

Church on the Hill

Congregational/United Church of Christ
251 SW Fourth Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33432
Phone: 561-395-9255



Sunday Worship Service

April 21, 2024 - Guest Speaker
In-Person & on Facebook

Pastor: Tom Lacey Cell: 561-306-5208 tomlaceypastor@gmail.com

Acting Moderator: Sarah Hugus sarahhugus@outlook.com

Worship Begins!

Songs

Friend of God
Blessed Be Your Name

M. Gungor
M. Redman

Welcome

(W&R #413, vss. 1&4) *When Our Confidence Is Shaken* F. Green

Invitation to Confession

God who blesses us so abundantly, who gives us so much, also promises us grace and love. Let us trust in the mercy of our Creator as we make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together

O God, grant us your peace, for we have made peace with what does not give peace. Instill in us an awe of you that will make us wise, and a quiet courage that will enable us to make hope visible, forgiving delightful, loving contagious, faith liberating, peace-making joyful, and ourselves open and present to other people and your kingdom. In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Sing together W&R #740)

A. Malotte

Spirit Song (WR #352)

J. Wimber

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

Passing of the Peace-*tip your hat, give a wave, bump a fist, flash a smile*

Announcements

Sarah Hugus, Church Moderator

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Pastor Tom Lacey

Scripture (NT pg. 225)
(NT pg. 14-15)

Hebrews Ch. 11: 1-3
Matthew Ch. 13: 31-32

Message

FAITH! It's Personal

Lynn Buttner

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Hymn (W&R #664)

Thy Word

A. Grant

Solo

You Raise Me Up
T.J. Pursley

B. Graham

Benediction

May God's Holy Spirit lead you,

May God's strength protect you,

May God's peace be with you.

**We go in our faith in God, with Christ's grace,
embracing the life of the Holy Spirit in us.**

Amen

And amen!



Today, Church on the Hill member, Lynn Buttner, is sharing her faith story with us! We sincerely appreciate her taking the interest and time to prepare and opening herself up to our congregation. She also chose scriptures and songs to help inspire us to be more faith-intentional.

Dear God, please inspire us and let us honor you in our daily actions.
Lord Jesus, remind us to be helpful, patient, grateful, and kind.

We pray for All those affected by Covid. Those impacted by gun violence and the lawmakers to facilitate meaningful change that shows caring for all. For God's protection for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, western Africa, and to bring an end to those conflicts before any more loss of life or destruction. Also God's protection for Russians who speak out against their country's leader and his actions in Ukraine. Those suffering addiction. Truth and mercy to protect our LGBTQ children and families. Thanks, for all of God's blessings.

We continue to pray for all those facing tough economic situations. We pray for our leaders to have compassion and care for those who are struggling. We pray for understanding of climate change and for agreement on ways to address it.

We pray for our sponsored child: Bashar in Lebanon.

We pray for the family and friends of: Jerri L.; Carol Lerebours; Dr. Harold Logan; Sue Moser; Kiki Attonito; The Reverend John Shaw; John Bird; Leeann Fleischman Murdock; Richard Lund; Larry Williams; Dr. Clyde Baker; Rev. Patrick Rogers; Rev. Vardell Swett; Dottie Ward; Eleanor Magee; JoAnn Davis; Sue Laughlin; Bob Rodgers; Sharon Pruitt; Randall Grenadier; all those grieving loved ones.

We pray for those suffering health issues and in need of healing:

Jean; Jason; Carl W.; Grayce; Jason; Judy; Ron; Carl J; Rosie; Karen; Lynn; Jill & Mary Jo; Marit; Leslie; Harry; Denise; Lily Hymans; Donna O'Connor; Eileen Maass; Dumitru; Jack S.; Laura K.; Dave Clarke.

We pray for our students, friends and family who are traveling.

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving, especially for Tyler's healing.

And we pray for our friends, families and neighbors, trusting that you know their needs: Arlene; Lowell; David and Tom; Cindy; Daisy; Patty; Oretha Holloway; Everena Tracey & Evelyn Torrey; Florence Gomes & Mala; Violet; Jaime.

We pray for our service men and women.

Prayer requests can be directed to the prayer request email:
cothprayers@gmail.com or to Pastor Tom directly:
tomlaceypastor@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Discussion Time Today, *following worship 11:15 am, lower classroom*
Join Lynn & Pastor Tom after worship for an open discussion of today's sermon or other relevant topics of interest. All are welcome!

B.C.E.O. *Thurs April 25 at 5:30pm*
EVERYONE is welcome to join Boca Christians Eating Out (B.C.E.O.). This week we will meet at **5:30** at Duffy's Sports Grill, 1750 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach 33483 **Bon Appetit!**

Book Buzz *Friday August 2 at 10:00 am*
The church book club meets on the first Friday of the month at the regular time. This group is open to all. You don't even have to read the book! The August session will be on Zoom. Text Thomas Brown at 954-695-7573 to receive the link to participate. Book Buzz is taking a summer break and will not meet in May-July. The book for the August Zoom session is: The Women by Kristin Hannah.

Brighten Someone's Day
If we can brighten the day of someone special to you with a call, card or a visit, please let your Member Care team know. Contact Jeannie Clinton at 561-901-5935

Volunteers Needed!

Would you like to volunteer your skills to help Church on the Hill thrive? A church is like a body. As it says in Ephesians 1:23, *The church is the body of Christ and is filled with Christ who completely fills everything.* We all bear some responsibility to the rest of the members of Christ's body—the church—for the work needed to be a church. Right now, a small number of very dedicated people are carrying much of the weight of the work required each week. More hands and feet are needed. If you are able to help, your services could and would be of great help. Please contact Pastor Tom or Sarah Hugus with your intentions and either of them will kindly and expertly put you to work helping with this church's very vital mission.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Upper Room Daily Devotional

The **March-April 2023 Upper Room**, a **daily devotional magazine** published in 33 languages and 100 countries around the world, is available in the Rosser Room. Meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others. They can be a part of your daily devotional practice.

Just a Dollar

You may fold a bill lengthwise and drop it in the plate along with your regular offering. These dollars are designated to help those in need.

Celebrate Florida

Celebrate Florida is the Florida Conference UCC's bimonthly newsletter. It includes news, important information, and interesting tidbits from the Florida Conference. uccfla.org/celebrateflorida.

Sound Amplification Devices Available during service

COTH has various devices to help amplify the sound during service. We want to do what we can to be sure you are hearing all parts of the service as clearly as possible so you get the most out of your time here on Sunday mornings. Speak to a Deacon for assistance!

For Your Contemplation, T. Brown

Brazilian liberation theologian Leonardo Boff witnesses the presence of the Holy Spirit in the creativity of the arts.

[The Spirit] is present wherever people live by love, witness to the truth, act in solidarity, and practice compassion. Wherever such realities are manifest in human beings, anywhere in the world, it is a sign that the Spirit has come upon them and is active within them.

It is by the inspiration of the Spirit that poets and writers redraw life with all its lights and shadows, its dramas and achievements. They are seized by an inner light, and by energies that prompt unexpected connections; they bring something new into the world. Many writers con-

fess ... that they feel possessed by an inner energy (a *daimon*, a good spirit) that seizes them and makes them think and write.

By the inspiration of the Spirit, artists and artisans elicit from their material—wood, stone, marble, granite—an image that only they can see in it. The material is spiritualized, and the spirit is materialized...

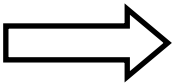
The Spirit is especially intense in music. Sounds are invisible, unconstrained by space and time, just as no one can limit the action of the Spirit. And the melodies they project lift up and penetrate the soul; in them we find comfort, beauty to cry over, soaring joy. The great evangelical theologian Karl Barth used to say that Mozart took his wonderful melodies from heaven and the Breath (the Holy Spirit).

Copied from “Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations” available at: www.cac.org

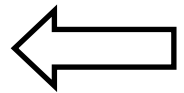
This worthy association was recently adopted at our Annual Meeting as a new mission interest; we will be supporting their efforts with \$500 from our 2024 approved budget.



FYI - FREE, Boca Raton-sponsored shredding event! April 27, 9-4.
Up to 5 “bankers boxes;” 6500 Congress Ave., Safety Building, Boca.



Save the Date! May 12



You may realize that May 12th is **Mothers’ Day** - and it is also **Graduates’** and **Youth Sunday!**

Triple your reasons to be in worship at Church on the Hill.

We will appreciate up to 5 high school graduates’ participating in our worship service. They will also share a bit of how they arrived at this point, and what plans are shaping up for each of them in the next chapters of their young adult lives.

We will also enjoy **musical** numbers by our **youth**.

Please plan to be in worship and show your **love** and **support** of these special younger members of our wonderful Church Family.



Church on the Hill

AV Tech: Marit Lacey

Accompanist: Georgene Barger

Soloist and Song Leader: T.J. Pursley

Sexton: Sulay Vélez (Jan-Pro)

Stay in touch for the latest news, videos and photos!

Facebook: at www.facebook.com/bocaucc/

Twitter: @UCCchurchboca **Instagram:** @ChurchontheHill_

Website: www.churchofboca.org **E-mail:** office@churchofboca.org

Offering / Donation / Pledge Options

Zelle: Use our COTH email address:
office@churchofboca.org **Preferred - No Fee!**

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



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

ONA Covenant

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.