



The Courier

March
2017

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

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church

Good Friday - April 14th
Open for Prayer
Noon until 3:00pm
Office Closes at Noon



Easter Egg Hunt
April 15th - 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Services - April 16th

- 7:00 a.m. ****Sunrise Service-Outside** by the Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Service
- 9:30 a.m. Praise Service
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
(includes Spanish Ministry)
Gloria Choir/Voices in Bronze
Guest Organist, Ron Hagemeyer
Invitation to sing the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of the service
Brass Instrumental Group

***Easter Breakfast—There will be a continental breakfast following the Sunrise Service. A love offering will be accepted.*

Monday, April 17th—Office Closed

Maundy Thursday Service April 13th - 6:00 p.m.

There will be a meager meal on this Thursday preceding the Maundy Thursday service. The meal will begin the entire evening of preparation at 6:00 p.m. Meal will be soup, salad and beverage. A Love Offering will be taken for the meal. You will then be guided to the Sanctuary for the service where the Gloria Choir will be part of the service.



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on **Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m.** Volunteers are needed from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please contact Jessica if you are interested in helping at 239-481-3233 or Jessica@clpc.us.



We will start collecting candy for the hunt on Sunday, **March 12th**. A basket will be out in the Narthex. Thank you in advance.

BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH

The Lee Memorial Bloodmobile is coming on Sunday, March 26th from 8:45-12:45 p.m.

Please call Tim Baldwin at 937-369-6069 to set up your time to donate and help save a life!



NEW MEMBER CLASS

The next New Member Orientation and Luncheon will be **March 12, 2017**. 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.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12th
Remember to set your clocks "ahead" one hour!



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Presbyterian Women Moderator

Sandy Wharton

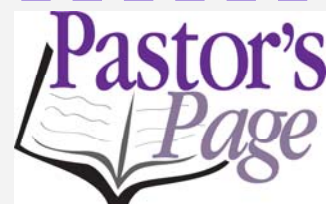
Moderator of the Deacons

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.



Recently I was having a breakfast meeting with a rabbi who is a colleague and friend. During the discussion he asked me if Presbyterians celebrated Lent. When I said yes, he was a bit surprised and wanted to know more about what it is and why we honor this time period. While he does not share our belief in Jesus as the Messiah, he has always taken a genuine interest in what and why we believe what we do (something that I think is healthy and worthy of us emulating).

So I tried to explain that Lent isn't just a religious "holiday" or event like Christmas or Easter but rather a season of self-reflection and preparation. The 40 days of Lent (which ALWAYS exclude Sundays which are ALWAYS a day of celebration of the resurrection) mirror the 40 years that the Jews wandered in the wilderness and the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert. But there is more.

If we rush through to Easter we miss the core message of WHY Jesus did what he did! Lent is a time for us to look at OURSELVES and see where WE are sinners, where WE have fallen short of the expectations of God. It is also a time to be truly penitent (which is more than just sorry, rather being driven to sadness for what we did and wanting to change) about our lives. And if we look closely, really closely, we find that we are at fault for what happened to Jesus on the cross.

Lent then leads us to Maundy Thursday when we remember Christ's last night, both the meal and the washing of the disciple's feet. That then leads to Good Friday, the day Jesus died for us. But it doesn't end there, Christ's body has now been destroyed and he experiences the separation from God (hell). Only then, after 40 days of inner reflection, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and black Saturday can we REALLY appreciate Easter.

By the way, the concept of giving up something in Lent has really only one purpose, to help us remember! The idea is that every time you hunger for chocolate (if that is what you gave up), you will remember it is Lent, think about your shortcomings and pray (and it can be a short or long prayer). It is NOT about a ritual that somehow honors God, it is about US taking time to look inside. Oh...want GREAT news??? Remember, every Sunday is NOT a part of Lent so if you gave up chocolate, treat yourself on Sunday (just don't the whole bag of Hershey kisses in one day)!!!

March 1 ushers in Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. But let us not make this just another "ritual" of the church but rather use the 40 days to consider how we all fall short of God's expectations, how we can do better, and in the process recognize how magnificent is the gift that Jesus paid on the cross so that we may not only be forgiven, but to have a new lease on life.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Clint

Clothes Closet Alliance News
March 19th is "Undie and Sundry" Sunday!!



- Needed items are NEW underwear in all sizes-Men (sm, med), Women and Children.
- Sundries: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoos, soaps, washcloths, lotions, combs, etc.
- Other clothing articles including shoes, belts and accessories are always appreciated.

Donations can be placed in the cart in the Narthex. Questions?? Call Pam Smith at 239-878-6511

What does the Clothes Closet Alliance accomplish?

Closet Numbers: December 2016 - 269 clients served - 2099 articles of clothing distributed
Entire Year 2016 - 3669 clients served - 28,545 articles of clothing distributed

In addition to the above, each month there are 50+ bags of clothing, which are "less gently used", given to area nursing homes, mission salvage, Pine Manor Community House and Page Park House!

God is truly blessing us through your generous gifts!

**Sunday, March 19th
Highlights!!!!**



Rick Strickland in Concert

Rick Strickland, Gospel Music Hall of Fame, returns for his 6th year at CLPC. He will be our special Guest at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Services at CLPC.

He has a magnificent voice, and he is quite the showman. Please mark your calendars now for March 19th for this wonderful day of song, as we all celebrate Rick Strickland's accomplishments, and give thanks to God for such a vocal style.
There will be a Free Will Offering.

**Picnic Sunday!!
Sunday, March 19th**



On March 19th, we will have our annual picnic following the 10:00 a.m. service. The Church & Community Team will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, lemonade, & iced tea. There will be a bounce house and games for the children, and tables will be set up under tents in the back parking lot. The congregation is asked to bring the following by last names:

- SIDE DISH (last name A-F)**
- SALADS (last name G-M)**
- DESSERT (last name N-Z)**

We look forward to spending some fun times with all of you!

THE CAREGIVER'S
COMPASS

A Stephen Minister is...



**STEPHEN MINISTRY CARE
RECEIVER QUOTE:**

"I was at a point where I needed someone to talk to about the struggles in my life. My pastor recommended I consider meeting with a Stephen Minister; a person trained as a caregiver, who would walk with me during this difficult time. I agreed to give it a try. I'm so glad I did!"

"If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, I encourage you to meet with a Stephen Minister. You won't regret it!"

A Stephen Minister does not try to solve all your problems but lovingly, as a Christian brother/sister, walks along with you through the valley in your life.

A Holocaust Transformation

On **March 26th**, Dr. Karl Heinrich Heller will speak to us in Fellowship Hall at a lunch following the 11:00 a.m. service. We will serve pizza, salad, lemonade, and iced tea.

We hope to see you there to learn about Dr. Heller's conversion from Hitler's Youth to Christian minister.

Birth Wishes

1st	Beth Anne Watson
3rd	Gayle McKinney
4th	Carol Boles
5th	Bob Hoschner
9th	Kayley Bishop
10th	Art Carver
12th	Pete Thomas
14th	Tim Baldwin
15th	Donald Siemon
	Christina Johnson
16th	Leanne Logelin
17th	Pat Hoffman
	Cindy Carver
19th	Charles Hayman
	Byron J. Lovell
20th	Donna Kerkesner
	Milagros Vasquez
	Nancy Keil
21st	Audrey Hayward
	Savannah McAloose
	Mary Burbach
23rd	Aman Ahluwalia
26th	Audrey Coe
27th	Deborah Wingerson
28th	Gregory Bradley
	Harry Limons
29th	Ginny Canning
30th	Walt France
31st	Gregory Giesecke



Anniversary Celebrations

4th	Steven & Wanda Bishop
12th	Jake & Dee Hahn
15th	Tyler & Jaime Hill
22nd	Kirk & Gayla Charles
24th	Rick & Martha Gow
24th	Bill & Barbara Stewart
25th	Bud & Beth Haidet

FLOWER GUILD MARCH, 2017

March 5th	Terry Miller
March 12th	Judy Schulte
March 19th	Sally Fontaine
March 26th	Terry Miller



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Women's Bible Study . . .

Daytime Women's Bible Study
"Really Bad Girls of the Bible"
 Tuesday, March 14th – 10:00 a.m. – FH – Lesson 7

Evening Women's Bible Study
"Really Bad Girls of the Bible"
 Tuesday, March 14th- 7:00 p.m. – FH – Lesson 7

Daytime Women's Bible Study – **"Who is Jesus?"**;
 Thursday, March 9th – 10:00 a.m. – Library – Lesson 7

SAVE THE DATE!

**To all Members & Friends,
 Gifts of Women Sunday-March 5th
 Two services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

In Pastor Clint's absence, Rev. Susan B. Rice-Waller will return to give the sermon and celebrate communion. The women's gift to the congregation will be a lunch following the 10:00 a.m. service with speaker, Steen Metz. Mr. Metz grew up in Denmark, and is a Holocaust survivor. He will present factual information and shares the impact his mother had in saving his life and helping him to not allow the Holocaust to define who he is as a human being.

Peace River Presbyterian Women's Spring Retreat

Please join us March 20-21 in Ellenton, FL for Mini-workshops, Overview of the 2018 Bible Study, Fellowship, Music & Worship. See Sandy, Mary or Ginny for registration forms. If enough ladies sign-up we can carpool the 1-1/2 hour ride.

Chancel Guild

March 2017 Schedule

2nd Judy Schulte
 Dorothy Troy

9th Judy Schulte
 Dorothy Troy

16th Sharon & Richard Werner

23rd Sue & Marty Chanofsky

30th Sue and Marty Chanofsky

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

