



"Power of Prayer" acrylic on linen by XiaoYang Galas ©2020

10.18.2020

C² SERVICE (LIVESTREAM ONLY) 8:30 A.M.

SANCTUARY AND LIVESTREAM SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME

Recognizing the wide welcome offered to all through Jesus Christ, Community Church opens its arms to all. We strive to offer Christ's wide welcome to all people, regardless of creed, age, race, or sexual identity. We invite you to join our congregation in worship and in membership, as we allow our lives to be shaped by the loving outreach of Christ.

1901 23rd Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960 • 772.562.3633 • info@ccovb.org

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit. Thank you for wearing your mask throughout the service. **Bold** text indicates congregational participation. Our service is live-streamed via internet, capturing the chancel and congregation, and may appear on social media. Children are invited to join Lia Peters for Sunday School on the Lanai after Passing of the Peace for an outdoor lesson, art, and a fun time to worship. Please wear a mask and maintain a loving distance when picking up your children after service. Families are always welcome to worship together during service. Nursery Care is available for children under the age of four.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

COMMUNITY WORDS

Sonata in Eb Major, Hob. XVI:49-Allegro Joseph Haydn

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Jill H. Truax, piano

Rev. Joshua J. Longbottom

Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. David W. Johnson

HYMN TO JOY ***OPENING HYMN** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love; Hearts un - fold like You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed, Well - spring of the Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan; Bound - less love is flowers be-fore you, open-ing the sun Melt the clouds of and sad - ness; to a - bove. sin o - cean depth of hap - py rest! Spi - rit, Fath - er, Moth - er, joy of liv - ing, Lov-ing re - con - cil - ing race and clan. reign - ing o'er us, Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, drive the storms of doubt a - way; Giv - er of im-mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day. who love be-long to you; Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re-new. all the midst of strife, Joy - ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life. faith-ful in

*LITANY

Linda Shipley

One: Sometimes God's deliverance comes suddenly, in dramatic fashion!

- All: The seas are parted, an enemy defeated, the dead raised.
- One: God's deliverance often begins small and is easily overlooked.
- All: A seed planted, a prayer mumbled, a baby born.
- One: God's kingdom is here, growing slowly, almost imperceptibly.
- All: We wait and watch for signs of God's kingdom.
- One: Let us pray...

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of all people and places, whether our prayers are answered swiftly and clearly, or grow in us slowly and silently, we give thanks for your presence in our lives. Whether your voice thunders loudly or barely whispers, we give thanks for your word to guide us. Whether our prayers express gratitude for your blessing or a desperate plea for your help, we give thanks that you hear us. Walk with us, loving God, into the future you have for us. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ATTENDING TO GOD'S WORD

ANTIPHONAL READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES



Cantor

One: Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies because I rejoice in my victory. There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The LORD kills and brings to life; God brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; God brings low, God also exalts.

God raises up the poor from the dust; God lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S and on them God has set the world. God will guard the feet of God's faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in the darkness; for not by might does one prevail.

Cantor

SYNOPSIS OF THE SCRIPTURES

Rev. Joshua J. Longbottom

This week our reading from the narrative lectionary jumps ahead in the story of God's people by nearly 200 years. After wandering in the wilderness for some 40 years, Moses died and Joshua was chosen to lead the Hebrew people across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

The land was divided among the 12 clans descended from Jacob. They lived in relative peace, only occasionally banding together when threatened by enemies. To counter such a threat, God raised up leaders, called "judges." They were people like Samson, Gideon, and Deborah, who would rally the people to defeat their foe.

The last of these so-called judges was the priest Eli, who presided over worship at Shiloh, some 18 miles north of Jerusalem. Every year, a woman named Hannah would come with her husband, Elkanah, to Shiloh to make sacrifices. Now Hannah was unable to have children, a fact that left her feeling unworthy and vulnerable. But one particular year, everything changed for Hannah. Listen for a word from God....

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

One: The ancient texts can inspire our faith today.

All: We listen for a word of hope.

1 Samuel 1:9-17, 19-20

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servants as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him."

They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

RESPONSE

One: God hears and heals the brokenhearted.

All: God turns despair into hope and sadness into joy.

ANTHEM

"In the Whisperings" Ruth Ellen Schram The Community Quartet

A tiny bud holds the promise of a flower; a tiny seed, the essence of the grain; A tiny plant holds the promise of the plenty we believe the autumn harvest will contain. The sky at dusk holds the promise of tomorrow; the golden dawn, the hope of a new day; The smallest prayer holds the promise of an answer; through the things unseen we learn by faith. In the whisperings all around, even in the smallest sight and sound we can see reminders of a Hoby, loving God. In the whisperings everywhere we can see the evidence of His care, and we recognize His voice in the whisperings. A single note holds the promise of a melody; a single touch, the essence of concern. Even the cross holds the promise of a victory! Everywhere we look, everywhere we turn.

SERMON

"Promises, Prayers, and Patience"

Rev. Elizabeth B. Johnson

"... If only you will look on the misery of your servant and remember me..." 1Samuel 1:11

INVITATION TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.

- All: And with your spirit.
- One: Please pray with me. O God, open our hearts,
- All: And receive our prayers for mercy,
- One: We offer our prayers of gratitude
- All: As we listen for your Spirit within.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

"Holy Spirit Fall on Me" Mary Kay Beall

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. David W. Johnson

"Light Dawns in a Weary World" Mack Wilberg Jill H. Truax and Alesya V. Walters, piano

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom. Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.

*DOXOLOGY

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, again and again your grace surprises us, entering into our world in unexpected ways: in a seed buried in the ground, in a tear shed for the pain of the world, in a prayer spoken out of desperation. Receive our offerings today, and let them be used to grow food for someone who is hungry, to dry the tears of one who is grieving, and to answer the prayers of a desperate child. Amen

THE SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn	"My Life Flows on in Endless Song" ENDLESS SONG
•) N	Iy life flows on in end-less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
W	That though my joys and com-forts die? My Sa - viour still is liv - ing.
W	Then ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ring-ing;
I	hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
What	t though the shad - ows ga - ther 'round? A new song Christ is giv - ing.
Whe	n friends re-joice both far and near, how can I keep from sing-ing?
Thro	ugh all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing;
No	storm can shake my in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling-ing;
In	pris - on cell and dun-geon vile our thoughts to them are wing-ing;
It	finds an ech - o in my soul, how can I keep from sing-ing?
Since	e Love com-mands both heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?
Whe	n friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Elizabeth B. Johnson

Postlude

"Te Deum" Marc-Antoine Charpentier Andrew R. Galuska, organ

Linda Shipley

IN WORSHIP TODAY...

THE COMMUNITY QUARTET

Rachel E. Carter, soprano; JoAnn W. Palmer, alto; Kent J. Ahern, tenor; Joshua M. Pinnock, bass; Alesya V. Walters, piano

DEACON: Linda Shipley

TODAY WE REMEMBER...

Carol Barrows, who passed away on October 11th. Service plans are in progress.

THE FLOWERS TODAY ARE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND GIVEN...

by Barbara Agle in loving memory of her husband Bob, and her son, Richard. by Sue Wimpy and family in memory of her husband Ron Wimpy. in Loving memory of Florence M. Campbell by her children Leigh, Gail, Robby, and Moina.

YOU ARE INVITED...

WORSHIP

<u>NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH</u>: The sermon titled "Needy" will be given by Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland by live-stream at 8:30 a.m. in C² from Community Hall and in-person and live-streamed at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us for our services.

STAYING CONNECTED

LIVE-STREAM VIEWING: To watch our services on livestream, please do one of the following:

- Visit our web page at ccovb.org. Scroll down to the box titled 'Livestream Our Service Here' and click on live-stream in the image; or go to the top right and click on the small camera icon.
- Go to our Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/CCOVB.org). Scroll until you see the live-stream.
- Go to https://livestream.com/watch. Type "The Community Church of Vero Beach." in the search box. Click on the drop down box for The Community Church of Vero Beach, and the livestream page will come up.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: Begins at 11:30 a.m. following our 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary worship. Virtual Coffee hour will be held every Sunday. Visit https://ccovb.org/ coffee/ for login instructions, or call the Church Office for connection assistance.

DIAL-A-SERMON: We have created a dedicated phone line for people to call and hear the sermon from Sunday. The sermon will be updated by Thursday each week. We hope this will be a meaningful way to stay connected. Those interested in hearing the sermon may call 772.410.5833.

FACEBOOK: If you would like to receive a daily word of hope please visit us on our Facebook Pages:

- The Main Church Facebook page may be found at:
- Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland's Wednesday Minister's Blog:
- The C² Facebook page may be found at:
- The Children and Youth Facebook page may be found at:
- The Music and Fine Arts Facebook page may be found at:

<u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u>: The Church Office is open for regular business hours. Hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and Sunday between 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The staff is practicing social distancing. We thank you for your assistance by asking that you remain behind the identified marking provided for proper distancing when entering the Church Office.



www.facebook.com/CCOVB.org

www.facebook.com/C2Worship

www.facebook.com/AnnaVCopelandBlog

www.facebook.com/CCOVBDepartmentOfMusic

www.facebook.com/CommotionYouth

YOU ARE INVITED ...

GIVING

<u>ON-LINE OR TEXT GIVING</u>: We appreciate your generosity as we seek to continue the work of God in Vero Beach. For your convenience, you can give either by texting or going online to our website. Your information is held securely by a SSL encrypted connection, will remain private, and is never given away to third parties, other than to process your scheduled contributions.

•Text to Give: You can text a dollar amount to 772.222.3393. You will be asked to set up an account. From then on, you will be able to text a designated amount any time you'd like, just by sending the dollar amount to the number.

•Online Giving: Visit our website at www.ccovb.org. Click on the "GIVE" tab and follow the instructions. You can give one time or set up recurring gifts.

THIS WEEK AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS (a) 1:00 FACEBOOK LIVE:

"Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m." are weekly livestream features that delve deeper into Music and the Fine Arts at The Community Church of Vero Beach and around the Treasure Coast. These livestream only events feature tours of artists' studios, musicians' roundtables, gallery tours, interviews with poets and local musicians, and more! This Wednesday, October 21st, Andrew Galuska will be joined by our Facilities Manager, Rick Heller, for a "behind the scenes" tour of Community Church.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS: Join us on Zoom Wednesday evening, October 21st at 6:30 p.m. to continue our conversation on race, and explore what concrete steps might come next in order to participate in a more equitable society. Contact the Church Office at 772.562.3633 or email Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org.

BOO BASH: Join us for some socially-distanced family Fun on October 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wear your costume and your mask for some games, crafts, and trunk-or-treat! Fun activities await you! You don't want to miss this seasonal treat. Contact Rev. Elizabeth B. Johnson at elizabeth.johnson@ccovb.org for more information about volunteering for games, trunk-or-treat, or other ways to be involved.



YOU ARE INVITED

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PASTORAL VISITATION: If you or a family member is in the hospital, our ministers will be happy to visit. Current hospital policy states that you must request a visit to allow a ministerial visit in the hospital. After requesting a visit, please notify the ministry staff by emailing Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org or calling the Church Office at 772.562.3633.

PRAYER: If you or a loved one is in need of prayer, there are numerous ways to submit a request. You may:

- In-Person: Fill out a prayer card during Sunday worship and drop it in an offering box in the Narthex.
- Online: Email Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org; submit through our church website, www.ccovb.org.
- Call the Church Office at 772.562.3633.

CONTACT A MINISTER: During this time when we are sheltering in place, we want to stay connected to you. Each week there will be a minister on call whom you may contact by email for conversation, pastoral care, or prayer. This week our minister on call is Rev. David W. Johnson. You may reach him at david.johnson@ccovb.org.



ADULT FAITH MATTERS

SACRED PAUSE: Join us Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m. for 15-20 minutes of a "Sacred Pause." Start your week with prayer and reflection together with others on a Zoom call. For Zoom log in information please contact Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org.

BIBLE STUDIES: This year we will be studying the Narrative Lectionary with our Men's and Women's Adult Bible Studies. The Narrative Lectionary readings line up with the major church festivals (Christmas, Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost). This will give us the broad story of our faith, using a chronological approach.

<u>MEN'S BIBLE STUDY</u>: Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom with Rev. David W. Johnson. For more information or to register, email Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org.

<u>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY</u>: Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom with Rev. Elizabeth B. Johnson. For more information or to register, email Charlene Applegate at charlene.applegate@ccovb.org.

PRAYER ROOM: We welcome you to schedule time to use our newly open prayer room. Due to social distancing guidelines we may only accommodate one or two people to use the space at a time. Reserve your time by calling the Church Office at 772.562.3633 or emailing Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org. Reservations will help us maintain sanitization procedures in between each use.

<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>: There are dates available to contribute to the beautiful altar flowers each week. Celebrate an anniversary, birthday, life event, or honor a loved one. To choose a date, contact Suzanne Rice at suzanne.rice@ccovb.org or call the Church Office at 772.562.3633.



motivates her inward acceleration.

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

NARTHEX GALLERY ARTIST: This Sunday we welcome artist Barbara Krupp to our Narthex Gallery. Her show "Interconnection" will be on display until December 31st. The interconnectedness of people and events is one of history's most fascinating topics and is becoming more evident daily. As information, trade, travel, and communication become stronger, faster and more ubiquitous, it has a growing impact worldwide. We are learning the hard way that such an impact is not always beneficial. As Henri Matisse and Joan Miro did, Barbara's new work combines curvilinear forms with biomorphic shapes—those shapes which evoke the living forms of plants and animals. A result is a unique form of beauty built on color and fluidity. Barbara, a former X-ray technician with a background in science and a love of gardening, combines her knowledge of the body with her love of nature to produce art that grows out of the interconnections of these two very distinct forms. Barbara sees a future where her paintings will become the basis for video pieces, as her changing direction both reflects and

As a self-taught artist, Barbara began her career in 1976 when she both gained her first gallery representation in Rockport, MA, and had a painting accepted into the permanent collection of the Massilion (Ohio) Art Museum. Her first solo was held in 1979 at the Rockport Art Association in Massachusetts. Through the years, Barbara has actively shown her work in galleries and at prestigious art fairs not only in the Midwestern states of Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio, but also in the nation's capital and New York City. Beginning in 1996, Barbara began to show extensively in Florida's major art cities: Fort Myers, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Naples, and Miami. Through the venues in which she chose to exhibit, her paintings have to date found their way into dozens of private and public collections throughout the United States.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA SILENT FILM AND ORGAN CONCERT: Back by popular demand, Andrew Galuska, Director of Music and Fine Arts will bring back the 1925 film, the Phantom of the Opera, starring Lon Chaney. Before the spoken word streamed from movie screens, motion pictures were often accompanied by organists, orchestras, and other musicians. Andrew has been accompanying silent films for over a decade across the country. Attend this visual and musical experience in-person in the Sanctuary on Friday, October 30th, at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited due to social distancing, so reserve your spot in the audience by calling Staci Rosbury at 772.778.1070. This is a free concert and a free-will offering will be accepted.

Сонтиниту Списе Brace Сонтиниту Списе Brace

YOU ARE INVITED...

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

BOO BASH CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to volunteer on **Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** please email Rev. Elizabeth B. Johnson at elizabeth.johnson@ccovb.org. Wear your costumes and join the fun! There are a variety of different activities to participate in as a volunteer:

- Game Tables
- Craft Tables
- Or, decorate your car as part of our "Trunk-or-Treat"!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH ADVENTURE CLUB: Wednesday, "Spooktober" 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Text or call Rev. Joshua J. Longbottom at 850.221.5615 to find out this week's mystery location!

<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER INVITATION</u>: Each week the number of children in worship is growing and for that reason we are asking for volunteers to help staff our classes. If you have a love and passion for seeing the next generation thrive in our Church, please call or text Lia Peters at 772.321.9567.

SHINING LIGHT GARDENS VOLUNTEERS:

On Saturday, October 10 more than 150 teens and 30 adults devoted the day to community service projects in our county. Organized and directed by Kiwanians Al Sammartino and Richard Schlitt, the crews spent four hours working on may projects throughout the Treasure Coast.

Special thanks to all the youth and adult chaperons that helped at the Kiwanis Youth and Action Day representing our congregation. Thanks to Charlie and Hugh Downey, Isabella and Liam Drake, Jack Gambino, Kristina Helseth, Phil Long, Rev. Joshua J. Longbottom, Nicholas Karr, Adriana Morrison, Matthew and Robi Robinson. We weeded a quarter-mile long row of squash. All the proceeds of this garden are given freely to local food banks.



SAVE THE DATE FOR YOUTH CAMPOUTS: Mark your calendars for November 13-15th and December 11-13th! Middle and High School youth are invited to two campouts at Long Point Park. Long Point is just north of Sebastian Inlet on the lagoon side. They have a great facility with a whole island dedicated to youth camping. Bring whatever makes camping fun for you. We have beach access, though it a little bit of a walk away. We will set up early on Friday evening, and then pack up and head home late Sunday morning. Get in touch with Rev. Joshua J. Longbottom at joshua.longbottom@ccovb.org if you would like to come along or volunteer.

ACOLYTES: If your 4th, 5th, or 6th grade child is interested in participating in worship as an acolyte, please contact Charlene Applegate at charlene.applegate@ccovb.org or call the church office at 772.562.3633.

You Are Invited..

MISSION-SERVING THE COMMUNITY

MISSION WATCH: ARC OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY: This week we are highlighting The Arc of IRC, an organization which supports and empowers individuals with special needs to achieve their life goals, and advocate for full acceptance of individuals with special needs as valued members of our community. The Arc provides both day and residential programs offering supported employment, behavioral therapies and assessment, and parent support services. Your mission giving supports this important work in our community.

HOW WE CAN HELP: If you have lost your job, been furloughed, or are facing health issues and are in need of support for food, housing, or medical assistance, Community Church has support for those within our church family. Please contact Rev. David W. Johnson at david.johnson@ccovb.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Share prayers online at www.ccovb.org or pray for others in your personal prayer time.
- Build and strengthen community through regular calls to your friends and neighbors, and continue with your Circle of Care calls.
- Contribute through donations to the CCOVB general fund, to the Deacons Fund, or to the Minister's Discretionary Fund to support the work and out reach of the Church for staff, church members, and wider needs in the community.
- Serve through mission initiatives that are able to carry on their ministry in a safe manner. Contact Rev. David W. Johnson for more information.
- Send letters of encouragement to members and friends of the Church to connect with and support one another.
- And finally, be the eyes and ears, hands and feet of the community, let your ministers know through the Church Office who may be in need of assistance.



SAMARITAN CENTER SOUP BOWL: This year The Samaritan Center has partnered with Indian River Clay to create bowls for the 28th Annual Soup Bowl. Soup bowls will be sold at the Heritage Center on November 5th for their "Empty Bowls, Full Hearts" event.

Because of the pandemic, there will be no soup donations from our struggling restaurants. As a result, many serving sites have chosen not to participate in the Samaritan Center's single largest fundraiser. CCOVB, however, is rising to the challenge with our famous Lemon Chicken Orzo and Chili con Carne. Preorder your soup by visiting http://ccovbsoupbowl.org/. Quart containers of soup will be available for pickup after church on Sunday, November 1st and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4th.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As we reported last May, the pandemic changed our search protocols. The search started in a typical way. We surveyed the congregation and completed a 27-page profile describing the church and Vero Beach in detail. The position was then posted through the UCC for clergy to review and, if interested, submit their profile for our appraisal. In addition, we assessed candidates brought to us by our search consultants.

We thoroughly examined each candidate's profile, we listened to sermons, reviewed their church website and social media information. Candidates of interest were interviewed virtually. To date, we have reviewed 108 candidates.

But here's the challenge presented by the pandemic: the next step involves travel and face-to-face meetings. First, at the church the candidate currently serves, and eventually in Vero Beach. It is through these personal interactions—sharing a meal, touring the community, praying together and talking about the deeper questions of life and faith—that we can best assess a candidate's pastoral presence, humility, compassion, humor, leadership and grace under pressure.

As we reported earlier, we had to postpone scheduled visits because the risk to us and the candidate was too great. Despite this necessary pause, we continue our work. We meet regularly via zoom, carry on our extensive online research, and we contact seasoned clergy for personal recommendations. As people of faith, we believe God is present in this process and that as we are faithful to our task, God will provide.

As we continue our work in this challenging time, we need your support in the following ways:

- 1. Please continue your support of the church through your prayers, financial contributions and leadership. We know a healthy, faithful and vibrant church is attractive to candidates.
- 2. Encourage and pray for Dr. Copeland, our Interim Minister, as well as all our clergy and staff as they hold us together in this challenging time.
- 3. Finally, please join us in praying that God will grant us wisdom in our discernment and provide a Senior Minister of God's own calling.

On behalf of our chair; David Sams and the other seven members of the committee, we thank you.

Beverly Lell, Vice Chair