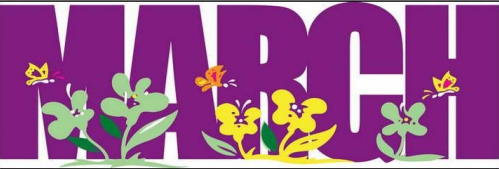


Christ Church of Longboat Key,  
Presbyterian U.S.A.  
6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive  
Longboat Key, FL 34228



TO:



Christ Church of Longboat Key  
*Growing in Jesus' Name*

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor  
Dr. Fred Finks, Honorary Parish Associate

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Prezbindowski  
Newsletter Deadline: the 20th of the month

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<b>2024 Session:</b>		
<u>Class of 2025:</u>	Steve Bergman-	Missions
	Michael Gardiner-	Communications
	Debra McKenna-	Caring Ministries
	Joyce Wartinbee-	Membership
<u>Class of 2026:</u>	Cathy Daily-	Worship
	Fred Finks-	Spiritual Growth
	Barbara Liggett-	Evangelism
	Steve Walter-	Technology
<u>Class of 2027:</u>	Kristine Bemko-	Nominating
	Judy Ebrahim-	Fellowship
	Dan Fangmeyer-	Grateful Giving/ Bldg & Grounds
	John Kaull-	Personnel
	Bill McClure	
Clerk of Session: Bill McClure		
Treasurer: John Shehorn-		Admin & Finance
Moderator: Julia Wharff Piermont		
<b>2024 Deacons:</b>		
<u>Class of 2025:</u>	Glenn Cassens	
	Gary Frank	
<u>Class of 2026:</u>	Holly Finks	
	Kathy McLean	
<u>Class of 2027:</u>	Karen Gardiner	
	Missie Kaull	

# THE GRAPEVINE

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

March 2024

CHRIST CHURCH OF LONGBOAT KEY NEWSLETTER

VOL XIV, Issue 3

## The Pastor's Page

Dear friends,

"Fruitful February" may be the best way to describe the month we just finished. The Installation Service, the Book Sale, two special music programs, the Souper Bowl offering (which led to our filling a super-sized need), the community event on human trafficking awareness, and the Kirkin' Sunday: all this adds up to a sense that our cup runneth over with blessings of joyful, spirit-filled life together, growing in Jesus' name. Events held before the newsletter deadline are covered in this issue; otherwise, they will be covered next month.

Once again, let me thank you for your generosity and enthusiasm surrounding our church's first-ever Pastor Installation service. For me, it was both deeply humbling and profoundly encouraging. And what a joy that both Dr. Norman Pritchard and Dr. Bruce Porter could be with us! How people lingered to enjoy one another in the reception time was a real sign of the joy each of you fostered to celebrate the day we formally commenced our covenant with one another.

I want you to know that our out-of-town guests all expressed how remarkably joyful and welcoming they found our church to be. This is a blessing we are able both to share and to enjoy, as we look to the horizon to see what God has in store for us. Please enjoy a few photos in this issue. You can also search on the *Longboat Key Observer* website for a story and several photos.

This issue will introduce you to special events for what is sure to be a "Meaningful March." I am especially looking forward to sharing our first Holy Week together, following our Lord along the path of redemptive love.

Blessings,



Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor

### WINTER CONCERT SERIES

CONCERTS ARE FREE • VISITORS & RESIDENTS WELCOME

SUNDAY • MARCH 10, 2024 • 2:00PM

## Organ Dedication Concert

Featuring Chris Westfall

Christ Church of Longboat Key, Organist

Christ Church of Longboat Key invites you to a Dedication Concert for our new Rodgers Organ, a state of the art masterpiece of up-to-date technology and brilliant sound clarity. Chris Westfall, our acclaimed organist, will be performing a variety of classic and contemporary music which will demonstrate the scope, depth, and range of this amazing new addition to our church. Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor, will do a brief Dedication Ceremony.

Please join us and be mesmerized by the majesty and glory of Chris playing the "King of Instruments."

6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 (office) • [www.christchurchoflbk.org](http://www.christchurchoflbk.org)



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- 12 & 13- Mission Groups
- 13- Hope Seeds
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Join Us for Holy Week 2024  
*Invite your friends!*

**Palm Sunday -- March 24, 10:00am**  
Featuring the oratorio *The Crucifixion* (J. Stainer) for choir, soloists, and instrumental ensemble

**Maundy Thursday -- March 28, 7:30pm**  
A communion service remembering the Last Supper of our Lord

**Good Friday -- March 29, 7:30pm**  
Featuring *Shadows of the Passion* (D. Piermont) musical reflections on Scripture readings for Christ's passion, for vocal trio and guitar

**Easter -- March 31, 10:00am**  
A Festival Service featuring choir, organ, and trumpet. Dr. Piermont's sermon title: "Fools for Love"

2024 Session of Christ Church



Back row left to right: Fred Finks, John Shehorn, Steve Bergman, Steve Walter, Bill McClure, Dan Fangmeyer, and Michael Gardiner.

Front row left to right: Cathy Daily, Joyce Wartinbee, Debra McKenna, Barbara Liggett, Julia Piermont, Kristine Bemko, Judy Ebrahim, and Jack Kaull.

2024 Board of Deacons



Left to right: Karen Gardiner, Missie Kaull, Debra McKenna, Glenn Cassens, Holly Finds, Kathy McLean, Gary Frank, Julia Piermont





## Installation Service

February 4, 2024



## Souper Bowl of Caring

In January, Pastor Julia informed the Mission Committee about the Souper Bowl of Caring that was started by a Presbyterian youth group years ago and used in her previous churches. The idea was, as millions watched the Super Bowl, there were millions who didn't even have soup to eat. We approached Lark and Bliss Rippy, our only 2 potential youth group members, with the concept and they bought into it immediately. So, we asked them to chose from the 3 Mission partners who have food banks to be the recipient of any money raised. Then, label 3 soup pots, one for each Super Bowl team and one labeled "Game? What Game" so donors could vote for their team.....or NOT.

A few days later, our Marc Fors was delivering for Our Daily Bread and discovered that the steam kettle (equipment crucial to preparing the 175 meals they provide every day) was broken. Best guess was that it would take \$6000 for a substitute. Lark and Bliss chose Our Daily Bread be our recipient of any money raised.

The first count after church Sunday exceeded \$7000. We had been told by several members that more funds were to come and even had offers to make up any short fall.

Our Daily Bread could not find a substitute. It would take \$23,500 to replace the equipment. Calls were made, promises kept, the funds were raised, the equipment will be replaced!!

Thanks to Lark and Bliss and Christ Church LBK. Oh yeah, the 49ers' pot had the most \$ raised with Chiefs and "Game. What Game?" close behind.

-Steve Bergman, Elder Missions





## Christ Church Spiritual Growth



**Men's Bible Study** meets on **Mondays at 9:00 A.M.** in Fellowship Hall. We are studying MacArthur's study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians & Titus, Living Faithfully in View of Christ's Coming. In addition to meeting in person at church, we will also be including a Zoom option. To sign up contact Tom Crawford at [thomascrawford@outlook.com](mailto:thomascrawford@outlook.com).

**Women's Bible Study** meets on **Wednesday at 10:00 AM.** March 13 we will be starting Max Lucado's Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World. This 5 session video Bible study explores in detail God's treatment plan for anxiety found in the most underlined verse in the Bible, Philippians 4:6-7. As you follow the Biblical prescription for anxiety, you will learn how to experience God's peace. This is the peace that "transcends all understanding" and will help you reframe the way you look at your fears. To register or for more information, **contact Diana Neely** at [dsneely.dn@gmail.com](mailto:dsneely.dn@gmail.com) or **941-961-5330**.

The **Women of Christ Church** will be meeting in a two-day retreat at DaySpring Conference Center on March 17-18.

Christ Church has started another series of **Small Groups**. Small groups are a great way to build relationships with one another while at the same time growing in biblical faith. This year we will be using N. T. Wright's book on Mark.

The **Christ Church Men** will be meeting in a two-day retreat at DaySpring Conference Center on March 8-9.

### Monthly Prayer Circle

Join us **Wednesday March 13 at 4:00** in the church conference room for a time of praise, thanksgiving and making our requests to God.



**LBK Community Open House** will be Saturday, March 9, 10:00am-2:00pm at the new Town Center Green. Christ Church will have a booth, so please be sure to stop by and say HI!

## "One Great Hour of Sharing"

### Special Offering March 24

In March of 1949--75 years ago this month--a special national radio program was broadcast on a Saturday evening, calling on all Christians to go to worship the next day and share in **One Great Hour** of ecumenical generosity for relief in war-torn regions of the world. The program began with an address by then-President Harry S. Truman and included celebrities such as Gregory Peck, Agnes Moorehead and Glenn Ford.

The offering became known as One Great Hour of Sharing and is still received annually by several American denominations. Its purpose remains essentially the same: to provide (1) relief from disaster, (2) food for the hungry, and (3) development opportunities for the poor and oppressed. In the PC(USA), the offering is divided equally between the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. Each program meets needs both within and beyond the United States.

Christ Church will receive this special offering on **Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024**. Please make your check payable to "Christ Church of LBK," and put "OGHS" on the memo line. You may also use a special envelope (shown here).



**HOPE SEEDS:** Please join this wonderful group and pack seeds in Fellowship Hall on March 11, and April 15. It is an easy task and you have the opportunity to meet new friends and have fun at the same time. You will enable families around the world to plant seed and be nourished by the harvest. Helps us to give a hand up, not a hand out.

**Contacts:**  
Ann Quackenbush and Sue Wertman

**Packing**  
Dates: 2/19/2024, 3/11/2024, 4/15/2024  
Time: 1:00-3:00pm





## Chris Eisenberg at 13th Avenue Dream Center

In addition to performing for a sold-out Christ Church Wednesday Night Dinner in January, Chris also performed for the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Dream Center children. It was a bit more hip-hop than Frank Sinatra, proving that Chris clearly knows his audience.

The Dream Center children clapped, sang, danced (and even shot a few hoops!). Chris concluded his program by talking with the children about their dreams and about the importance of reading..... wherever their dreams might lead.



Retired Judge Jack Kaull spoke at the February Men's Breakfast Club. Jack talked about how the Federal courts are organized, how the judges are appointed and the responsibilities of the Magistrate Courts. The Magistrate Courts were created by an act of Congress in

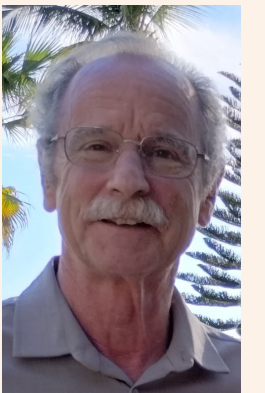
the late 1800's. The judges are appointed based on qualifications set by the District Courts for an initial term of eight years. The US Supreme Court has said, that "without.....these courts, the work of the Federal courts would grind to a halt."



Jack Kaull

March's Breakfast, scheduled for Monday, March 4 will feature Dennis Piermont, husband of Pastor Julia. He will talk about his life experiences and faith journey.

Plan to join us for another interesting conversation and a great breakfast prepared by Fred Lugano and his team.



Dennis Piermont



» HAPPENING  
APRIL 9-10  
NOON TO NOON  
GivingChallenge.org

Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

The 2024 Giving Challenge presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota will take place from noon till noon on April 9th - 10th, supporting over 700 non-profits in our area.

The Patterson Foundation continues to

uplift the nonprofit sector in our region through the 2024 Giving Challenge. The Patterson Foundation will contribute a 1:1 match for unique donations, up to \$100 per donor, per nonprofit organization.

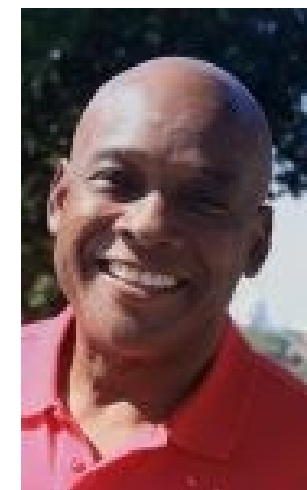
The missions participating that Christ Church supports are:

Hope Seeds  
Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies  
Harvest House (listed under Harvest Tabernacle of Sarasota)  
Agape  
Our Daily Bread of Bradenton  
United Community Center (Reading Buddies)  
Turning Points  
InStride Therapy (listed under Easter Seals Southwest Florida)  
Selah Freedom

To donate go to- <https://www.thegivingpartner.org/>

Type in mission name, click on view profile, many tabs appear that you can find out more about the mission.

BE THE ONE!



**Rickey Bolden, Guest Preacher NEXT Sunday, March 10!** In the 7th year of his NFL career (playing for the Cleveland Browns), Rickey Bolden retired from football to respond to God's call to full-time ministry. He is a graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary and has served as a pastor and visionary leader in the Washington D.C. area. He currently serves with Discipleship Works, an organization devoted to mentoring and discipling young leaders. Please invite a friend or neighbor to join you for worship next Sunday!



**Calling all Canasta players.** Christ Church has a very active , ongoing Canasta group that meets about twice a month during the Nov. - May season. This is a relaxed group of fun loving folks who love to welcome new comers ; those who have played canasta years ago with their granny, those who are experienced in Modern American Canasta rules, and those who have never played , but would like to learn a new skill. We meet on Tidy Island at the clubhouse , 139 Tidy Island Blvd. on Tuesdays from 1:30pm - 4:30pm.

Dates for this season are as follows: Mar. 5 & 19, Apr. 2 & 16, May 14

If you would like to add a new stimulating activity to your schedule , come join us.  
For questions, please contact Bonnie Wright 814-602-4093 .



### BRIDGE CLUB

Join us in the Café Area on **Tuesdays** at 1:30p.m. All levels of players are welcome!

Join us on **Tuesdays at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall to play **Mah Jongg!** All levels of experience are welcome! There will be a teaching table for beginners and a table for those who would like a review. Contact Gail@Hetler.net for questions. Hope you'll join us!



Next meeting is **Wednesday, March 20th**, at 1:00 in the Conference Room. The book to be discussed is "Wager" by David Grann.

April 17: "The Last Train to Key West" by Chanel Cleeton

## February Memories



*Love is  
in the  
Air*



February 18  
Concert with  
Johanna &  
Joseph



Wednesday Night Dinner- Braden River Chorus February 21





# CCLBK Book Sale 2024



A large group of hardworking volunteers made this year's book sale a tremendous success. Almost 2,000 items were brought to Fellowship Hall and then sorted on a Thursday morning. On Saturday, teams of volunteers shared favorite author and book recommendations with our guests during our sale to the public. Other volunteers served beverages, brownies and more treats. The favorite of the day, Patty's carrot cake, received multiple compliments as always. Several guests noted the beauty of our sanctuary and the friendliness of our volunteers. We hope some may choose to join us for a service in the future. The sale finished up with more volunteers on the two following Sundays. Our remaining items were shared with multiple local missions. Thank you to all the wonderful members of our community who donated books, volunteered and shopped to make this our best sale ever!



**"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?**

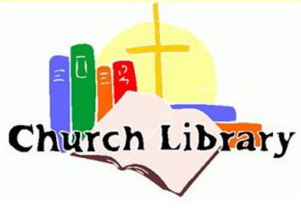
The Christ Church prayer chain is committed to lifting you up in times of difficulty and giving thanks and praise in times of gladness. You can be assured our team keeps your requests in the strictest of confidence.

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

Karen Jennings ~  
karenjennings1239@gmail.com

## 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 at (248) 408-5834 or [jwartinbee@juno.com](mailto:jwartinbee@juno.com)



## Highlighted Collections for March

Christ's sacrifice has made it possible for all of us to be forgiven and experience everlasting life. If you wonder what life after death might be like, we offer more than a dozen titles that offer glimpses of **Heaven** through the thoughts of noted Christian authors. One book, *Imagine Heaven* by John Burke, was a particular favorite of the Christian Matters Book Club, as it offered hope based on the near-death experiences reported by individuals from many walks of life. Look in **230 Heaven** in the **Faith and Spiritual Growth Collection**.

The sun is out and we hope our **Grilling** cookbooks may inspire you to try some new recipes and get back outside. From the simple to the sophisticated, these books offer a myriad of techniques and grilling styles. They can be found in our Highlighted Collections section. The works of **Anne Perry** who passed away in 2023 are also highlighted this month. A best-selling crime novelist, Perry was known for her Thomas Pitt and William Monk detective stories which sold millions of copies and earned her top honors for her writing. **Library hours are 9:00 to noon Sundays, 8:00 to 1:00 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.**



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CA-Coffee Area CR-Conference Room FH-Fellowship Hall MR-Meeting room OFS- Offsite S- Sanctuary					1 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	2
3 Worship & Communion 10a- S	4 Men's Club 8a-FH  Choir 7p- FH	5 Mission 9a- MR Worship 9:30a- CR Mah Jongg 9:30a- FH Canasta 1:30-OFS Bridge 1:30p- CA	6 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	7   Grimes Sm. Gp. 7p- CR	8 Knitters 10a- CR & MR  Men's Retreat @ DaySpring	9 LBK Community Fair 9:30a- OFS  Men's Retreat @ DaySpring
10 Worship 10a- S  Organ Dedication Concert 2p- S	11 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH Spiritual Growth 10:30a- CR Hope Seeds 1p- FH Choir 7p- FH Evangelism 10:30	12 Fellowship 9:30a- CR  Mah Jongg 9:30a- FH  Bridge 1:30p- CA	13 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	14 DOT 5-7p- FH  Reading Buddies- 3:45p OFS  Grimes Sm. Gp. 7p- CR	15 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	16 Betty Horne Memorial 10a- S
17 Worship 10a- S  Women's Retreat @ DaySpring	18 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH Women's Retreat @ DaySpring  Choir 7p- FH	19 Session 9a- CR Bridge 1:30p- CA Mah Jongg 9:30a- FH Canasta 1:30-OFS	20 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR Book Club 1p- CR Grapevine Deadline Wed. Night Dinner 5p- FH	21 Grimes Sm. Gp. 7p- CR  Mandatory Choir Rehears. 7:30-9:30p	22 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	23
24 Worship 10a- S	25 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH  Choir 7p- FH	26 Mah Jongg 9:30a- FH  Bridge 1:30p- CA	27 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	28 Reading Buddies- 3:45p OFS  Maundy Thursday Communion Serv. 7:30p- S	29  Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:30p- S	30
31 Easter Easter Festival Worship 10a- S					Office Hours: Mon -Thurs. 8a-2p	Library Hours: Sun. 9a-12n Mon, Tue, Thu 8a-2p

March Birthdays

Iris Juilan	1	Robert Dice	17
Pat Watral	1	Al Van Iten	19
Jay Hale	3	Edwin Cook	19
Glenn Cassens	4	Jayne Cook	19
Stephanie Pratt	4	Sandy Gricius	20
Roger Brown	5	Bennie Dods	21
Heather Rippy	5	Belle Fangmeyer	21
Don Swanson	6	Missie Kaull	21
Judy Smith	6	Mary Dice	23
Dan Crumpler	9	Cam Maddox	24
Tom Crawford	9	Bob Butler	25
Becky Horton	10	Cheryl Fraser	26
Carl Johnson	11	Mike Gardiner	27
Mo Hayward	12	Merlin Shirk	27
Nancy Elwell	13	Paula Gilbert	30
Jan Shepherd	13	Samir Ragheb	31
Jim Shepherd	15	Cheryl Mills	31
Carol Falck	17	Cindy Ray	31

March Anniversaries

Bob Heinbokel & Pat Watral	01
Dave & Becky Crannell	13
John & Missie Kaull	23
Kirt & MaryAnn Bopp	24
Jon & Barbara Grimes	29