

The New Hope



The Newsletter of IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH DECEMBER 2024

December 2024


WORSHIP SERVICES:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Relaxed worship service with an emphasis on Healing including Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Traditional Book of Common Prayer Holy Eucharist Rite I

Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Celebrate God's grace, goodness and gifts.
Our principal Sunday service is offered with joyful music.
(childcare, church school, healing)

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist and Healing

From the Rector

 Dear Iona-Hope Parish,
 We continue to embark on this Stewardship season, with the theme "Together As One", to pledge our time, talent and treasure to the mission of our beloved Iona-Hope for the year 2025. Our journey of Stewardship will highlight our common purpose as a community in Christ, seeking to love one another and to bless others with all that we are and all that we have to share.
 Together as one, we will hear inspiring messages from our Rector, the Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones on: together as one we gather, together as one we remember, together as one we care, together as one we raise up, and together as one we celebrate. Our five weeks of thoughtful messages will highlight all that we are as a faith community and all that we will become as we walk our next steps together as one.
 We prayerfully ask for your consideration of pledging to our 2025 Stewardship campaign. Pledge cards were emailed (fillable form) this past week and are also available on our website at IonaHope.org under the "Donations" tab. Copies are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary, as well as the table in the Adler Gathering Place.
(Please note, that the fillable form will still need to be printed and mailed or emailed to the office (finance@ionahope.org)).
 We ask that you complete your pledge cards in time for the Thanksgiving Eve service when we will bless the pledges and be thankful for all our many gifts.
 Thank you for all you are and all you do.
 Prayerfully,
 Paula Paquette, Senior Warden, Alison Kinch, Junior Warden
 Joe Mulino, Treasurer



Christmas Supper Club will be held on **Friday, December 13, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Adler Gathering Place, Iona Hope Episcopal Church. Christmas Supper Club is hosted by many of our Iona Hope friends. If you want to host, please contact Ardis.

We are pleased to announce that Frank Torino presents "A Night With the Stars". Frank performs regularly at the Parrot Key in FMB and you are guaranteed a fun filled evening. It is not expected or necessary but any donation towards the entertainment is appreciated.

Attendee's are asked to provide a dish to share. You will be contacted by a volunteer with a category of either appetizer, dessert, or other. BYOB. Water and ice will be provided. Please email ONLY Ardis your reservation at ardisub@gmail.com or call Ardis at 201-988-4345 (emailing is preferred).

The minimum suggested donation to the Hunger Ministry is \$10.00 per person. Please sign up for Christmas Supper Club to support the Hunger Ministry and have lots of Christmas fun with our church family. ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

God's peace and love, Christmas Supper Club Hosts





Remember our Wednesday morning service.

As the busyness of the Fall and holiday season start, our Wednesday morning service offers a quieter more intimate service of communion and healing.

We meet in the Church every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.



Please visit our website

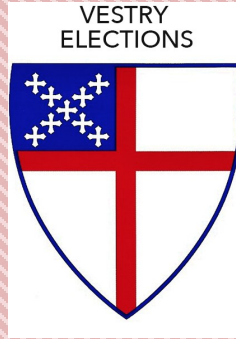
www.ionahope.org

Bulletins, Schedules, Calendars, Weekly Readings, Daily Devotionals and Parishioner Resources are all available at the click of a button.

DECEMBER'S SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUDE:

Canned Fruit, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise
Pancake Mix, Evaporated Milk
Condensed Milk, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
and Canned Vegetables

**** Remember Publix has BOGOs (buy one get one free) every week.*



Your vestry is a key component of the operations and ministry of Iona-Hope according to the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

They are the legal representatives of the parish with the primary functions of overseeing the property (which is held in trust for the Diocese), seeing to the financial state including oversight of the budget and generating funds, and the call and care of the Rector. This is a tall order and requires regular communication and meetings to ensure the accomplishment of these tasks.

Members are elected to the vestry each year to serve a three-year term. At our annual meeting in January we will need to elect four people, who are members of Iona-Hope and have pledged in 2024.

Please consider if you bring the skills, commitment and willingness to stand for election and serve on the vestry. If so, please talk with any vestry member and/or Mother Jenny. Our monthly meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at 3:30 pm. Additionally, we will have at least one vestry retreat each year.



**MONTHLY SUPPER
after the Saturday
night service.**

Please join us for our
first monthly supper
after the Saturday Evening Service on December
7th @ 6:15 P.M.

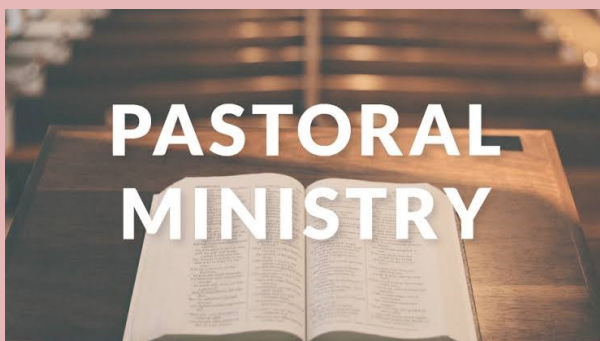
All monetary donations will benefit the
Iona-Hope Animal Ministry!

Meal is provided! All Are Welcome!

If you, a loved one, or a church friend are
physically unable to attend worship, someone
from our "Pastoral Ministry" would be happy to
pay you a visit and bring you Holy Communion.

Please call or email the church office with that
information, or contact Julie Vergin at
ridgeroll@hotmail.com to be added to our Care
Receiver List. We are here to serve you because
Christ served us.

For immediate pastoral needs, please call or email
Mother Jenny at Clergy@IonaHope.org or call her
at (239) 980-3994.



May your holidays

Be happy days

Filled with love

And laughter

And may each day

Bring joy your way

In the year

That follows after!

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

@ 4:15 p.m.



Taizé worship and prayer offer an experience focusing on reflection and reconciliation. This half hour service includes times of silent prayer, scripture readings and simple song. There is no sermon.

The hope is that “in prayer and silence you will be enabled to drink the living water promised by Christ, to know his joy, to discern his presence, to respond to his call, then to set out again to witness to his love and to serve your brothers and sisters.”

Come, stop and find rest and healing for your soul. Come and refresh your spirit.

INTERFAITH GATHERING

The Interfaith Group met on Thursday, November 14th, at Cypress Lake United Methodist Church in Fort Myers.

Senior Pastor, the Reverend Marcus Zillman, educated us on the history of the Methodist Church, and described their practices and beliefs. We are incredibly thankful for his time, as well as the gracious welcome we received from their parishioners.

Learning about one another's religious traditions and practices, and discussing how we have more in common with one another than we think, is an important part of this group. Thank you to all of our attendees from Iona-Hope that were able to attend this evenings meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Temple Judea,
located at
14486 A and W Bulb Rd in Fort Myers on
Thursday December 12th at 7:00 P.M.

All are welcome!

For more information please email Margaret at
MediaDirector@IonaHope.org.



ACS REALM

What is Realm? Realm is an online ministry tool. It helps our church connect with you and you connect with us. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, access your giving statements and add/change your pledge. It can be accessed by computer, tablet or smartphone.

What about my privacy? Realm is safe, private, and secure. Your privacy is one of our greatest concerns. Realm is only made up of the people in your church, it's not like a social network that's open to everyone. Realm keeps your data safe and gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

What about giving? Realm gives you control over your giving. Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. Realm automatically records all electronic gifts and adds them to your giving record making it easy for you to give, and easy for our bookkeeper to track.

Thank you for your continued support of Iona-Hope!



**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
PLEASE
READ**

We want to bring to your attention that we have received several phishing emails that appear to be from Iona-Hope staff as well as parishioners.

We would once again like to remind everyone, to check the origin of the email before responding to any of them.

Remember to be extremely careful when responding to ANY email, especially those that are asking for monetary donations.

If there is any question about an email that you have received, please don't hesitate to contact us at 239-454-4778, or by emailing the church office at office@ionahope.org.

GIFTS TO HONOR

A very meaningful way to thank or recognize a colleague or loved one is by permanently naming a chair in the sanctuary for them. For a cost of \$125.00 which benefits Iona Hope's ongoing facilities and other needs, you can give the gift of a chair, in memory, in celebration, in thanksgiving or to the Glory of God. In acknowledgement for your gift, a card will be sent to the appropriate person(s). For additional information, or if you have any questions, please contact the church office at 454-4778.

How we converse with one another...

Confidentiality ▲ Discuss issues, not people ▲ Equal time (this includes listening, not debating) ▲ Freedom not to participate in conversation ▲ Speak for yourself using "I" statements ▲ One person will talk at a time/No side conversations ▲ We will begin and end on time ▲ No personal attacks/ Respect for each other ▲ Amnesty/No reprisal/ Forgiveness ▲ No one will dominate ▲ Okay to disagree but not be disagreeable ▲ Take care of your own creature comforts ▲ Name tags will be worn at all gatherings.

Altar Flowers

Please support our method of stewardship in our congregation through the Altar Flower Program. The suggested cost for sponsoring weekend flowers is \$50.00. We now utilize beautiful silk arrangements at the altar and your cash gift is now used 100% to help the hungry.

We have many vacancies.

Please pick a weekend!

Please use the flower sign up sheet in The Adler Gathering Place.



The Lectio Divina Group meets every

Monday at 4:30 P.M.

in the office Library of the church office building. The meeting may also be accessed via Zoom.

This is a small group committed to the practice of sacred reading and contemplation of Scripture as well as other inspirational texts, music and art. It's a quiet, meditative practice that invites participants into stillness and personal reflection.

No previous experience is needed, and no preparation is required.

All are invited and welcome to join in this weekly time of slowing down and savoring the joy and wonder all around us.

To learn more, contact

Sandy Blaine

sdblaine1014@gmail.com or

Kathie Hart

kphart85@hotmail.com.



Dec 1	Sarah Craft	Dec 20	Anne Chester Hays
Dec 2	Sherrie Herbst	Dec 21	Mike Leidig
Dec 3	Dorsey Hart	Dec 21	Sandy Blaine
Dec 10	John Thomas	Dec 26	Tim Capel
Dec 11	Case Bowman	Dec 27	Linda Caillier
Dec 12	Pat Weaver	Dec 28	Marly Konstant
Dec 13	Bruce George	Dec 29	Susan Ball
Dec 14	Michele Williams	Dec 31	Jacqueline Lardieri
Dec 15	Kathie Hart		
Dec 18	Pamela Galyean		
Dec 19	Barbara Belmont		
Dec 20	Patty Ingram		

If we're missing your birthday, let us know!

Call the church office 239 454-4778 or e-mail office@ionahope.org

**Donations
are Greatly
Appreciated!**

IONA-HOPE'S ONE MORE TIME THRIFT STORE

A quick hello and welcome back to our returning volunteers. We are gearing up for the joyful holiday seasons.

Our Thrift Store continues to thrive. Please remember us when you have items to donate. We accept all clothes, household goods, furniture and miscellaneous items at the back of the store Monday through Saturday from 10:00 until 3:30. Remember we cannot accept mattresses, TVs, or computer equipment.

Check out our Facebook page to be aware of special sales. We always need people to volunteer helping to sort and price. Stop in and speak with our Store Manager Eileen at 8750 Gladiolus Drive or call her at 239-437-5333 to volunteer for a 3 hour shift, either 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00.



2025 Monthly Planners

Iona-Hope 2025 monthly planners are now available. The actual cost per planner is around \$5.00.

Donations would be greatly appreciated to help cover the cost.



Prayers

If you have a situation that needs prayer, the Prayer Team will be glad to help. Prayer is powerful; we know it can

make a difference. Send your request to us at mooremarilynw@gmail.com

For the monthly "Prayers Of the People" list, please email Margaret with your request to MediaDirector@IonaHope.org or call us in the office at 239-454-4778.

KEEP US UPDATED

Please remember to keep the church office updated on any change of address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Contact the church office at 239-454-4778 or by e-mail at office@ionahope.org

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please let us know.



Core Values

*All are welcome, Openness to risk,
change and growth,
Jesus is model
Strong, real, personal
relationship with Jesus
Disciples making disciples
Mission doing mission*



LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS & LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

God calls all faithful people into ministry and community with one another as the Body of Christ. God also equips all people for these ministries – with that famous variety of gifts, so that we have poets and activists, teachers and engineers, parents and bankers.

Licensed lay ministries are one way that the Episcopal Church lives into the dream of God, where all the saints are called and equipped for ministry, service and love. Those with gifts for compassion might be called to take part in a visiting ministry. Someone with gifts of speaking and teaching may want to explore becoming a lay preacher. Listed here are the specifically licensed ministries named in our canons that lay people might engage in the life of a congregation:

Eucharistic Minister

A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Eucharistic Visitor

A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

If you are currently serving, or would like to serve as a Eucharistic Visitor or Eucharistic Minister please let Mother Jenny know or email Marnie at ionahopeguest@ionahope.org.

Around the Church for Christmas

A History of our Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Paper Bag Pageant

The Paper Bag Pageant has been part of Iona-Hope's DNA since their first Christmas in 1999 when worship took place in the Bridge Club on McGregor near our thrift shop. The beauty of this pageant is that everyone can participate with no rehearsals and very few costumes and just a few props. It perfectly fits with one of Iona-Hope's core values – all are welcome! It appears chaotic but upon close examination the most magnificent story gets simply and truthfully told by people of all ages, shapes, sizes, backgrounds, beliefs and heritage just as it did on the first holy night.

All the costumes and props fit into a paper bag, hence, the name and have been made by various members. But, in 2013, our very own June Lockhart was not happy with the sheep and cow design that she made several years ago. Voila! We have wonderful, new sheep and cows that look awesome and fit well and you can see around the masks. Thank you, June! Gabriel's wings were made by Jim Conti of the Broadway Palm.

For some of our members, the Paper Bag Pageant was the first service they attended at Iona-Hope. They came and never left.

Some folks plan their trips to Fort Myers so they arrive in time to attend our simple pageant which becomes the highlight of their Christmas celebrations. We hope you enjoy our worship together and come back again and again.

**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
YouTube
CHANNEL**

As most of you are aware, our services are available online.

In order to watch the services online you have to subscribe to Iona-Hope's you tube channel. To do this, please visit our website and click on the link on the bottom of our homepage for more instructions.

You can also follow the instructions from our Friday email.

Once you have subscribed and enabled the notifications you will then receive alerts when the services start.



Have you always wanted to learn to knit or crochet? Come and we will teach you. We will supply the yarn and needles and patterns!

Everyone is welcome. We have members who are not members of our church, and members who can not attend the meetings, but send us their completed projects.

We meet every Friday from 10-12 (except Summer time) here at Iona Hope and we'd love to have you join us.

May God's grace be upon this shawl...

warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.

May this mantle be a safe haven...

A sacred place of security and well-being...

sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.

May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

Church Office Closure

The church office will be closed on the following dates. (Dec. 24th—January 7th)
If you need to get into the church, please make sure you arrange with the church office beforehand. Office e-mails will continue to be checked so if you need us please email office@ionahope.org or finance@ionahope.org



Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order your poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas services. Envelopes are on the tables at the back of the church and in the Adler Gathering Place. Please make checks payable to Iona-Hope for \$15.00 per plant. The order deadline is **Friday, December 13**. Please be sure to complete the section marked

“In Thanksgiving For” or “In Memory of”.

You may drop them off in the church office, or put them in the offering plate at church.



Please be sure to write all information on envelope clearly.

JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS



Tis the season of giving and sharing.

We are presenting a Christmas tree covered with “Flakes of Hope” and asking for help to bring some joy

and happiness to neighborhood children who otherwise would not have a nice Christmas.

It’s easy to participate: take a “Flake of Hope” from our Christmas tree and purchase the requested item.

Wrap your item, attach the “Flake of Hope” to the gift and bring it back to the church on or before Tuesday, December 19th.

All gifts must be identifiable with “Flakes of Hope” in order to get them to the right child. If you have any questions, please contact Miriam at ortizmiriam5@gmail.com



The next gathering of the Moving Forward Support Group will be held Thursday, December 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the Adler Gathering Place. If you are in need of support due to caregiving or grieving, please feel free to attend and invite anyone you know who you feel would benefit from our meetings. Attendees do not need to be members of Iona-Hope.



The Iona-Hope Breakfast Group meets every Thursday morning at the Sunflower Café at 8:30 a.m.

11410 Summerlin Square Dr,
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

All are welcome to attend!



Holiday Services



Advent IV

Saturday, December 21st

5:00 p.m.

Traditional healing service with Eucharist featuring praise music. The liturgy is drawn from *Enriching Our Worship, 1997*.

Sunday, December 22nd

8:00 a.m.

Traditional healing service with Eucharist featuring praise music. The liturgy is drawn from *Enriching Our Worship, 1997*.

9:30 a.m.

Traditional healing service with Eucharist featuring praise music. The liturgy is drawn from *Enriching Our Worship, 1997*.

Hanging of the Greens at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. - Paper Bag Pageant

An interactive Christmas Story

With Carols & Eucharist

8:00 p.m. -

Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

9:30 a.m. -

Holy Eucharist

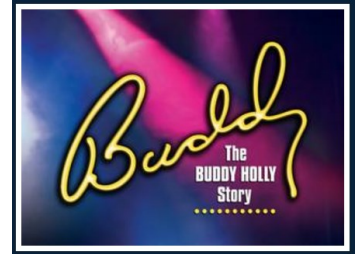
SILENT NIGHT



IONA-HOPE'S SCHEDULED SHOWS FOR BPDT 2025

(Please see weekly bulletins and emails for more info)

More than 50 years after “the music died”, the story of this true rock and roll icon comes to life in this musical journey through Buddy’s impressive rise to fame. Buddy’s original sound and dazzling talent are highlighted with live renditions of his greatest hits. You’ll be dancing in the aisles and cheering for more when you hear over 20 Buddy Holly hits including Maybe Baby, Every Day, Peggy Sue, That’ll be the Day, Oh Boy, Rave On plus Ritchie Valens’ La Bamba and The Big Boppers’ Chantilly Lace.



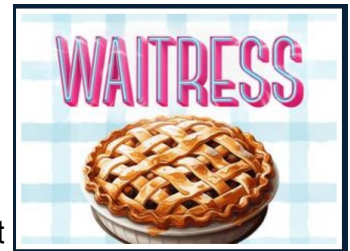
January 16, 2025



This Tony Award-winning musical comedy follows Bobby Child, a young banker who dreams of being a star. Sent to foreclose on a failing theater, Bobby falls for the theater owner’s daughter. To win her heart and save the theater, Bobby disguises himself as a famous Broadway producer, but confusion and hilarity ensue when the real producer shows up, along with Bobby’s fiancée. Gershwin’s hits include I Got Rhythm, Embraceable You, Someone to Watch Over Me and more!

March 6, 2025

The heartwarming musical of Jenna, a small-town waitress with a talent for baking pies. Trapped in a loveless marriage, Jenna finds solace and strength in her pies and dreams of a better life. When she unexpectedly becomes pregnant, Jenna embarks on a journey of self-discovery, supported by her quirky coworkers and a new doctor in town. With a stirring score by Sara Bareilles, Waitress serves up a story of resilience, friendship, and the pursuit of happiness.



April 24, 2025



Ohmigod You Guys! Based on the iconic movie, this ultimate tribute to girl power follows the journey of sorority girl Elle Woods to the Harvard halls of justice. Watch as she tackles stereotypes, chauvinism, elitism, and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. With the help of new friends, Elle realizes her potential and proves that self-discovery never goes out of style! Packed with memorable songs, this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal!

June 12, 2025

Everyone’s favorite orphan is back in this classic musical. As part of a publicity campaign for Oliver Warbucks, Annie and her dog Sandy are placed in the lap of luxury. However, Annie’s stay turns out to be much more than anyone bargained for as she works her way into everyone’s hearts! The only thing standing in her way is the cruel and bitter Miss Hannigan. The popular score includes *It’s the Hard Knock Life*, *Easy Street*, *Little Girls* and *Tomorrow*.



July 17, 2025



**FLORIDA'S PREMIER DINNER THEATRE
BROADWAYPALM**

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church - what does that mean?

Advent -

What does the Advent wreath mean? And why are the candles blue and pink?

The last weekend of November we begin the season of Advent, waiting for God to work His miracles in our hearts, and we change the color to **BLUE**, we can also use the color **PURPLE** since both colors represent seasons of repentance, preparation and contemplation.

Advent: Advent is the first season of the year because it begins the story of the events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Advent refers to the approach or arrival of someone or something and is the season in which we anticipate God's birth into our world. Advent is a time to examine ourselves and our lives and do an inner housecleaning as we make ourselves ready to receive the wonder of Jesus. It is a quiet, contemplative time as we await the majesty of God. Beginning in late November or early December, Advent contains the four Sundays before Christmas Day.

The **Advent wreath**, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of **Advent** in the liturgical Calendar of the Western Church. It is usually a horizontal Evergreen Wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white candle in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading, devotional time and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle which is lit at Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The custom is observed both in family settings and at public church services.

The most popular colors for the Advent candles are violet and rose, corresponding with the colors of the liturgical vestments for the Sundays of Advent. In the Western Church Violet is the historic liturgical color for three of the four Sundays of Advent: Violet is the traditional color of penitential seasons. Rose is the color for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday from the Latin word meaning "to rejoice". In some Protestant churches, the candles represent hope, peace, love and joy. Often the third candle, representing love, is a different color than the other three, representing the importance of love as the greatest of all the qualities that abide eternally.

A personal note, When I asked a Professor at Seminary the true definition of the pink candle, his response was - "Well pink Candle Sunday, is just not as purple as the other Sundays in Advent". This often means we can be less penitential on this Sunday, similar to one Sunday during Lent that is also represented by Pink, and is often called Refreshment Sunday, taking a break from the penitential season.





Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

For these reasons, Iona Hope Episcopal will offer a special "Longest Night" or "Blue Christmas" service on **Thursday, December 19th at 6:00pm**. This gathering provides a space for those who are having a difficult time during the holidays or simply need to acknowledge some pain or loss they are carrying in the midst of this season of celebration.

So come and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence surrounds those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend, neighbor or family member.

What Service do you go to?

Typically, this is one of the most frequent sayings when you meet someone at church for the first time.

Iona-Hope is in the process of updating our parishioner records and we would like this information to be part of our published directory.

Please contact the church office or email office@ionahope.org with your name and the service time you attend and we can begin updating our records.

Wed. 10:00 a.m. Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 8:00 a.m. Sun. 9:30 a.m.

SAFEGUARDING

We are looking at doing another Safeguarding All God's Children training in early 2025.

Per Diocesan guidelines we have to redo this every five years. We are asking who would be interested in doing this training and whether we should do a group training in the Adler Gathering Place or we do it individually from our home computers. Please note, for certain positions held at the church, this training is a requirement.

"Safeguarding " is a program that aims to prevent various types of abuse by educating our leaders of the parish.

Participants learn about:

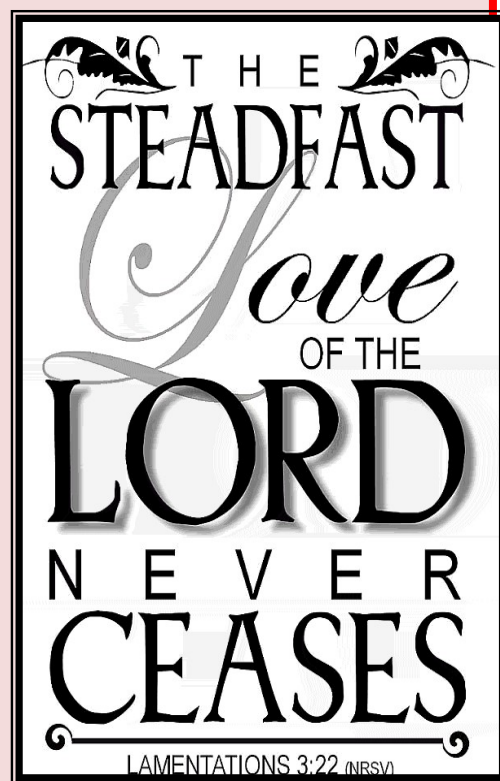
- ◇ Warning signs of abuse
- ◇ How to prevent abuse
- ◇ How to report suspected abuse
- ◇ How to respond to allegations of abuse
- ◇ The methods offenders use to commit abuse
- ◇ Policies and procedures for reporting abuse, screening volunteers and employees, and victim advocacy

Who should participate

The program is for adults who work with children/youth and the elderly including:

- ◇ Clergy
- ◇ Staff
- ◇ Volunteers
- ◇ Vestry Members
- ◇ Church Leaders

For more information or if you are interested in the training please call or email Marnie ionahopequest@ionahope.org



JOIN US BECOME A MEMBER

I Want To Be A Member of Iona-Hope

One of the great joys of ministry at Iona-Hope is when you approach us and say that you want to become a member. Membership in The Episcopal Church can seem a bit complicated, but we assure you that there is a place for you as a member.

Types of Membership

Prospect: This means that you have not indicated a desire to be a member. If you have completed a yellow card and/or made a financial contribution, you will be listed as a prospect and be placed in our parish directory.

Baptized Member: If you were baptized in another church or denomination that baptizes in the name of the Trinity, you can register with Iona-Hope as a baptized member. This membership indicates that you want this to be your spiritual home. It is hoped (not required) that all adult baptized members will be confirmed.

Confirmed Communicant: If you were confirmed by a bishop in The Episcopal Church you can transfer your membership to Iona-Hope as a confirmed communicant. Additionally, if you were confirmed by a bishop in the Roman Catholic or Evangelical Lutheran Churches, you can be received as a confirmed communicant by a bishop in The Episcopal Church. Confirmed communicants are full members who have made a “mature commitment to Christ” with laying on of hands by the bishop. You have voting privileges and can stand for election to the vestry.

Sojourner: This is a special category for Iona-Hope and includes people who want to maintain their membership at another congregation but make Iona-Hope their spiritual home while in Fort Myers. You may be a prospect or member, according to the categories above.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. Mother Jenny would be happy to talk with you about membership at Iona-Hope. If you have not been baptized and want to consider this, please be in touch with us. You can call us at 239-454-4778 or email office@ionahope.org

COLUMBARIUM INFORMATION

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is a structure that is comprised of a group of compartments (known as “niches”) designed to repose cremation urns. Each niche can accommodate two urns.

The columbarium is retained within a wall (known as a housing structure) that is constructed of building materials complementary to the existing architecture of the church, allowing the project to look as if it is an intended part of the physical plant.

What are the benefits of a church columbarium?

Creating a columbarium ministry at Iona-Hope will allow us to fulfill the centuries-old obligation of serving from baptism to death. As the rite of baptism welcomed members into the church community, the centuries-old rite of Christian burial offered congregants a final homecoming and provided comfort to the living, with the knowledge their loved ones were near their spiritual gathering place. A columbarium will revive this churchyard tradition.

- It is a visible sign that the church cares for its members.
- It provides comfort to the family having a memorial to their deceased loved ones at the church.
- It provides a more favorable option as compared to other methods – it is economical, theologically sound and environmentally friendly.
- Offers a convenient way to handle pre-need concerns, relieving the surviving family of difficult decisions.

In addition to meeting these needs a columbarium ministry will strengthen ties between church and family. Family members are more likely to maintain their connection to the church, as visitations are now made easier. No longer will they have to pack up the station wagon and drive to a secular, often distant cemetery to visit a loved one’s final resting place. The family can visit and reflect before or after service.

This ministry unites the church, both past and present. Those who have come before us are once again part of the church and the entire community of faith can join in celebrating Christmas service, Easter sunrise service, weekly Sabbath services as well as weddings and other significant events.



**Please contact the church office for
updated pricing.**



Nurture Body, Mind and Spirit This Christmas Season



As we enter this holiday season there are many opportunities to nurture ourselves amid the hustle and bustle.

With December we gratefully welcome returning sojourners and, unfortunately, the advent of flu season as well. There are many tools at hand to help you protect yourself from the unwanted bug.

- ◇ If you have not already done so, get your flu shot. The vaccine takes about two weeks to become fully effective, so the sooner the better. Local pharmacies, physician offices and the Lee County Health Department all offer vaccination; Medicare and most medical insurance will cover the cost.
- ◇ Keep your immune system healthy: eat a balanced diet, get some exercise and adequate sleep.
- ◇ Reduce your exposure: wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, use the sanitizing wipes offered for shopping carts, keep your distance from those who are ill and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ◇ At church: consider sharing the peace verbally or with a smile or sign rather than a hand shake or hug. Consider communing by intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine) rather than sharing the common cup. Although God's Grace in the sacrament is not at all diminished by dipping rather than sipping, your exposure to an unwanted bug might be.
- ◇ If you feel under the weather: stay home and rest, minimize your exposure to others.

We know that this busy season can be a stressful one and that unmanaged stress can weaken our immune systems and increase our susceptibility to illness.

- ◇ Maintain a familiar routine as much as you are able including your healthy diet, exercise and sleep routines.
- ◇ Remember that you do not need to be all things to all people: learn to say 'no'.
- ◇ A little extra organizing and planning goes a long way to maintaining order and preventing a last-minute rush.
- ◇ Nothing has to be perfect: focusing your energy on the people in your life rather than minute details will make your days more enjoyable.
- ◇ Set aside some quiet time for yourself.

Not all our spirits sing during the holidays. Those who are alone and those grieving a loss may find this time especially isolating and difficult. Some thoughts for those who have suffered loss:

- ◇ Be gentle with yourself. Trust that grieving is the process by which we heal. The holiday season holds many potential emotional triggers. Know that a wide range of emotions are both possible and likely at any given moment and without warning. Do your best to roll with it. Feel no guilt for allowing yourself laughter or tears. Leaning into these moments and allowing space for grieving draws us through the painful times. There is no right or wrong.
- ◇ Set healthy boundaries. If it feels like a good thing to join in an event or invitation, great. If not, it's okay to say no.



The ministry of the people at Iona-Hope is supported by the church staff.



Vestry

**The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf
Bishop**

**Paula Paquette - Senior Warden
Alison Kinch—Junior Warden**

**The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones
Rector**

Members

**Rob Ricca, John Mitchell, Steve Walsh,
Marcia Leidig, Debbie Prather, Linda Griffin**

**Loren J. Strickland,
Music Director**

**Joe Mulino - Treasurer
Thom Price— Assistant Treasurer.
Victoria Lines- Clerk of the Vestry**

**Christine Shirley
Song Bird**

**Marnie Ike, Office/Finance Administrator
Margaret Carr, Media Director**

IONA-HOPE



Episcopal
Church



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next meeting of the **Vestry**
will be

Tuesday, December

17th @ 3:30 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Small Groups:

Leaders:

E-mail Address:

AA 12 Step & Recovery Groups	Margo Farrara Gary Stewart	ryfarrara@comcast.net Stewart8671@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Bob Hunt	bobhunt56@msn.com
Book Club	Trish Kyser	pnks47@comcast.net
Breakfast Club	Bruce George	bfjegeorge@comcast.net
Broadway Palm Evenings	Wanda Adler	wadler44@comcast.net
Choir & Music	Loren Strickland	stricklandlj@hotmail.com
Finance Team/Stewardship	Joe Mulino	joemulinorealtor@gmail.com
Healing Ministry	Trish Kyser	pnks47@comcast.net
Hospitality	Ardis Uberti	ardisub@gmail.com
Hunger Ministry	Julie Vergin	ridgeroll@hotmail.com
Interfaith Group	Margaret Carr	mediadirector@ionahope.org
Justice Ministry (LIFE)	Steve Walsh	spwmcw@gmail.com
Lectio Divina	Sandy Blaine	sdblaine1014@gmail.com
Ministers of Ceremonies	Bob Hunt	bobhunt56@msn.com
Moving Forward Support Group	RuthAnn North	rsnort23@yahoo.com
Office Angels	Wanda Adler	wadler44@comcast.net
Parish Nurse	Julie Vergin	ridgeroll@hotmail.com
Pastoral Ministry	John Swift	jkswift@gmail.com
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Connie Walsh	Conniewalsh286@gmail.com
Readers	Sandy Blaine	sdblaine1014@gmail.com
Spirituality	Paula Paquette	paulapaquette@aol.com
Supper Club	Ardis Uberti	ardisub@gmail.com
Technology Team	Alison Kinch	alison.kinch23@gmail.com
Thrift Shop	Eileen Carrara	encarl@comcast.com
Welcoming Ministry 5:00 pm	Andi Jerger	andijerger@yahoo.com
Welcoming Ministry 9:30 am	Rick Kirkbride	rdk5914@gmail.com

**Many thanks to our group of dedicated office
volunteers, we could not do this without you.**

**Wanda Adler, Susan Crawford, Lorraine Holley, Andi
Jerger, Sue Ryan and Vicky Dawson.**