



# UNITED CHURCH

---

## *of Marco Island*

***“Celebrating God’s Presence, Serving All People”***



We are affiliated with the United Church of Christ and  
The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.



@TheUnitedChurch



facebook.com/TheUnitedChurch



www.ucmarco.org

320 North Barfield Dr. Marco Island, FL 34145

239.394.6572

ORDER OF WORSHIP for Sunday, March 9, 2014  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Wilderness**

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Greg

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor Ron

One: Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

**Many: more food, more money, more power, more life!**

One: "What could it hurt?" we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

**Many: more suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.**

One: So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of "more":

**Many: and to celebrate that we do not need "more" when we have everything in Christ.**

One: Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God's Spirit,  
which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**PRELUDE** *Meditation on Wondrous Love"*

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**\*HYMN #7 All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Pastor Ron

ONE: Creative, passionate God,  
you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony.  
You invite us to participate in the balance of creation.  
We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds;  
we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also  
find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences.  
Too often we give in to temptation  
that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe.  
We cannot undo all our mistakes,  
but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus  
and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth.

**MANY: Do not let our hearts be fearful, but let us in silence acknowledge our sin  
and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

ONE: O God who tests all even Jesus in human form, you know our struggles for more, for our own ways, our struggles make us weary. God you provide us a new beginning, a clear record with peace and reassurance, may we feel your rest and be at peace knowing that your word promises us: "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1).

**\*GLORIA PATRI #759**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide)

Pastor Greg

**MANY: We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs. We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen**

**HYMN: #211 Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days**

ST, FLAVIAN

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER** (sins and sinners)

Pastor Ron

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF GENEROSITY**

Pastor Greg

**OFFERTORY** *You Will I Love*

Hildbrand

**\*PEOPLE'S PRAYER (DOXOLOGY): #780 - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow** Old 100<sup>th</sup>

**SCRIPTURE** *Matthew 4: 1-11 (Page 3)*

Pastor Greg

**SERMON** *Harder Than it Looks*

Pastor Greg

**\*HYMN #312 We Love Your Realm, O God (vs.1-2, 5-6)**

St. Thomas

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Greg

**POSTLUDE** *Lenten Recessional*

Hagarty

\*Those who are able are invited to stand

**Lenten Sermon Series - The Landscape of Lent: Experiencing the Elements.**

During our Lenten journey, each worship service will focus on a different element: ashes, wilderness, mud, wind, water, palms, and stones. Familiar Bible readings and everyday imagery will orient (and, at times reorient) us to the path we travel over these 40 days.

## PRAYER LIST

### **(Kindly call the church office with your current concerns)**

Members: Louise Burns, Jo Doll, Jan Etheredge, Barbara Hill, Dottie Jeggle, Bob Johnston (Gail Johnston's husband), Steve Krisko, Mary Ann Kunkel, Carol Litchfield, Jeannette Marlow, Mary Helen Masters, Margo Pictor, Bonnie Ruecker, Pat Schimek, Rob Schimek, Louis and Pat Smith, Gladys Webb.

Friends: Dale Bonnett, Nancy, Bradley, Cindy Burns-Miller, Summer Campbell, Jack Coffin, Bob Collins-Wright, Marvin Doua, Sara Ginther, Nancy Hafner, Timothy Hilferty, Sue Jeffries, Bob Kelly, Kendall (Linda & George James granddaughter), Deryck Kent, Noiina Koenig, Jeffrey Kunkel, Andrew Long, John & Linda Maggio, Aaron Martinette (Barbara Day's grandson), Jacqui McGovern, Jon D. Moore (Esther Moore's son), Chrissy Nourtsis (Margo Bach's granddaughter), Joshua Miller, Dave & Lynn Nelson, Ruth Owen, Brenda Parker (Lois Kenyon's niece), Michael Penso, Sarah Richards, David Rivard, Ruth (Rubie) Rutherford, Kevin Sawyer, The Shudes Family, Bill Sime, George and Patty Shirley, Vince Thompson, Betty Van, Randy Whitman, Jack Wilson

### STAFF

Dr. Greg Smith	Interim Senior Minister	ucmiminister@comcast.net
Ron Thompson	Interim Associate Minister	ucmiassociate@comcast.net
LuWayne Arnold	Interim Music Director	
Jan Kelly	Administrative/Financial Assistant	ucmarco@comcast.net
Jim Spittler	Custodian	
Sue Woods	Manager, Bargain Basket	bargainbasket@marcocable.com

Church office: 239.394.6572



United Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation  
For more information contact the church office  
239.394.6572



Bargain Basket Thrift Shop, a Ministry of United Church  
750 Bald Eagle Drive Marco Island FL 239.394.6640  
For more information contact Sue Woods, Manager

### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Ushers: Faye McKinnon

Greeters: Jean and Paul O'Neill

Deacon: Murrell Hollis, Fred Figge

Hospitality: Social Events, Pot Luck Lunch

Preacher: Greg Smith

Liturgist: Ron Thompson

Interim Music Director: LuWayne Arnold

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join us in Disseler Hall for our pot luck lunch following worship

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Evelyn Case,  
in loving memory of Blair

### **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Tuesday, March 11	Reunification Committee, 1-4pm, Conference room
Wednesday, March 12	Ladies Craft Workshop, 9:30am Conference room
	Reunification Committee, 2:30-5pm, Conference room
Thursday, March 13	Bargain Basket Strategic Session, 9am-12pm, Music Suite
	Reunification Committee, 1-4pm, Library
Friday, March 14	Bargain Basket Committee, 2pm, Library
Saturday, March 15	Habitat Home dedication, 10am, Golden Gate City, Naples.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

Tuesday, March 18	World Council of Churches presentation, 9:30am-11am, Sanctuary
Wednesday, March 19	Bell Choir Rehearsal begins, 3pm.
Sunday, March 23	Social Events Pancake Breakfast, immediately following worship

**REMEMBER TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** Please like us on Facebook by clicking on this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheUnitedChurch> and then on the like button.

This will provide you access to pictures, stories and more, before anyone else ever sees them.

**JOIN THE CHOIR** All are welcome. Choir rehearsals are every Wednesday, at 4:00pm.

**BELL CHOIR RETURNS** We are pleased to announce the bell choir will return for rehearsals starting Wednesday, March 19 beginning at 3pm. Bell Choir will practice and play during the Palm Sunday service on April 13. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend. All are welcome to join!

**FREE TAXI SERVICE TO CHURCH** United Church is now offering free taxi service to Sunday service. Here's what you need to do: Call A. Carr Transportation service at 239.394.0900 to request pick up on Sunday morning. You must call on Saturday before 4pm. See you at church!

**UCMI MEMBER DIRECTORIES** Updated member directories are available in the church office anytime during the week.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS** Snowbirds, are you preparing to close up the house and fly north? Do you find that you still have a full pantry? Bring your surplus nonperishable foodstuffs to the church on Sundays. There will be a box in the narthex for drop off. Pastor Ron will see to it that they are distributed where needed. If it is more convenient, bring them to the church office Monday thru Friday between 9 am and 4 pm.

**HABITAT DEDICATION** On **Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**, Habitat for Humanity will be dedicating the homes of several families, including two that were sponsored by United Church. All are invited to share in this dedication. The address is 4589 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW in Golden Gate City, Naples.