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-visual-museum-series-what-you-can-expect/id1564127400?i=1000643358976>

Subscribe to the Alabaster Jar podcast so you don't miss an episode! <https://open.spotify.com/show/1BsiZtDvhnUAphVldYEoe4?si=2b2f25c50b694b48>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-alabaster-jar/id1564127400>

Events & Notes

Annual Meeting is Coming!

After worship 02/18 at 11:10 am

Our annual meeting is a great time to look back and celebrate the year that was. It is an even better time to look ahead and anticipate how we might more faithfully be The Church in this place and time. Please plan ahead to attend. We will have a chance to celebrate and plan together. We will meet in the fellowship hall where refreshments will be available. Come exercise your right to vote as a member on 2024 budget, Team Leaders, Officers and more. Non-members are invited to observe!

Please nominate yourself or another!

The time of our annual meeting is fast approaching. The Church Moderator is filled currently by an acting person, who has filled several terms as Moderator in the recent past and prefers to NOT continue in the position. Thomas Brown is going to be a snow bird and will not continue as Clerk. Several Deacons have completed their terms and would be happy to be replaced. Finance Team needs people. Other teams would like help as well - Publicity, Member Care, and Youth and Adult Education. Clerk, Vice Moderator and Treasurer are offices which need to be filled. Please prayerfully consider how your talents and time might be well-appreciated in any of the above positions.

Contact Pastor Tom and Acting Moderator Sarah, Or Church Clerk Thomas B. for more information.



Boca Raton Elementary School gratefully receives our donation of 35 Christmas gifts for their students.

Another Christmas Eve by candlelight is always a highlight in our church.



Recent Events & Moments



(left) Boca Christians Eating Out at a recent Thursday dinner.

(below)

T.J. Pursley & Georgene Barger enrich worship!



(left) Poinsettias going to a good home!

(below, left) Another mom and daughter celebrate.

(below) Teen members Aaron and Lucas greet our Grayce Esposito on Christmas Eve.



Information & Reminders

Offering / Donation / Contribution Options

Zelle: mobile pay using our COTH email
No Fee!! address:
office@churchofboca.org

Cash: offering plate on Sundays

Check: offering plate on Sundays
OR send via U.S. Mail

Credit/Debit Card: COTH Website:
churchofboca.org
-under the "Give" tab.
-the "Donate" button allows
you to give using PayPal and/
or Credit/Debit card

PayPal: search for :
Church on the Hill Boca Raton

Bank e-check: send an e-check directly from
your bank

*Special donations/offerings may also be made using all
these methods.*

*Please indicate in the 'note' field if your donation is
for a special offering.*

Upper Room Devotionals 2024

These periodicals are released every other month.
January/February 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
pastortomlacey@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:** @ChurchontheHill_
- **Website:** www.churchofboca.org
(Same address; new look and content plus
many of the usual items still available.)

February ANNIVERSARIES

02/03 Mayra & Michael Filmer

February BIRTHDAYS

02/07 Noah Peterson

02/16 Phyllis Fuller

02/21 Henry Adkins

02/24 Lois Fleischman

02/28 Gary Martin

Special Events:

February 14 - noon - Ash Wednesday Service

❖ February 18 - 11:10 Annual Meeting

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Vantage Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday February 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: marrom33@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

Acting Church Moderator:

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:

Sarah H, Kathy B, Bob M, Thomas B, Lois F, Dan S,
Faye F., The Hinshaws, Barbara & Larry L., Victor I.,
Marit L., Jerry C., Jeannie C.

Property:

Bob Murphy

