

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



TO:

Vision Statement: “Growing in Jesus’ name”



Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor
Dr. Fred Finks, Honorary Parish Associate
941-383-8833

Website: www.christchurchoflbk.org
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OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 - 1:00

Members of Session:

- Class:**
- 2025 Steve Bergman, Missions
 - 2024 Bob Elwell, Personnel
 - 2024 Michael Chester, Personnel
 - 2026 Cathy Daily, Worship
 - 2026 Fred Finks, Spiritual Growth
 - 2025 Mike Gardiner, Nominating
 - 2024 Mark Hausberg, Admin/Finance
 - 2026 Barbara Liggett, Worship
 - 2025 Debra McKenna, Caring Ministries
 - 2026 Steve Walter, Technology
 - 2025 Joyce Wartinbee, Membership
 - 2024 Lutie Uihlein, Fellowship
- John Shehorn Treasurer, Building and Grounds
Noel Ebrahim Clerk of Session and Evangelism

Deacons:

- 2025 Glenn Cassens
- 2026 Holly Finks
- 2025 Gary Frank
- 2024 Susan Crumpler
- 2024 Karen Jennings
- 2026 Kathy McLean



The Pastor’s Page

The Center of our Faith

By Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

During March this year, we get ready to touch the center of our faith in a number of important ways.

Our gratitude for all that God has done for us at Christ Church makes us eager to be the best that we can be in witness and service to our God. That means we strive to be a vital congregation, worthy to bear our Savior’s name. The first three Sundays of the month will see us complete in worship and small group conversation, our focus on the 7 Marks of Vital congregations. Topics to focus on are: Spirit-Inspired Worship, Caring Relationships and overall Ecclesial Health.

The very center of our faith and life, of course, occurs next month when we enter Holy Week and Easter and celebrate the basic meaning of our faith. As we look around our world today, we need little persuasion that things are going wrong, in some cases badly wrong. But we believe that God’s love for the world is so deep and persistent and forgiving that it can only come to full expression in the suffering, death and resurrection of the Son of God. While the world celebrates Easter as a spring holiday, we want to celebrate it as a holy day, the climax of a holy season and the culmination of divine self-giving which even the brutal rejection of crucifixion cannot and did not overcome.

So on March 26 we prepare for Holy Week with a musical service where the truth of scripture is reflected in hymns and anthems that point to pain and suffering human lostness inflicted on God. That leads us towards Holy Week when we enter spiritually into the sufferings of Christ and re-appropriate his sacrifice.

These central truths of our faith are so wonderful that Christians have never been able to keep them to themselves. That is what makes mission another central feature of the life of the church. On March 15, our Wednesday Night Dinner will have our support for missions as its focus, and we will hear from two of the agencies we are committed to, Agape Flights and Selah Freedom. This will give members and friends first opportunity to learn first hand of the work done among victims of human trafficking from staff and clients from Selah Freedom in Sarasota. We have already given significant help to Selah and are thrilled to have been able to assist them develop programs that will assist Selah help groups seeking to do similar work in other cities to get up and running.

We want Christ Church to offer exciting opportunities for faith expression and sharing as our relationships with Jesus and one another grow and we learn how best we can assist God’s mission in our day.



Missions

Mark your Calendars!

Annual Mission Night Dinner & Program

Wednesday, March 15 in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 pm

Three representatives from Selah Freedom will speak on sex trafficking in our area and how Selah Freedom works with survivors of trafficking to turn their lives around. One speaker is a survivor herself, a graduate of the Selah program and is now a Selah staff member.

Also presenting will be Allen Speer, President of Agape Flights, who will tell of a tumultuous year for Agape and the miraculous recovery that ensued.



Christ Church of Longboat Key

Legacy Funds Ministry Pledge Card

I/we have included Christ Church of Longboat Key in my/our estate plan.

Signature(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

I understand this information is confidential.

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Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Members are reminded CCLBK offers a simple way you can make an enduring statement of faith by becoming a Legacy donor.

Making a special gift through your estate can ensure the future of CCLBK for generations to come. To share your plan to support the church in this lasting way, please tear off, sign and return the enclosed pledge form in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Your gift intention will be confidential. But having your written commitment will help us to know how CCLBK is progressing in terms of longer-term philanthropy. (If you've already signed a pledge card, warmest thanks!)

Your enduring expression of generosity will help perpetuate this amazing congregation and sustain our invaluable missions. Thank you for your kind consideration! ~ Mark Hausberg



At the February Men's Club Breakfast, Bob Dods spoke of his time in China and how things have/are changing. He discussed how these changes affect the U.S. and suggested the best way to cope with these changes is SR262 (his winery's label). Our breakfast, prepared by Fred Lugano, was a traditional Chinese breakfast using chop sticks.

At our March 6th meeting, Harry from Harry's Restaurant will prepare a special treat and then speak about his life. Attendance is open to all of the congregation. Due to our contract with Harry's, the number of breakfasts will be limited, so sign up quickly.



Membership:

Are you interested in becoming a member of our Church family? Please stop by the Welcome Desk any Sunday and speak with Joyce Wartinbee or contact her.



"Be anxious for nothing but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ~ Phil 4:6

May we pray for you?

The Christ Church prayer chain is committed to lifting you up in times of difficulty and giving thanks and praise in times of gladness. You can be assured our team keeps your requests in the strictest of confidence.

**If you have a need or praise for which you would like prayer, contact either of our prayer chain coordinators:
Karen Jennings
Shirley Venkataraman**

Enrichment Experiences for the Dream Center Children

Through the generous funding of the members and friends of Christ Church, our Dream Center children are participating in a series of enrichment activities. We recently polled the Dream Center children about what they might like to be or do when they finished their schooling. The VAST majority of our boys imagined themselves playing in either the NFL or the NBA. Many of the girls pictured themselves as moms, cheerleaders or TV stars. In an effort to broaden their dreams and glimpse other career possibilities, we have initiated an enrichment program. Our first guest speaker/performer was Les Kraus, a wood wind player from Robert Romanski’s North Port Symphony Orchestra. Our second guest was EJ Porter, a drummer, producer and engineer. We are pursuing other speakers as well as planning field trips for the children. Our next activity will be a bus trip to the Bishop Planetarium in Bradenton. Perhaps we have some future astronomers in our reading program. "If you can dream it, you can be it."

As always, the Reading Buddies leadership team is grateful for the church's support in "being a light in the lives of at-risk children and shining that light on reading."



EJ Porter, musician, engineer and producer, provided a hands-on learning experience for the Dream Center children. In addition to inspiring the children to consider music as a career, he also emphasized the importance of reading in making dreams come true



Les Kraus, a member of The North Port Symphony (directed by Robert Romanski), shared his love of three woodwind instruments. In addition to teaching the children about the instruments, he also performed for the children on his saxophone, clarinet and flute.



BRIDGE CLUB

Join us in the Café Area on **Tuesdays** at 1:30 p.m.

All levels of players are welcome!



Here is the concert date and names of the performers for the final concert in the 2023 series.

The **concert is free** and begins at **2:00 p.m.**
Everyone is invited!

* **MARCH 5** - Todd Donovan and Dale Williams

American Bass-Baritone Todd Donovan has graced the operatic, musical theater and concert stages and has been a frequent featured soloist in music festivals in Austria. Todd will collaborate with pianist, Dale Williams, who has served as accompanist for festivals in England and Austria. Together they will present an eclectic program of art, song, musical theater, and inspirational selections.

Bring your friends and neighbors.



Next meeting is **Wednesday, March 15**, at **1:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room. The book to be discussed is “Mad Honey” by Jodi Piccoul.

April 19 : “Lessons in Chemistry”
By Bonnie Garmus



March 14 and 28
April 11 and 25

We encourage anyone interested to please come and join our group. All are welcome, both new and seasoned players.

Any questions? Contact Bonnie Wright



As we enter Lent, we will be displaying several books on top of the DVD bookcase describing **Christ’s last days**. Choose from authors such as Max Lucado and Marcus Borg and titles like *What Jesus Saw from the Cross* and *He Chose the Nails*. More books about the life of Christ can also be found in section 230 Christ, in our Faith and Spiritual Growth collection.

Louise Penny, Canadian author of the beloved, best-selling mystery series that features Chief Inspector Gamache of Québec, is our highlighted author this month. Her character-driven books are carefully plotted whodunits that explore such universal themes as love, friendship, loss, and redemption.

Naval Historical Fiction will also be highlighted this month. We have several titles by Patrick O’Brian, of *Master and Commander* fame, and Alexander Kent, whose novels about the Royal Navy were often set during World War II or the Napoleonic Wars.

If you are expecting guests, keep in mind our **books, games, puzzles and family DVDs**, which are located in the children’s corner and in the closet of the meeting room.

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



The **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group** is back! Please join us on **Fridays at 10:30 a.m.**

We usually meet in the Meeting Room in the church office building, but if space is needed we meet in the Fellowship Hall.



CLEVELAND CELTIC ENSEMBLE CONCERT - FEBRUARY 19

Almost 300 people enjoyed the music of the Cleveland Celtic Ensemble at the second concert in our winter series on February 19. The four performers played a variety of Irish instruments including small pipes, uilleann pipes, small flutes, a violin, a traditional bagpipe, and a Celtic harp.



Volunteers Needed for Children's Ministry!!!

Don't miss a wonderful opportunity to volunteer to help with children on **Palm Sunday, April 2**, and/or **Easter Sunday, April 9**. Volunteers are needed for both services. Books, toys, and activities pertaining to Easter are available to make it a special time. Please contact Barbara Grimes and let me know at which service you can help!!!

IS IT TIME TO CONNECT?

Please join Pastor Norman on **Sunday, March 26**, after worship, for a conversation about Christ Church if you are looking for meaningful worship and spiritual growth. Perhaps you would like to experience fellowship with Christ .

Church members: Are you interested in membership? Sign up at Activities Table for the **CONNECT CLASS**, March 26, at 11:15 in Choir Room. Questions? Contact Joyce Wartinbee.

VALENTINE LUNCHEON

The **Women's Club** hosted its Second Annual Valentine Luncheon aboard the Marina Jack II. Having 43 guests this year allowed us the exclusive use of the Upper Deck. The cruise included a tasty buffet lunch and scrumptious dessert. Smooth waters beckoned us around Lido and Bird Key under sunny skies. It was a day that won't soon be forgotten !





Spiritual Growth

The Psalmist, David wrote in Psalm 119:11, “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” The King James version puts it this way, “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.” David was not perfect.

He faced personal sin in his life that caused him to go against God’s law on several occasions. But he always found his way back to God. In choosing David as King, God said that he sought a man after his own heart. That man was David. The reason David always found his way back to God was because he had the word of God stored up in his heart. The same is true for each of us. By keeping God’s word close to our hearts, we find our strength to turn from our sinful ways.

Men’s Bible Study continues to study the book of John each Monday morning from 9:00-10:00 in the fellowship hall. We encourage all men of the church to join the study even if you have never been involved in a Bible Study. This is a great time for studying God’s word and building lasting friendships.

Women’s Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 in the meeting room and will begin a new study by Chip Ingram on Ephesians 6, The Invisible War. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Introduction of the Bible is an introductory way for people to learn the basics. If you feel inadequate or unprepared to read Scripture, here is a good entryway to get your feet wet. The next opportunity is **March 6 at 11:00**. If interested, see Barbara Grimes after worship,



Come join us in Fellowship Hall on **March 20 and April 17** to pack seeds. Since 2016 Christ Church has packed 274,351 seed packets sent to 27,000 families. This has helped over 1 million individuals and spread the gospel message around the world. Kudos to Bob Benz and Lutie Uihlein for painting at Hope Seeds offices and to a Christ Church individual who has paid for the cost of a well to be dug in Kenya to benefit a village.



Welcome New Members



New members, **Jack and Alison Wilson**, have made their mark already at CCLBK. Every Sunday Alison sings in the choir, and Jack greets everyone with his open smile and cheerful disposition. An accountant, Jack’s

career in Financial and Marketing Systems, focused on his building management expertise. Product development, computer-internet skills, and writing continue to be his interests as he is only semi-retired. Jack has been a lifetime Presbyterian guided in his youth by his parents.

Alison’s church background is Episcopalian. She is a very capable musician who plays the piano and organ as well as being vocally talented. Years ago, she was advising a retiring choir director about his successor when he asked her if she would lead the choir. She accepted the challenge and for many years Alison was the church music director. Now we at CCLBK benefit from her expertise. Alison also enjoys reading.

Jack, born a Canadian and now a proud American, met Alison, a Brit, in London when he was buying a company. Together, they built a successful business in creating collectible dolls and Teddy bears, sold and treasured around the world. Disney World was their largest American business associate, so sunny Florida became their destination when they sold their business. They have seven children and seven grandchildren.

The Wilsons were attracted to the impressive building which is home to Christ Church, where they found a wonderful church community developing; one they could embrace. Please warmly welcome Jack and Alison when you see them.



Christ Church welcomes into full membership LBK permanent residents, **Deane and Lynn Baron**. They transferred to CCLBK from their former church in Texas. Both are Canadian by birth but now have dual citizenship...and are delighted to be living in the sunshine and warmth of Florida.

Deane’s special interests are scuba diving and underwater videography. (Where better than Florida’s coast?) Deane is a semi-retired accountant who has worked and continues to work as a Chief Financial Officer. He enjoys the Men’s Bible Study which he describes as a “great group.”

Lynn actively works as a Physical Therapist in Sarasota. Nutrition is one of her special interests along with various community projects. She says that she enjoys Christ Church as her new church home for worship and learning and comes with a Presbyterian background from the United Church of Canada.

The Barons have two children: a daughter, Jen Colwell, who lives in Washington state, and a son, Scott, a contract coronary-intensive care nurse who moves around the country every 13 weeks.

In summer months, Deane and Lynn vacation at their cottage in Canada on Lake Muskoka where their family likes to gather. Past travels include living in nine different cities in three different countries with a five years’ residency in Mexico City. How happy we are to have them settle on LBK!!

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			110:00 am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (WBS)	2	310:30 am KNITTING	411:30 am-1:00 pm Community Cookout
510:00 am WORSHIP 2:00 pm WinterSeries Concert	68:30 am MEN'S CLUB—FH 11:00 am Intro. to the Bible - CR	79:00 am Mission - MR 9:30 am Worship - CR 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	810:00 am WBS	9READING BUDDIES	1010:30 am KNITTING	11
1210:00 am WORSHIP	139:00 am Men's Bible Study (MBS)-FH 10:30 AM Spiritual Growth- CR 12:30 pm Women's Fashion Show	149:30 am Fellowship- CR 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30 pm CANASTA	1510:00 am WBS 5:00 pm WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER - FH	16	1710:30 am KNITTING	18
1910:00 am WORSHIP	209:00 am MBS - FH 1:00 pm Deacon - CR 1:00 pm Hope Seeds - FH	219:00 am SESSION- CR 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	2210:00 am WBS	23READING BUDDIES	2410:30 am KNITTING	25Noon-3:30pm Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
2610:00 am WORSHIP Easter Cantata	279:00 am MBS - FH	281:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30pm CANASTA	2910:00 am WBS	30	3110:30 am KNITTING	CA-Coffee Area CR-Conference Room FH-Fellowship Hall MR-Meeting Room

March Birthdays

01	Iris Julian	17	Carol Falck
03	Jay Hale	19	Al Van Iten
04	Glenn Cassens	19	Edwin Cook
04	Stephanie Pratt	20	Sandy Gricius
05	Roger Brown	21	Bennie Dods
06	Don Swanson	21	Belle Fangmeyer
06	Judy Smith	21	Missie Kaull
09	Dan Crumpler	24	Cam Maddox
09	Tom Crawford	25	Bob Bulter
10	Becky Horton	26	Ginny Dreher
11	Carl Johnson	26	Cheryl Fraser
12	Mo Hayward	27	Mike Gardiner
13	Nancy Elwell	27	Merlin Shirk
13	Jan Shephard	30	Paula Gilbert
15	Jim Shepherd	31	Samir Ragheb
16	Ruth Sheppard	31	Cindy Ray

March Anniversaries

13	Dave & Becky Crannell
23	John & Missie Kaull
24	Kirt & MaryAnn Bopp
29	Jon & Barbara Grimes