

# The New Hope



The Newsletter of IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH DECEMBER 2019

**December 2019**

**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)

**Tuesdays—9:30 a.m.**

Morning Prayer in Spanish

**Wednesdays**

**9:30 a.m.**

Holy Eucharist and Healing

\*\*\*\*\*  
*From the Rector*  
 Seasons Greetings.  
 Welcome to Advent. As one who did not grow up observing Advent, it has been a wonderful discovery. I fell in love with the Advent carols, the readings from scripture and the prayers. I look forward to this season more than any other except Easter. One of my great discoveries about Advent mirrors a discovery regarding the Anglican tradition. Both involve holding different thoughts, feelings or understanding in tension. Whereas there are many examples of this in Anglican tradition, the two aspects of Advent that hook me are that it invites us to wait and anticipate. Through readings and music, we hear of the coming of the Messiah and despite all that we desire, no one can make it happen any sooner than it will happen. Nevertheless, we anticipate his arrival.  
 It is holding both aspects, waiting and anticipating, that fuel my emotional connection to this season and bring my excitement at celebrating the birth of Christ. It renews my sense of hope. May you find a renewed sense of hope during Advent and Christmas as we wait, anticipate and, ultimately, celebrate.  
 Peace, Ray  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Coming in Advent - Theology and the Movies is back!!**

“Christmas and the Movies.”

Join us Wednesday nights in Advent for a “Christmas at the Movies” program. We will gather each week, watch a movie and then have a short discussion.

Popcorn provided!! Everyone welcome! Bring a friend!

Wednesday, December 4 – “A Christmas Memory”

Wednesday, December 11 – “Joyeux Noel”

Wednesday, December 18 – “Nativity”

Program begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Church! Everyone welcome to any or all the movies!



## Caregivers Connect

Caregiving for a family member either short or long term brings both challenges and rewards. Join with us as we explore how to support one another on this journey. *Caregivers Connect* will meet again on Thursday, December 5th, from 9:30-11:00am and the **first Thursday of the month thereafter**. We look forward to this being an upbeat and supportive group for all. Group meets in the multi-purpose room.



Please visit our website

[www.ionahope.org](http://www.ionahope.org)

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



# THE SOUNDS OF *Christmas*

**BPDT—Thursday, December 12, 2019 – Sounds of Christmas**

Sounds of Christmas is perfect for everyone and will remind you why this is the most joyous time of the year! Bring your family and friends as we celebrate the season with festive production numbers, beautiful dancing and dazzling costumes! You'll hear over 30 holiday songs you know and love including Deck the Halls, We Wish You A Merry Christmas, Silent Night, Jingle Bells, Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree and more. And this holiday extravaganza wouldn't be complete without a visit from the big guy himself...Santa Claus!

To sign up for this performance please contact the church office during normal business hours (239) 454 4778, or by email at [office@ionahope.org](mailto:office@ionahope.org). Tickets are \$50.00 per person and payment is due when you call. Please do not put checks in the plate and expect to have a seat. You are not guaranteed a seat until you speak with someone in the office or send an email and you have received a response back. Thank you.



The 2020 contribution envelopes will be available at the back of the church soon. The envelope boxes are listed in numerical order.

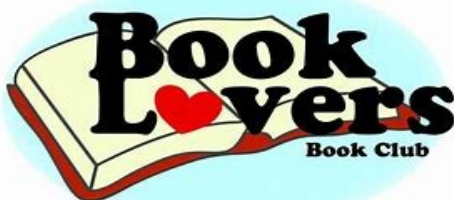
An alphabetical list with the corresponding envelope number has been provided in case you have forgotten your number.

If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please email or call the church office. Un-assigned envelope boxes are also available. Please make sure to fill out all information on the sign up sheet so all contributions are credited accordingly.

**If you no longer require these envelopes, please contact the church office so they can be assigned to someone else..**



*Merry Christmas*



Dear Iona-Hope Bookies:

**Christmas Luncheon:**

We have a reservation at the above restaurant (by the church) on **Friday, December 20th at 1 p.m.**

Our reservation is for 10 people. No need to respond if you are coming. We can always add an extra chair if you bring a friend.

**Thanks everyone for a great year!!**

*Sherry Winters, Iona-Hope Book Club Leader*



## SAVE THE DATE

MARDI GRAS- FEB. 21, 2020

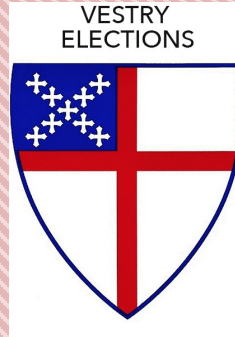


## VESTRY MEMBERS - 2019

Joe Mulino	<u>Senior Warden</u>
Ray Zentis	<u>Junior Warden</u>
Deborah Prather	<u>Treasurer</u>
John Thomas	<u>Assistant Treasurer</u>
Paula Paquette	<u>Clerk to the Vestry</u>

### Vestry Members

Andi Jerger, Margo Farrara, Steve Walsh, Robin Mills, Bob Earl, Deborah Prather, Patty Ingram,



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.

Three 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 three people, who are members of Iona-Hope and have pledged in 2019. We would like to have a full slate of six persons to stand for election at our annual meeting.

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 Fr. Ray. Our monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm. Additionally, we will have at least one vestry retreat each year.



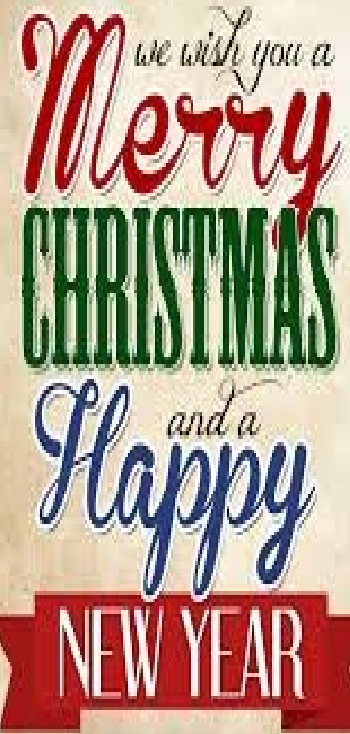


**We are looking for  
sponsors to help  
offset costs for our  
Mardi Gras Celebration.**

If you have a connection with someone who owns a business, please consider asking them to be a sponsor. Levels range from \$250 to \$1000 and include publicity and other perks for the sponsor before and during the event. A "supporter" level with \$100 donation is also available.

Covering our costs will allow us to donate the maximum amount possible to our beneficiary – Hope Kids Care.

Please contact Rob Ricca or Nancy Buchanan if you think you can help.



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!



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 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Group also continues once a month. Our prayer group meets the first Wednesday of every month, 9:00 a.m. in the Church. We meet and pray together for all of those on our prayer list and anyone else who has asked for prayers, Everyone is welcome to join Mother Suzy and the prayer group. If you have a prayer request, please speak to her or call the Church office.



**Upcoming prayer group meetings -**

December 4. 9:00 a.m. in the Church.

Greetings.

Our scheduled start date for our construction project is December 2. We have received our permits and had our pre-construction meeting. Shortly, Compass Construction will block access to parking areas beyond the walkway from the library. Please reserve parking places near the church for those with mobility needs and visitors. There is ample parking for the rest of us in the library parking lot.

The first phase of construction will be to convert the current multi-purpose room into the new gathering place. We will be constructing a patio outside of the new gathering place at the same time to allow for expanded seating area during season. After the beginning of 2020, the new office and library buildings will be brought in and connected to the existing office area. Only after the new gathering place is constructed and we have a certificate of occupancy will the current gathering place be removed, and the columbarium and labyrinth be constructed.

We will have various temporary inconveniences during this time, and we will try to give you advanced notice.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and all that you do in ministry through Iona -Hope.

Ray+



Our scheduled start date on the multi-purpose room will begin on or around December 2nd. Please remember the following.

- \* If our office door is closed, assume that it means “do not disturb” unless we have put a sign on the door indicating otherwise.
- \* If you are unsure, please knock and enter only when invited. Our offices have glass panes so that you can see us.
- \* Do not be offended if we place white noise machines outside our doors. Sometimes our conversations with people require that we maintain confidentiality and this helps to mask our voices.
- \* Please, whenever possible, call ahead for a time to meet with us, even if it is brief. If it is during office hours, we will meet with you if time permits. We give priority to folks on our schedules.
- \* Additionally, please understand that we have various community groups and internal groups meeting in limited spaces. Often, these require privacy or confidentiality. If the door (s) entering a room is (are) closed, please assume that this is for privacy or confidentiality and do not enter. This is especially true of the multi-purpose room.



## **Iona-Hope Quiet Days 2019-2020**

Please mark your calendars now for the Quiet Days which will be held at Iona-Hope this coming program year. Father Ray Buchanan presents topics which relate to the seasons of the church and the seasons of our lives. Please plan to attend these very meaningful days and enjoy the opportunity to pause for a moment of quiet reflection in your busy life.

**Saturday, December 7**—Advent Quiet Day  
**Saturday, February 29** - Lenten Quiet Day  
**Saturday, May 2** - Spring Quiet Day

All Quiet Days begin at 10:00 am with coffee and a light breakfast available at 9:30 am. Lunch is served at 12 noon. Quiet Days conclude at 2:00 p.m.



## 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.



## Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Florida

collects pop tabs instead of the entire aluminum can because the tabs are pure, high quality aluminum and are easier to store. Pull tabs are a simple way to recycle and help the House. Some interesting facts about the program:

- We receive the going rate for aluminum, which changes as the demand changes - varying from rates of 23 to 52 cents per pound on any given period.
- We average about 450 pounds every 10 days, or approximately \$234.
- Every penny helps families stay at the House -- \$10 pays for one family for one night!
- Approximately one million pull tabs = 800 pounds
- Approximately 1,430 pull tabs = one pound
- Approximately 63,360 pull tabs = 1 mile

**Please pass the word to friends, neighbors, business, etc. Please remember to drop the tabs in the designated receptacles in the church and Adler Gathering Place. For more information please call 239 437-0202 or stop by the House at 16100 Roserush Ct, Ft. Myers.**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 1	Sarah Craft	Dec 18	Carol Hehir
Dec 5	Charmian Buhrandt	Dec 19	Barbara Belmont
Dec 8	Arne Anderson	Dec 20	Patty Ingram
Dec 10	John Thomas	Dec 21	Mike Leidig
Dec 11	Case Bowman	Dec 26	Tim Capel
Dec 12	Pat Weaver	Dec 27	William Roberts
Dec 13	Bruce George	Dec 29	Susan Ball
Dec 13	Joan Sammons	Dec 29	Mary Trettenero
Dec 14	Michele Williams	Dec 31	Jacqueline Lardieri
Dec 16	Ray Buchanan		
Dec 18	Pamela Galyean		

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec 12	Ed & Ann Fawcett
Dec 16	Corey & Pat Chamness
Dec 18	Tom & Debbie Prather
Dec 29	Howard & Helen DeMartini
Dec 29	Joseph Smith & Trish Kyser
Dec 30	Thomas & Barb Pastorius

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

Call the church office  
239 454-4778 or  
e-mail

[office@ionahope.org](mailto:office@ionahope.org)



## IONA-HOPE'S ONE MORE TIME THRIFT STORE

Our Thrift Store continues to thrive in the heat of summer. 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. Call Cindy at 239-489-3910 to volunteer for a 3 hour shift, either 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00.

We thank you very much for your donations as the proceeds help to support our community outreach goals.

Donations  
are greatly  
Appreciated!

### 2020 Monthly Planners

Iona-Hope 2020 monthly planners are now available. The actual cost per planner is \$4.00. Donations would be greatly appreciated to help cover the cost.



### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next meeting of the Vestry will be

Tuesday, December 10th at 5:00 P.M.

### ALL ARE WELCOME

Finance Team Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12th at 11:30 a.m.



### 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](mailto:office@ionahope.org)

## 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*



I pledge my support

We will NOT be mailing out contribution reports this year. If you would like to see your statement or check pledge balances, please contact Marnie in the church office and she will mail or email you one. Thank you for your continued support of Iona-Hope.

Annual contribution reports will be mailed at the beginning of January.



## Please continue to donate your old mascara wands!

All God's Creatures recently donated 126 wands collected from you to

**Wands for Wildlife®**  
**RECYCLE & SAVE WILD LIVES!**

**Please save your old mascara wands, wash them in soapy water to remove residual mascara, then drop them in the container under the All God's Creatures bulletin board in the Gathering Place.**

**Please *do not* purchase new wands.**

The program was set up to recycle and re-purpose old wands.



We are looking for welcomers and ushers at all 3 services. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 239 454 4778 or [office@ionahope.org](mailto:office@ionahope.org) for more information.

## BRIDGE GROUP

**Welcome back. Our northern bridge buddies are back in sunny, warm Ft. Myers. We will not be meeting in December.**

**As always, I will call to remind our players of the date and time. If you are interested in joining us, please call Charlie Champlin.**



# 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT IONA-HOPE

**Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4:30 p.m.**

Advent Taize Prayer Service

**Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.**

“Christmas at the Movies”  
Advent Program

**Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.**

“Christmas at the Movies”  
Advent Program

**Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.**

“Christmas at the Movies”  
Advent Program

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.**

Advent Quiet Day

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.**

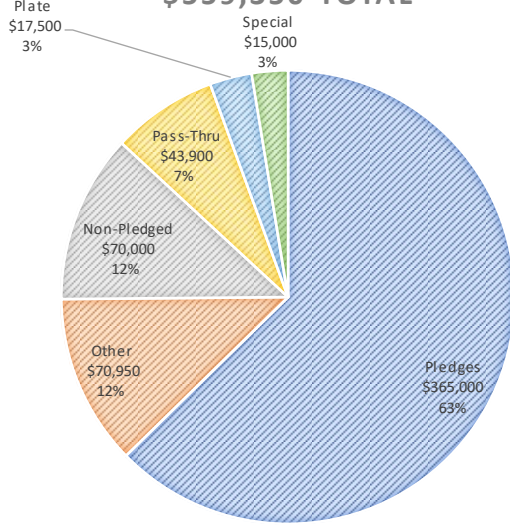
Blue Christmas Service

## IONA-HOPE BOOK CLUB CALENDAR – 2020

The following books were selected at the November 2019 meeting for the upcoming year:

January 17	<b>Unsheltered</b> by Barbara Kingsolver – 464 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Beth Harper
February 21	<b>The Education of Little Tree</b> by Forrest Carter – 228 pages Discussion Leader: Joe Harper
March 20	<b>Hillbilly Elegy</b> by J.D. Vance – 257 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Jane Buster
April 17	<b>Daughter of Fortune</b> by Isabelle Allende – 432 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Jo Brown
May 15	<b>Lincoln’s Last Trial</b> by Don Abrams, David Fisher - 320 pages Discussion Leader: John Winters
June 19	<b>Lost Girls of Paris</b> by Pat Jenoff – 384 pages Discussion Leader: Muriel Butler
July 17	<b>Wide Awake &amp; Dreaming: Memoir</b> by Julie Flygare –213 pages Discussion Leaders: Sherry and John
August 21	<b>The Music Shop</b> by Rachel Joyce – 306 pages Discussion Leader: Sherry Winters
September 18	<b>The Library Book</b> by Susan Orlean – 336 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Beth Harper
October 16	<b>The Only Woman in the Room</b> by Marie Benedict – 256 pages Discussion Leader: Trish Kyser
November 20 December 18	Selection of books for 2021 Holiday luncheon

**2020 PROJECTED REVENUE  
\$559,350 TOTAL**



**2020 Revenue**

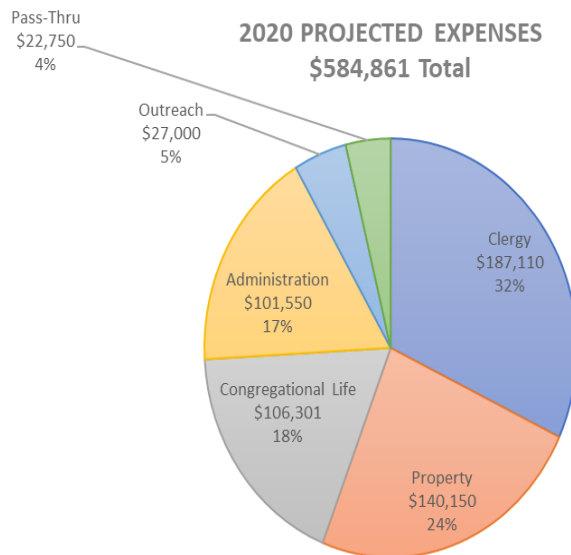
Pledged	\$365,000
Other	\$70,950
Non-Pledged	\$70,000
Pass-Thru	\$43,900
Plate	\$ 17,500
Special	\$15,000

# SHINING OUR LIGHT

**2020 Expenses**

Clergy	\$187,110
Property	\$140,150
Congregational Life	\$106,301
Administration	\$101,550
Outreach	\$27,000
Pass-Thru	\$22,750

**2020 PROJECTED EXPENSES  
\$584,861 Total**



**ALL  
ARE  
WELCOME**

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
YouTube  
CHANNEL**

As most of you are aware we recently upgraded our Audio/Visual system in the church. The new system enables us to stream our weekend services live. We are in the process of testing this out.

In order to watch the services online you have to subscribe to Iona-Hope's YouTube 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 the week after Christmas. (Dec. 26th—January 3rd) If you need to get into the church, please make sure you arrange with the church office beforehand.



### ***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 17th.

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](mailto:ortizmiriam5@gmail.com)

**Women’s Breakfast Group—**

We would love to have you join us at Eggcetera on 16230 Summerlin Road Tuesday mornings at 8:30 A.M. We have such a wonderful time, good conversation and great fellowship. It’s a great way to start the day. Please join us. Just come, no need for a reservation or any preparation. If you like, read the day’s Forward Day by Day selection. We look forward to having you.

**Men’s Breakfast Club**

Just a reminder: The Men’s Breakfast Club is meeting every single Thursday at 8:30 A.M.. at Eggcetera on 16230 Summerlin Road - solving the problems of the world and having a few laughs. We are eating breakfasts our wives and significant others won’t allow us to have at home.





# 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 3:00 p.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



### Fats, Oils & Sweets

- Jelly and jam, Honey
- Sugar
- Mayonnaise
- Vegetable oil
- Syrup
- Salad dressing

### Milk, Yogurt & Cheese

- Infant formula
- Powdered milk
- Instant breakfast drinks
- Canned and boxed pudding

### Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans & Nuts

- Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken
- Canned Beef Stew
- Bean soups
- Canned or dried beans, Baked beans
- Canned Chili
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Nuts

### Vegetables

- Canned Vegetables, Vegetable Soup
- Canned Tomato products
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Baby Food Vegetables
- V-8 Juice

### Fruits

- Canned Fruit, Raisins, Applesauce
- Dried Fruits
- Baby Food Fruit
- Fruit Leather (100% fruit)
- Canned & Boxed 100% Juice

### Bread, Cereal, Rice & Pasta

- Rice and rice mixes
- Canned Pastas
- Noodle mixes, Dry noodles and pastas
- Macaroni and Cheese Mix
- Cold Cereals
- Bran Cereal Shredded Wheat
- Infant Cereal
- Hot Cereal Mixes, Oatmeal
- Bread & Muffin Mixes
- Pancake Mix
- Whole-Grain Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Graham Crackers
- Flour





# KEEP CALM AND GO THRIFT SHOPPING

A quick hello and welcome back to our returning volunteers.

We are gearing up for the joyful holiday seasons.

Don't forget our weekly sales.

They run from Friday to Thursday,. Every week we have different products on sale. For everything you might need for your home come on down and see what we have. You can find our weekly sales on the Friday email, facebook and sometimes the weekly bulletin.

We always need people to volunteer helping to sort and price. Call Cindy at 239-489-3910 to volunteer for a 3 hour shift, either 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00.



### **What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

### **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### **Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### **How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?**

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

### **How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?**

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

# Iona-Hope Episcopal Church - what does that mean?

Each month in our Newsletter we would like to address a common practice in the Episcopal Church, and hope to help answer questions about “why do we do that in the Episcopal Church and Iona Hope.”

## 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. Next Month - Let's talk about the season of Epiphany.



# Blue Christmas

a service of healing and hope

Monday, December 16th, 6:00pm

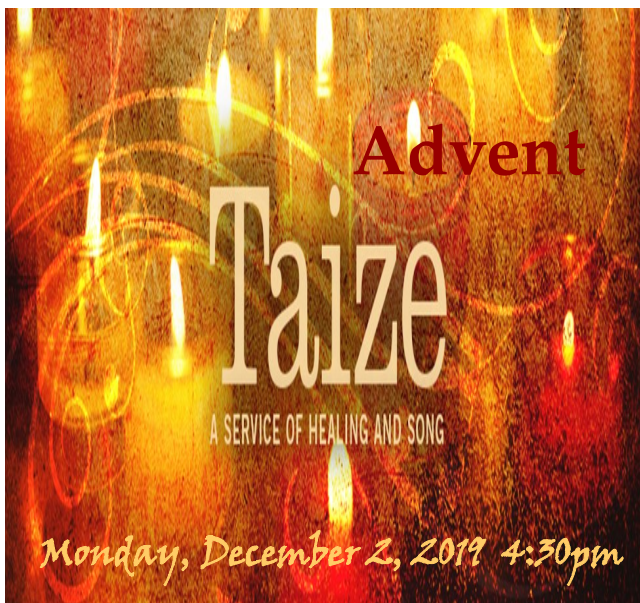
Iona Hope Episcopal Church

9650 Gladiolus Drive Ft. Myers, FL 33908

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 Monday, December 16th 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.



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.

Monday, December 2nd, 4:30pm and each first Monday of the month through Advent..



## CHURCH LIFE

If you have access to an android phone, I-phone, computer or tablet you can download the church life app. With ACS Church Life™, you have instant access to the contacts and events in Iona-Hope's Access ACS™ databases anytime, anywhere, from your mobile phone, tablet or computer. You can

- ◆ View more member profile data with additional fields and better photo viewing.
- ◆ Look up phone numbers, addresses, and emails for each person in our church directory database.
- ◆ Look up your contribution records and access your statements.
- ◆ Easily add contact information to your phone's contact list.
- ◆ Send a text or call a contact while viewing their information from within Church Life™.
- ◆ Pull up directions and a map for home visits.

This is totally confidential and you will need a username and password to access this program. Please call Marnie in the church office if you would like to set up access to this program or click on the direct link in our Friday email.



### 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](mailto:office@ionahope.org) with your name and the service time you attend and we can begin updating our records.

Wed. 9:30 a.m.    Sat. 5:00 p.m.    Sun. 8:00 a.m.    Sun. 9:30 a.m.  
Assisted Living Facility.



# 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 Suzy and Fr. Ray are 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.

Ray+



# ***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.

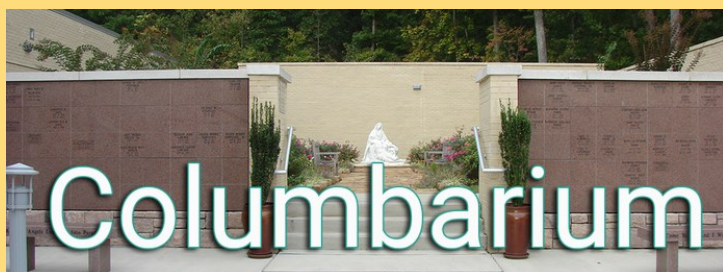
## ***What are the benefits of a church columbarium?***

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.



More information and pricing will be announced in future bulletins and newsletters.



## 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.

Continued.....






- ◇ Allow yourself permission to continue old traditions...or not; create a new holiday tradition...or not. Listen to your inner voice for cues as to what might best feed your soul this season.
- ◇ Take care of yourself. Eat a healthy diet, get some exercise and adequate sleep.
- ◇ Consider volunteering or giving in some way. Even in the midst of loss we have an abundance to give. Volunteer at a community event or purchase a gift for one in need. Often it is in giving of ourselves that we receive and are comforted.
- ◇ Join us for a healing memorial service to honor those things and loved ones you have lost. We will host a **Blue Christmas service on Monday, December 16th at 6pm.** All are welcome.
- ◇ Don't hesitate to seek help if you're struggling during the holiday season. Surround yourself with those who are sensitive to your situation; reach out to clergy or another professional counselor if needed.

Let us all be aware of those around us this Christmas season, especially those who may be alone or grieving. It is through each of us that Christ shares His love and comfort. Simple acts of kindness, an attentive conversation or an embrace may be just what is needed to kindle the fire in another's spirit and help them remember that in the midst of darkness shone the morning star of HOPE.

Blessings and peace to you this Christmas season, Julie Vergin  
Iona Hope Parish Nurse [parishnurse@ionahope.org](mailto:parishnurse@ionahope.org)



**OFFERINGS AND PLEDGES**



We are rapidly approaching the end of the year. Please make certain that your pledge is up to date and remember that your year end statements are the only information the I.R.S. gets and that it reflects what you have paid into the church.

Therefore, whatever has been received by Iona-Hope by the 31st of December is what goes on your statement. We cannot apply January 2020 dated checks to your 2019 pledges. Please call the church office if you would like a copy of your current statement.

**ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS**

*Please join us for the Hanging of the Greens.*

***Sunday, December 22nd at 3:00 p.m.***

An afternoon of fellowship and fun as we prepare the church for Christmas services. There will be lots of activities: ornament making, setting up and decorating the trees, hanging the boughs of greenery and decorating The Adler Gathering Place. Come to help and come for fellowship.



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



# Vestry

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith,

**Bishop**

The Rev. Ray Buchanan

**Rector**

The Rev. Suzy Post

**Associate Priest**

Mr. Loren J. Strickland,

**Music Director**

Ms. Marnie Ike, Office

Cyndi Farmer, Office

Mr. Joseph Mulino - Senior Warden

Mr. Ray Zentis—Junior Warden

Ms. Andi Jerger,

Mr. Bob Earl, Mr. Robin Mills, Mrs. Patty  
Ingram, Mrs. Margo Farrara and

Mr. Steve Walsh and Mrs. Debbie Prather

Mrs. Debbie Prather - **Treasurer**

Mr. John Thomas— **Assistant Treasurer.**

Mrs. Paula Paquette- **Clerk of the Vestry**

IONA-HOPE



Episcopal  
Church

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Tuesday, December 10th

@ 5:00 P.M.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Finance** Team Meeting will be on

Tuesday, December 10th

@ 11:30 a.m.



### Small Groups:

Acolytes  
Al-Anon  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Altar Guild  
Book Club  
Bridge Club  
Bridge Club  
Choir  
Children's Ministries  
Friday Faithful  
Greeters  
Habitat for Humanity  
Harlem Heights Hunger Ministry  
Hospitality  
Justice Ministry  
Men's Breakfast Club  
Newcomer Ministry  
Office Angels  
Parish Nurse  
Pastoral Ministry  
Quad Squad  
Readers  
Shawl Ministry  
Spanish Class  
Spirituality  
Supper Club  
Technology  
Thrift Shop  
Welcoming Ministry  
Women's Breakfast  
Wonderful Wednesday-Adults

### Leaders:

Margo Farrara  
  
Robert Hunt  
Sheryl Winters  
Diane Shorey  
Charlie Champlin  
Loren Strickland  
Barbra Bowman  
David Rauppius  
Ken Ingram  
Bruce Moden  
Deb Studybaker  
Ardis Uberti  
Steve Walsh  
Ray Zentis  
  
Bill Shaw  
Julie Vergin  
RuthAnn North  
Nancy Martins  
Marnie Ike  
Connie Walsh  
Melida Escobar  
Paula Paquette  
Ardis Uberti  
Michael Cunningham  
Eileen Carrara  
  
Gail Hamlett  
Bruce George

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