

Christ Church of Longboat Key,
Presbyterian U.S.A.
6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228



TO:



Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor
941-383-8833

Web-site: www.christchurchoflbk.org
E-mail: info@christchurchoflbk.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 - 1:30

- Members of Session:**
- Class:**
- 2024 Kristine Bemko, Spiritual Growth
 - 2023 Noel Ebrahim, Clerk of the Session
 - 2024 Bob Elwell, Personnel
 - 2022 Fred Finks, Spiritual Growth
 - 2024 Mark Hausberg, Admin/Finance
 - 2022 Elaine McClure, Personnel
 - 2023 Diana Neely, Worship
 - 2023 Ann Quackenbush, Membership
 - 2022 Sally Rauch, Mission
 - 2023 John Shehorn, Admin/Finance
 - 2022 Bill Wartinbee, Fellowship
 - 2024 Lutie Uihlein, Caring Ministries

- Deacons:**
- 2022 Susan Crumpler
 - 2024 John Dixon
 - 2023 Holly Finks
 - 2022 Debra McKenna
 - 2024 Steve Miller
 - 2023 Susan Stuckert



The Pastor’s Page

Gratitude and Hope
Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

As I prepared a sermon recently, I found myself realizing how I expect everything to be ready and in order when I get to church. Perhaps that thought has crossed your mind too. Someone has opened the church and set the air conditioner, got the coffee ready, got the church flowers in position and lit the candles on the communion table, made sure that the bulletins which have already been printed are there for worshippers, ensured that the video and loud speaking equipment is ready to operate, that the organ and the piano are ready and the choir rehearsed and prepared. And so on--and I'm aware I have probably omitted something or someone, so I offer an apology for that!

Most of these details are handled by volunteers within the congregation -- church members who give generously of their time and skills (and sometimes their patience!) to enable us to function as a church. Even as we express gratitude for all that is given in the service of the church, it is good to remember that God sees and is pleased by all that the followers of Jesus offer in the church. (And in this letter I'm not even going to touch on all that church members do to serve our Lord through the life of the world and the church’s ministry in the world. That too is an important source of gratitude and appreciation.)

In addition to our volunteers, the church staff represent an important blessing in the life of the congregation. Rich Raymond, our property manager (five years on January 1), keeps a skilled and careful eye on our buildings and attends to needs as and when they arise. He also serves as property manager for our office building next door, an important responsibility recently added to Rich’s working week. An example of the way he goes over and above the call of duty is the installation of the lovely lights on the palm trees fronting Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Equally indispensable to Christ Church is Kathy Butler, church secretary. Her warm and friendly demeanor, her ready willingness to respond to every challenge, her care and attention to all our publications, the church calendar, and all the correspondence that comes in represent an impressive contribution to the health of the church. No wonder there was widespread disappointment when Kathy shared her desire to retire sometime soon.

In the music department, we are equally well served. Robert Romanski, our Director of Music, leads the program most effectively. He oversees the entire program, coaches the choir to the beautiful sounds that enrich our worship each week, plans the concert series in season, contacts and arranges for soloists and guest musicians and whatever else our musical life requires. Jeremy Silverman, our Pianist and Organist, brings his exceptional musical skills to our church life--both in worship and in concerts. Both Robert and Jeremy have put their professional contacts at the service of the church by arranging for soloists and additional musicians when required. And of course, this year in the absence of lay readers because of Covid, they have both been reading scripture Sunday by Sunday.

With all that our staff does, it is sometimes easy to forget that our staff serves part time. Since the turning of the year is often an occasion for looking back as well as looking forward, I am looking back with gratitude and forward with confidence based on the blessings that our members and our staff bring to us.

This January gives us a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge God's goodness to us as a congregation. Sunday January 16 will mark the 10th anniversary of the dedication of our sanctuary with a special Service of Thanksgiving. The following Sunday, Dr Finks will round off our celebrations with a sermon that will focus on the richness and the meaning of the stained glass window of our Lord in the sanctuary. And between those Sundays we will have a congregational dinner allowing us to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. The weekly eblast and the Sunday announcements will provide details.





HOLY COMMUNION IN HOME

It is the desire of Christ Church to make Holy Communion available to all members who are unable to attend worship. Monthly Communion is celebrated in the worship service facilitated by the pastor. This is a treasured experience and unites us as God’s children.

What if a Christ Church member is unable to attend in-church Communion? Are they left without the blessing of taking Holy Communion? Absolutely not!

One of the ministry roles of the Deacons is caring for and service to members in need. Holy Communion will be brought to the one in need. The setting may be in the individual’s one, hospital setting, or other areas of living and care. God can be honored everywhere and Christ Church Deacon’s are prepared to meet individual desires for experiencing Holy Communion.

For further information or to request Home Communion, contact Debra McKenna.



Chancel flower donations to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and special memories are being restarted for 2022.

Information and sign-up sheets can be found on the Activities Table in Fellowship Hall. Please stop by and sign up for a Sunday of your choice.



Why is it important for me to become a member of Christ Church? When you become a member, you feel a sense of community and very quickly become a part of our church family, where you find an atmosphere of warmth and worship. Please stop by the Welcome Desk any Sunday to learn more. Next **Connect Class** is **January 23**.



The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16

May we pray for you?

The Christ Church Prayer Chain is committed to lifting you up in times of difficulty, giving thanks and praise in times of gladness. You can be assured our team keeps every request in the strictest of confidence.

If you have a need or praise for which you would like prayer, please contact either of our Prayer Chain co-ordinators:

Karen Jennings:
Shirley Venkataraman:

Growing in Jesus’ name through Bible studies,
Sunday School, small groups, and special events.



“His Lord said unto him well done, good and faithful servant.” Matthew 25:21

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY meets on **Wednesdays** at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Office Building Meeting Room**. On **January 5**, we will conclude our current study, “Living Beyond Yourself - Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit,” by Beth Moore. On **January 12**, we will begin a nine-week video study, “Expecting to See Jesus,” by Anne Graham Lotz, in which she encourages participants to avoid complacency and issues a wake-up call to seek out a revival of our passion for Jesus. To obtain a study guide and register for class, contact Jean Buckley. **All participants are required to register in advance.**

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY . There will be a break after December 27 and resuming on January 17. A new study will begin in February. Stay tuned.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: When Sunday School resumes in the New Year, we’ll begin a new series, “That’s a Good Question.” The four gospels record Jesus asking lots of questions—no fewer than 300, according to some counts—and we’ll take six of Jesus’ biggest questions and intersperse them with six questions some of our people would like to ask Jesus! That’s where the congregation comes in: suggestions welcome! If you have a question you’d like considered for inclusion in the series—something you’ve always wanted to ask Jesus—email the question to Norman (revnmp@outlook.com) and he’ll try to curate a diverse series of topics. While asking Norman is not quite (!) as good as asking Jesus, he says he’ll do his best to mine scripture and come up with what he thinks scripture says—and therefore what we can assume Jesus would offer as a reply. The series will begin January 9, so get those questions in as soon as possible.

Introduction to the Bible and Personal Study: Join us for a “layman’s” overview of the Bible, who wrote it, is it relevant to you? How do I read and gain understanding from it myself? Bring your Bible and an expectant heart and mind on **Wednesday, January 5**, at **1:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room.

Small Groups: There will be four small groups led by:

Fred Finks: South Island

Starting **Thursday, January 13**, at **7:00 p.m.** We will be using David DeSilva’s book, “One Another” which is a New Testament prescription for Transformation.

Barbara and Jon Grimes: North Island

Starting **Wednesday, January 26**, from **4:00—5:30 p.m.** We will be discussing 1 Peter for nine weeks using John MacArthur’s study guide (available on Amazon). Please join us for this rich study at 648 Dream Island Road (by Cannon’s Marina).

Noel Ebrahim: Bradenton

Starting **Tuesday, January 11**, at **6:00 p.m.** We will be using Marcus Borg’s book “Living the Heart of Christianity.”

Hannah and Steve Miller: Sarasota East

Starting **Wednesday, January 12**, from **5:30—7:45 p.m.** (including a light dinner) for eight weeks. We will be studying “Torah Devotions for Christians” based on the first five books of the Bible.

CHRIST CHURCH OF LONGBOAT KEY

TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND

MAY 4-13, 2022

HOSTED BY: Dr. Norman Pritchard and Dr. Fred Finks

\$5058* pp from Tampa, FL



(All Inclusive: Round trip airfare, 4 & 5 star hotels, land transportation, guide, entrance fees, tips, carrier surcharge, travel insurance, breakfast and dinner daily and 4 lunches. **Not included:** Drinks, souvenirs and personal items.)

Journey with us to the land where Scripture comes alive. Visit the towns and places where Jesus lived, taught and performed miracles. Walk the ancient streets of Jerusalem, experience the Old City and travel the Way of the Cross, sit among the ancient trees on the Mt. of Olives, Sail on the Sea of Galilee and swim in the Dead Sea. From Caesarea, Tiberias, Galilee, Capernaum, the Jordan, Masada to Jerusalem this will be a life changing experience. Join us.

Optional Extension to Petra, Jordan: May 13 to 15, 2021 - **\$1049*** pp

Optional Extension to Egypt: May 15 to 20, 2021 - **\$2106*** pp

If Interested, email Dr. Fred Finks . We have four spaces available .

**THE FIRST
OF THREE CONCERTS
at CCLBK
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9
2:00 p.m.
ALEXA LOWREY,
soloist**



Giving to CCLBK Through Your IRA Can Save Taxes

If you are 70 1/2 or more, you can give through your IRA and avoid taxes on the amount contributed. This applies to non Roth IRAs, where you can have a portion of your required income distribution paid directly to a qualifying charity (such as CCLBK) by the custodian of your funds. Because the gift amount is not included in your tax return, no tax is accrued. If you claim the standard deduction - as more individuals and couples are doing since the 2018 tax law changes - the IRA giving option enables you to still have a tax benefit for your gift because it's not included in your income. If you have questions about this avenue of giving to CCLBK, please contact:

Mark Hausberg or John Shehorn



A Happy, Blessed New Year to You

January is a time of new beginnings reflected in our Highlighted Collections for this month. Start with topics from our Max Lucado selections which have grown to over 30 volumes on a wide range of faith based topics. Eminently readable, Max's words are clarifying and uplifting. You might also be interested in our healthy eating collection that emphasizes fat loss, heart healthy, low carb, or low salt diets. You can even try Mediterranean cooking or one of the popular systems for improving your overall diet. Finally, if you have not yet experienced the fast paced mysteries of Michael Connelly, we have two dozen of them on CD and in book form. See for yourself why his character based novels have served up believable and engrossing crime novels and the popular Netflix series "Bosch".

Our book sale is currently on hold, but we would appreciate your donations of books, jigsaw puzzles and DVDs for our library, our missions and our soon to be rescheduled sale.

Library hours are 9:00 to noon Sundays, 8:30 to 1:30 Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

MISSION MATTERS

Christmas Gifts for Beth-El and Harvest House



Shouts of joy and tears of gratitude were evident at Christmas parties at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry and Harvest House as Christmas gifts from Christ Church members were distributed. The shouts came from children excited to open their gifts. The tears from parents who realized someone cared about them.

Grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the Christmas giving program. This year, we "adopted" nearly 180 people at the migrant farmworker facility and the homeless center. Because of the generous support of the Christ Church family, we were also able to adopt 26 women in a new Harvest House program for women recovering from drug, alcohol or abuse problems.

Erin Minor, CEO of Harvest House and Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director at Beth-El both express their grateful appreciation to Christ Church for remembering those in difficult situations this Christmas.

HOPE SEEDS

Ho! Ho! Ho! Hope Seeders!

Sue and I are blessed by each of you! Over the past couple of years, COVID did not deter you. In 2020, you packed 85,330 seed packets, and this year, 80,960 seed packets. WOW!!!! You are phenomenal.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules on December 13, to come together and assist Hope Seeds. You 24 elves were very busy and packed 4,000 packets of collard greens and labeled them at home. Thank you: Holly Braun, Roger Brown, Patty Buck, Margaret Chirgwin, Joyce and Jerry Fox, Anne Kerry, Barbara and Tim Liggett, Cheryl Mills, Dick and Carole McLaughlin, Brent Piersma, Ann Quackenbush, Sally Rauch, Joan Reploeg, Gordon Lenci and Beverly Sutton, Jackie Tauber, Lutie Uihlein, Sue Wertman, Elizabeth Wild, and Bonnie Wright,

Thank you to Tim Liggett for playing beautiful music and for Dave Balsbaugh who came and spoke to us. We look forward to seeing you on January 24, February 28, March 28, and April 25.



What is the primary purpose of Hope Seeds?

To provide quality garden seed to a hungry world in the name of Christ! No man should go hungry for the lack of seed, and empowering people to grow their own food is a God-pleasing directive since Creation. (Genesis 1:29)

How has Christ Church helped Hope Seeds:

We have an active group of volunteers who come together and pack seeds in Fellowship Hall.

Which countries is Hope Seeds most active?

Haiti is our largest and most common recipient of seed and ag-support due to its long history of poverty and great need for development work. Several countries in eastern Africa are getting more seed and help each year. We anticipate new opportunities and already serve in many areas of the Caribbean, Central American, and Asia.



Glenn and Joy Cassens, from Traverse City, MI, felt drawn to Christ Church upon arriving in Longboat Key due to the warm welcome. Initially, they lived seasonally aboard their boat, “Leap of Faith,” a motor yacht in the Longboat Key Marina. Today, they are full time residents of Longboat Key.

Together for 45 years, they have two great kids, one granddaughter and another due in March. Now retired, Joy enjoyed a career focused on healthcare marketing as a Creative Director. She has a degree in marketing and culinary arts. Also retired, Glenn’s career spanned corporate management, consulting, entrepreneurship, and private equity.

During the past several seasons, they have been involved in many aspects of Christ Church and are proud to become full time members. Both Joy and Glenn look forward to more actively participating in the life of the church.

Mary Ellen Taggart is no stranger to Christ Church. She first started attending with her neighbor, Lorena Noyes three years ago and finally decided it was time to join as a full time member.

Mary Ellen brings many interests and talents to our church family. The widow and retiree enjoys playing bridge, knitting prayer shawls and has expressed interest in joining the Book Club and possibly the prayer chain. A former homemaker, Mary Ellen also has a master’s degree in gerontology. She enjoys painting and twenty five years as a dedicated volunteer with the Newark Museum.

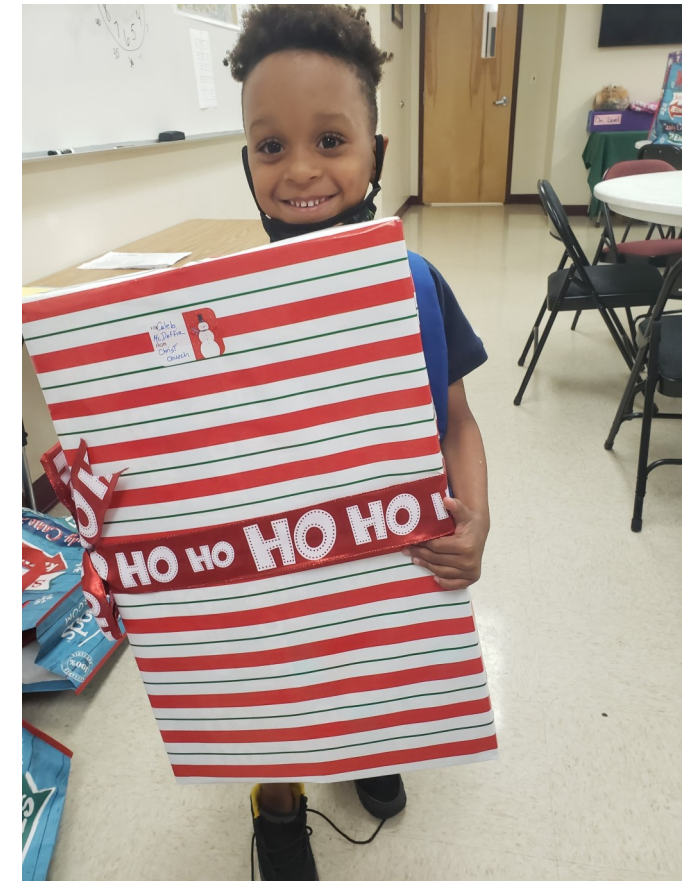
Today, Mary Ellen spends the winter season on Longboat Key and summers in Maine. Please be sure to give Mary Ellen a warm Christ Church welcome.

Richard Wilhelm moved to Longboat Key as a seasonal resident two years ago. After some church shopping, Richard decided Christ Church was the perfect fit and is joining as a full time member. Richard says he enjoys the church’s teaching and the friendly atmosphere during Fellowship Hour. He brings church leadership experience with him having served as a deacon in his former church in Ohio for nearly ten years.

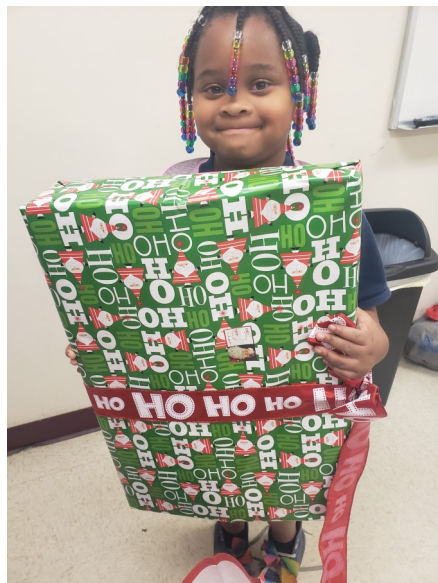
Retired after a career in finance, Richard now enjoys boating and fishing. “And I like to golf when my shoulder is ok!” Richard shared. Like many seasonal residents, Richard finds he is beginning to spend more and more time in our island paradise. Be sure to introduce yourself to Richard the next time you’re in church.

CHRIST CHURCH ACTIVITY FAIR will be held on **Sunday, January 16**, in **Fellowship Hall** after the worship service.

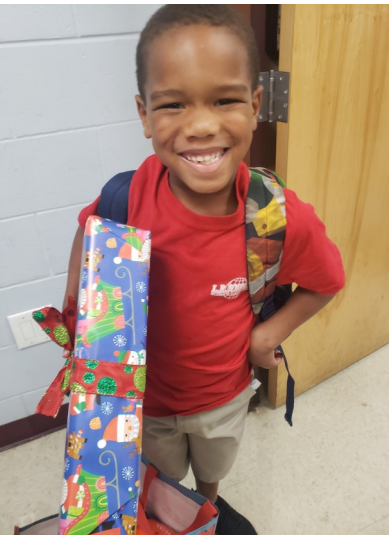
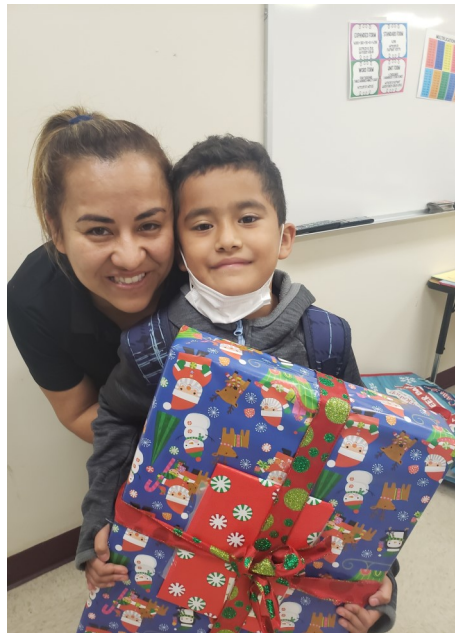
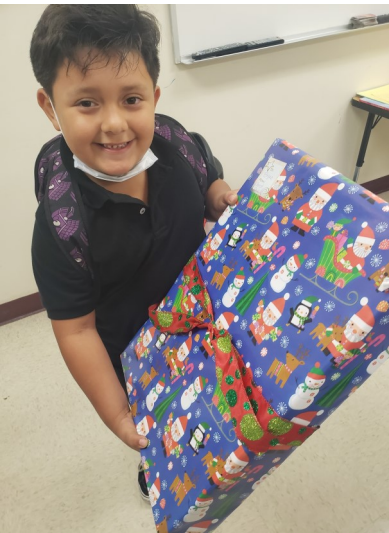
Each of our committees will host a table showcasing what they do. It is here you can learn about participating in a myriad of church activities. Any questions, please contact Ann Quackenbush.



**READING BUDDIES
CHRISTMAS!!**



No words are needed ...
the smiles tell the story!



Our beautiful Christmas tree
in the Narthex.



You will be receiving a pledge card in the mail. Please know that your support, both time and money, helps sustain and grow our worship, fellowship, and outreach programs.

Thank you for your commitment to CCLBK.

Mark Hausberg, Grateful Giving Chair

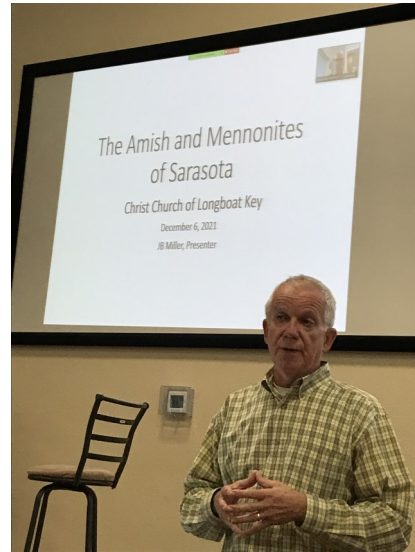


Blessings to everyone for your generous donations
to Our Daily Bread to make a Christmas come true to lots of needy children.





Men's Club will have their first meeting of 2022 on **Monday, January 10.** We are pleased to present Steve Miller, who will be discussing 'Business and Faith - My Journey.' Steve spent almost all of his working life in Asia where he was privileged to found and have the position of CEO in two airlines. Although being raised as a Christian, he abandoned his faith in his late teens, which he only regained at the age of 50. This is his story! Coffee and danish will be served at **8:15**, and Steve's presentation will begin at **8:30.** This fascinating session will be both live in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. Sign up or email Wayne Swift.



BELL RINGERS!!



SARASOTA BOAT PARADE



We play two Tuesdays each month at **1:30 p.m.** Modern American Canasta rules are followed. Here are the **Tuesday** dates for 2022:
January 11 and 25, February 8 and 22;
March 8 and 22; April 5 and 26;

Join us at the Tidy Island Association Clubhouse, 139 Tidy Island Blvd, Bradenton. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Bonnie Wright.

BOOK CLUB

Join us in the Conference Room at 1:00 p.m. the following Wednesdays:

January 19: *Firekeeper's Daughter*
by Angeline Boulley
February 16: *The Henna Artist*
by Alka Joshi



Want to learn Mah Jong? Classes will be every Friday beginning **January 7, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

Sign up after services or call Judy Williams.



DINE AROUND
at
the home
of
Jim and
Margaret
Chirgwin.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 - The Messiah



Soloist, Alexa Lowrey

Director of Music,
Robert Romanski



New members being recognized on December 5.

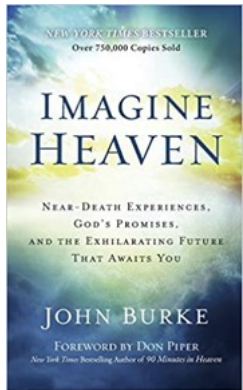
Norman and Joan Pritchard with his friend of 50 years from Glasgow, Scotland - Rev. John and Diane Spiers.



Christian Reading Matters

Come and join Joan Pritchard as she leads a discussion of these books in January, February and March! We will meet in the conference room at **3:30 p.m. on January 31, February 28, and March 28.** Please register ahead of time at the activities table so that we can email the discussion questions to you ahead of time. The books will be available for purchase at the activities table.

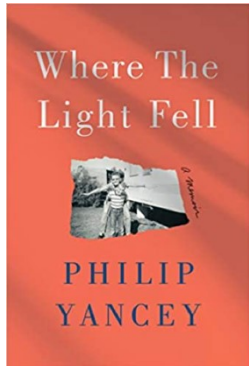
January: *Imagine Heaven* by John Burke



It's obvious from the bookshelves and the big screen that heaven is on everyone's mind. All of us long to know what life after death will be like. Bestselling author John Burke is no exception. For decades, he has been studying accounts of people who have had near-death experiences (NDEs). While not every detail of individual NDEs correlate with Scripture, Burke shows how the common experiences shared by thousands of survivors clearly point to the God of the Bible and the exhilarating picture of heaven he promises.

Imagine Heaven is an inspirational journey through the Bible's picture of heaven, colored in with the real-life stories of heaven's wonders. Burke compares gripping stories of NDEs to what Scripture says about our biggest questions of heaven: Will I be myself? Will I see friends and loved ones? What will it look like? What is God like? What will we do forever? What about children and pets? This book will propel readers into an experience that will forever change their view of the life to come and the way they live life today. It also tackles the tough questions of heavenly reward and hellish NDEs. A fascinating and hope-filled book.

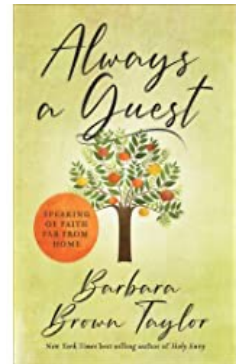
February : *Where the Light Fell* by Philip Yancey



Philip Yancey, beloved author of 25 books that have been translated into 50 languages worldwide, has written a memoir that depicts his faith journey in detail that many readers will appreciate for its honesty and marvel at the struggle it describes. Readers of some of his previous books will know that Yancey had to struggle for his faith, but ... really ... this much?

One author is cited on the back cover: "*Where The Light Fell* could be a Faulkner novel, with racist preachers, off kilter parenting, tormented siblings, and religious hypocrisy right and left. It's not an overstatement to say that this stunning memoir might be the miracle we've all waited for. I believe every word."

March: *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor



From beloved writer and renowned preacher Barbara Brown Taylor comes a new collection of sermons and stories of faith, grace, and hope. Taylor, author of several best-selling books and named as one of the best preachers in the country, uses the experience of being a guest preacher, speaking of faith to people you don't know, as requiring her to seek common ground by exploring the central human experience. Full of Taylor's astute observations on the Spirit and the state of the world, seasoned by her gentle wit, this is a collection to savor and enjoy.

Everyone will have their own favorite sermon!

JANUARY

CCLBK CALENDAR OF EVENTS
for 2021—2022
(all subject to change!)

January

09 Concert - Alexa Lowrey
10 Men's Club
10 Women's Club Lunch Around
16 Activity Fair
19 Wed. Night Dinner
10th Anniversary
24 Hope Seeds
28 Dine Around
30 Annual Congregational Meeting
31 Christian Reading Matters

February

07 Men's Club
14 Women's Club Valentine's Day
16 Wed. Night Dinner—WBTT
27 Kirkin' o' the Tartans
28 Christian Reading Matters
28 Hope Seeds

March

06 Concert
07 Men's Club
11 First Timers Dine Around
14 Women's Club
16 Wed. Night Dinner—Missions
21 Blood Drive
28 Christian Reading Matters
28 Hope Seeds

April

04 Men's Club
06 Reading Buddies Awards Program
14 Maundy Thursday Service
15 Good Friday Service
17 Easter
22 or 29 End of Season Party
25 Hope Seeds



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 RICH 5 YEARS!
2 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY SCHOOL	3	3 9:00 am MISSION -MR 9:30 am WORSHIP 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	5 10:00 am CR & MR WBS 1pm - CR INTRO to the BIBLE	6 READING BUDDIES	7 10:00 am KNITTERS FH 10:00 am MAH JONG FH	8
9 10:00 am WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL 2:00 pm CONCERT Alexa Lowrey	10 8:15 am MEN'S CLUB FH 10:30 am WOMEN'S CLUB BRUNCH 7:00 pm CHOIR	11 9:30 am FELLOWSHIP 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30 CANASTA Tidy Island	12 10:00 am CR & MR Women's Bible Study 	13	14 10:00 am KNITTERS FH 10:00 am MAH JONG FH	15
16 10:00 am WORSHIP CHURCH DEDICATION SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY FAIR	17 9:00 am MBS 1:00 pm DEACONS CR 7:00 pm CHOIR	18 9:00 am SESSION Zoom 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	19 10:00 am CR & MR WBS 1:00 pm-CR BOOK CLUB 5:00 pm-FH WED NITE DINNER	20 10:30 am WOMEN'S SMALL GROUPS Zoom READING BUDDIES	21 10:00 am KNITTERS FH 10:00 am MAH JONG FH	22
23 10:00 am WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL DR. FRED FINKS Preaching CONNECT CLASS	24 9:00 am MBS 1:00 pm HOPE SEEDS FH 7:00 pm CHOIR	25 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30 CANASTA Tidy Island	26 10:00 am CR & MR Women's Bible Study 	27 4:00 pm PHOTO CLASS	28 10:00 am KNITTERS FH 10:00 am-HH MAH JONG DINE AROUND	29
30 10:00 am WORSHIP ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING	31 9:00 am MBS 3:30 pm -CR CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB 7:00 pm CHOIR				CA-Cafe Area CR- Conf Rm FH-Fellowship Hall MR-Meeting Room	