



# Worship

## ONE ISLAND FAMILY Summer Gatherings AUGUST 2021-

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 at 11 a.m.** Join us for a leisurely stroll through the garden (that is, Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, 5201 College Road). For a healthy outdoor place to get together, join us at 11 a.m. at the visitor center. Bring your personal supply of water and sun protection. Free to locals on the 1st Sunday of the month.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20 HAPPY HOUR 5-7 pm.** Can you find your way home? That is, can you make your way back to our One Island Family sanctuary, 801 Georgia St. for a casual social gathering? Please bring something to share- a finger food or a beverage for time to reconnect with good friends and catch up on news and views.

**SUNSET WATCHING-** Saturday evenings meet one hour before sunset at Fort Zach for harbor viewing. Weather permitting, we meet for sunset and quiet conversation under the trees. Bring a beach chair and a non-alcoholic drink (park rules) of your choice.

Contact Marilyn Smith or Joy Taylor with any questions about any of these Summer Gatherings, or to help with planning our September events.

### ONE ISLAND FAMILY CARING CONNECTORS:

Debby Palmisano continues her progress in rehabilitation after surgery for a brain tumor. She is doing inpatient rehab at Mercy Hospital, Fairfield, OH. She recently sent this text: "Working hard, making good progress. They're calling me a rock star." (Her strength and determination make her a "rock star" for sure!!) Bill Palmisano sent a photo of Debby greeting two of her grandkids. We continue our caring concern for Debby, Bill and their family.

Pat Collins called to say that her wife Judy Lawrence is receiving home health care and making great progress. Pat and Judy are back in their northern home in Rochester, NY and send their greetings to One Island Family.



# News & Notes

## **ONE ISLAND FAMILY- President's Message**

While we are on our One Island Family summer break, I continue to explore messages from UU sources to uplift and inspire me. Maybe some of you receive in your email inbox, as I do, the weekly posts from Braver/Wiser. ([uua.org/braverwiser](http://uua.org/braverwiser)). This week their message said that they too are on summer hiatus, so they are choosing "reflections from their archives". I have chosen to share this with you for our OIF newsletter because it has special meaning for me. It was in July 2019 when my niece's husband died. Searching for something to say, I found this message and shared it with her. After receiving it, she called to tell me "yes" she had become aware of several hovering dragon flies since his passing. Maybe you too have had a similar experience. . .

### **BRAVER/WISER**

#### **Courage and Compassion for Life As It Is**

**"Love Does not Disappear" by Rev. Elea Kemler  
October 31, 2018**

"Mysterious Source of Love, moving within and between and among us; upholding and connecting all: the living, the dead, and the generations yet to come. We give thanks for the web of all creation, strands interwoven. And for the gifts of love, which can never be ungiven or unraveled."

—Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In the eighteen years I've served as minister of my small-town congregation, I have led 96 memorial services, most for people I have loved. I didn't realize how much the deaths would hurt. The longer I stay, the deeper I love and the more I grieve. This seems so obvious, but I was surprised by it. Another surprise has been how our beloved dead seem to make themselves known; how they seem to linger with us for a little while.

Once, after a memorial service, everyone left the church and gathered on the sidewalk in the sunlight of a still, summer afternoon. As we stood there, a huge gust of wind blew down the street. We could see it coming, almost like a tumbleweed. For maybe five seconds, the wind was all around us and over us. We turned and watched the gust blow down the street and then it was completely still again. "There she goes," someone said.

Another time, I was about to lead the memorial service for a man who shared a love of butterflies with his wife. Their home was filled with images of butterflies and we had put a photo of one on the program. As I stood at the church door, a huge orange and black butterfly flew near. It circled me three times, above my head, around my shoulders, at my knees and then flew away. When I told his

wife about it, she nodded. "Butterflies have been all around me since he died," she said.

Last spring a beloved elder died who believed he would be reincarnated as a red-tailed hawk. I told the congregation about his death at Sunday morning services. I had taped a picture of a red-tailed hawk on the front pew where he always sat. Several people told me that as I was making the announcement, they were looking out the sanctuary windows and saw a large hawk soaring above the church.

### **Prayer**

Source of Love, we are sustained and upheld by the love of those who have gone before us. May we know, deep in our bones, that love does not disappear.

Rev. Elea Kemler (she/her/hers) has been the minister of First Parish Church of Groton, MA for twenty years and counting. She lives with her husband and two 17-year-olds and mostly loves being a small-town minister where she gets to bless just about everything, from chickens to the new postmaster.

Blessed Be, Marilyn Smith, August 2021

### **To all of our ONE ISLAND FAMILY members and friends:**

It has been one unusual year and we want to thank all the many members and friends who made the continuation of our services flow smoothly! It does always take a village and we sure do have an awesome village!

We are always storing up ideas for services and activities for early fall. Please reach out to any of the Program Committee (Marilyn, Amelia, Nancy 3, Astoria and Joy) with your thoughts.

Want to host a summer gathering? We can help to make that happen, appropriate safety measures to be observed.

You can reach any and all of us via [jbt22ster@gmail.com](mailto:jbt22ster@gmail.com) and Blessed Be!

One Island Family  
801 Georgia St. Key West, FL 33040  
[oneislandfamily.org](http://oneislandfamily.org) e-mail: [office@oneislandfamily.org](mailto:office@oneislandfamily.org)

Monthly Calendar: <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/calendar>