



Hope Notes: A Letter from your rector-By *The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones*



“Perhaps this coat will bring you good luck and happiness.”

Dolly Parton wrote the lyrics to her song “Coat of Many Colors” in 1969 on the back of a dry-cleaning receipt. The actual means by which she wrote this song matches the meaning of the song itself – sometimes the item that most would simply discard becomes a most treasured item. The song tells the story of how when Parton was a child, living in poverty, her mom was given a box of rags and pieced them together to make Parton a winter jacket while telling the story of Joseph and his special garment. Despite the ridicule of her peers, Parton loved this jacket. “Now I know we had no money / But I was rich as I could be / In my coat of many colors / My mama made for me / Made just for me.”

This song has me thinking about what it means to be the Iona-Hope Family. In our own ways, we are all rags – rough, well-worn, beaten down; and yet each strip is unique with its own stories and experiences. While some might see us as of little value, God sees us as beautiful bits of God’s creation, still filled with life, purpose, and beauty. With God’s loving care, we are pieced together into this congregational family and our beauty and purpose is multiplied in the collective.

What are the things that God uses to stitch us together? I suggest: communal prayer and worship, private prayer for one another, a common sense of purpose and identity, fellowship and ministry work that strengthens relationships, behaviors of love and respect along with a willingness to continually work towards reconciliation with one another. What have you found holds this rag-tag bunch together and what seems to try and tear us apart?

God stitches us together so that we can be “good luck and happiness” – God’s love known and experienced – both to one another but also to the world around us. Together the Iona-Hope Family makes the world rich.

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Monthly Newsletter Committee

Mary Jo Brown, Margaret Carr,
Patty Ingram, Debbie Prather and
The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones

Please submit story ideas to
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The ministry of the people at Iona-Hope
is supported by the church staff:

The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Rector
Mr. Loren J. Strickland, Music Director
Ms. Christine Shirley, Cantor
Mrs. Marnie Ike, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Eileen Carrara, Thrift Store Manager
Ms. Julie Vergin, Parish Nurse
Ms. Margaret Carr, Media Director
Many thanks to our group of dedicated office
volunteers:

Susan Crawford, Vicky Dawson,
Lorraine Holley, Patty Ingram, and
Peggy Hannon.

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Mrs. Patty Ingram-Junior Warden
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Ms. Paula Paquette-Finance Committee
Mrs. Teresa Hufnagel-Clerk Of The Vestry

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Join Us For Our Weekly Services

Wednesday 10:00 A.M. Rite II Holy Eucharist
Saturday 5:00 P.M Rite II Holy Eucharist with Healing
Sunday 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sunday 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Have a story, memory, or reflection you'd like to share
in the newsletter? If the writing part feels daunting or
you prefer to speak your thoughts rather than write
them, we can help. We are happy to converse with you
and transcribe your story. Contact Mother Jenny or
email us at ihopeeditor@gmail.com.

If you have a pastoral need or
emergency, please call or text
Mother Jenny at
239-980-3994.



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.





Lectio Divina-By *Sandy Blaine*

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net



This month's Lectio Divina section is being offered in tribute to American author, poet, farmer and environmentalist, Wendell Berry, who passed away on August 31, 2026. Born on a farm in Kentucky in 1934, Berry remained deeply connected to his home state and agrarian roots his entire life. He left academia at the age of 30 to return to his ancestral home and maintained a farm there for over forty years. He championed small-scale family farming and the importance of strong, connective community. Berry's works center largely on human connection to the land; he was wary and distrusting of technology and industrialized farming. Wendell Berry wrote passionately about rural American life and humans' responsibility to care for the land. A true advocate of environmental stewardship, he viewed the Earth as a sacred gift from God, calling upon mankind to carefully care for our planet and all of its creatures. The poem featured here, by which we remember Wendell Berry, is a strong reminder of our search for peace in this volatile and uncertain world.

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drone
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

The Steps of Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient Christian practice of meditative Scripture reading. It shifts the goal from studying for information to allowing God's word to transform your heart. The four simple, unhurried steps are detailed below:

1. **Lectio (Read)** Read it slowly and attentively, listening for a word or phrase that captures your attention.
2. **Meditation (Reflect)** Read the passage again. Ponder the word or phrase that stood out to you. Repeat it softly in your mind, allowing it to interact with your life, thoughts, and memories.
3. **Oratio (Respond)** Let the Scripture naturally lead you into a conversation with God. Speak to Him honestly about what you just read, whether that means offering thanks, bringing Him a struggle, or asking for grace.
4. **Contemplation (Rest)** Read the passage one final time. Sit in silent, receptive rest in God's presence, letting go of words and allowing His love to transform.

Introduction and Invitation to Taizé at Iona-Hope -By Vicky Dawson

Iona Hope's TAIZÉ (pronounced "tay-zay") Service offers a peaceful, candlelit, 30-minute Sabbath time. This is an ecumenical gathering (no sermon or elaborate liturgy). Taizé is a contemplative experience, a time of unity. Our time together has been to gather by the Jordan River in the sanctuary, in a semi-circle among cylindrical candles. Our format has been as follows: An opening prayer, Sung chant, Silence (5 minutes), Repetitive chant sung, Silence (5 minutes), Repetitive chant sung, A short meditation, Silence (5 minutes), Chant sung, The Lord's Prayer, Closing prayer, Final chant sung.

We are accompanied by Karen Jarbo on guitar and by Helen Gierke on flute. We linger in the quiet of His presence, then depart in silence.

“God understands every human language. Remaining close to him in silence is already prayer: your lips remain closed but your heart is speaking to Him. And by the Holy Spirit, Christ prays in you more than you can imagine.” (Brother Roger of Taizé)



COME, stop and find rest and healing for your soul and refresh your spirit. Tuesday October 13th at 4:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Monthly Prayer From the Book Of Common Prayer-By The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones

The life and ministry of the local church is a beautiful thing but it is not easy. While, when two or more means Christ is present, when three or more are gathered means that there will be drama – or more positively put: when three or more are gathered there will be plenty of opportunities to practice patience and grace. The local and global church needs your prayers, continually. The church's ministries and mission, leaders and parishioners need your prayers. Please pray for the church.

The Book of Common Prayer has a series of prayers for the church on pages 816-819. The first of the series of prayers is “For the Church.” Let us pray.

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen.

Monthly Prayer for Our Small Groups and Ministries: The Healing Ministry

Every month we are invited to focus some of our prayer on one of Iona-Hope's small groups or ministries. In October, we pray especially for the **Healing Ministry Team**. In the Bible Jesus healed many who were sick and he sent out his disciples to continue this work in his name. By laying hands on the sick and anointing them, the disciples witnessed the marvelous power and presence of God. At the Saturday service, individuals are invited to come forward during the service for a time of healing. If you desire healing Sunday Mornings during the 9:30am service, after receiving communion, please proceed to the rear of the church by the River Jordan mural where one of our teams will lovingly pray for you.

Let's pray that as this Team follows their example, we too may experience God's power and presence.

God of all Healing, we lift the Healing Ministry Team of our church to you. We seek for them the health and wholeness that they seek for others. May their private prayer life be strong, that they may be clear, open channels for your healing grace. We thank you for the many blessings you have brought our congregation through these servants of yours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday Worship -By *Richie Worthen*

Recently at a Wednesday morning Communion Service at Iona-Hope, Ronnie and I arrived and quickly got caught up on things with Mother Jenny. We were about to start the service and in came three sisters from North Fort Myers. They entered with great energy; one had recently received a birthday card from Iona-Hope and was so impressed.

The sisters had been to a Sunday service prior to coming in on this particular Wednesday and were really happy because they had a great time at the Sunday service and wanted to get to know more about Iona-Hope.

Then, as we were beginning, Father Charles, who had just retired from St. Hillary's Church, came in as well. Ronnie and I love the Wednesday service for its intimacy and discussion on the week's Gospel. It's a nice service, one that allows us to get engaged in the gospel lesson. Additionally, it offers a close and personal experience in receiving and giving communication to the neighbor in the seat next to you.

The ladies who came from North Fort Myers on this particular Wednesday were looking for friendship, as well as a safe space to converse, share their journey and engage with the Holy Spirit through community and communion. We did all of it with Marilyn via Zoom and Gayla in person.

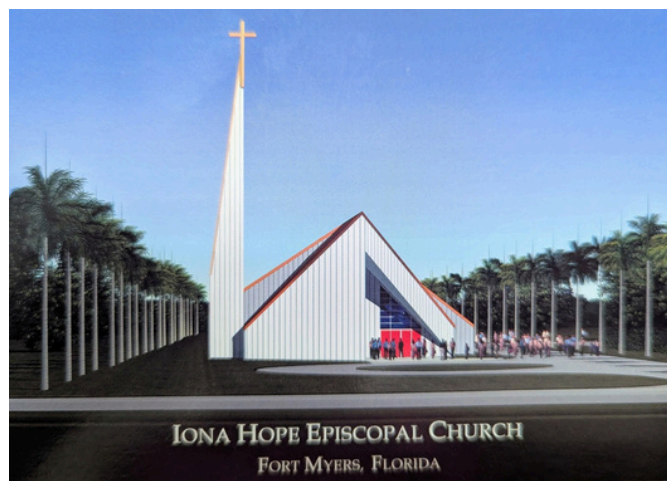
Ronnie and I left church that morning feeling so happy to be part of making new visitors feel welcome. It was also great meeting Father Charles and listening to his feelings about the transition he was going through.

Ronnie and I have always come and participated in the Wednesday morning service when in town. It was one of the first services at Iona-Hope we came to. It has remained through many clergy changes, and it has filled us with hope and joy every time we go. We encourage everyone to find time to come to this service and experience the close companionship of others who attend. It's a great way to learn a bit more about the Gospel for the week and get close up and personal with the Holy Spirit during communion. You will not leave disappointed, we promise.



A look back at the Beginning

The sign advertising Iona-Hope's services at the Bridge Club and a initial postcard with an artist's rendering of the future church to be constructed on Gladiolus Drive Fort Myers.



Diocesan Convocation Hosted by Iona-Hope -By *Patty Ingram*



On September 1st, 2026, Iona-Hope Episcopal Church had the privilege to host the Convocation for the upcoming 58th Annual Diocesan Convention. The Convention will be held on October 9-10 at the Charlotte County Convention Center in Punta Gorda, Florida.

We welcomed Bishop Scharf and his staff, Cannon Norman, Day Spring staff, as well as Clergy and lay leaders from across our area. It was an opportunity to share our hospitality and all welcoming spirit. We are grateful.

In attendance for Iona-Hope were Mother Jenny Scott-Jones, Paula Paquette, Robin Mills (Delegate), Patty Ingram (Delegate), Margaret Carr (Alternate Delegate), and our Senior Warden, Marcia Leidig. Marcia not only attended as a guest, but baked hundreds of cookies for the occasion. Thank you Marcia, the cookies were delicious and very well received! Rounding out our Delegates are Vicky Dawson (Delegate) and Debbie Prather (Alternate Delegate). Although Vicky and Debbie were out of town and unable to attend the Convocation, they will be present at Convention representing our parish.

So, what is a Convocation?

Convocation is the coming together of both Clergy and lay leaders in preparation for the Annual Diocesan Convention. It is an opportunity to connect, share updates, and prepare for the Convention.

We heard from staff at Day Spring, including those from the School of Ministry, Youth and Campus Ministry, and Camp DaySpring. Exciting things are happening at Day Spring! The proposed Diocesan budget was presented, and Bishop Scharf offered a preview of the Diocese's adaptive challenges, sharing some of the opportunities, questions, and changes that will help shape our common life and ministry in the years to come.

In addition, Deaneries conducted elections for representatives for Diocesan Council.

It was not only a very informative meeting, but a chance to meet and speak with others in our surrounding church community. We all left feeling better prepared for Convention.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to host this productive lead-up gathering, and look forward to representing Iona-Hope at the "OneWitness" 2026 Annual Diocesan Convention.

Thank you to all in attendance, and all who helped host this important event.

Hope Chest

A Special Request -By Sheryl Winters, in conversation with *Helen Sadler*

In early 2014, I had a conversation with Father John Adler about our daughter-in-law. Mie was raised Buddhist in Japan and once she came to America, she started taking lessons in Christianity. She had attended Iona-Hope whenever she was in Fort Myers. Sadly, at the time of our conversation, Mie was at home in Minnesota dying of breast cancer.

My husband John and I knew Mie wished to be baptized, and when we approached Father John about it he said, “God knows our intention, we will do it right now.” Father John asked, “Do you have a picture of Mie?” I said yes, and pulled up one on my phone. He immediately got the holy water and, while sprinkling a little of it on her picture, performed an impromptu Rite of Baptism for Mie. He followed up by mailing her a Certificate of Baptism. His quick response brought comfort to our family.

Mie Winters died peacefully on February 12, 2014, knowing she was a baptized member of the Christian Community.



A Serendipitous “Hope Connection”- *By Helen Gierke*

Did you ever feel like you’ve been given a second chance at something that could have happened long ago?

Marcia Leidig (Senior Warden) and Helen Gierke (Finance Committee) first became acquainted last year at a Hunger Ministry Dinner. Amid a lot of chatter, they discovered that Marcia’s family members attended the same Jacksonville grade school as Helen had, although of course, in different decades. Further conversations at church meetings led them to the discovery that they had both attended Arlington Junior High, also in Jacksonville. One question, “when did you graduate?”, confirmed that they had indeed been classmates in eighth grade.

Although they didn’t really know each other back then, they share faint memories of paths crossing. Their home neighborhoods were about two miles apart, and they frequented the same movie theater (\$.35 for Saturday matinees), bowling alley, and the Arlington Plaza Shopping Center. It was a great place to be a kid!

Helen only attended AJH that one year, having moved from Connecticut the summer before, and moving to Wisconsin the summer after. They never really got to know each other. But a few decades later (at least six), they are both at Iona-Hope, working together for the church’s future, and having a second chance to get to know each other. It is truly a small world when we dwell in the family of God!



Helen Gierke



Marcia Leidig

Iona-Hope Is a “Believe Out Loud” Episcopal Congregation - *By Patrick Hunt*



We see this everywhere - on our signs, bulletins and media. What does it mean? “Believe Out Loud” is an inclusive, faith-based movement and online community that affirms LGBTQ+ identities and promotes the coexistence of faith and sexuality. It was founded in 2009 as an initiative of the Cathedral of Hope – United Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas.

The Core Beliefs include the following:

Faith and sexuality can coexist: They believe all people are made in God’s image - beautiful, beloved, unique, and whole - regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Expansive divine love: They advocate for an expansive, transformative understanding of God’s love that welcomes all, including LGBTQ+ individuals.

Justice and equality: They work to influence society to treat all people as equals in families and communities.

They use social media as a platform to affirm the divinity of LGBTQ+ people of faith and allies. They also help them heal from negative messages of people alienating them from access to spiritual resources. Success, progress and a more humane world depend on all of us being able to fully embrace and live out the vastness of what makes our unique self.

You are made in the image of God. Who you are, who you love and how you believe are all reflections of God. God loves all aspects of who you are because all those aspects are of God.

Church is not an organization you join; it is a **family** where you belong, a **home** where you are loved, and a **hospital** where you find healing.

Believe Out Loud is an online community, whether Facebook or YouTube, that affirms and empowers the coexistence for faith and sexuality. When Bob and I joined Iona-Hope thirteen years ago, there were only three Episcopal churches in the entire state of Florida that were members of this organization. That is changing with more joining other communities of faith that support these goals. Iona-Hope, through Rev. John Adler, had been instrumental in supporting and communicating this effort.

Does this make us a Gay Church? No. It increases our welcoming and affirming approach to all people living with the joy of God’s grace. Please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

Giving Thanks ~ A Church Community Full of Love and Support - By Mary Jo Brown

When my husband, Frank, suddenly became ill in July and subsequently passed away, I was lost and overwhelmed with grief. We had no family nearby...or, so I thought. The Iona-Hope family was there for me in innumerable ways, both throughout his brief illness and following his death.

I am thankful to Mother Jenny for coming to the hospital to be of support to me and also to administer the rites of Anointing of the Sick and Ministration at the Time of Death. This act provided us with great peace, as well as deep spiritual and emotional comfort. The consolation extended to me by numerous individuals - whether you were local during the summer months or reaching out from afar - was extraordinary. Your thoughtful cards, kind messages, suggested reading materials, details about the Moving Forward ministry, and countless offers of help have truly sustained me. Through your outpouring of kindness and compassion, I witnessed a living expression of the grace we receive from God; the love of Christ is clearly visible in your hearts and actions.

The funeral service was a deeply moving tribute to Frank. The Adler Gathering Place was set up beautifully by Ardis for the reception. Thank you to all who assisted in the planning and all who participated on that day:

Mother Jenny (Celebrant),

Loren Strickland (Music),

Bob Hunt (Minister of Ceremonies),

Patty Ingram and Marcia Leidig (Ushers),

Margaret Carr (Media), and

Ardis Uberti (Hospitality).

“God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.” - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Thanksgiving for Iona-Hope's Hospitality -By Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones

When asking parishioners and guests what their first impressions of Iona-Hope were, again and again their response has been “the warm welcome.” In this ever-isolating world, finding a place of welcome is so important. I am grateful for the many ways that Iona-Hope makes people feel welcomed and that this place has become a place-of-belonging for so many.

I am grateful for the ways that we show our welcome through our hospitality. I am grateful for the dedicated work of the Animal Ministry who is about to begin a third season of monthly dinners for the Saturday Evening Service congregation. Thank you Cyndi Farmer, Margo Farrara, and Marcia Leidig for their dedication to this ministry.

I am also incredibly grateful for the faithful service of Ardis Uberti who has been leading the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour ministry for many years. Week after week, Ardis arrives well before the start of the 9:30am service to make the coffee and set the table with a lovely arrangement of edibles. And then rushes off before the end of the service so that she can warmly welcome parishioners as they enter the Adler Gathering Place. And I would be remiss in not mentioning the many ways that Bob Earl supports Ardis and this ministry every week. Thank you, Bob. I am grateful for Ardis for more than just her service to Coffee Hour. I appreciate how I know I can always call her to ask for help any time we need to host a reception. She is always more than happy to help. Thank you, Ardis, for your display of loving hospitality. Thank you to everyone for making Iona-Hope a place of welcome for so many.



Helpful Updates



Vestry Voice-By *Debbie Prather*

Vestry met on Thursday, September 17th at 4:30 p.m. via zoom, opening with prayer.

A great deal of time was spent reviewing the audit results and necessary actions. The audit was filed with the diocese in a timely manner. A review of some policies and best practices will be completed.

The thrift store continues to do very well. Reinstallation of the door between the shop and the warehouse was approved. Eileen requested additional advertising for the holiday season. It was suggested that the recipients of our grants be asked to mention the thrift shop in all their communications.

A committee was formed to review how we communicate with each other, consolidating many documents that have been created through the years. A discussion on how we develop our discipleship was started.

At 6:30 PM Bishop Scharf and Canon Norman joined our meeting to guide, direct and inspire us as we move forward. Their support of Mother Jenny, the vestry and the wardens was very heartfelt and extremely meaningful to all of us. Thank you, Bishop Scharf.

The next Vestry meeting is October 29th at 5:00 P.M. (Meetings will resume in person with a Zoom option)

Finance Committee News-By *Helen Gierke*

The annual audit of the finances of Iona-Hope was completed on September 1st.

A big “Thank You” to the Audit Committee volunteers, Valerie Gavin, Peggy Hannon, and Char Nelson for their generous gifts of time and energy.

One of the recommendations from the audit is to reinstate the practice of the “Third Sunday” plate offering for the Discretionary Fund. This fund is an important part of the church’s outreach to those in need and the monthly giving is a directive in the Canons of the Church. So remember to keep your wallet slim and bring those pesky spare bills to put in the offering plate on the third Sunday of each month!

REVENUE	August 2026	August 2025	Aug 2026 YTD	Aug 2026 Budget YTD
Total	\$17,852.92	\$60,781.38*	\$444,107.70	\$334,015.82
EXPENSES	August 2026	August 2025	Aug 26 YTD	Aug 26 Budget YTD
Total	\$39,146.44	\$38,840.84	\$429,405.36	\$403,745.28

* Includes a \$50,000 contribution from the Thrift Store

Total Pledge 2026 \$292,843.96

Pledges received so far this year \$ 230,487.27

Pledge Balance for 2026 \$62,356.69

From your Finance Committee,

Helen Gierke, Robin Mills, Paula Paquette; and Marcia Leidig as Vestry Representative.

Stewardship

Greetings, Iona-Hope members and friends! November is our annual time of stewardship; we are currently preparing for our 2027 church year mission.

The theme this year is: One Body, One Mission, One Church.

Toward the end of October, you will receive in the mail a letter of invitation outlining this year's stewarding time, highlighting the November readings in church, and providing information on how to create your estimate of giving for the coming year.



To begin the month of stewardship and welcoming back our returning sojourners, we will again have a **Homecoming Family Picnic on November 1st**. This opening weekend — which is also All Saints' Day — focuses on **Remembering God's Faithfulness**. In the weeks that follow, our weekly themes will guide us: week two focuses on **Receiving God's Gifts to Us**; week three invites us into **Responding in Gratitude**; and week four has us **Rejoicing in God and our shared ministry**. Guided by our Rector, Jenny Scott-Jones, we step forward in faith and unity into our next 25 years as one church body.

Iona-Hope stands as a witness and a testament to what can be accomplished by a church body working as one to bring the love of Christ to the world. We started as a church plant 25 years ago and we evolved into a church entity that provides much to many through our church services (four per week) for healing, sacraments, and spreading the good news of Christ, as well as the One More Time Thrift Store organization grants and donations made to individuals in need through the thrift store. Additionally, recovery ministries meet in the church facilities, our pastoral care team provides home visits to those who need our presence, Mother Jenny visits the sick, the marginalized, the lonely, and those in need of witness. Many, many groups, activities, and efforts meet on and off campus to bring us together and provide comfort and care.

We are disciples of Christ. Our witness to that truth is known by the works we do and the presence we give.

You are called to be a partner in that work — as a financial steward, as a volunteer, as a voice at worship, continually lifting up prayer, praise, and glory to God.

We are: **One Body, One Mission, One Church.**

Respectfully,

Helen Gierke, Robin Mills, & Paula Paquette

Stewardship Team for 2027

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

Weekly in-person attendance includes Wednesday Morning, Saturday Evening and Two Sunday Morning Services.

August 26-30: 73

September 2-6: 73

September 9-13: 70

September 16-20: 61

September 23-27: 74

Average Weekly Attendance for:

September 2026: 70

September 2025: 69

September 2024: 102

The Diocesan Convention will take place

October 9th thru the 10th at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center in Punta Gorda. Please pray for our delegates, diocesan staff and all who attend.

Upcoming Events

TAIZÉ WORSHIP: THE LIGHT RETURNS

Tuesday, October 13th
4:00 PM

Join us Tuesday October 13th at 4:00 P.M.
in the sanctuary for our next
Taizé Service.

It is a simple, meditative form of worship,
calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's
presence around and within us. Mantra
songs, prayerful silence, and short
readings guide the focus of the prayer in
a candle-lit environment.

BINGO
Iona-Hope
Episcopal Church

FUN, SNACKS, PRIZES!
\$25.00 FOR 3 CARDS
CARDS GOOD FOR 10 GAMES
DOORS OPEN 6:00/GAMES 6:30
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 2026

9650 Gladiolus Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33908

MUST BE 18 TO PLAY



Our next **Interfaith Discussion group** will
take place **October 22nd at 6:30 P.M.** at
Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Thursday, October 22nd, 6:30-8:00 P.M.



Bill Zeeb and Larry Giltman will lead the
discussion. However, all participants will be
invited to contribute to our dialogue.

**Topic: "What are the core beliefs of
our religion- and what does it teach
and require of us?"**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

At all three services on October 31st & November 1st, we are celebrating All Saints Day. This is a time to remember all our loved ones who have died. A digital slideshow presentation will be created with photos. If you would like us to scan a picture to include, please bring it by the church Tuesday–Thursday 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. or email them to MediaDirector@IonaHope.org. All emails and scans must be received in the church office by noon on Tuesday, October 27th. We will be setting up a table in the back of the church and we invite all of you to bring a photo of someone you wish to remember. All photographs will be placed on this table. If possible, please limit the size to no larger than 5" x 7".



Please submit the first names of all the people who have died (Friends, family, neighbors, etc.) if you would like them remembered at the All Saints services. Please get your submissions to the church by noon on Thursday, October 22nd. Please do not forget to pick your picture up after the weekend services.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 13th **Linda Giarla**
October 14th **Helen DeMartini**
October 17th **Donna Kress**
October 23rd **Tyler Morales**
October 25th **Helen Gierke**
October 28th **Christine Shirley**
October 29th **Skip Loughrey**
October 30th **Peggy Hannon**



If we do not have your birthday and you would like to see your birthday in the Monthly Newsletter, Weekly Email, and announcements, please contact the office at 239-454-4778 or email us at office@iona-hope.org and provide your information.

Faith, Food, and Friends

The Gladiolus Food Pantry (GFP) is a lifeline for many in our neighboring communities, as we know. Because meeting these tremendous needs requires continuous awareness, we will often offer updates in this newsletter featuring GFP's greatest needs, special events, news, and statistics as we work together to strengthen the important bond between Iona-Hope and GFP.



October's Greatest Needs:
Strawberry & Grape Jelly
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Spaghetti O's
Canned Raviolis.



Animal Ministry Dinners Resume!

Get ready for dinner! Our Animal Ministry dinners will resume on October 3rd after the 5:00 P.M. service. If you attend one of our Sunday services, we would love for you to join us. Dinner starts about 6:15 P.M. Our menu that evening will be pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, twice baked potatoes, and coleslaw, with iced tea and dessert. Our suggested donation is \$10.00 per person. Profits from these dinners go to help with vet bills when needed, help with food and pet supplies as needed, whether for an individual or an animal facility.



Thanks to your generous donations of food and supplies placed in our basket at the back of the sanctuary, we were able to fill the back of an SUV and deliver all of it to the Team Moose Rescue. This is primarily a dog rescue, with no shelter, all foster homes. These dogs have been abused, neglected, abandoned, injured, or otherwise traumatized and homeless. We feel that this is a worthy recipient for our efforts, just as Dockery's Amazing Rescues is for cat supplies.



We will continue collecting both dog and cat supplies every weekend, and when we have a full load we will deliver to the appropriate facility. Thank you for caring for All God's Creatures. See you at dinner!

It's time once again for our annual **Blessing of the Animals on October 4th, at 1:00 P.M.** Bring your dog, cat (if you dare), chicken, or whatever pet God has blessed you with. Mother Jenny will lead a prayer for them, and bless each one present. If you are not able to bring your pet in person, bring a picture (or pull one up on your phone) and she will still get the job done. This is one of the most joyous events of the year, so don't miss it!



Trunk or Treat with Gladiolus Food Pantry

The Gladiolus Food Pantry is starting a new Halloween tradition for the Harlem Heights Neighborhood this fall: A Trunk or Treat event. Trunk or Treat is an alternative way for children to go trick-or-treating, providing a more safe and secure location. A number of vehicles will park in the GFP parking lot, decorate their trunks, and distribute candy as the kids go from vehicle to vehicle collecting an unhealthy amount of sugar and other lovely treats on Halloween.



Iona-Hope is looking for three vehicles, preferably with hatchbacks, a few creative decorators, 10+ volunteers, and donated candy (collected before the event). Please share your interest with Mother Jenny at clergy@ionahope.org.



Homecoming Family Picnic

Let's get together! It's that time of year when we celebrate our coming back together as one. Welcome back to all those who are returning to the area! This year we will celebrate with a potluck BBQ. Food, fun, games, music, and fellowship. A fine time to catch up, so save the date... **November 1st**, following the 9:30 A.M. service. Please sign up to bring a food, beverage, or other needed item. Sign up sheets are in the back of the church and in the Adler Gathering Place. Come one, come all!

The October Book Club selection is *My Name is Emilia Del Valle*, by Isabel Allende.

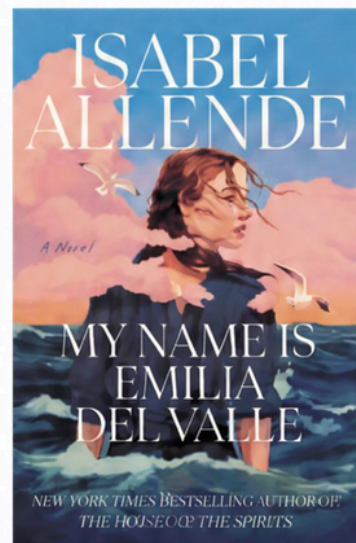
In San Francisco in 1866, an Irish nun, abandoned following a torrid relationship with a Chilean aristocrat, gives birth to a daughter named Emilia del Valle. Raised by a loving stepfather, Emilia grows into an independent thinker and a self-sufficient, young woman.

To pursue her passion for writing, she is willing to defy societal norms. At the age of seventeen, she begins to publish pulp fiction using a man's pen name. When these fictional worlds can no longer satisfy her sense of adventure, she turns to journalism, convincing an editor at The Daily Examiner to hire her. There she is paired with another talented reporter, Eric Whelan.

As she proves herself, her restlessness returns, until an opportunity arises to cover a brewing civil war in Chile. She seizes it, as does Eric, and while there, she meets her estranged father and delves into the violent confrontation in the country where her roots lie. As she and Eric discover love, the war escalates and Emilia finds herself in extreme danger, fearing for her life and questioning her identity and her destiny.

A riveting tale of self-discovery and love from one of the most masterful storytellers of our time, *My Name Is Emilia del Valle* introduces a character who will never let hold of your heart.

We will meet to discuss **My Name is Emilia Del Valle** from 12:30-2:00 P.M. on **Friday, October 9th** in the Adler Gathering Place. Please call **Helen Sadler 239-218-5466** if you have any questions.



Welcome to the
2026-2027 Season!



9-5 Thursday November 12th

5:30pm Dinner 7:30pm

Dinner & the Show are only \$70.00.

Sign-up sheets are located in both the
sanctuary & in the
Adler Gathering Place.

PAYMENT IS DUE AT SIGNUP

All Reservations due by October 25th



JOIN US EVERY THURSDAY
MORNING AT 8:30 A.M.
FOR BREAKFAST &
FELLOWSHIP AT

THE SUNFLOWER CAFE
11410 SUMMERLIN SQUARE
FORT MYERS BEACH

Join Us in the Adler Gathering Place
after Sunday's 9:30 A.M. service for
coffee & fellowship!



JOIN US FOR MAHJONG & FELLOWSHIP

Every Monday from 1:00 until 3:00 P.M. the Mahjong Group meets at Iona-Hope!

If you have any questions please reach out to Teresa Hufnagel at 847-840-5515.



WEEKLY EMAIL

Every Friday we send out a weekly email with upcoming events and information about

Iona-Hope. If you would like to receive our weekly email, please contact the church office.

(239) 454-4778 or email Margaret at MediaDirector@IonaHope.org



MIDWEEK EUCHARIST SERVICE

Join us at Iona-Hope for our Midweek Eucharist Service every Wednesday morning at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary.

If you're unable to join in person you can join via Zoom! Meeting ID 834 1354 0376 Passcode 925852. All Are Welcome!



CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you're new to Iona-Hope or have never had your picture taken for our church directory, please see Margaret Carr and she'd be happy to capture your smile. We love matching names with faces. It's a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners!

Email her at MediaDirector@IonaHope.org or see her before or after the service.

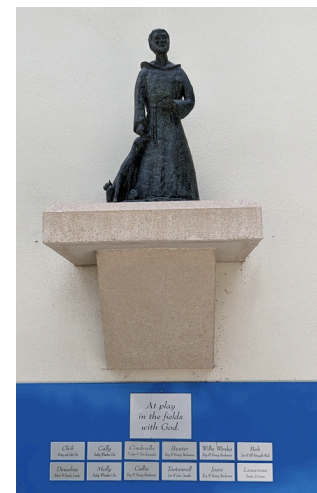


PET MEMORIAL WALL

"At play in the fields with God"

We have plaques available for the Pet memorial Wall. If you are interested in adding your pet's name to the wall, the forms are located on the table at the rear of the sanctuary, as well as being available for download on our website.

You can also contact the office at 239-454-4778, or email us at office@IonaHope.org, and we will email you the form. The cost is \$35.00 per plaque.



OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				8:30am - Iona+Hope	6pm - AI-Anon	7:30am - AA-Closed @ 5pm - Service Holy 8:15pm - Annual Mtn.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8am - Rite I Euch. 9:30am - Service Rite II 1pm - Pet Blessings	1pm - Matyong Group	6pm - AA Meeting	10am - Rite II Holy	8:30am - Iona+Hope 5pm - Vestry Discearnment	8am - Convention 12:30pm - Book Club 6pm - AI-Anon	7:30am - AA-Closed @ 8am - Convention 5pm - Service Holy
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8am - Rite I Euch. 9:30am - Service Rite II	Columbus Day 1pm - Matyong Group	1pm - Pastoral Ministry 6pm - AA Meeting	10am - Rite II Holy 6:30pm - Bingo!	8:30am - Iona+Hope	6pm - AI-Anon	7:30am - AA-Closed @ 5pm - Service Holy
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	1pm - Matyong Group	6pm - AA Meeting	10am - Rite II Holy	8:30am - Iona+Hope 6:30pm - Interfaith Group	6pm - AI-Anon	7:30am - AA-Closed @ 5pm - Service Holy
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1pm - Matyong Group	6pm - AA Meeting	10am - Rite II Holy	8:30am - Iona+Hope 5pm - Vestry Meeting	6pm - AI-Anon	2am - Daylight Savings 7:30am - AA-Closed @ 5pm - Service Holy 5:30pm - Trunk Or Treat @