



Church of the Isles & Chapel on the Hill

United Churches of Christ

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM, May 9, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

Lana Cartner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shelly Wilson

CENTERING MUSIC

Curtis Watson

CALL TO WORSHIP (by William Stafford)

Sandy Tarrant

One: There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change.

ALL: People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread. But it is hard for others to see.

One: While you hold it you can't get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old.

All: Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of the thread.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Strengthen in us, O God, our love for you today. Lead us into truth, we pray. We offer ourselves in love, care, and hope, connected as we are, today. Amen.



CHILDREN'S STORY

Mindy Picardo

SPECIAL MUSIC

Curtis Watson/Lana Cartner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Shelly Wilson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Curtis Watson

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected verses Joshua 2, Acts 20, John 15 Janice Sell Bell

Joshua 2 The story of Rahab and the Spies Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies, saying, "Go, look over the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. She hid the spies on the roof and protected them from being discovered when the king's men came hunting them. So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. ¹⁶ She said to them, "I have saved you and in return I want you to promise to protect me and all my family when the Lord gives you the city. Now the men had said to her, "We swear to protect you, but this oath you made us swear will not be binding on us ¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down. "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Acts 20 Paul's Farewell Speech Paul gathered the leaders of the church of Ephesus together and when they came to the time of departing he addressed them: "You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. ¹⁹ I served the Lord together with you and with the tears and trials that came to us. I did not at all shrink from telling you what I believed was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. ²² But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem. What will happen to us next I do not know, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace. Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit



has appointed you caregivers. And now I commend you to God and to that gracious word that can build you up in hope. Please continue to love one another, and to help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

John 15 Jesus’ Farewell Now remain in my love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

SERMON “The Red Thread Holds On Loosely”
Shelly Wilson

POSTLUDE
Lana Cartner

BENEDICTION
Shelly Wilson

TRAVELING MUSIC
Lana Cartner

A BLESSED MOTHERS’ DAY to all! May we offer gratitude for all the loving mothers and mother figures who have blessed our lives. May we hold in heart as well, everyone for whom today is a hard day. May God grant us grateful hearts for all those whose love has nurtured and sustained us!

Prayer concerns

- Charlotte Hanna, hospice
- Lucy Berger, recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Jan Kreuger, medical tests
- Larry Kreuger, upcoming knee surgery
- Shirley Hand, ongoing health concerns
- Guy Hawkins, ongoing health concerns
- All those grieving losses caused by gun violence
- Grieving loss of loved ones from COVID, other illnesses, accidents, and racial hatred



- Those living with mental illness, domestic violence, and addiction challenges
- Those who have lost possessions, homes, and hope
- Those exhausted and endangered by systemic violence and racism
- The nations of the world affected by food insecurity, war, and oppression
- The Earth, effects of global climate change.

MAY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES—from Outreach Coordinator, Marty Synnott (martysynnott@yahoo.com; 727-249-3011) In recent conversations with leaders from the Pinellas County Emergency Management and the Pinellas County Faith-Based Community Group I have learned about ways that we, as a church community, can help with disaster/hurricane preparedness. I was impressed with how well- prepared Pinellas County will be when disaster strikes, and we can be a part of this action.

First of all, on **May 20 and 21**, volunteers are needed to assemble hygiene kits and non-perishable foods at the Pinellas County Housing Authority. There are 2 shifts each day: 9-12 and 1-4. This is a huge under-taking and they need all the help they can get. There will be a sign-up sheet following worship for the next three Sundays.

In the meantime, whether or not you can help with the assembling, they *need hygiene items (see the list below) and non-perishable food*. There will be separate containers in the Narthex.

Despite a pandemic, Church of the Isles has continued in our ministry of mission and outreach to those in need. We have never stopped Being Church.

Some of the items needed for the hygiene kits:

First Aid kits, flashlights, can openers, sunscreen, ponchos, wrapped bars of soap, toothbrushes, shampoo/conditioner, disinfecting wipes, duct tape, whistles, playing cards, lg. Zip-Lock bags, and cards/certificates for services.

THE COTI THRIFT STORE needs YOU! Since our re-opening, our thrift store has seen some significant increases in donations and in business! Our income is up, too! The blessing of being able to fulfill this important ministry is immense! We need additional volunteers, both to work when the store is open AND when the store is closed (sorting and organizing and shelving donations) Volunteer training is available, and a variety of hours are possible. Please contact Marty Synnott if you can help! Thanks!