

# L102 Academy 2017 Lay Academy

## #110 BEHOLD I AM DOING A NEW THING: NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH! DO YOU PERCEIVE IT?

Isaiah 43:19 RSV Join us and learn how to crochet an EASY “shawl of prayer”...using a Boye Round Knitting Loom...to be given to YOUR family member, YOUR neighbor, or we will give it to a CUMC missionary in a far away country! YOUR CHOICE! Supplies provided. **Instructors: Shawls of Prayer “Sistas.” (Sisters)**

## #111 YOUR MONEY—NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

This informal seminar will explore from a Christian perspective and provide some worthwhile insight into such topics as saving, spending, giving and estate planning. The latter topic will offer instruction to participants preparing a "When I Die" folder which will be invaluable for your planning, and also for your heirs. **Facilitator: Rob Montano**

## #112 DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS

Experience a hands on practice course of the discipleship foundations; prayer, evangelism, worship, serving, and learning as a Disciple of Jesus. **Instructor: Pastor Mike Hudson**

## #113 OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS, FROM SORROW TO JOY!

“The process of receiving comfort after a loss is like a bridge we walk across, with Jesus holding our hands, as He brings healing to our past, peace for today, and hope for our future. This class will be for a total of eight weeks extending an additional four weeks beyond the February Lay Academy. The format is open to women and men together, followed by a separate small group setting for each. **Instructors: Carol & Charles Naylor, Eagles Wings Christian Counseling Center and Facilitators**

## #114 CONGREGATE CARE MINISTER TRAINING

If you are currently serving in a Congregate Care Ministry, or desire to serve as a Congregational Care Minister, this class is for you! You will learn new skills and tools to share God’s love and grace for our congregation. **Instructor: Pastor Denvil Farley**

## #115 THE SECRET BATTLE OF IDEAS ABOUT GOD: *Five fatal ideas that have infected the Church & Culture*

Bad ideas are like viruses. Once a person is infected, the virus spreads, is hard to get rid of, and can pass on to others, infecting whole communities. Bad ideas have bad consequences. What are these fatal ideas, and how do they infect individuals and society? **Instructor: Mike Mandt**

## #116 GET HEALTHY, STAY HEALTHY, AT ANY AGE

Gain knowledge of lifestyle and spiritual disciplines that help us be healthy and productive. Explore memory/brain health; five health brain factors including spirituality, meditation and worship, nutrition, healing oils of the Bible, disease prevention and living a balanced life. **Instructors: Richard Rogers & Dr. Lulu Lopez**

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Website: [www.christvenice.com](http://www.christvenice.com)  
Email: [Michelle@christvenice.com](mailto:Michelle@christvenice.com)



**February 2017**  
**Pathways**  
of Christ United Methodist Church

Or Current Resident

NON PROFIT ORG  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT # 808

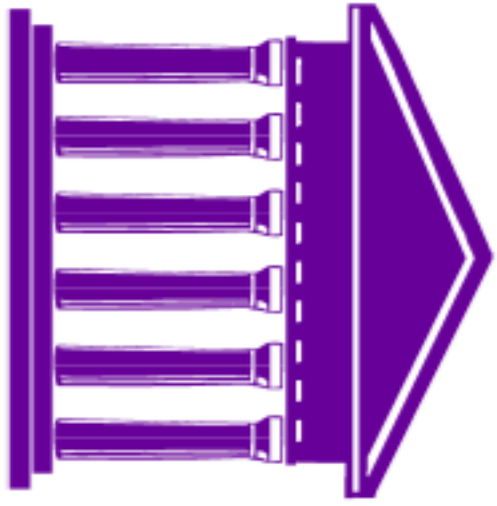
## Lay Academy Enrollment Form

Please indicate the one course you desire to attend, add your contact information, tear off this section, place in collection plate or leave at Welcome Center.

(Sign-up will also be available at the January 8, 15, 22, 29 worship services.)  
Please enroll me for the following Lay Academy class: (circle only one)

- #110   #111   #112   #113   #114   #115   #116

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Your  
Help  
Makes  
Local  
Lives  
Better**

## Bridge A Life Thanks You

Due to your willingness to say yes to Jesus, we have just completed our fifth foster care respite event at CUMC in 2016. In partnership with The Bridge Church Venice, we have ministered to over 300 kids and 32 different families. Of these, 230 kids and 25 families had never benefitted from a respite event previously because none were available in south county. Both the kids and parents are truly grateful for these events and look forward to them. Thank you for your generosity and being open handed in sharing the blessing of facilities God has provided CUMC.

Overall, Manatee and Sarasota counties are seeing unprecedented numbers of children being removed from their homes with over 70% of the cases tied to drug abuse. There are not enough foster care beds available, especially in Christ centered homes. Over 400 children do not have court appointed volunteers (Guardian Ad Litem), due to the increasing number of children in care, and a shortage of volunteers. If you know of anyone remotely interested in learning more about ways to serve kids or families in foster care, or fostering themselves, I would love to talk to them.

Thank you for making it easy to share the love of Jesus! Blessings,

*Rick Halpin*

## From the Tender Hearts & Gentle Tongues Ministry

Back again this year with another thank you to Christ UMC for taking 10 angels for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. What a blessing you gave them! We had a bicycle given with a helmet (donor said "you can't ride without gear"). Each list was filled with many toys, dolls, and even scooters. Special thanks to a 'secret Santa' who filled a lost angel, even adding extras - way to go, you are awesome! Thanks also to the children who collected \$46 in change to help other children less fortunate than them. We are so proud of you. Thanks again for all those who shopped and filled the dream lists. May you be blessed,

*Bobbie Allen, Cpt. Andrea & Cpt. Scott*

We want to let everyone know what a great season this was for the Salvation Army Bell Ringers - You are truly awesome! Ringers included candy distributors, singing children, violin and piano players, Christmas carolers and even a Santa. Oh and don't forget the four-footed, lovable ringers just letting everyone pet them and drawing donations by the paw-full. So many stopped to listen, talk, and contribute to the kettle, sharing their blessings with others less fortunate. Thank you to everyone who gave of their precious time and energy to be a blessing.

*Bobbie Allen and Team Leaders: Karen Wolf, Cindy Jeffers, Sharon McCain, Marge Kuypers, and Pat Sabrosky*

Ritchie, Richard & Helen	2/10
Ruehr, Sean & Amanda	2/10
Austin, Lyle & Connie	2/11
Sargent, Jack & Jeanne	2/12
LaFave, Dick & Irene	2/14
Quinn, Leighton & Karen	2/14
Drobisch, Chad & Deanna	2/16
Parkinson, Bob & Romaine	2/18
Sandilands, Gary & Sally	2/20
Pinkerton, Brent & Stacy	2/21



**Birthdays and Anniversaries are great! Please celebrate by "gifting" the Scholarship Fund with a \$2.00 or more donation!**

David, Dr. Sue	2/1	Loud, Hal	2/10	Vandegrift, Jeff	2/20
Shrader, Jeb	2/1	Honn, Bill	2/11	Eichert, Matt	2/21
Shrader, Thomas	2/1	Losh-Pugh, Kitty	2/11	Schuetz, Wayne	2/21
Canfield, Jason	2/2	Theise, Karen	2/13	Diehl, David	2/22
Ellis, Arloine	2/2	Card, Lynda	2/14	Pack, Jane	2/22
Gardner, Tyler	2/2	Kurinsky, Judith	2/14	Schultz, Virginia	2/22
Barrett, Emilee	2/3	Matthew, Rachel	2/14	Coleman, Shaun	2/23
Barrett, Scott	2/3	Spokowski, Dawn	2/14	Knapp, Jack	2/23
Knerr, Don	2/4	Withers, June	2/14	Kresse, Elliott	2/23
Lashway, Charlotte	2/4	Gould, Tom	2/15	Callihan-Wilson, Arlene	2/24
Mason, Roy	2/4	Gaylor, Phyllis	2/17	Chadwick, John	2/24
Thompson, Shirley	2/4	Kell, Kay	2/17	McKenna, Joyce	2/24
Jackson, Charles	2/5	Morley, Joshua	2/17	Rodgers, Ray	2/24
Graham, Patsy	2/6	Sparrow, Sally	2/17	Saucedo, Carol	2/24
Wansaw, Shirley	2/6	Hahn, Noma	2/18	Sabrosky, Richard	2/25
Messner, Jeanne	2/7	Halpin, Lora	2/18	Heggeland, Don	2/27
Murdock, James	2/7	Patterson, Anita	2/18	Blevins, Abby	2/28
Ball, Curtis	2/8	Cowin, Marian	2/19	Geremia, Joe	2/28
Coleman, Brittany	2/8	Walz, Joan	2/19	Greiner, Mary Rose	2/28
Davenport, Mary	2/8	Moitis, Sharon	2/20	Pavlovich, Donna	2/29
Halliburton, Carole	2/8	Parrish, Virginia	2/20	Reiter, Bill	2/29
Lawhun, Barbara	2/9	Trieble, Charlie	2/20		



## New Year Greetings From Juan de Jesus, Pastor of our Cuba Sister Church, El Cocal 01-02-17

(The following is a translation of the original email.)

Hello. I want to give you the Word that God has given us for this year 2017. We preached it last night in our church. Haggai 2:19 (From "The Word" Bible; my translation from Spanish to English). It is true that there is still no grain in the barn and that the vine has not yet given fruit, nor the fig green, the pomegranate nor the olive tree; but from this day onward I will bless you.

### GOD HAS DECIDED TO BLESS YOU

The prophet is talking to a people who are returning from captivity in Babylonia. A people who are arriving in their land with no houses, no security walls, no gates to limit the entrance of strangers, no food, no grains, no vineyards, no fig trees, no pomegranates, no olive trees, literally with NOTHING. They had to start from zero.

To this people God says, "...but from this day onward I will bless you."

- God has decided to bless you this year. It does not matter where you live, or if you have a lot of influence, or "weight", or a "sponsor" who helps you, or if your boss likes you or not, God has decided to bless you.
- God does not need ANYTHING to be able to bless. In order for man to do something he needs to have something, the raw material, or he cannot do anything. The Bible says that GOD MADE EVERYTHING THAT WE SEE TODAY OUT OF NOTHING. What good news. The Jewish people had literally NOTHING, "It is true that there is still no grain in the barn and that the vine has not yet given fruit, nor the fig tree, nor the pomegranate, nor the olive tree;" nevertheless God decided to bless them.
- Even if the basics are missing, you have the most IMPORTANT.

Israel was missing the basics they needed to live (until this day these elements are basic to their diet and as a source of economic income), grains, wine, figs, pomegranate, and olives. God told them, "It is true that..." you don't have the basics, but you have the most IMPORTANT, my Word that "...from this day onward I will bless you."

Don't forget that through the whole year God has promised to bless you, and the best thing is that He doesn't need anything to do that, and when you are lacking the basics, you have the most IMPORTANT, the promise that "...from this day onward I will bless you."

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND PROSPER YOU.

## HUNTLEY BROWN IN CONCERT!!!

Internationally known pianist, Huntley Brown, will be in concert on February 25, 2017 at 7:00PM in our Christ UMC sanctuary. Huntley has performed all over the world. He has worked with the Billy Graham Association and with The Gaither Homecoming gospel concerts. Huntley has a wide range of musical styles that include a little bit of something for everyone. A love offering will be received. Please watch for more details in your Sunday bulletin

## Bells of Glory!!!

Our hand bell choir, Bells of Glory, will be ringing again for the 2017 Easter season. We need a few more experienced hands. Our first rehearsal will be held on Thursday evening, January 26, at 5:30PM in the choir room in the Sanctuary building. Please let Cheryl Smith know if you would like to have more information about this group.

## Calling All Singers!!!

Our CUMC chancel choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:45PM in the choir room. We would welcome any new singers that are interested in praising the Lord with us at the 11:00AM service each week. If you sang in your high school/college choir and are from high school age (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) or older, we would love to have you. Please see Cheryl Smith if you are interested, we would like to have a music folder prepared for you.

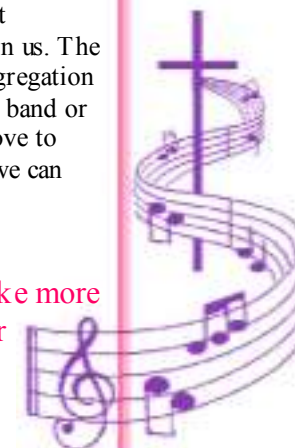
## Joyful Sound Singers!!!

If you sang in your high school/college choir, Joyful Sound needs you! This dedicated group of singers brings their praise to the Lord at the Early Riser service. We meet at 7:00AM on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary to run through the anthem for that day. Please contact Cheryl Smith and let her know if you are interested in singing with us.

## Praise Orchestra!!!

Our Christ UMC praise orchestra meets for rehearsal on Thursday morning at 11:15AM in the Sanctuary. We are always looking for instrumentalists to join us. The praise orchestra plays the prelude once each month and accompanies our congregation at the 11:00AM service each week. If you played in your high school/college band or orchestra and are from high school age (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) or older, we would love to have you join us. Please let Cheryl Smith know if you are interested so that we can have a packet of music ready for you.

Please contact Cheryl Smith if you are interested in, or would like more information on, any of our music ministries, 493-7504 or [Cheryl@christvenice.com](mailto:Cheryl@christvenice.com)



## Ladies Winter Bible Study begins Jan 26

**Highlights of Hebrews** by Linda Braun and Alyson Hudson. A four week study on the book of Hebrews. Thursday mornings from 10am- noon in Memorial Hall. Beginning January 26 and continuing through February 16. All ladies welcome!

## Child/Youth Volunteer Training Night, Jan 31

We will be hosting our annual child protection training meeting on Tuesday, Jan 31 at 6:30pm in the Family Life Center. We are asking all volunteers who are currently serving, or anyone who plans on serving in the Children or Youth Ministry, mark their calendars to attend this event. Childcare will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Jonetta Halpin at [Jonetta@christvenue.com](mailto:Jonetta@christvenue.com) or Becky Diefenbach at [becky@christvenue.com](mailto:becky@christvenue.com). Thank you!

## Upcoming Emmaus Walks:

SPRING	MEN:	March 23 to March 26
	WOMEN:	March 30 to April 2
FALL.	MEN:	October 19 to October 22
	WOMEN:	October 26 to October 29

For questions or more information, call John Brower, 941-882-3825.



## Senior Singles Mingles

The next meeting will be held on February 20 at noon in Memorial Hall. Lunch is \$6 (payable at the door) and RSVPs are needed by February 13. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for further details or call Lulu Lopez at 417-598-2848.

Also, mark your calendar for the rest of 2017:

- Monday, Mar. 20, 12noon
- Monday, Apr. 24, 12noon
- Monday, May 22, 12noon
- Monday, Sep. 25, 12noon
- Monday, Oct. 30, 12noon
- Monday, Nov. 20, 12noon
- Monday, Dec. 11, 12noon

# Singles

## BLS MINISTRY NEWS

2017 is here and moving quickly. BLS Ministry, part of our Mission Outreach, is gearing up with opportunities for the New Year.

The Mini Retreats for women keep growing. So this year, the BLS Ministry Retreats are going to team up with the Women's Enrichment Program at Christ UMC. The retreats will not change in their format and nature, but will be more accessible to the women of our church.

These small group retreats have been a refreshing time for Women to get away. To have time in the Word, connect with each other, listen to the Lord and have fun and fellowship. It doesn't matter if you have never been on one of these retreats, or if you have been on many. All women are welcome. Come be a part of these amazing days just for you.

### February 27 – March 3

⇒ This four-day retreat will be at the Bonnet Creek Resort in Orlando.

### March 8 – 11

⇒ This little three-day retreat is geared for working women, including stay at home Moms who really need a break at a fabulous place. The location is just over two hours away in Orlando. So if you are interested, contact Alyson Hudson or Michele in the office for more information.

### November 6 – 10

⇒ This retreat is at Daytona Beach and open to women of all ages. It is great to be right on the beach for four days of great fellowship. This has just been scheduled and is open for your reservation.



### BLS FELLOWSHIP TRIP – ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & WALES

This year our trip will be August 16, so you have time to put it on your calendar and get all your plans together. Spaces are filling, and we have a good group going from our church. If you want more information about this 16 day trip to Great Britain, contact Lenee Schroeder 497-1088, or get a detailed flyer in the church office.



# Joyful Outings

*All who are burdened with concern for an addicted loved one are invited to take advantage of SAFE's Joyful Outings — a day when we get away for relaxation, inspiration, new places, new friends, and fresh air!*

## ***First Quarter 2017 Joyful Outings:***

*Wednesday, Jan. 18, Venice Audubon Rookery*

*Saturday, Feb. 18, Venice Farmers Market*

*Tuesday, Mar. 14, Selby Botanical Gardens (\$20)*

**“... the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Neh. 8:10**

**SAFE: Support & Addiction Family Education**

**at Christ United Methodist Church**

**Support Group: Every Monday at 6:00pm**

**in Memorial Hall room 24**



## *Nancy's Note*

After Jesus was baptized and as He came out of the water, a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Mar 1:11) Is it exciting to know that God also really loves us? He loves His Son Jesus sending Him here to save us for all eternity and all we need do is personally accept Him. He gave us the ability also to love and said we are to “love Him and love others”. (Matthew 22:37-39) It is a great month to share our love of Jesus even in today’s troublesome world!

## NEW YEAR and A NEW DIRECTION

I have a new focus in my work here at CUMC and it is an exciting new direction for me. During the end of last year, I sensed God providing a new direction for us in the area of Adult Ministries. Pastor Mike and the Staff Parrish Committee agreed and my official title now is Director, Adult Ministries. You may be wondering with me; what does that mean? How would it work? There are many more questions to answer!

A new Adult Ministries Vision Team will be looking at answering many questions this year. Many of our new members are from the “Baby Boom” generation as they were born between the years 1946-1964. Many have left their northern homes having recently retired to our warm climate, and they are making plans that fill their “bucket list” As a result; the team’s focus will be upon learning more about their generation and how to reach out to them.

The Adult Ministries Vision Team of eleven members started January 23, casting a vision for CUMC Adult Ministries. We have several resources available to help the team throughout their envisioning time. A fall launch is expected. Keep watching for news in Pathways on their progress. If you have any questions, please see me.

Love,

*Nancy*

## UMCOR Jug

UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. In the event of a disaster, anywhere in the world, UMCOR sends in an early response team of volunteers to assist. Look for the UMCOR Jug under the balloon in the Narthex, starting on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 16. Drop in your change each time you go by and consider making a larger donation also (make checks payable to United Methodist Women). Help us help UMCOR help those in crisis around the world.



We collectively love Christ UMC and the opportunities it gives us to serve the Lord with our time and money. While we don't like to think about death, the fact remains that the probability of earthly death is 100%! It's not a question of 'if' but 'when'. However, from the Christian believer's perspective, it's a great and marvelous event to 'graduate' to heaven!

In further thinking about this 'graduation', kindly realize that your weekly offering will cease, but Christ UMC's financial needs will continue, especially as we keep growing. We all want our church to continue its service to our Lord. What can be done?

The answer lies in including Christ UMC in your estate plan via your will or trust. Prayerfully consider, if you have not already done so, leaving 10% or more to the church. Some options to consider:

- If you make an undesignated bequest, the board of Trustees will decide how to use the funds based on the existing needs of the church.
- Or you can designate the bequest to a specific area or ministry, such as Church Growth, the Permanent Endowment Fund, Missions, Scholarships, Mortgage Reduction, etc.

Please consider helping to keep Christ UMC growing and serving our Lord after you 'graduate'. Pray about including the church in your estate plans!

**Rob Montano, Chairperson, Permanent Endowment**

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

A SILENT MINISTRY WITHIN THE CHURCH. Well, we do beat the drums and blow our horns about how we want to spend time with you, when you're going through any one of life's difficulties. Yes, we are trained to listen to your problems, pray with you, encourage and comfort you. We're not shy about wanting to help you when you're down. So what's so silent about Stephen Ministry? It's our confidentiality. Anything shared with us stays between us. Your problems are our problems, and no one else will know. So how about it? If you're grieving, lonely, depressed, stressed, discouraged or whatever, tell a Stephen Minister, with a blue name badge, you would like a Stephen Minister in your life, and a Stephen Leader will meet with you to discuss our ministry, and match you with a caring Christian who can share your burden. Or just call a Stephen Leader, Don Paull 497-5597 or Jane Watkins 989-859-0712 for more information.

## DVD - October Baby

A young woman discovers she is adopted and that her physical problems stem from a failed abortion attempt. Angry and disillusioned, she seeks her birth mother and, along the way, discovers more about herself and life than she thought was possible. An excellent movie, well-acted.

## DVD - Last Ounce of Courage

An inspiring movie with excellent actors (Jennifer O'Neill & Marshall Teague) that will prick your conscience and ignite your patriotism. Does your right to religious expression count today? Have we gone too far in the attempt to be unbiased? A family stands up and we believe you will too. Excellent movie - don't miss it!

*Reviewed by Leighton & Karen Quinn*

## Special Thanks

Thank you for all of your calls, cards, and caring! It means so much to have such a loving and kind church family.

**Barbara Larsen**



## "Friends of Gideons"

The Gideons International is an Association of Christians business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through sharing personally and by providing Bibles and New Testaments.

THE GIDEON CARD BIBLE PROGRAM is closely associated with the Gideon Church Ministry Program, a program followed by our Lemon Bay Camp that serves the 102 churches in our area around Venice. The Gideon Card Bible Program is promoted in churches and in funeral homes, as well as among Gideons and Gideon member wives themselves (Known as auxiliary). The impact of the Gideon Card Bible Program is reaching others for Christ.

Feel free to take Gideon Cards from the three racks placed in different areas in our church. Send a card to a friend or family with your Christ-loving message and offer separately a donation to the Gideons using an envelope enclosed with the card. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Gideons, please contact Ray Rodgers at 941-266-9703 or Joseph Daluz at 973-725-4735.

