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LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Letter From The Interim Pastor

We were grateful to have such a spirited Advent Season. All four weeks, we incorporated the Advent Wreath candle lighting, and an expansive repertoire of favorite Christmas anthems and hymns. The 3 Christmas Eve services were well-attended and celebrated the coming of Christ to the world.

We are thankful for God's goodness and kindness expressed in the everyday blessings of life--friendship, faith, and family. I am grateful for our congregation and its commitment to grow as a family of faith that worships, celebrates, and learns together.

While the Stewardship campaign is over, your pledges and giving to our ministry is vital. As we seek to maintain our facilities, inspiring worship, mission work, and the spiritual development of all people, your support makes it possible.

We will be entering the Lent season--a time of reflection, forgiveness, and preparation to celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter.



On Ash Wednesday (February 14th, 2024), we will have 2 services:

10:30AM - Webster Chapel **7:00PM** - Sanctuary

We will also have 3 services during Holy Week

Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday at 10:00AM Worship Thursday, March 28th - Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM Sunday, March 31st - Easter Sunday at 10:00AM Worship

Please make plans to invite friends and families to our services, as there are great opportunities to introduce others to Jesus' love and grace, and to our congregation. Finally, in this edition, you will read and learn about what's going on at Moorings Presbyterian Church, and ways you can connect to this community of faith.

Rev. Dr. Pablo R. Diag Interim Pastor





An explanation: Transition from Pledge Cards to Giving Estimates

Dear Moorings Presbyterian Church Family,

I trust this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark on a new year filled with hope and opportunities for growth. As we approach this season of reflection and renewal, I am pleased to share with you an important development in how we communicate and support our beloved church community.

After careful consideration and feedback from many of you, the Stewardship Committee has decided to transition from the traditional "pledge cards" to a more inclusive and conversational approach called "giving estimates." This change is rooted in our commitment to fostering open communication and making everyone feel comfortable expressing their intentions to support the church in the coming year.

We understand that discussions about financial commitments can sometimes be sensitive or challenging. By shifting to giving estimates, we aim to create an environment where each member of our congregation feels at ease sharing their plans for supporting Moorings Presbyterian Church in a manner that suits their individual circumstances.

Giving estimates allow us to focus on the spirit of generosity and unity within our church family. It is not about rigid commitments but rather about fostering a dialogue that enables us to better understand and support one another in our collective journey of faith and service.

By now, you should have seen and heard more information about this transition, along with materials to guide you through the process of providing your giving estimate. (Communicate either with a Giving Estimate card in the pews or through the Give Page under the Ministries menu on our website.) Our hope is that this change will strengthen the sense of community within our church, emphasizing shared responsibility and mutual support.

Your ongoing commitment and generosity have been the pillars of our church's vitality, and we are excited about this new chapter in our stewardship journey together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Stewardship Committee. Your input is invaluable as we continue to evolve and grow as a congregation.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Moorings Presbyterian Church. May the coming year be filled with blessings, joy, and a deepened sense of community.

In Christ's love,

Stewardship Chair Moorings Presbyterian Church PS—You can pledge by going to our MooringsChurch.org website and clicking on "Give" in the "Ministries" menu. There will also be Giving Estimate Cards available in the pews, which you may place in the offering plates.

Stewardship

At Moorings we believe that generosity is a way of life, and we celebrate with you that you have decided to partner with the ministries and missions of our church.

There are a few ways to give:

ONLINE

DONATE STOCK

IRA DONATIONS

TEXT-TO-GIVE

LEGACY ENDOWMENT

For more information on how to pledge your 2024 Annual Commitment, please visit www.mooringschurch.org/give/



STATE OF THE CHURCH





MOORINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHLives Transformed for Christ

On January 14th, 2024, Moorings Presbyterian Church had its first ever State of the Church Presentation.

Made by Elders Jim Warnken, (Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair) Peter Johnson (Stewardship Chair), and Steven Dear (Pastoral Nominating Committee Chair), this presentation provided insight into our Church's Financial and Pastoral Search progress,

Open to the public, Moss Hall was filled with 138 church members. The meeting was well received, and some good questions were asked. There was a feeling of "togetherness" in the room and the chatter going on as everyone was leaving confirmed they were glad to have been there.

Thanks for the time you put into preparation for the meeting Jim, Peter and Steven.

You did a GREAT job!

PNC UPDATES

To date, we have had 67 individuals apply. We have had so many Pastors with so many different experiences; e.g. from Chaplains and Interim pastors, to individuals just out of seminary. We have had Pastor candidates from churches with less than 100 members to candidates that are leading churches of 1200+ members. Clearly Naples and many of the attributes of this church give interest to individuals to lead this congregation.

Thank you to all that have come to the PNC Prayer meetings each Sunday morning at 9:30 am before the church service in the Chapel and we hope you will continue to come. Your prayers, as well as your attendance make a tremendous difference and are certainly appreciated.

The PNC also wants to thank each person who has reached out to Pastors and had them apply.

God designed us. The legacy of this church is going to continue and God will give us our next pastor when he is ready. It is his time frame that will determine when we receive the next pastor.

I would like to recognize the members of the PNC: Marsha Shelton, Susan Watkins, Angela Bruckner, Terry Birck, Dr. Joe Kerr, and myself.



Blessings,

Steven C. Dear

PNC Committee Chair

SMALL GROUPS

Moorings Men's Bible Study



Moorings Men's Bible Study Breakfast Welcomes You! Come and join us for fellowship, discussing today's issues, and seeing how God's word written so long ago still applies to today's world!

We are excited to have our seasonal members joining us! We meet the **second** and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30AM in Classrooms A & B. You can also Zoom call in. We eagerly welcome interested members!

Ladies Weekly Bible Study

The Ladies' Fall Bible Study takes place every **Thursday at 2:00PM.**

All Moorings Church ladies, along with neighbors or friends, are cordially invited to join us join us as we search for the "Bible's overarching plot." based on the book, A Hop, Skip, and a Jump Through the Bible.





Fellowship Ladies Luncheons

The Fellowship Ladies' Luncheons ladies have fellowship at a local restaurant once a month.

This past winter, they had the pleasure of dining at fine Naples restaurants such as Ridgway and The Colliers Reserve Country Club. The group has grown so much - from 10 to 25 + ladies attending! They have a lot of fun enjoying one another and connecting outside of the church.

lweN full sational guone

The Fellowship Committee is starting a new Small Group called Dining Out
-- for MPC'ers and friends to share an evening of fellowship -- for a Happy
Hour or Dinner -- in your home, club or a restaurant. Contact Kirstin Lynde
(Kglrsvp@gmail.com) or Dinah Mannlein (Dinahmannlein@gmail.com) if you
would like to host such an event. You decide type, venue, # of guests, date &
time. It can be as simple as making a reservation

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

This past Fall, the Fellowship Group events have been so spirited and well-attended!

A variety of different events such as the *Welcome Back Party* and *Wednesday Night Dinners*, to the *'Round the Table Sing*, they were so pleased to have such great attendance and participation.

'Round the Table Sing

















FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Welcome Back Party







Wednesday Night Dinner







Upcoming Activities





Our Flip Flop Family Luau - an intergenerational favorite - will take place on **Sunday, February 18th, at 5:30PM in Moss Hall.**

Our March Wednesday Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, March 6th, at 5:30PM in Moss Hall. \$10/person, and \$5/child under 10 years.





MEMBERSHIP

Church Membership

Welcome our New Members!



Judith Auer

Having a number of friends and finding the music inspirational at MPC, Judy joined Moorings and is enjoying the Ladies' Luncheons. In her spare time, she golfs and plays mahjong. Judy also travels quite

mahjong. Judy also travels quite a bit for pleasure and to see her children and grandchildren who live all across the country.



Shelagh Kinahan

Shelagh was drawn to MPC by its meaningful sermons and music. Along with her partner, long-time MPC member Henry Halle, she enjoys the Fellowship activities of Moorings. Shelagh is currently employed as a Securities Senior Client Associate.



Dan Balke

Because Dan finds MPC's services very meaningful and especially likes the staff and congregants, he has joined Moorings, where he serves as its Facilities Technician. In his spare time, Dan likes to fish, camp and bicycle.



Dolores "Honey" Lehman

Honey was active in MPC's music program many years ago and returns still appreciating its music. She plays the piano and organ and sings and is already attending Presbyterian Women and Ladies' Luncheons and other Fellowship activities, enjoying the friendliness of Moorings.



Joyce Finlay

Joyce is returning to her roots, having been a Presbyterian minister's daughter. Now retired after teaching Spanish and French for many years and being the Music Director at another Naples church for 20 years, she is singing in MPC's choir and entertaining at the Wednesday Night Dinners.



Lois Muldowney & Donald Copeland

Not only has Donnie become a member of MPC, he also chose to be baptized recently by Pastor Diaz. He moved to Naples to be with Lois, having a

relationship many years ago that they have rekindled. Lois attended Moorings as a youth with her parents, who are interred in Moorings Columbarium and brought her daughter up in the church.

Presently, she is a nurse at Physicians Regional Hospital.



Carol Hartman & Charles Hankey

Carol and Charles join MPC as Affiliate Members as they still return to Carmel. IN off

season. Carol enjoys tennis, horseback riding and reading. She participates in the

Women's Bible Study and Ladies' Luncheons. Charles is a retired Social Security

Disability Attorney and is a member of the Greater Naples Leadership Council.

Are you an MPC Ambassador?

Invite friends and relatives to the many activities our church has to offer: Sunday Worship, A Bible Study, Presbyterian Women's luncheon, a Fellowship Dinner, and any special event.

AMBASSADOR

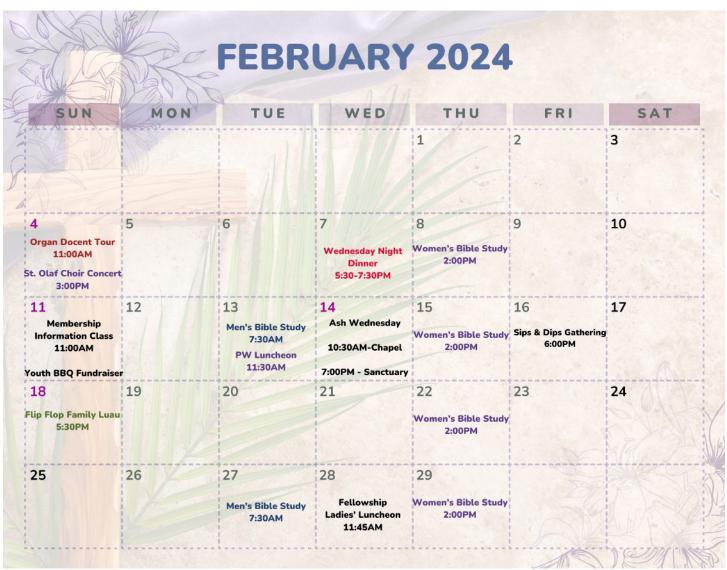
Say hello to someone you don't know at Worship and pass on our MPC friendliness!

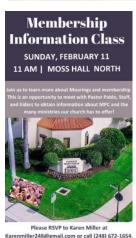
YOU could bring in the next new MPC member!

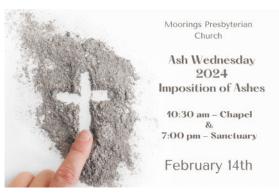
EVENTS CALENDAR

The goal of the Fellowship Committee is to promote fun and friendship, hosting special events!

We have several get togethers coming up in the next couple of months. Please join us in some if not all of them! All generations welcome!









MARCH 2024								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
					1	2		
New Member Recognition During Sunday Worship 10:00AM	4	5	6 Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30-7:30PM	7 Women's Bible Study 2:00PM	8	9		
Hyacinth Concert - laples Philharmonic & Chancel Choir 3:00PM	11	Men's Bible Study 7:30AM PW Luncheon 11:30AM	13	14 Women's Bible Study 2:00PM	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21 Women's Bible Study 2:00PM	22	23		
Palm Sunday 10:00AM Easter Sunday 10:00AM	25	26 Men's Bible Study 7:30AM	27	28 Women's Bible Study 2:00PM Maundy Thursday 7:00PM	29	30		













YOUTH & FAMILIES

Looking back, the Christmas season was full of traditions old and new. Families gathered for our annual *Movie Under the Stars* and *'Round-the-Table Sing*.









This year we added Advent Wreath Making and Caroling on the Naples Trolley.

Bringing cheer to residents at the Glenview and Moorings Park at the Estuary was the highlight of the season.

We plan to carol on the trolley again next Christmas, with more stops and more voices sharing the joy of the season together.

January was especially busy for Youth Ministries.

The 2024 Confirmation Class, made up of nine 8th and 9th grade young men, kicked off with a retreat at Cedarkirk. They will continue to study together, along with becoming involved in the life of the church.















Middle and high school youth attended Rock the Universe in Orlando. Gabi Boyd, Kailyn Dekker and Charlotte Marshall led the group in a devotional inspired by Casting Crowns, one of the many concerts at the event.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

You are invited to our biggest annual youth fundraiser on Sunday, February 11th:

The 144 Envelopes and BBQ and Baked Goods lunch

Grab an envelope to make your donation and plan for a tasty homemade BBQ lunch after worship - eat here or take it to go!

The money raised supports the youth programs and helps offset the cost of trips for students and chaperones.

This year we hope everyone takes an envelope to support our children and youth programs!







For the Season of Lent in Sunday School children will make placemat devotionals for family dinner conversations. We also look forward to the waving of the palms led by our Children on Palm Sunday and our Ice Cream Social on Easter Sunday.

We are so grateful for all the volunteers who help make our faith formation programming possible! Our family and youth ministries are changing lives and building Christian relationships every week.

We depend on your financial support!

To sponsor or volunteer, please contact Director of Christian Education Children and Youth, Alicia Rowland, at arowland@mooringschurch.org.







YOUTH & FAMILIES

PRESCHOOL

Fun for the Moorings Preschool during the Holidays!

We had Breakfast with Santa, a Christmas Program, and overall a great holiday season. As we enter into 2024, we are so proud of our students, and look forward to another wonderful year.











MERRY Christmas



MISSIONS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

It is the purpose of the Moorings Outreach Committee to lead the congregation of Moorings Presbyterian Church to reach out into our community and the world to make disciples and show the love of Christ and care for those whom Jesus called "the least of these, who are my family."



We invite members and friends of Moorings to join us on the 3rd Monday of each month to go to Guadalupe Social Service's Soup Kitchen in Immokalee. We set up and serve a meal of soup, bread, juice, and dessert. Newcomers are welcome!

We depart from the Moorings parking lot at 9:00AM. and return before 2:00PM. For more information please contact Tim Miller at (734) 502-0034 or tamiller1953@yahoo.com.





Other ways you can be of assistance is by volunteering at one of our partners organizations. *Children receive help with homework four afternoons a week at New Horizons. *Food distribution and organization is appreciated





at Helps Outreach.







We request donations of non-perishable food items on a rotating schedule to Guadalupe Social Service, Helps Outreach, and St. Matthew's House. Please place the items in the bins outside of the entrance to Moss Hall. Thank You!



MUSIC UPDATES WITH CHRIS DEKKER

Dear Friends,

As we continue with our very successful Hyacinth Concert Series (which is now in its 42nd year!), we are so grateful for the talent and dedication of these musicians in our community.

We are looking forward to having the Naples Philharmonic Chorus and our Chancel Choir perform on Sunday, March 10th, as well as having the world-renowned Seraph Brass join us on Easter Sunday,

Please invite a friend, and help spread the word about this important ministry!

In Christ,





Dr. Christopher Dekker

Dehl

2023-2024 Hyacinth Concert Series

The Naples Philharmonic Chorus & The Moorings Choir Presents the Music of Dan Forrest March 10, 2024, 4:00PM

Dr. Christopher Dekker and Jeremy Warner will direct the 100+ member combined choirs of Moorings Presbyterian Church and The Naples Philharmonic Chorus in a performance of the works of Dan Forrest and other composers. The singing will also be accompanied by organ and a professional orchestra.





Easter Worship with the Seraph Brass March 31, 2024, 10:00AM

A worship service celebrating the Resurrection will be led by the dynamic all-female ensemble, The Seraph Brass. Led by internationally-renowned trumpet soloist, Mary Elizabeth Bowden, Seraph will participate in a celebratory 30-minute prelude, will participate in hymn concertatos with the mighty Sterritte family organ and hearty congregational singing, as well as an uplifting postlude.

MUSIC UPDATES WITH CHRIS DEKKER

Follow The Moorings' Newfound International Presence on YouTube!

Michael Kolowich, a new Moorings member and choir member, has dedicated numerous hours during the last 12 months to improving the content on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@mooringschurch), and check out these staggering statistics!



The channel now has approximately 650 subscribers, up from approximately 30 at this time last year!



Our most-watched video is the opening hymn during the January 29, 2023 service (Holy, Holy), which has an incredible 42,000 views and 500 likes!

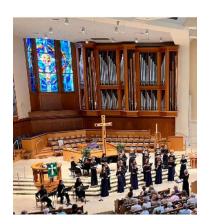
Video from our channel was viewed 124,581 times (In 2022 the number of views was 84).



Viewers came from more than 50 countries, including most prominently: United States, United Kingdom, Canada, India, and Germany.

Moorings Church videos showed up in more than 1.5 million search results (and 5.4% of the time, people click when they see Moorings Church content in search results).





Other Musical Highlights

Ringing Church Bells!



Moorings is blessed to have an electronic carillon that has the ability to broadcast bell music outside! As you enter the building each Sunday morning, take the opportunity to listen to the beautiful bell music that will play melodies from the music that you'll hear in worship!

Join the Chancel Choir!



The Chancel Choir season is back in session, and now is the perfect time to join! Rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, the choir is a friendly and welcoming group of individuals who have varying level of musical backgrounds and abilities. Please contact Dr. Chris Dekker at cdekker@mooringschurch.org if you're interested in joining or have questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Circles are continuing. Specific information is on pew cards, the PW Handbook and from Circle leaders. Visitors, new, zoom and seasonal members are welcome. Several Circles have December social events. The Handbook is on the church website with printed copies at the welcome desk. All women of the church are Presbyterian Women members. We hope you will find several church activities and service opportunities to share the love of Christ and deepen friendships.

On **Tuesday, February 13th at 11:30AM** will be our next Luncheon. Please register and pay by the 11th at the Welcome Desk. Wear something red and cheerful for the Valentines Day theme. Our motivational speaker is Chaplain Courtney Ducharme, who will speak on *Love, Soft as an Easy Chair*. A table offering will be donated.

On **Wednesday, February 21st**, Marsha Shelton will review the book *The Accidental President: Harry Truman and the Four Days that Changed the World* by A. J. Blain. New members and guests are always welcome.

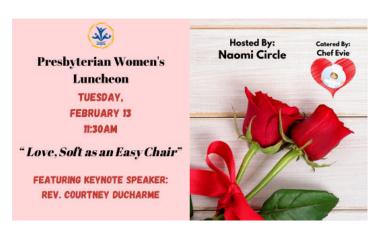
PW Circles

Elizabeth Circle: Every 3rd Thursday at 9:30AM in the Board Room.

Esther Circle: Every 3rd Thursday at 1:00PM in the Board Room.

Lydia Circle: Every 3rd Thursday at 6:00PM in the Board Room.

Naomi: Every 4th Tuesday at 10:00AM in the Parlor.



Multiple leadership opportunities are open for the PW Coordinating Committee starting spring 2024. We especially invite younger women to help plan and coordinate the group. Please consider volunteering your time. Most positions are not time intensive. Meetings occur monthly over the winter season. See Claudia Schmitt for further information.

The March PW Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 12th at 11:30AM** will feature Jennifer Clark, Executive Director of the Southwest Music Education Center, an organization providing music education for neurodivergent, musically talented young adults. Register and pay at the welcome desk by March 10th. Wear green for St. Patrick's Day. A table offering will be accepted.

The April PW Luncheon will be on **Tuesday, April 9th at 11:30AM**, and will feature keynote speaker Joshua Harber of Wycliff Bible Translators on Sharing God's Word: Recent Missionary Adventures in Papua New Guinea. Please register and pay at the Welcome Desk by April 7th. Wear a fancy hat and floral outfit to celebrate spring.





For prayer chain concerns, please contact
Pat Adams at 239-592-1250.
These concerns may be labeled for sharing or as private.

Presbyterian Women note cards assortments are for sale at the welcome desks for \$10 per 10 pack. These lovely all-purpose cards represent our church when you write notes of encouragement, greeting or thanks.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- · to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study;
- to support the mission of the church worldwide;
- to work for justice and peace; and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.
- Groundwork for 2023-2024 Focus: welcoming all women



PW Symbol and Meaning (on Cover)

The original Presbyterian Women's symbol was updated in 1999. The symbol expresses the organization's purpose. Presbyterian Women are rooted in faith

- forgiven and freedby grace.

The main trio of women emerges in praise from a linear representation of the Bible.

The central figure forms a cross with her arms uplifted

- extending out for a world of peace.

The right figure holds a book to guide her study and prayer.

The left figure reaches out to care for others.

The circle represents the church worldwide.

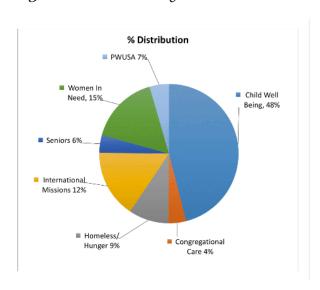
The three women together, with no distinct features, depict all women

- expressing their energy and openness. We are all witnesses

to the reality of God's realm. MPW finds the logo represents our beliefs today as much as ever.

MPW Benevolences, Table Offerings, and Circle Gifts

MP	MPW Benevolences, Table Offerings, and Circle Gifts						
Child Well- Being	Congreg ational Care	Homeles s/ Hunger	Internati onal Missions	Seniors	Women in Need	PWUSA	
48%	4%	9%	12%	6%	15%	7%	
\$4,862	\$435	\$982	\$1,665	8433	\$1,715	\$475	



What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. (Psalm 116:12-13 NIV)

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Moorings Presbyterian
Church

Ash Wednesday 2024 Imposition of Ashes

10:30 am – Chapel & 7:00 pm – Sanctuary

February 14th

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24 10:00 A.M.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28 7:00 P.M. Service

Easter Sunday

ONE SERVICE Sunday, March 31 10:00 A.M.

791 Harbour Drive Naples, FL 34103

MOORINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Lives Transformed for Christ

239.261.1487 mooringschurch.org