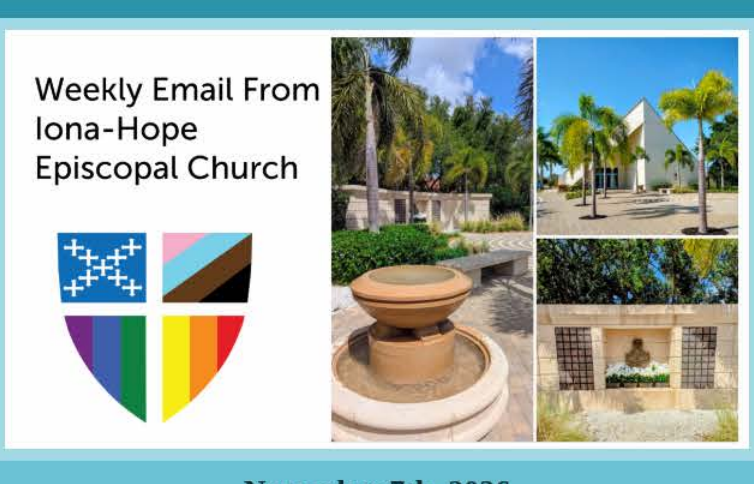


November 7th, 2026

THIS WEEK AT IONA-HOPE

Monday, November 9th, 2026
1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.-**Mahjong Group** (Sanctuary)
3:30 P.M.-**Lectio Divina** (Sanctuary)
6:30 P.M.-**An Evening With Zamir Gotta** (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, November 10th, 2026
6:00 P.M.-**AA Meeting** (Open-Adler Gathering Place)

Wednesday, November 11th, 2026
10:00 A.M.-**Holy Eucharist Rite II** (Sanctuary)
6:30 P.M.-**BINGO** (Adler Gathering Place)
Doors open at 6:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 12th, 2026
8:30 A.M.-**Breakfast Group** (Sunflower Cafe)
3:00 P.M.-**Meditation Group** (Sanctuary)

Friday, November 13th, 2026
10:00 A.M.-**Prayer Shawl Ministry** (Office/Library)
12:30 P.M.-**Book Club** (Office/Library)
6:00 P.M.-**Eye On Hope** (AA Open) (Adler Gathering Place)
6:00 P.M.-**Al-Anon** (Office/Library)

Saturday, November 14th, 2026
8:00 A.M.-**Steps to Awakening** (AA Closed) (Adler Gathering Place)
5:00 P.M.-**Rite II-Holy Eucharist with Healing**

Sunday, November 15th, 2026
8:00 A.M.-**Rite I Holy Eucharist**
9:30 A.M.-**Rite II Holy Eucharist with Healing**



Click Here to Download the November Edition of Our Monthly Newsletter "The Hope Connection"

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

November 14th

Bob Trent

This weeks' Altar Flowers are donated by Leonard LeGrand in Memory of Malcolm "Mal" Dawson and also by Peggy Hannon in Memory of Alice Hannon.



If you wish to donate flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone special, there is a sign up sheet in the sanctuary.

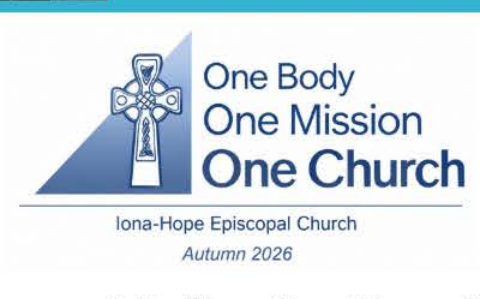
The cost is $50.00, which is donated directly to the Hunger Ministry because we utilize 100% silk flower arrangements.

Please note that multiple dedications on the same weekend are welcomed. Any date that is important to you is just as important to us.

The 1st Annual Trunk or Treat at the Gladiolus Food Pantry was a total success! A big, heartfelt thank you to all of our Iona-Hope volunteers who gathered with other community members to bring joy to the families of Harlem Heights this evening, and to everyone who generously donated candy! We couldn't have done it without your wonderful support!







Last weekend was a great kick-off for our Stewardship season! If you haven't received the stewardship mailing sent out last week, or if you are unable to attend services in person and would like one of our Stewardship packages, please let us know and we will mail you one! Please reach out to the office at 239-454-4778 or email Finance@IonaHope.org.

Click Here To View the Video Reel here!!

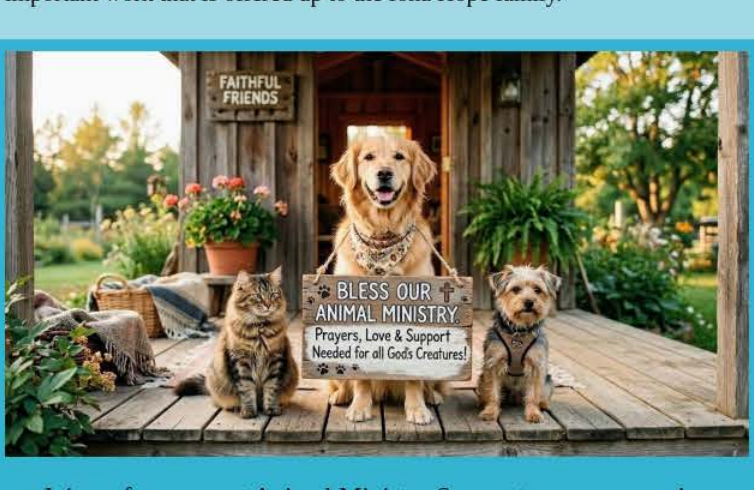


Calling all readers!
As we begin a new season, we are extending the invitation to all to consider serving the Iona-Hope family by being a reader (fancy word: lector) during our weekend services.



While we hope to continue to hear from many of our currently beloved volunteers, we also hope to have some new voices in the mix. If you are interested in either continuing on as a reader or becoming a new reader, please email: **ihopereaders@gmail.com** to share your interest and join us on **Sunday, November 15th at 10:45** for a brief 45-minute workshop.

This will be a time to review some best practices, as well as discuss some new procedures, and most importantly a time to joyful celebrate this important work that is offered up to the Iona Hope family.



Join us for our next Animal Ministry Supper tomorrow evening **Saturday November 7th at 6:00 P.M** in the Adler Gathering Place following the 5:00 P.M. service.

The menu will be lasagna, tossed salad, bread, dessert and iced tea.
The suggested minimum donation is $10.00
All Are Welcome!



An Evening with Zamir Gotta - Travel Companion & Friend of Anthony Bourdain!

ABOUT THIS EVENT
Southwest Florida food lovers, travel enthusiasts, and television fans are invited to **"An Evening with Zamir Gotta - Travel Companion & Friend of Anthony Bourdain" on Monday, November 9th, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.right here at Iona-Hope Episcopal Church in Fort Myers.**

Best known to international television audiences as Anthony Bourdain's charismatic Russian travel companion and fixer on Travel Channel's "No Reservations" and CNN's "Parts Unknown," Zamir Gotta shared unforgettable culinary and cultural adventures with the late chef across the globe, accompanying him to Russia, Ukraine, Romania and notable locations in the US.

This special, free-admission community gathering combines behind-the-scenes storytelling, a moderated Q&A session, light hors d'oeuvres, and a book signing for Zamir's memoir, "The Fixer & The Chef: My Adventures With and Without Anthony Bourdain."

STORYTELLING WITH A PURPOSE:
Beyond food culture, and television anecdotes, Zamir's visit to Fort Myers centers on a deeply personal mission: fostering human connection, cross-cultural understanding, and open dialogue around mental health.

In honor of his friend's enduring legacy, the event brings together the SWFL community to raise awareness and support for local mental health organizations. Admission is completely free, with optional donations collected on-site to directly benefit local community partners:

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) – SWFL Chapter

Crisis Prevention & Empowerment (CPE)

WHAT ATTENDEES CAN EXPECT:

Live Storytelling & Moderated Q&A: Hear Zamir's firsthand accounts of becoming a fixer for television and movies in Russia, traveling the world with Anthony Bourdain, filming iconic television moments, and navigating life behind the camera.

Book Signing: Purchase or bring your copy of "The Fixer & The Chef" for Zamir to personally sign.

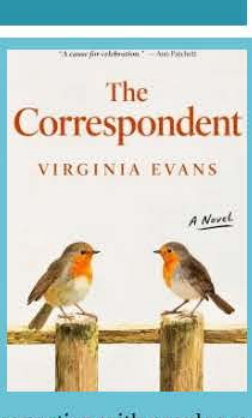
Light Hors D'oeuvres: Enjoy complimentary light bites during the program.

Community Connection: Meet representatives from local suicide prevention and crisis support organizations.

ADMISSION IS FREE! PRE-REGISTER BY CLICKING ON THE BUTTON BELOW

Register Here!

The November Book Club selection is The Correspondent by Virginia Evans.



"Imagine, the letters one has sent out into the world, the letters received back in turn, are like the pieces of a magnificent puzzle. . . . Isn't there something wonderful in that, to think that a story of one's life is preserved in some way, that this very letter may one day mean something, even if it is a very small thing, to someone?"

Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, The Correspondent is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.

Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

We will meet to discuss **The Correspondent** from 12:30-2:00 P.M. on **Friday, November 13th** in the Adler Gathering Place. Please call Helen Sadler 239-218-5466 if you have any questions.

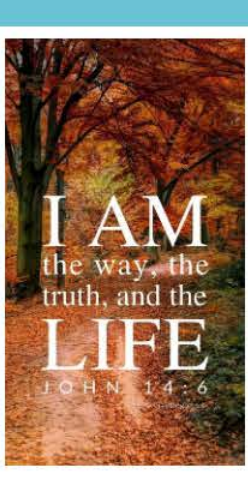
Shawl Ministry Restarts!

Join us as our Shawl Ministry gathers once again starting **Friday, November 13th, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.**
This vital ministry brings comfort, hope, and prayer to those in need through the gift of handcrafted shawls. Whether you are an experienced knitter/crocheter or eager to learn, your hands and heart are welcome. Come craft, pray, and share in fellowship as we restart this meaningful work together! For additional information contact **Connie Walsh** at **conniewalsh286@gmail.com**

Join us as our **Meditation Group** gathers once again starting **Thursday, November 12th, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.** Steve and Connie Walsh will be holding group meditation every Thursday in the sanctuary. These will be experiential, rather than educational sessions, open to everyone. We will gather, and after a brief introduction, enter 20 minutes of silence. Afterwards, people will leave the Sanctuary quietly.

For additional information please email
Steve at **spwmcw@gmail.com** or
Connie at **conniewalsh286@gmail.com**.

Bible Study With Rev. Gierke!



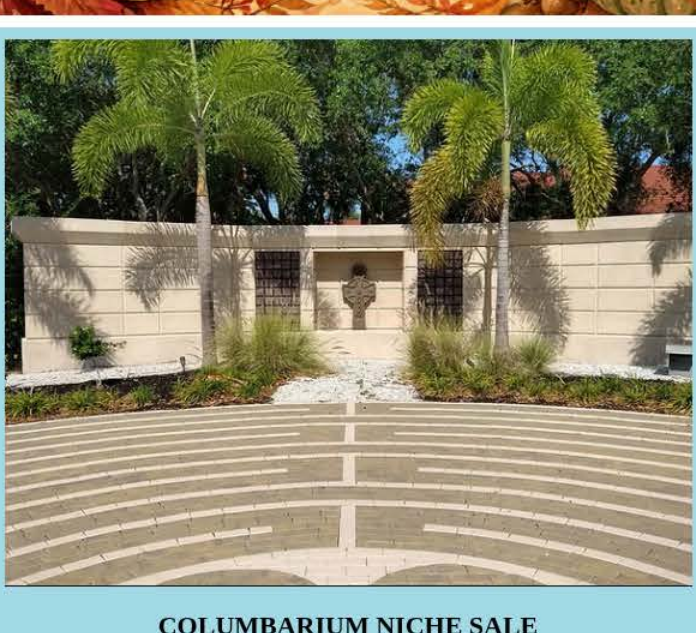
Via Media: walking an intentional path between ordinary time and sacred history, following Jesus' life.

In John 14:6, as Jesus spoke with the disciples on the last night, He said, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life."
When we seek to grow in our relationship with God, the Way is not always easy to find. We know the Way is revealed in the Word, both written and in the person of Christ, which is also the source of Truth, and ultimately eternal Life.

Join us as we walk the Via Media (Latin for "middle way") path through the church year and the life of Christ, beginning with Advent. We will use Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer as our guides along the way. No experience necessary; Christ invites us all to walk with Him.

Initially, we will meet on the first and third Fridays of each month, beginning November 20th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary, and will likely continue meeting through Eastertide. Bring a Bible if you have one. Dewey Gierke, a retired pastor of 30 years, will lead the group. Dewey has a Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary.





COLUMBARIUM NICHE SALE

From October 15th -December 1st

What is a final resting place? A final resting place is a permanent, secure, sacred, and public location for the placement of a body or cremated remains. It is usually marked by a plaque or headstone with the name and birth and death dates of the person who lived. Have you thought about your final resting place?

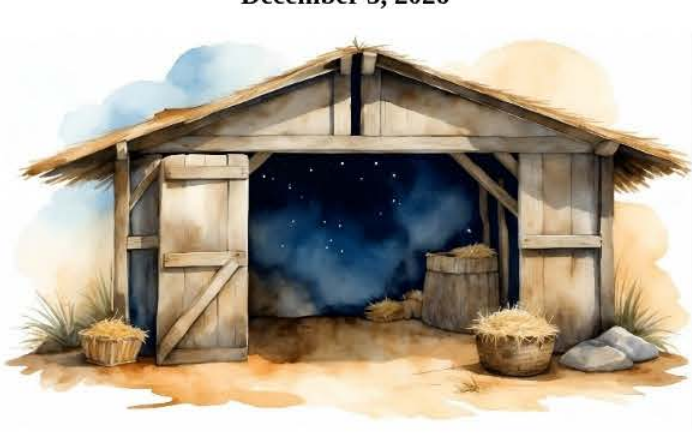
Iona-Hope has reduced pricing on our columbarium niches. For these months only Niches will be $1300 for a single and $1500 for a double.

Our regular prices are $1500 for a single and $1700 for a double.

For additional information, or if you have any questions,

please contact the church office at 239-454-4778 or email office@ionahope.org

PREPARING THE STABLE, PREPARING THE HEART An Advent Retreat Day
December 5, 2026

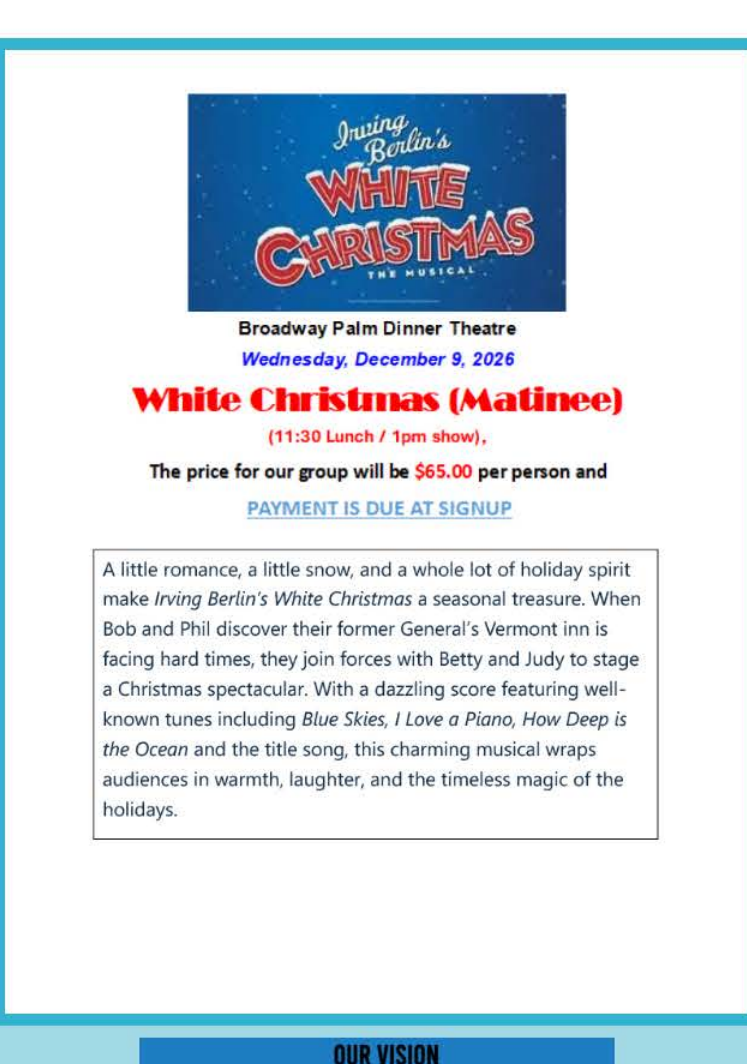


There are so many ways to prepare for Christmas. Gifts to buy. Cards to write out and mail. Cookies to bake. Presents to wrap. Menus to plan . . . But the most important preparations we can make as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ, is the preparation of the heart. This Advent, why not take time to join Rev. John Danner for an Advent Quiet Day? John will lead us in using music, art, meditation, silence, story and scripture to help us settle into a time to focus on the deeper realities of the season. Our day will conclude with lunch and a time of worship.

John is a retired pastor in the United Church of Christ, and a spiritual director. After forty-five years of ordained ministry in parish settings in the Northeast and here in Southwest Florida, he retired and is a Pastor Emeritus at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. Before he moved to North Carolina, he was active here at Iona where he led retreat days several times and has been called on to preach. He has also often preached at several UCC churches in the area.

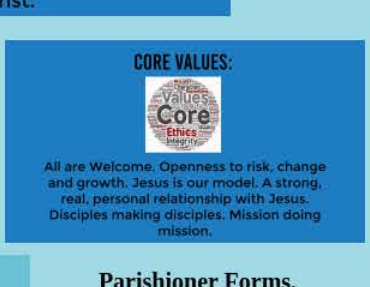
John is the author of *Angels Dancing on the Roof*, a collection of seasonal stories, and has contributed to several publications including *The Christian Century* and *The Upper Room*.

The Retreat Day will be held at Iona Episcopal Church,
9650 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers,
Saturday, December 5, 9:00 AM-1:30 PM.
Registration can be made by calling the Church Office at 239-454-4778 or by emailing office@ionahope.org.
The $10 registration fee includes lunch.
All are welcome to attend.









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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

Please visit our website www.ionahope.org

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

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