



The Courier

*Our Vision: This is the place
where you will experience Christ.*

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church

February
2018



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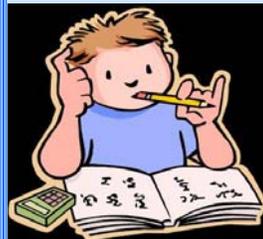
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Lifetouch is returning for another round of photo sessions. The dates available are February 21st, (1pm-7:40pm), 22nd (1pm-7:40pm), 23rd (2pm-8:40pm), and 24th (10am-4:40pm). Debbie Wingerson will again be making reservations. She will be in the Narthex after the 8am service and before and after the 9:30 service. Make your reservations soon as Debbie will be out of town in mid-February. Should you need to call her, please call in the evening.

Anyone who does not have a photo included in the directory will not receive a copy in the spring. Outside pictures are not used unless for a shut-in. Those will be taken by Chris.

If you are unable to attend our scheduled photography dates or times, let us know and we can assist you in finding a portrait session at a nearby location. The directories will be available in the Spring.



New Horizons Super Kids Club

Volunteers are still needed to help tutor our 60 elementary school children with their homework. You can visit the website to complete an application, www.newhorizonsofswfl.org, or talk with Chris Giesecke, Judy Norris, Amy Cottrell, or Deidra Bradley to get information and an application.



FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF
DISCIPLEMAKING

It has been a great few months as the new Director of Disciplemaking! Sunday School and Pioneer Club are off and running. The Advent Bible Study was

well attended. The Youth Group had a fun time bowling the week before Christmas. We were small in number but not in fun! Youth Group for kids 6th grade to 12th is now meeting the first and third Sunday after the 11:00 service in the youth room. Ty Hill is heading up the Youth Group. We are in the early planning stages for VBS, so put June 11-15 on your calendar now!!!





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Mary Gisse

Moderator of the Deacons

Pam Smith

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00P.M.

Editor's Note: Some articles may be edited for space. Some are left intact by request of their authors.

Eagle Scout News!!!

On December 21, 2017, I went before the District Eagle Board of Review and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. I very much appreciate all of the help, guidance and support given to me through the years by members and friends of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church. Thank you all so much.

Caleb Kiss - Eagle Scout



Presbyterian Women

Lasagna Dinner: February 10, 2018

Save The Date! Back by popular demand, The Presbyterian Women's Annual Lasagna Dinner fundraiser will be held on February 10, 2018.

Tickets will be available beginning Sunday, Jan. 28th. Adults: \$12
Children: \$6.

Take-outs available from 5pm – 5:30pm

Dine In from 6pm – 7pm

Women's Bible Studies:

"Who is Jesus" This Bible study will be held on Tuesday, February 13th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am and in the Library at 7:00pm.

"Cloud of Witnesses" This Bible study will be held on Thursday, February 8th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am.

Knit One, Pray Too:

Please join us on Thursday afternoons from 12:30pm-2:30pm in rooms 2&3. We are an informal group of women that love to knit, crochet, do needlepoint & cross-stitch; or want to learn. See Pam Smith or Mary Gisse for details.

Upcoming Events



CALENDAR- - - - CALENDAR!!

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, **March 31st**
Vacation Bible School—**June 11th-June 15th**

Amy and I recently were on a road trip where we saw a series of Christian signs on the side of the road, one after another. They were professionally done and someone had put a lot of time, effort and money into them. One said, "Jesus saves." Another said, "Jesus is Eternal Life." The author meant well and whoever provided for them is telling the truth. But the first question that went through my mind was, what someone thinks who doesn't know who Jesus is (much of the postmodern world), and more, many don't know that they need saved...and saved from what?



But I have noticed another trend in the evangelical world. Many folks who become Christian gain a laser focus on the fact that through Jesus we have the promise of eternal life. No question about it, that is part of the Christian message and it offers hope to all of us, both for ourselves and for those we hold dear that pass away. But there is a REAL crisis if eternal life becomes the focus of our faith in THIS life. Do we only accept Christ to GAIN eternal life? If so, we miss something so very much greater!

C. S. Lewis in his commentary on the Psalms acknowledged this very issue. There is grave danger in becoming a Christian SOLELY to gain eternal life for we ignore THE core message of the Christian faith and that is, a personal relationship with a loving God in this life and the next. Lewis goes on to point out that in the Psalms there is virtually no quest for eternal life (although it IS mentioned), but rather about a deep and fulfilling relationship with God. The ancient Jews didn't draw a line between home, work and the Temple faith for it was all one. Indeed, they were called to worship God morning, noon and night, in prayers, in the 10 commandments, in every part of their lives.

King David got so excited about worship that he danced in front of the Ark (much to the embarrassment of his wife), he threw all caution to the wind and just enjoyed worshipping God. (2 Samuel 6) And it is clear in scripture that David actively showed his love for God inside and outside of the tent of meeting. Further, Psalm 100 teaches us to make a "joyful noise unto the Lord." Not just coordinated singing, the use of a harp or lyre, but bang on those cymbals and drums...make a joyful NOISE. The point is not the noise, but being caught up in worshipping God with our whole being..and this is not restricted to one day of the week.

The problem for us is if we focus our lives not on an exciting, vibrant life with God NOW, in favor of just knowing that we have a "death insurance" policy getting us into heaven, we risk two HUGE failures. The first is, our focus on heaven and the after life can BECOME our god! I have seen folks get so focused on this facet of their faith that they think of nothing else. YES, we do have a promised resurrection of the body, but that is NOT the core message of our faith. The core is the love of God for us, and our love for Him and His people. And in life or in death we are called to worship God, period, end of story, and have no other gods before Him.

But the second risk is that we may fail to see that the kingdom of heaven "is at hand" and begins right here, not just when we die. (Matthew 10:7) Jesus made it clear that he came that we "may have life and have it abundantly" in the here and now. (John 10:10). That doesn't mean life won't have its challenges or problems, it most certainly will. But being surrounded by a chorus of witnesses that will help each other, pray for each other and support one another, all while knowing that God IS in our midst really truly brings the presence of God into the here and now. I have seen it during the birth of a child, in a baptism or wedding, in the choosing of a college or when to retire, or even at the close of this life. Yet, some people just choose to exclude the body of Christ from their midst, when the kingdom is truly right at hand.

Friends, as Christians we do have a responsibility to share the love of Christ with others. (Matthew 28:19). But the message is about a whole lot more than heaven and everlasting life (although, that IS a part of the message). It is also about our life in the here and now, but even more than that. It is about a loving and caring God in our lives, here and now, and for an eternity.

May each and every one of us, "Go and make disciples of all people" building Christians for both the next life AND in the here and now! And remember, someone at some point in time told us about the love of Jesus and where would WE be if they had chosen to remain silent?

Have a wonderful February and start to Lent, but may you experience the love of Jesus very much in the here and now, and in the life to come!

Pastor Clint



THE CLOTHES CLOSET ALLIANCE

CLPC participates in this multi-church sponsored community outreach ministry (located on the property of FAITH United Methodist Church, 15690 McGregor Blvd.) whose goal is to *share God's love in the shape of clothing*. The Clothes Closet Alliance just celebrated its 10th anniversary of collecting and distributing free ready-to-wear clothing, shoes and accessories for men, women and children (our "neighbors") who are referred by over 80 social service agencies in Lee County. All this is in the name of Jesus Christ. During 2017, besides the 3,620 neighbors who were served at The Clothes Closet with almost 30,000 articles of clothing and accessories, 369 bags of clothing were delivered to nursing homes, 321 bags to community centers, 253 bags to Symphony Salvage and another 30 bags of shoes were delivered among these locations.

Our neighbors might be homeless, just out of prison or rehab looking for interview or work clothes. They might be abused women and children who escaped with only the clothes they had been wearing or those who have lost everything due to fire or flooding. We provide uniforms and regular clothing to school children and dresses to girls at the PACE center. While most neighbors come to our south Fort Myers location, many are served by the distributions we make to nursing homes, community centers, schools and shelters. Cypress Lake United Methodist Church's 2016 Christmas offering was donated to the Clothes Closet Alliance to purchase a van that now makes these clothing deliveries and/or takes rolling racks from which our more distant neighbors can select their outfits.

If you hear the Lord's call to serve here, please answer and call 239-482-2030, ext. 235 or contact Nancy Keil or Pam Smith. Volunteers assist in:

- **DISTRIBUTION** on Tuesday 9-3 (or a portion of that time) and Thursday afternoons: to help neighbors as they shop, and aid them when they check in and check out;
- **RECEIVING & SORTING** on Thursday and Saturday mornings: to inspect, sort, organize, tag, hang and display clothing and accessory donations;
- **DELIVER and/or PICK UP:** to pick up donations from various places or drop off bags of clothing to various organizations.
- **LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION:** to guide, support and direct our volunteers toward the common goal of doing God's work or serve as agency liaison.
- **TECHNOLOGY and Social Media:** to develop or improve our web site, keep a Face Book page updated with news and information about this ministry, or perform data entry to help keep track of the number of neighbors served and the number of items distributed.

Donations of new or **very** gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and infant wear are always gratefully accepted. Especially needed are men's pants (size 28-34), shirts (S and M), women's clothing (size 1X and larger), girl's (2T, 3T and 7-10), boy's (7-10), **new** underwear: (women's: 8 and above; girl's and boy's: all sizes). You may drop these off at CLPC on Sunday morning or at the Clothes Closet Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9-12.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

The Gloria Choir will be presenting the Anthem and Communion will be served. The imposition of the Ashes will be available at the end of the service.

Did you know that the ashes are made from the palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants?

We are truly blest as we continue this annual Ash Wednesday Service, denoting the beginning of Lent.



There are many openings for pulpit and lectern flowers for Sunday Worship. Please help to fill this need so we may continue to have a supply of flowers for our members and friends who are shut-ins, or in hospitals, retirement homes, and rehabilitation centers. Thank you for your support. Flowers are still \$25.00.



Worship Ministry Team

January 2018

Happy New Year dear friends and family.

Hopefully this Christmas season has brought you blessings and joy. It certainly has for me. I was richly blessed by a Christmas visit from Thomas, my adopted son from Malawi. He traveled five days on numerous busses, through three countries to be here with me. What a Christmas gift! We celebrated Thomas' birthday on the 23rd and then had the opportunity to celebrate three Christmas services together, sharing preaching and leading worship. What a gift of ministry together. We hosted 14 for Christmas dinner, an international gathering from US, Malawi, and Rwanda. Then we took a wonderful two-day trip through Nyungwe National Forest to Lake Kivu, to show him more of this country and to just relax and catch up. We shared the trip with my faithful driver from the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social sciences, Bosco, and his young family. Having baby Smith along, age 4 months, added a delightful perspective. We all enjoyed his presence. One of the blessings in the sharing was to hear of God's opening the way for Thomas to study for his PhD through Aberdeen University. I was thrilled we have had this precious time. It was one of the best Christmas presents I have ever received.



Thomas and me at Lake Kivu



Bosco, Karen and Smith

Now it is time to face the New Year. None of us has any idea of what it will hold but we make plans and have hopes. My greatest plan is to return to the States for three months of visiting with many of you who support the ministry here and of sharing with you what God is doing. I will be available to visit in your churches during July, August and September. I know I will not be able to be all of you but I hope to see as many as possible. The Sundays are limited, so I offer them on a "first come, first serve" basis. I will schedule your church as the requests come. I will also have time during the week days for meetings with mission committees, vacation Bible schools and other smaller groups. The last time I was in the States, those mid-week times were some of the most fulfilling for everyone because they were more informal and allowed for more interaction. I ask that you prayerfully consider what might work best for your congregation. Please contact me individually through my email (mkayday@gmail.com) so we can consider possibilities.



Christmas dinner guests

My hope is that this new year will be filled with God's opportunities, in joy and struggles, that we will see that God is opening doors and providing ways for us to serve him more faithfully. May your New Year be filled with God's possibilities and blessings.

Yours in Christ's love,

Kay (Cathie to the family)



The next New Member Orientation and Luncheon will be **March 4, 2018**. The class will start after the 11 a.m. celebration of worship. Call the church office at 481-3233 to sign up or email the church at mail@clpc.us.



Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive will be **March 4th**; 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Please call Tim Baldwin for an appointment at 937-369-6069. Give the gift of Life!!

Salerno Update



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Thank you for your prayers regarding our event Addressing Suicide, and where to find hope.

Prayer Request:

- Please pray that Marika would see that the love of Jesus can/will set her free and heal her from the lies that steal her hope, joy and worth.
- Please pray that each day she would choose hope instead of giving up.

Praise:

God orchestrated our event to be on a day that a young woman named Marika needed it the most. She struggles with severe depression and was having a particularly heavy day, and saw the poster and came. As I listened to her story, God was able to provide me scriptures and truth that she needed to hear. She left a different person, no longer sad and hopeless, but filled with joy and hopeful.

Prayer Requests:

- That they would be curious about wanting to read the Bible for themselves.
- That would be humble to ask questions about Jesus, and seek him.
- We would have more conversations about the life and death of Jesus.

Personal Prayer Request:

I recently hurt my back, that left me not able to move for 7 days. I have also been dealing with some personal issues that have left me struggling emotionally in these last couple of weeks.

God has been providing the right people at the right time to help me, which is his grace.

- Please pray that I would be able to make a quick recovery, and that I would be able to see the right doctors to solve the issues.
- That God would help me learn from these situations, and that my heart can heal.
- That I would have hope, joy, and the ability to take my eyes off myself and focus it on Jesus, and what he has for me.

Thank you for being prayer warriors with me to see the Gospel advance in all of Salerno.

Love Cammie



Special
Music

Special Guest, Danny Funderburk will be bringing his Christian Vocal Ministry to CLPC on Sunday, February 11, 2018 for both the 9:30 and the 11:00 AM Worship Services.

Danny Fundeburk sings Gospel music and has been part of the following Quartets:
The Revelaires, The Singing Americans,
The Cathedral's, Perfect Heart, and Mercy's Way.

Please plan to attend Church on this special day as we welcome Danny into our Christian fold!
There will be a Free Will offering at both Worship Services.



"KISSES FOR KASH"

The month of February, the Deacons are sponsoring a Fund Raising Event for The Clothes Closet Alliance.

Last summer we held our first "KISSES FOR KASH" event. The money we raised, over \$350, was used to buy school uniforms and shoes for the children going back to school.

Your generous gifts of gently used clothing and new 'under' fills just part of the needs of the Clothes Closet. The Closet also buys items which are not donated: shoes, underclothing, clothing in sizes in short supply, and school uniforms. That's where YOU can help!

HOW YOU CAN HELP??

You are invited to pick up a recycled pill bottle labeled "KISSES FOR KASH" on Sunday mornings in the Narthex. These are filled with Hershey's Kisses!! Enjoy the candy, fill the bottle with spare cash-coins or paper; and return on a Sunday in February or to the church office by the end of February. Please call Pam Smith with any questions. Cell: 239-878-6511.

THANK YOU FOR CARING AND SHARING!

March 18, 2018: Special one-person Drama

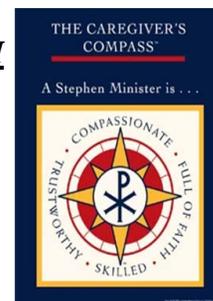
Matt Zawisza will be our Drama Guest for Sunday, March 18th for the 9:30 and 11:00 am Worship Services. He will be in full costume as he presents a spiritually moving portrayal written specifically for our time during Lent.



There will be a Free-Will offering at both of the services. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the Services!

HELLO FROM YOUR
STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM

We recently received an article from our main office in St. Louis. The article talked about a letter they had gotten from a woman whose husband had died of cancer.



She had written about going from a wife and mother, to a caregiver for her husband and support for their sons, to widow. She had gotten a Stephen Minister (a "caregiver") early on in this process. The caregiver had been with her every step of the way. The woman said she knew that she could confide in her caregiver and it would remain confidential. She also found the time she spent with her caregiver to be extremely beneficial and that the caregiver's time was for **her** relief and comfort. She stated that through her Stephen Minister's visits she was reminded that the Lord was with her always.

Now that the joy and bustle of the holidays are over maybe there is something you need to talk about to someone. It doesn't have to be a serious illness or major family problem...but it could be. A "caregiver" and you (a "care receiver") can spend a few weeks or months together. We are here for you no matter how long you need us.

We are available to every adult in our congregation. You can pick up information in the pew racks or on the "green table" in the back of the church. The contact person is Stephen Leader, Ginny Canning. Her Phone is: 239-247-1042 and E-mail is: canningrh@aol.com. Or you may speak to Pastor Clint.



- 15th Rodrigo & Gloria Ramirez
- 19th Dwayne & Marcia Bruns
- 22nd Marvin & Lynne Birdt



- 6th Michael Scullion
- 7th Marion Stephens
- 8th Paula Sklodowski
- 9th Griffin Peters
- 12th Betty Ann Kelly
- 13th Judy Hoschner
Kevin McFadden
- 14th Joe Gazdik, Jr.
- 16th Nancy Place
- 17th Betsy Howlett
- 18th Rod Herrick
Jay Giesecke
- 19th Harry J. Warren
William Conner
Sam Farrell
- 20th Muriel Meszaros
- 21st Harold Riser
- 22nd Daisy Graf
- 25th Martin Chanofsky
Zachary Wilson
- 26th Gina Garth
- 27th Hewitt McCloskey, Jr.
- 28th Katherine Burley

**FLOWER GUILD
FEBRUARY, 2018**



- February 4th Sally Fontaine
- February 11th Carolyn Hornung
- February 18th Judy Schulte
- February 25th Terry Miller

Chancel Guild

February 2018 Schedule



- 1st** Judy Schulte
Dorothy Troy
- 8th** Judy Schulte
Dorothy Troy
- 15th** Sharon & Richard Werner
- 22nd** Sue & Marty Chanofsky

If you can't work your day, swap with someone or call Sue Chanofsky. Thanks for your continued help.

SCRIP CARDS



Make a contribution to the Church by shopping with gift cards for everyday purchases like food, clothing and entertainment. Each scrip gift card you buy earns a rebate for the Church. A secured "Order Box" is located in the Narthex (on South wall next to sound room) and also in the Church office for placing orders. Orders will be picked up @ 11:00 AM the 1st Sunday of each month and available for delivery the 2nd Sunday. A check payable to CLPC for the total must accompany the order. Order Forms are located in Slot# 16 in the Narthex and in the "Scrip Order Boxes". You can also place an order online at www.shopwithscrip.com.

