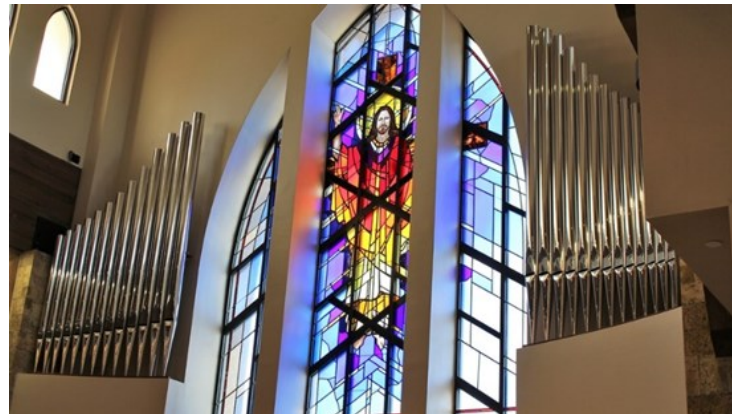


**Christ Church of Longboat Key,
Presbyterian U.S.A.
6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228**



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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2024 Session:

Class of 2025: Steve Bergman- Missions
Michael Gardiner-Communications
Debra McKenna- Caring Ministries
Joyce Wartinbee- Membership

Class of 2026: Cathy Daily- Worship
Fred Finks- Spiritual Growth
Barbara Liggett- Evangelism
Steve Walter- Technology

Class of 2027: Kristine Bemko- Nominating
Judy Ebrahim- Fellowship
Dan Fangmeyer- Grateful Giving/
Bldg & Grounds
Personnel
John Kaull-
Bill McClure

Clerk of Session: Bill McClure
Treasurer: John Shehorn- Admin & Finance
Moderator: Julia Wharff Piermont

2024 Deacons:

Class of 2025: Glenn Cassens
Gary Frank

Class of 2026: Holly Finks
Kathy McLean

Class of 2027: Karen Gardiner
Missie Kaull



THE GRAPEVINE

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

May 2024

CHRIST CHURCH OF LONGBOAT KEY NEWSLETTER

VOL XIV, Issue 5

The Pastor's Page

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to Christ Church, both you who are nearby and you who are spending some time in another climate. A couple of weeks before my official first day, Dennis and I attended the "Welcome Back Party," a joyful event amidst a sea of new faces. You'll see photos of the "Going Away Part" in this *Grapevine*, and this time, it was a joyful event amidst a sea of familiar faces. You've been congratulating us on surviving our first "Season." It was definitely busy; nevertheless, it is a wonderful gift to be a part of the Christ Church community!

Two new events for Christ Church took place in March. The first was a LBK Community Open House (complete with food trucks and live music) on March 9 at the new Town Center Green. We set up a tent, shared prepared flyers about our church and two upcoming events, and enjoyed much interaction and conversation with attendees for the four hours of the event. The second event was a public informational workshop we hosted in our Fellowship Hall on March 14 for the Florida DOT, regarding potential developments of the Longboat Pass bridge.

Each of these events were important opportunities for us to meet our neighbors and demonstrate our desire to be community-builders on Longboat Key. One hope in calling a full-time pastor was to increase our visibility on island. I was glad to be present for both of these events, as well as many others. If you are aware of an event or opportunity where my presence could be beneficial for our church, please let me know.

The Evangelism Committee took the lead for the Open House, and Michael Chester took the lead for the DOT event. Many thanks to them and to the volunteers who helped with each event.

As we shift toward summer, if you are seeking a quieter schedule, may you find it. And whether you are nearby or far, please stay in touch. If you are not receiving the weekly emails, please call the church office at 941-383-8833 to sign up.

Blessings and joy,



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- 5- Missions
- 7- Birthdays & Anniversaries
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- 10 & 11- April Memories

Join us on



Wear **RED** in honor of the Holy Spirit!!

The Global Organ Group, from whom we purchased our beautiful new Rodgers Organ recently, had their annual sales meeting at CCLBK. Over 50 of their dealer owners and managers met in our Fellowship Hall. They indicated that they loved our church as well as hearing our mighty new organ.



Going Away Party
April 10



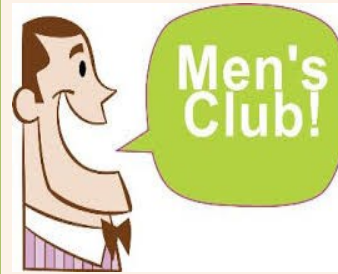
Palm Sunday & Good Friday
March 24th & March 29th



Easter Sunday

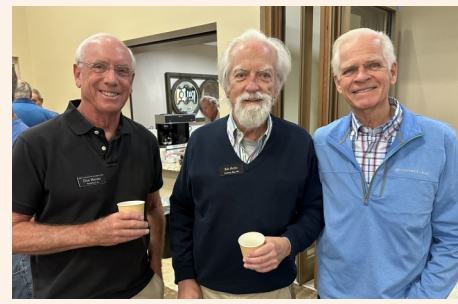


March 31st



The Men's Club Breakfast rounded out its season with a presentation on the history of the development of Gatorade, it had a lot of twists...brand. Warren Smith experienced and wrote about the process but unfortunately was unable to share it with the group. So, Steve Bergman read the detailed script Warren and his wife Judy had prepared. It had a lot of twists and turns but it is now a highly visible and successful brand.

The Men's Breakfast planning committee is very grateful to the many volunteers who make this program work; the speakers, the cooks and the coffee maker! We will be back next November with a whole new set of speakers and breakfasts. See you then.



Membership Invitation

Interested in knowing more about Christ Church? Join Pastor Julia for a **Connection Conversation** on **Sunday, May 5, at 11:30** following Worship Service. *When was Christ Church founded? What is a brief history? How did it originate as Presbyterian? What are the missions of Christ Church? What is an Active Member? An Affiliate Member? How do I join?*

Connection Conversations will be held the first Sunday of each month for everyone interested in becoming members...or simply interested in knowing more about our church. Current members and prospective members are welcomed! Please sign up at the Activity Tables or at the Welcome Desk. Information: Joyce Wartinbee, 248-408-5834; jbwartinbee@juno.com. Or, contact Pastor Julia at 941-383-8833.



"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
Shirley Venkataraman ~ shirleyvenk@hotmail.com

Christ Church Spiritual Growth



Men's Bible Study meets **Mondays at 9:00 AM** in Fellowship Hall. On April 29, we started our study of the books of 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude. You can order the study guide by John MacArthur, "1, 2, 3 John & Jude." This is available on Amazon and elsewhere. In addition to meeting in person, we offer a Zoom option. To sign up contact Tom Crawford at thomascrawford@outlook.com.

Women's Bible Study, meets **Wednesday at 10:00 AM**. We are currently studying a 10 week study of Hebrews by Jen Wilkin. In this verse by verse study we will learn how Christ is the substance of the shadowy truths of the Old Testament records establishing an even better covenant. We will watch a 30-45 minute video and follow with a small group discussion. Study guides can be purchased on Amazon.

To sign up please contact Diana Neely at dsneely.dn@gmail.com or 941-961-5330.

Prayer Circle: There is something very special in gathering together as a church family to pray for each other as a group!!! Open to all. Join us the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the church office conference room for an informal time of prayer. We will meet May 8, at 1:00. For more information contact Barbara Grimes 865-384-0569

Men's Retreat for 2025 will be held February 25 - 26. Plans are being made; details to follow.

Our Women's Retreat: The 2025 Women's Retreat is reserved for April 2-3. Plans are being made; details to follow.

H. Jack Hunkele Charter Member of Christ Church

A couple of weeks ago I read an article in Sarasota's Sunday paper about Aryana, a young girl who had overcome traumatic past as a young child and had gone on to win a Strive Award for overcoming her challenges, and as a high school senior was being recognized for her scholastic achievement.

Of note, the Strive Awards were conceived of and are funded by H. Jack Hunkele, a charter member of Christ Church. It was Jack's vision to recognize students who have overcome tremendous challenges to succeed in life.

Jack also had a vision for Christ Church. He served on the church's long range planning committee that had the courage to step out in faith to construct our present church facilities and was a generous supporter in both the acquisition of the property and the construction of the Church building itself.

What you may not know is that the Reading Buddies are a result of Jack's initiative. He got the idea from his daughter who was engaged in a similar program in California.

Jack started by forming a small committee of John Dixon, Bob Dods, Bill Buckley, Sally Rauch and myself. We hired a teacher and rented an apartment close to the school to use as a classroom. We struggled to succeed for a couple of years until the professionals arrived in the persons of Beverly Sutton and Karen Fors.

The association with the Dream Center in Bradenton was just that, a dream, and we were on our way.

God put Christ Church here for a purpose. He sent remarkable people like Jack Hunkele our way, so we could make his remarkable dream a reality.

~Burt Borgelt

On April 3, the Dream Center children and their families enjoyed a day of celebrating our children's achievements in reading. The children in the Reading Buddies Program were recognized for excellence in attendance, citizenship, effort and progress. Six children received the three-year award (a bicycle, a helmet and a lock) for demonstrating excellence for three years in the program. Fourteen years ago, when we held our first Awards Assembly, only seven parents attended the event. This year we set up for 180 guests, and almost every seat was filled. Reading is contagious! Our assembly was especially graced by the presence of Pastor Julia and husband, Dennis.





Book club has concluded for the season and will resume in October. Here is a list of future dates and books:

Oct. 23- The Personal History of Katharine Graham by Katharine Graham

Nov. 20- Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

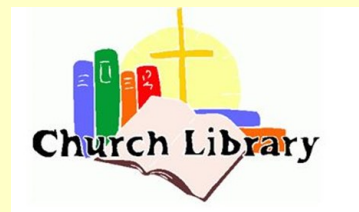
Dec. 18- The Last Train to Paradise by Lee Standiford

Jan. 15- The Complete Short Stories by Ernest Hemingway

BRIDGE CLUB



Our last bridge meet up was in April but please come join us in November when we resume playing bridge together.



Highlighted Collections for May

In the Faith and Spiritual Growth Collection, **200 General** includes unique topics: a bit of humor, three books by scientists who provide evidence of God through their studies, and *An Uncommon Guide to Retirement* which is about finding God's purpose for your next stage of life. If you are looking for a particular faith based book or author, the grey notebook on the wall lists books in this collection by author, title and category.

In addition to the **Biographies** currently on display on our regular shelves, we highlight some favorites from the past. Examine Jon Meacham's writings about Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson or George W. Bush or Ron Chernow's descriptions of Alexander Hamilton and John D. Rockefeller. The widely read *Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight chronicles the rise of Nike from a few boxes of shoes to an international name brand.

Our highlighted author, **Geraldine Brooks**, began her career as a recognized international journalist and moved into writing award winning novels that are thoroughly researched and beloved by many. Each of her six novels have different settings and characters. Her first novel, *Year of Wonders*, was an international bestseller about the plague while *March* is a Pulitzer Prize winner and *The Secret Chord* is about the life of King David.

Library hours are 9:00 to noon Sundays, 8:00 to 2:00 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Your Mission \$ at Work

For 29 years, Turning Points has been helping Manatee County's most vulnerable keep their homes, stay healthy, navigate services and find work.

Just in this past year -

- 8,309 men, women and children received critical assistance
- 1,440 patients received medical and dental care
- 555 children remained in stable housing with their families
- 316 veterans received services

There are countless stories of families, veterans, the elderly, and individuals who have benefitted from Turning Points services.

Like Steven, who lost his job and housing during COVID, and he and his girlfriend and two young girls were living in his car. The case managers assisted him in getting into housing. He started volunteering at Turning Points, then he was hired as the Personal Services Coordinator. And just recently, he was promoted to Day Resources Manager at Turning Points. He is now part of the Leadership Team.

Like Dana, who lost everything after her stroke and was living in her SUV. Her health was declining, and so was her hope; then, she came to Turning Points. The Turning Points team helped Dana secure a disability voucher. Today Dana and her daughter are living in a lovely duplex, she's going to physical therapy and focusing on her health. Her daughter is starting college in the fall to become a physical therapist.

Like Bobby, an 85-year-old veteran who was sleeping on the streets in his motorized wheelchair for two years. He couldn't seem to get the help he needed - until he met the Turning Points navigators. Today, Bobby is comfortably living in an assisted living home with a soft bed and three hot meals a day.

The Turning Points staff is assisted by volunteers, including some from CCLBK. Our area is truly blessed to have such a caring, efficient organization devoted to helping the most vulnerable in their time of need.



May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours: Mon -Thurs. 8a-2p	Library Hours: Sun. 9a-12n Mon, Tue, Thu 8a-2p		1 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	2 National Day of Prayer 11a-1p	3 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	4
5 Worship & Communion 10a--S Connection Class 11:30a- S	6 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH	7 Worship 9:30a- CR	8 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	9	10 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	11
12 Worship 10a- S	13 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH	14 Fellowship 9:30a- CR	15 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	16	17 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	18 Grapevine Deadline
19 Worship 10a- S	20 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH	21 Session 9a- CR	22 Women's Bible Study 10a- CR, MR	23	24 Knitters 10a- CR & MR	25
26 Worship 10a- S	27 Men's Bible Study 9a- FH	28	29	30	31	CA-Coffee Area CR-Conference Room FH-Fellowship Hall MR-Meeting room OFS- Offsite S- Sanctuary RR- Robing Room

May Birthdays

Sharon Kincaid	1	Winnie Schroeder	17
Lutie Uihlein	3	Nancy Cardin	19
Julie Wayman	4	Margaret Chirgwin	21
Carole McLaughlin	6	David Julian	23
Jerry Fox	8	Ann Quackenbush	23
Jon Grimes	8	Sue Wertman	23
Michele DeLucca-		Mary Jane Wilfong	23
Lowrey	8	Katherine Redmond	24
Deane Baron	11	Bill Wartinbee	24
Jean Raymond	11	Edward Buening	27
Shirley Venkataraman	15	Bonnie Willings	27
Ken Bowes	16	Andy Sawyer	28
Joan Mattison	16		

May Anniversaries

Nick & Rebecca Cazana	2
Ross & Cindy Alander	5
Rob & Barb Kenny	5
Mark & Kathy McLean	10
Ravi & Shirley Venkataraman	21
John & Debbi Wilson	22
David & Iris Julian	25
Bob & Nancy Elwell	27
Jim & Becky Fowler	27
Yoram & Rebecca McPheters-Airley	30