



# The Messenger

Cypress Lake  
Presbyterian Church

**Our Vision: We strive to live Jesus' charge to love one another and lead others to a growing relationship with God.**

February  
2022



HAPPY  
*Anniversary!*

**Happy 1 Year Anniversary Rev. Eddie Bellis here at CLPC.  
We are so grateful you are here!**

The month of February is known as the “month of love.” Really, that thought may not be a good one for everyone as some have lost someone they love within the past year, and this month they may feel that loss and dread intensely. Or some may not like the thought because it reminds them through no fault of their own the effects of being single. So, maybe we should be careful in how we approach the month. Maybe we would do better to call it the “month of God’s love.”

Scripture talks openly about God’s love. For God loved us so much that God gave us Jesus Christ so that whoever believes in him will be saved (paraphrased John 3:16). “This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this to lay one’s life down for one’s friends.” (John 15:12) These two scripture quotes are in the gospel of John. Yet, the bible contains so many more examples as love is a vital biblical concept.

Here is my takeaway as I read and understand scripture. In scripture, I read that God’s desire is for us to know that God loves us, and God gives a rather clear commandment to love our neighbors. In this article, I want us to think about our challenges (maybe even some blind spots) that prevent us the outward expression of our inward love to others?

When we look around our church facilities, how does our love for our neighbors show as we greet someone with **disabilities**? Look around our sanctuary and think of someone in a wheelchair. How can someone in a chair remove a hymnal or a bible from the pew? Look at our restrooms – the space and location – and ask, “What would someone with a wheelchair need to do to maneuver his chair to a bathroom? How does one with limited hearing appreciate the spoken Word of God and our wonderful music? What do we offer someone whose eyesight is severely limited? We do well here, yet we could DO a better job.

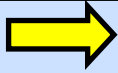
Another way to see love in action is with the **safety** and **protection** of children. “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is too such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (Matt. 19:14).” How can we show our love by protecting them and providing a safe place to experience Christ’s love? What do our current child protective policies suggest we do?

Think about ways to love the **stranger** walking into our building. Do our visitors know where to go when they are on our property or in our buildings? What is at stake is our **hospitality**. How do we treat the stranger among us in our worship services? How does she who is unfamiliar with anything Christian understand and respond to our saying “church” words and statements like the Lord’s Prayer or Nicene/Apostles’ Creeds? What is it she might not understand? I am not suggesting removing them, but to ask the question by looking at it from the stranger’s view.

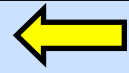
This month is about love. These ideas are just the beginning of our sharing love with our neighbors. So, let us look with love around CLPC and see where God is leading us to share God’s love with others. See your neighbor who need our compassion, desires our hospitality, wants a safe environment. Then open your hands wide to share that love with him/her.

Happy Valentine’s Day,

Rev. Edward Bellis



## January Session Meeting Recap



On January 25, 2022, the Session of CLPC met in love, service, and thanksgiving to be doing the work of our Lord. Following prayer and a meal catered by Chick-fil-a the following business was conducted:

After establishment of a quorum and formation of the roll the current class of Confirmands Abigail Hill, Jacob Wolbert, and Sarah Johnson, taught by Carson Brown and mentored by Chris Gieseke, Tim Baldwin and Brenda Harcourt respectively were examined by Session and were found to be knowledgeable, faithful, and true in their Christian faith and are all well qualified to be members of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church. The newest members of CLPC will be received and lead worship services on a Sunday in February 2022.

Visitors and confirmands were allowed to depart, and Session meeting was continued. Following prayer, approval of meeting agenda with minor changes, reading of CLPC Vision Statement, approval of previous meeting Minutes with minor changes, the following business was conducted:

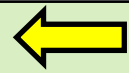
- Pastor Devon Andrews gave a detailed briefing on the “Vital Congregations Initiative.” This was well received with gratitude and is likely something that CLPC will be interested in becoming part of in the future but at present have too many ongoing projects to take on any additional responsibilities. Information on this Initiative is available on request to anyone interested. CLPC representative on this Presbytery Initiative is Brian Granstra.
- Clerk of Session report received. Frank Alberti, Sr. Passed from the temporal to the eternal on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, and so was removed from the roll.  
Pastors report received.
  - ⇒ Update on Stewardship Committee was heard. Session approved formation of this committee as well as responsibilities and mission statement. Initial membership includes Chris King – chair, Eddie Bellis (ex-officio), Jim Barfoot, Bob Hoschner, Sharon Warner, and Bill Stevens.
  - ⇒ Update on pending sale of 6.6 acres, the listing contract has been signed.
  - ⇒ With the resignation of John Ferris from the Praise Team, Jonathan Gill has been working extra hours to fill this gap. Session approved increasing his paid working hours an additional 8 hours per week.
- Treasurer's report received
- Support Team: Session approved acceptance of gift of Chickering upright piano from George Olsen to be placed in the chapel as a replacement of the Wurlitzer piano. Session also approved donation of old piano by the Support team to an appropriate recipient.
- Christian Education Team:
  - ⇒ Session approved that all Scout activities sponsored by CLPC would fall under the responsibility of the Christian Education Team.
  - ⇒ Session approved the “monumental” theme and curriculum to be used for the 2022 VBS.
  - ⇒ Approved car wash as a fund raiser for Scouts and Youth Group to be held in February date TBD.
  - ⇒ Approved Scouts to hold fund raiser to park cars in CLPC parking lot during the Greek Fest, February 18-20, 2022.
- Worship Team: Session approved forming a Worship Visioning Task Force to prayerfully consider and recommend action steps for the future direction of CLPC’s Worship Services. Team will consist of but not be limited to: Finance Committee member, Personnel Committee member, CLPC Elder, Praise Service attendee, Traditional Service attendee, Pastor (Ex-Officio).
- Fellowship and Mission Teams, Presbyterian Women, Deacons: no business requiring Session action.
- Update of Spanish Supply Pastor search: Due to unforeseen administrative problem the candidate that was expected to be seated could not be. Back to work.

Following recitation of CLPC Mission Statement and prayer, the meeting was adjourned in love and service;

Respectfully submitted:  
Hal Slusher, Elder



## December Session Meeting Recap



December 28, 2021 the Session of CLPC met in love, service, and thanksgiving to be doing the work of our Lord. Following devotion and prayer by Christina Johnson, and recitation of CLPC Vision Statement, the following business was conducted:

- Agenda was approved with minor changes.
- Minutes of stated Session meeting of November 23, 2021 and called Congregational meeting of December 5, were approved with minor changes.
- Clerk of Session's report was received. At members request, Garry and Nancy Keil were removed from the active roll of CLPC.
- Pastors report was received: 1. Session was presented request of resignation from Praise Team leader John Ferris effective December 31, 2021. Request approved with gratitude for his faithful years of service. 2. Report on progress of formation of Stewardship Team which is progressing and should be functioning soon. 3. Approved request of Pastor Bellis for vacation January 21-24, 2022 and approved with gratitude Rev. Spencer Lawrence to lead worship and preach Sunday, January 23, 2022.
- Received report from Called Presbytery Meeting (by zoom), December 20, 2021 from CLPC attending representatives Bob Hoschner and Pastor Bellis..
- Carson Brown was granted presence and voice to report on status of Hispanic Pastor search. Pastor has been selected and is being processed but due to administrative delays may not be available to start February 1, 2022 as planned. No problem is anticipated which would require lengthy delay. Updates will be presented as received.
- Support Team Report received: Request made and approved to use CLPC Sanctuary January 29, 2022 for a concert by the Southwest Florida Jazz Trio. Love offering will received at the concert.
- Christian Education Report received: Request made and approved to have Spring Fest with Easter Egg hunt April 9, 2022 and Vacation Bible School June 6-10, 2022.
- Church and Community Team and Mission Team reports received, no action requiring Session approval.
- Worship Team Report Received: 1. After much discussion, Session approved to continue with 2 services (Praise and Traditional) in same time frames (9 AM Praise, 11AM Traditional) with continued study of congregational concerns. 2. Requested and approved by Session the following: a. Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 7PM. b. Palm Sunday April 10, 2022 with choir cantata. c. Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7PM with meager meal (soup and bread) served prior at 6PM. d. Good Friday, April 15, 2022, 5PM.
- Presbyterian Women requested and approved "Gift of Women Sunday Service" March 6, 2022 with gratitude for Pastor Brenda Harcourt to lead worship and preach.
- Pastor Joel who is retiring December 31 presented his report. Pastor Joel was recognized with love and gratitude by Session for his long and faithful service.

Following recitation of CLPC Mission Statement and prayer, the meeting was adjourned in love and service;

Respectfully submitted:  
Hal Slusher, Elder

|          |                             |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>E</b> | <b><u>Class of 2022</u></b> |                             |
| <b>L</b> | Wanda Bishop                | <b><u>Class of 2023</u></b> |
| <b>D</b> | Gordon Coffman              | Tim Baldwin                 |
| <b>E</b> | Elena Garcia                | Chris Giesecke              |
| <b>R</b> | Bob Hoschner                | Christina Johnson           |
| <b>S</b> | Nick LoPresti               | Steve Norris                |
|          | Alberto Reyes               | Keith Schneider             |
|          | Carlos Vasquez              | Hal Slusher                 |

|          |                             |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>D</b> | <b><u>Class of 2022</u></b> | <b><u>Class of 2023</u></b> |
| <b>E</b> | Norma Borkowski             | Garlet Grenz                |
| <b>A</b> | Mary Gisse                  | Jim Sharpe                  |
| <b>C</b> | Betty Serra                 | Matilda Wilson              |
| <b>O</b> | Cheryl Wolbert              | Gale Wray                   |
| <b>N</b> |                             | <b><u>Class of 2024</u></b> |
| <b>S</b> |                             | Judy Hoschner               |
|          |                             | Diana Santiago              |


# FEBRUARY



**February's Specialty Item is:**  
**Tuna & Vegetable Oil**

**Food Pantry**






**A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES.**

**PROVERBS 17:17**

## 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 and also in the church office for placing orders. A check payable to CLPC for the total must accompany the order. Order forms are located in Slot # 16 in the Narthex and at the "Scrip Order Boxes". You can also order online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) CLPC enrollment code: **FLEEA331146573.**


**New Horizons after school tutoring**

Resumed meeting at CLPC in the Fellowship Hall January 10th. They meet Monday – Thursday afternoons from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

To volunteer, please Contact John at [john@newhorizonsofswfl.org](mailto:john@newhorizonsofswfl.org) or stop by the office and pick up a Volunteer Application

## Project Linus

Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our annual Make A Difference Day in Fellowship Hall with about 40 ladies in attendance. A small breakfast was available. Four officials from different agencies were there to tell us about how they used the blankets made by our group, Valerie's House, Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care, A.C.T., and Guardian Ad Litem. They also had the opportunity to get more blankets to use in their agency. It was noted that we have received 1995 blankets last year and given out 1854 blankets to 7 agencies. So will you think about making a blanket for a child in Lee County that is in crises this year? Any questions, call Matilda Wilson at 239-489-3582.



**Project Linus**  
"Providing Security Through Blankets"



## Cuba-"it's complicated"

by Chris Giesecke

Dear sister Cristine:

We receive with much love and joy your message. I am sorry that take me much time write to you, and it is that we are still doing some little adjustment in the house but me and my family, we are feeling very well, in this process of settling here. Very thankful to God.

Our congregation wish you all at the Church of Cypress Lake abundant blessings and we pray for you all in this difficult time of new outbreak of the coronavirus.

I appreciate very much for the minutes you put on my phone, they really are of great help to keep us in communication with you and with our congregation through our Whatsapp group, and calls, where we pray and have accompanied each other during all this time. So, thank you so much!

Answering your question about omicron, I can tell you that although the number of infected people has increased in the country, more than 10,000 cases in a week, others shots of a vaccine booster is being provided to everyone and by the government only the necessary restrictions have been taken (closing of bars, discos); until right now, all services are maintained, schools, churches, job centers and businesses remain open and no regulations have been taken with transportation.

Our congregation maintains the Worship Service every Sunday, the weekly meeting with the youth group and last Sunday we restarted the Sunday school, we hope to start the mornings with Biblical Studies soon.

At this time some people, especially elderly women, are not coming to the Worship Service, taking much careful, for not be close to many people and protect their health, but the rest of our community continues to congregate and participate in community life.

The previous Saturday, elders, brothers and sisters of our congregation had a planning meeting of the work of this new year, where we dream of the church that we want to be in this year 2022, taking into account the strengths, challenges and opportunities that we have as church and within the strengths that we have as church. Several brothers expressed that one of the strengths we have is that of being able to count on with our partnership of Cypress Lake's Presbyterian Church, with sisters and brothers to accompany us in many ways, pray to each other, it is a blessing of God.

Thank you very much for your prayers for me and my family during this new stage of our lives and ministry. We have already been able to feel God accompanying us and guiding us at all times and we know that it has also been thanks to your prayers.

Please say hello from our congregation El Redentor Versalles, to your Church. May God bless you all and have a blessed week!  
Anays

Dear Anays,

As this new year begins, we at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ. We pray that health and strength are present, and that the joy of God's love is with you all.

I am wondering if you received the minutes on your phone. We would like to continue to send them to you so that you are able to interact and communicate with the congregation.

I am also wondering if Omicron is a problem in your country and how things are going in relation to the Covid pandemic.

I pray you are comfortable in your new apartment, and that your family is all well and adjusting well to the newness of it all.

May God Bless you all,  
Chris Giesecke



# What's Happening in February

**Wednesday Night Study:**  
6:15pm - Firing Jesus by Greg Stier

**Theater and Theology:**  
6pm - Feb. 10th, Unbroken

**Pastor Eddie's Book Club:**  
11:30am - Feb. 14th, Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

**Sharing Our Stories Series:**  
7pm - Feb. 21st Eddie Bellis

**Praying With Others Program:**  
Wednesday Nights at 8pm via Zoom



**Saturday  
February 5th at 7pm**  
Spend an evening at the  
Everblades Hockey Game!  
Tickets are \$25.  
Contact Jim Wilson for  
more information

**Sunday, February 20th  
at 8:45am-12:45pm**



Give the Gift of Life!  
Here in CLPC parking lot.



**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!**

**THE MEN'S GROUP OF CLPC CORDIALLY INVITES ALL TO**

*"God's Valentines" Dinner Party*

**Saturday, February 12 | 7 PM | Fellowship Hall**

THIS YEAR, YOUR MEN'S GROUP IS EXCITED TO CELEBRATE  
GOD'S LOVE LIVED OUT TO ALL OF US. COME BACK  
FOLLOWING AFTERNOON TEA AND JOIN US A FUN AND  
LIGHTEARTED DINNER PARTY, FEATURING:

**CHEF MARK'S WONDERFUL COOKING**

**DINNER SERVICE BY THE MEN OF OUR CHURCH  
(APRONS AND ALL)**

**INCREDIBLE MUSIC BY JONATHAN GIL**

**A SPECIAL MUSICAL NUMBER DEDICATED TO THE  
WOMEN OF OUR CHURCH (WITH A TWIST)**

**SINGING TELEGRAMS**

**...AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**SINGLES, COUPLES, AND FRIENDS ARE WARMLY WELCOMED. SIGN UP IN THE  
NARTHEX OR EMAIL OFFICE@CLPC.US. A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED.**



**Presbyterian Women**

Peace River Annual Gathering

The Peace River Presbyterian Women's Annual Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 9:00 am at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Please contact Beth Watson with any questions.

Spring Craft Bazaar

The PW Spring Craft Bazaar will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in FH. More details will follow.

Fashion Show and Tea

The Annual Spring Fashion Show and Tea will be held February 12th at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join in on the fun and fellowship.



## CLPC STAFF

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church  
8260 Cypress Lake Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
Phone: (239) 481-3233  
Fax: (239) 481-5198  
E-mail: [mail@clpc.us](mailto:mail@clpc.us)  
Web site: [www.clpc.us](http://www.clpc.us)

### **Pastor**

Rev. Eddie Bellis  
[eddie@clpc.us](mailto:eddie@clpc.us)

### **Director of Traditional Worship**

Rachel Carrier  
[rachel@clpc.us](mailto:rachel@clpc.us)

### **Church Musician** (pianist/organist)

Jonathan Gil  
[mlecarillon@aol.com](mailto:mlecarillon@aol.com)

### **Director of Christian Education**

Carson Brown  
[carson@clpc.us](mailto:carson@clpc.us)

### **CLPC Office Manager**

Katie Gayle  
[office@clpc.us](mailto:office@clpc.us)

### **Clerk of Session**

Gordon Coffman

### **Presbyterian Women Moderator**

Beth Watson

### **Moderator of the Deacons**

Jim Sharpe/Betty Serra

### **Church Office Hours**

**Monday-Thursday 9:00-3:00P.M.**

**Editor's Note:** Some articles may be edited for space.

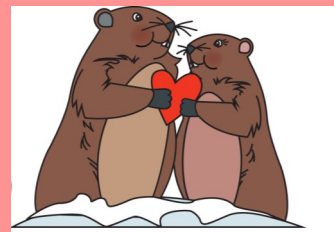
## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 6th Michael Scullion  
7th Marion Stephens  
8th Paula Sklodowski  
12th Betty Ann Kelly  
13th Judy Hoschner  
13th Kevin McFadden  
14th Joe Gazdik Jr.  
16th Nancy Place  
17th Betsy Howlett  
19th William Conner  
24th Alberto Gomez  
25th Kevin Hernandez  
25th Martin Chanofsky  
26th Gina Garth  
27th Hewitt McCloskey, Jr.



## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

None



**Our Mission:** Led by the Holy Spirit, we joyfully reach out to the community and the world in faithful love and service as we mature in Discipleship and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



# February 2022

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                 | Sat   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---------------------|---|
|  |   | 1<br>10:30am Carson Book Study<br>11am Mission Team Meeting<br>6pm Bells<br>7pm Worship Team Meeting | 2<br>9am Partners in Prayer<br>12:30-3pm Faithful Women<br>5:30pm Dinner (FH)<br>6:30pm Book study<br>7pm Choir<br>7pm Scouts<br>8pm Praying with Others (Zoom)  | 3<br>12:30-2:30pm Knit1-Pray2<br>6:30pm Stephen Ministry  | 4<br>Office Closed  | 5<br>7pm Everblades Night   |
| 6<br>9 am Praise Service<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Spanish Service<br>11 am Traditional Service<br>5pm Confirmation                                | 7<br>9:30am Project Linus<br>6:30-8pm Men's Group (Chapel)  | 8<br>10am PW Bible Study<br>10:30am Carson Book Study<br>2pm Support Team Meeting<br>6pm Bells       | 9<br>9am Partners in Prayer<br>12:30-3pm Faithful Women<br>5:30pm Dinner (FH)<br>6:30pm Book study<br>7pm Choir<br>7pm Scouts<br>8pm Praying with Others (Zoom)  | 10<br>12:30-2:30pm Knit1-Pray2<br>6pm Movie Night—"Unbroken"<br>7pm Women's Evening Bible Study | 11<br>Office Closed | 12<br>10:30am PW Fashion Show and Tea<br>7pm Valentine's Night Dinner |
| 13<br>9 am Praise Service<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Spanish Service<br>11 am Traditional Service<br>12:30pm Spanish Lunch<br>12:30pm Confirmation  | 14-Happy Valentine's Day<br>11:30am Book Study-"Unbroken" Chapel<br><br>6:30-8pm Men's Group (Chapel)<br>                            | 15<br>10:30am Carson Book Study<br>6pm Bells   | 16<br>9am Partners in Prayer<br>12:30-3pm Faithful Women<br>5:30pm Dinner (FH)<br>6:30pm Book study<br>7pm Choir<br>7pm Scouts<br>8pm Praying with Others (Zoom) | 17<br>12:30-2:30pm Knit1-Pray2  | 18<br>Office Closed | 19  |
| 20<br>8:45am-12:45pm Blood Drive<br>9 am Praise Service<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Spanish Service<br>11 am Traditional Service<br>5pm Confirmation | 21<br>6:30-8pm Men's Group (Chapel)<br>7pm Sharing Our Stories—Eddie Bells<br><br><br>Happy 1 Year Anniversary at CLPC Pastor Eddie! | 22<br>10:30am Carson Book Study<br>6pm Bells   | 23<br>9am Partners in Prayer<br>12:30-3pm Faithful Women<br>5:30pm Dinner (FH)<br>6:30pm Book study<br>7pm Choir<br>7pm Scouts<br>8pm Praying with Others (Zoom) | 24<br>12:30-2:30pm Knit1-Pray2  | 25<br>Office Closed | 26  |
| 27<br>9 am Praise Service<br>10 am Sunday School<br>10 am Spanish Service<br>11 am Traditional Service<br>12:30 Confirmation                             | 28<br>6:30-8pm Men's Group (Chapel)   |  |  |   |                     |   |
|  |   |  |  |   |                     |   |