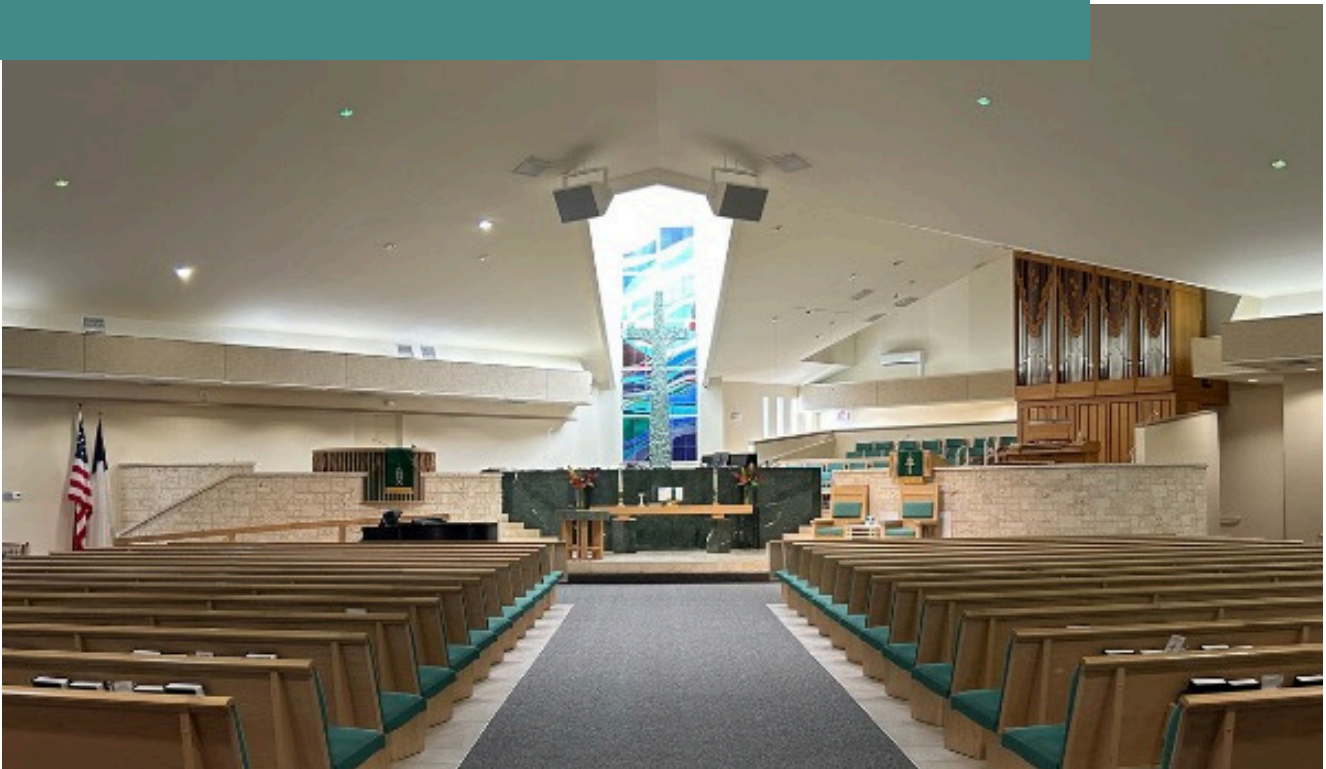


June 2026



*"Celebrating God's Presence,
Serving All People!"*





From the Senior Pastor

Jesus says these profound words, “You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last....” John 15.16. The call to ministry is sacred and needs to be lived in a way that makes the word flesh in one’s ministry.

Answering a call to serve the United Church of Marco Island will provide far-reaching opportunities for ministry to and from the congregation and the community. Ministry is seldom one-sided, as the members and friends of the United Church have welcomed my ministry, and as I have been a recipient of their faithful ministry.

Serving as a Pastor on a dynamic ministry team is a role that is balanced by servant leadership, nurturing and being nurtured by a team, and embracing collaboration, coordination, and communication. While each staff member has specific responsibilities, everyone is engaged in the same mission, “Celebrating God’s Presence, Serving All People.”

Education and service are lifelong processes, and each member of the staff is encouraged to grow in faith and in their work. A person called to the position of Pastor will quickly discover a vibrant community of faith, a world-class staff, and a growing church offering dynamic programs, inspirational worship, educational opportunities where faith is nurtured, and a mission outreach that is truly changing lives.

You are in my prayers as you discern a call to serve the United Church of Marco Island, and I ask you to keep the United Church of Marco Island in your prayers.

May God bless you and guide you!

I remain a Servant of Christ....

Pastor Ed Brandt
Senior Pastor



Located on a barrier island along Florida's Paradise Coast, the United Church of Marco Island (UCMI) is surrounded by white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and a vibrant community rich in art, culture, and natural beauty. Marco Island is consistently recognized as one of the most beautiful places to live in the United States.



The year-round population of approximately 16,500 swells to over 40,000 during the winter season. Many residents are seasonal, living in Florida for three to eight months each year, and are frequently referred to as "snowbirds." The community is often described as beautiful, active, and family-oriented. Connected by bridges to nearby Naples, UCMI draws congregants from Marco Island and the surrounding Naples communities, united by a shared spirit of faith, generosity, and service.

This loving and enthusiastic congregation seeks to walk with Christ daily and to serve others generously. That spirit of generosity reflects the wider culture of Collier County, now recognized as Florida's most generous county.

United Church is actively discerning new ways to give and serve, seeking to meet its neighbors' needs and to share Christ's love through compassionate outreach and community engagement. In that spirit, we are seeking a Pastor to support our growing church and role in our community.

Our campus includes several distinctive buildings and spaces:

- The Sanctuary seats more than 400 people and is graced with a Wolfe Tracker pipe organ.
- Disseler Hall, where we share fellowship and various groups meet, was completely renovated in 2024.
- The Memorial Garden sits adjacent to Disseler Hall and was also recently updated.
- The Administration Building houses church offices and a conference room.
- The Parsonage is a recently updated three-bedroom, single-family home. It is available to the Pastor.
- The Bargain Basket Thrift Shop, located on Marco Island near the Church, is undergoing an expansion and remodel, scheduled to be completed in Fall 2026.



WHO ARE WE?

- We are a financially stable church founded on the principle that “more unites us in Christ than divides us.”
- We are a congregation of diverse faith backgrounds, stories, and perspectives.
- We are a church affiliated with both the UCC and NACCC conferences.
- We are a secularly apolitical church that believes in the “higher” politics of our faith.
- We are a church that is growing in our spiritual lives through Bible studies and Christian education programs.
- We are a church seeing increased participation in worship, education and programs.
- We are a church that values traditional forms of worship.
- We are a church that is friendly, welcoming, inclusive, and open to everyone.
- We are a church that cares for one another, and we enjoy being together in life’s joyful moments as well as in its difficult ones.
- We are a church that seeks to partner with God to bring heaven to earth in the lives of those in need within our community. Service and stewardship are at our core.

From November through Easter, the church offers two traditional Sunday worship services and a contemporary Saturday evening service, providing a welcoming range of worship styles. Because the congregation includes a highly seasonal population, in-person attendance increases steadily from the fall onward. January through April are the busiest months, with an average in-person attendance of approximately 400, while typical summer attendance averages around 200.



Financial Health

Since our founding in 1968, generosity has been a core value at UCMI. The congregation is passionate and enthusiastic about the United Church and its divine mission to partner with God in bringing more heaven to earth.

In caring for our congregation and facilities and serving our community, the church is fortunate to have multiple income streams, including a robust annual stewardship campaign. We also receive significant contributions to missions from The Bargain Basket, a 50-year-old mission of UCMI. And we are blessed with an Endowment Fund, our primary legacy-giving opportunity.

Sunday Mornings

Like many churches, UCMI embraced innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic by adopting a hybrid worship model that expanded how congregants gather and participate in worship. We intentionally integrated digital ministry into its long-term vision for worship and outreach.



Worship services are designed so that music, liturgy, and livestream production work together as a unified, creative expression of worship.

UCMI has continued to invest strategically in worship technology and program development to ensure that online participation is engaging and comparable to in-person worship. A state-of-the-art audio/visual system includes multi-camera recording and robust digital publishing, so sermons are delivered in both video and audio formats. Since launching livestream worship on YouTube and Facebook Live in November 2020, UCMI has extended its ministry well beyond the physical sanctuary.



WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BE?

God is calling us:

- to deepen our faith and to learn more about our discipleship journey.
- to continue our legacy of mission and service at our Bargain Basket Thrift Store and in our local community.
- to include everyone in our fellowship.
- to continue growing our church's witness so that more people can be part of our mission.
- to support an inspiring music ministry.
- to be present for others and to care for them in their hardships.
- to give generously through faithful stewardship so we can continue to spread his message through our ministries and missions.

MINISTRIES

Bargain Basket Thrift Store

The Bargain Basket Thrift Shop is a ministry arm of UCMI and a long-standing, much-loved presence in the Marco Island community. Proceeds from the Bargain Basket further UCMI's ministry and support our partners, both locally and nationally.



Since 1975, The Bargain Basket has thrived thanks to the generosity of its donors. Today, more than 275 volunteers help run the store. With the continued support of community donations, we proudly maintain our reputation as Marco Island's premier thrift shop.

Renovations underway will enhance the shop's ability to serve the community by providing an expanded donation and processing area, an ADA-compliant restroom, and greater efficiency for volunteers and staff—ensuring that The Bargain Basket can continue its mission for generations to come.



Bible Study and Adult Education

Bible Study and adult education programs provide thoughtful reflection, healthy dialogue, and lively discussion. Multiple sessions enable broad participation.

Congregational Care

Active and vital parts of our church life, programs focused on grief counseling and support for daily living, engage many of our parishioners. These ministries are complemented by home and hospital visits, in-home communion, delivery of healthy meals, and other acts of care and compassion.

This ministry has grown to include a dedicated group of congregants deeply committed to caring for others. Meeting monthly, they work year-round—making phone calls, sending cards, and reaching out to those in need of prayer, comfort, and encouragement.

Deacons

UCMI deacons assist the Senior Minister and others by facilitating weekly worship services, funerals, and weddings. In addition to serving as a deacon, members can sign up to serve as a greeter at our Sunday worship.

Hospitality

Our Hospitality Committee plans many festivities throughout the year. From holiday gatherings to celebrations to fellowship after services, the committee is dedicated to making everyone who walks through our doors feel welcome and part of our warm, caring worship community.

Men's Fellowship

The UCMI men's ministry brings men together in fellowship to grow stronger in friendship and faith. The men's group gathers each month for breakfast and plans engaging programs that welcome all in the congregation and community.



Mending Hearts Together Grief Support Group

This informal weekly support group is for anyone who has experienced loss. These meetings focus on self-care tools and practices to help us process our grief.

Music Ministry

The mission of our music ministry is to proclaim the Word of God through music. Music is not offered merely as something to be admired but as an instrument that teaches, comforts, inspires, motivates, and lifts up the spoken Word.

A chancel choir, a handbell choir, and a chimes choir—along with soloists and guest musicians—provide exceptional music for worship throughout the year. Our annual concert series showcases gifted performers and artists from around the world.



Mission Ministry

The Missions Committee is responsible for highlighting the church's mission work to the congregation, the community, and the world. Through a grant application process, the Missions Committee identifies and selects organizations to support through the Missions budget. Special offerings throughout the year provide additional support for disaster relief.

In addition to financial giving, church members actively engage in “hands-on” mission work by volunteering with many of our local mission partners, putting faith into action through service and outreach.

In 2025, almost \$500,000 in grants, financial support, and goods was awarded.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Ministry at UCMI brings together women who share laughter, fellowship, and faith. Through Women's Fellowship lunches and engaging programs, participants build meaningful relationships within UCMI and the wider community while growing together in Christian love.



CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Minister
Director of Operations
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music*
Administrative Assistant
IT and Media Coordinator
Marketing and Media Coordinator
Facilities Manager *

BARGAIN BASKET STAFF:

Operations Manager
Floor Manager
Processing Associate (2)*
Shift Leaders (5)*
...And 275+ Volunteers

*Indicates Part-Time Staff

Search Committee Co-Chairs:

Linda Fox, Moderator

Michelle Hennessy, Vice Moderator

Web: www.ucmarco.org

Email: Search@ucmarco.org

Submit your resume, including recommendations to:

Search@ucmarco.org



PASTOR

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Position Summary:

This is a full-time position for a Pastor who desires to grow in faith within a mission-driven, Christ-centered community. The Pastor will focus on discipleship, develop adult education, supervise volunteers, provide extensive pastoral and congregational care, recruit and train leaders, represent the church in the community, and serve as a true partner to the Senior Pastor.

This collaborative relationship offers meaningful opportunities for mentorship, professional development, and personal growth, with the potential for a future transition into the role of Senior Pastor.

UCMI is supported by a dynamic, experienced, and talented professional staff. We seek to call a Pastor who will help sustain and build upon the strong momentum present in this season of our church's ministry and shared journey of faith.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and deliver inspirational and relatable sermons on Sunday mornings at least eight times a year
- Plan and lead Saturday night worship service
- Attend committee meetings
- Coordinate and officiate at weddings, baptisms, funerals, and memorial services as directed by the Senior Pastor
- Plan and coordinate adult Christian education with the Senior Pastor
- Build on the significant momentum that has been gained in church and membership
- Attract new attendees, members and faithful stewards
- Plan and lead New Member Classes
- Collaborate with the Leadership Team in Pastoral/Congregational Care
- Work cooperatively with the Senior Pastor



PASTOR

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Personal Characteristics:

The ideal candidate will:

- Be a self-starter and understand the importance of collaborating and communicating as part of a team
- Be a person of strong personal faith with the energy and commitment required for ministry in a highly active church
- Have three to five years of experience serving in a programmatic church setting and be comfortable preaching on occasion

Qualifications:

- Masters in Divinity
- Ordained Minister with previous ministerial experience
- Preaching and worship leadership skills
- Ability to relate to a diverse cross-section of congregants, theologies, and backgrounds
- Administrative competence
- Competence in information technology, social media/video expertise a plus
- Demonstrated drive and initiative, with proven ability to multitask
- Ability to work productively in a team, both as a leader and a contributor
- Knowledge and experience in church financial management
- Excellent oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills

Compensation:

Base Salary: \$95,000 - \$115,000 contingent on experience

Total compensation range \$115,000 - \$175,000

Benefit package includes retirement plan, health insurance, and continuing education

Church-owned Parsonage is available for housing or Housing Allowance