

This Week at CHRIST CHURCH

Mon	8/24	7:30am	Men's Longbeach Breakfast (Longbeach Cafe)
Wed	8/26	10:00am	Peacemaking Course (Palm Room)
Sun	8/30	10:00am	Worship (Sanctuary)



CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor
Robert S. Romanski, Director of Music
Chris Westfall, Organist
Nancy Prezbindowski, Office Manager
Claudio Evaristo (Craus Corp.), Facility Steward

Our Sanctuary is equipped with a T-Loop for the aid of hearing device users.
Church Office & Library Hours: Monday – Thursday • 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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Growing in Jesus' Name



The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers

August 23, 2026 10:00 a.m.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2026 ~ 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Please remember to **turn off your cell phone.**

***Please rise in body or in spirit**

Prelude “*Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring*” arr. JS Bach

Nathan Boock, Organist

The prelude is offered as an invitation to prepare for worship.

Welcome and Announcements Robert Romanski, Director of Music

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 100)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

One: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

All: Let us worship God.

***Hymn #473** “*For the Beauty of the Earth*”

Confession and Forgiveness

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to you with all our hearts. We have not been faithful to your word of love. We have hurt others and held grudges. We have been jealous and deceitful and ungrateful. We have turned from your Word and resisted the Holy Spirit. We have wanted our inheritance from you without the responsibilities that go with it. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and healing that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings you offer. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

(a time for silent confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

*** Congregational Response** (sing twice—music on blue card in hymnals)

Glory to God, whose goodness has shined on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Joyce Wartinbee, Reader

First Scripture Reading James 1:2-4

Solo “*Ave Maria*” Bach/Gounod

Alexa Lowrey, Soloist

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 1:21-23; 28:16-20

Sermon

“Unexpected Places”

Rev. Haas

***Hymn #40** “*Joy to the World*”

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles’ Creed (Ecumenical Version)

Offering

Call for the Offering

Offertory “*Improvisation on Blessed Assurance*”

***Doxology** tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God the Father, God the Son,

And God the Spirit, Three in One,

Be honor, praise, and glory given,

By all on earth and all in heaven.

***Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Offerings**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (“debts” and “debtors”)

*** Hymn #464** “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*”

*** Benediction**

Postlude “*Trumpet Tune*” Purcell

The postlude is the final Alleluia of the worship service.

Please defer conversation to the fellowship hall.

Thank you kindly. We look forward to greeting you at fellowship time.

Why Go It Alone?

Supporting each other within and beyond our walls

Every Day Support

Prayer Chain: In crisis or in calm, our Christ Church Prayer Chain is always available for those who are in need of prayer. Our Prayer Chain members are faithful, willing and eager to pray daily for your requests. May each of you know the peace that our Savior offers. Direct your request to

Karen Jennings: (610) 733-9755 or karenjennings1239@gmail.com

Shirley Venkataraman: (931) 260-0774 or shirleyvenk@hotmail.com

Deacons: Our Deacons are available to help and support in a compassionate, confidential way, anyone going through life struggles. Contact: Kathy McLean, Karen Gardiner, Missie Kaul, Joey Cheek or George Rauch or Julie Albert. In addition, using elements consecrated in CCLBK's celebration of the Lord's Supper communion, Deacons can provide Home Communion to members who are local but unable to attend worship. Please contact: Kathy McLean or Debra McKenna.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Knitted by our members, these are given as a blessing to those experiencing illness, injury, grief, or other need. To suggest a church member to receive a shawl, please contact Debra McKenna (941) 284-5333 or Kathy McLean (941) 704-3633.

Sunday Support

Children's Nurture: Activities for children are available on the children's ministry table in the narthex. We hope these activities allow children to share in the love of Christ.

Prayer Requests: Submit a prayer request to be kept in confidence by the Deacons or Prayer Chain by 1) using the card/envelope in the Friendship Pad, placing it in an offering plate; or 2) clicking the button near the bottom of the Weekly News church email.

Pray with a Deacon after worship: A Deacon is ready to pray with individuals following worship. Please go to the Prayer Room door after the postlude.

Mission Partners: Agape Flights, Beth El, Bring on the Ministry, ECHO, EFELT, Harvest House, Hope Seeds, Easterseals Ranch, Our Daily Bread, PC(USA) World Mission, Selah Freedom, Mobility Worldwide, and Turning Points. Please view the display tables in the Fellowship for more information

Card Ministry: Please stop by the Coffee Bar to sign condolence, get well, thinking of you, and birthday cards for our Church family and friends. To suggest someone who might enjoy receiving a greeting card, please contact Bennie Dods at (941) 952-8196 or missbennie1@gmail.com.

Announcements 8/23/2026

The Chancel arrangements are given to the Glory of God by Jon & Barbara Grimes in honor of Sister Linda's Birthday.

WELCOME ONE & ALL! Whether you are in the area for a few days or full-time, we invite you to explore the myriad of ways our congregation seeks to be "growing in Jesus' name." We hope you feel right at home!

Please take note of our **ACTIVITY and MISSION PARTNER TABLES** in the Fellowship Hall. You'll find our [Sign Up Sheets](#) there.

For our **latest updates** and easy links to livestream and more, please sign up for our Thursday weekly email. (1) Go to **www.ChristChurchofLBK.org** (2) scroll to the bottom, (3) enter your email address. *Thank you!*

Library News: Stop in to the library and grab some exciting pool and beach novels from the basket on the table! For young visitors, we have kids books in the library on a bottom shelf labeled Kids Korner as well as in Fellowship Hall on a colorful cart near the piano. Library hours: Mon-Thurs 8-2 and Sunday before and after service.

Chancel Flowers: Sign up sheets are out to give flowers to grace our chancel each Sunday through summer. [Please sign up!](#) or contact Barbara Grimes by calling or texting at 865-384-0569. Open dates are: 8/30, 9/6, and 9/13.

Men's Longbeach Breakfast group is meeting every Monday at Longbeach Cafe in Whitney Plaza at 7:30am throughout the summer. If you have any questions please contact Bill Johnson 941-993-8123.

Our Daily Bread is in need of: CEREAL, CANNED MEATS, TUNA AND CHICKEN, please place in ODB box in Fellowship Hall. Are you looking to volunteer in our community, ODB needs you? Please contact Sue Wertman, Holly Braun or Brent Piersma for more information.

Final Summer Lunch- We will say "goodbye" to summer and "hello" to fall while enjoying good food and fellowship at Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant. Join the FUN at our final SUMMER LUNCH on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16! at noon. Signups start TODAY.

Summer Sermon Series

Dr. Piermont's sermon series continues August 30th. In eight sermons between Memorial Day and Labor Days weekend, Dr. Piermont is exploring ways our relationship with God begins, develops, and endures, as seen in some of the extraordinary stories of Genesis. **"GENESES"** is the plural form of genesis and means "beginnings." These are the Sundays for the series (past sermons can be found via our website or YouTube channel):

Jun 7	Adam & Eve – Gen 3	Aug 2	Jacob – Gen 29-31
Jun 14	Abraham – Gen 18	Aug 9	Jacob – Gen 32
Jun 28	Isaac – Gen 24	Aug 30	Jacob – Gen 33
Jul 26	Jacob – Gen 28	Sep 6	Joseph – Gen 50

We welcome guest preacher Rev. Laurie Haas. Laurie felt called to ordained ministry as a third career, while serving as the Family Ministry Director at Church of the Palms. During the busy years of raising a blended family of five daughters with her husband, Bryan, she worked full-time at the church while attending Luther Seminary part-time. Laurie was ordained and installed as an Associate Pastor at Church of the Palms in 2018 and joyfully served for nearly eight years, including her final two years as Transitional Senior Pastor. She retired on March 13, 2026, and is embracing this new season of life with gratitude.

In retirement, Laurie enjoys reading, walking, yoga, biking, gardening, traveling, and dabbling in creative arts like watercolor, writing and drawing. She frequently visits her two daughters in Charlotte, North Carolina; her daughter in Denver, who will be moving to New Zealand in January; and her parents in Reno, Nevada. She is especially thankful that two of their daughters live nearby—and that they are the parents of their beloved grandchildren: Brooks (5), Brynlee (3), and Bennett (5 months).

Laurie is grateful for every opportunity to gather in worship and share in the life of faith together.

