

The Guide – June 2021

Christ Church United Church of Christ

“We embrace all as we journey the way of Jesus.”

More About Our Sacred Summer Together



I want to share with you a bit more about our Sacred Summer coming up together. I've been talking about this in worship, emails, personal conversations, and in my last newsletter article as well. But one question that I've heard from folks is...ok, what will we be doing? In short, we will be coming together on Sundays starting June 20 to talk about a specific gift and then on Thursday nights we will be practicing it together. The gifts/practices we'll be sharing are Rest, Gratitude, Justice, Nature, Play, Silence, Love, and Create. Each one comes from Scripture and is rooted in the practices that we see in the stories of the Bible.

As Lilly, Joanna, and I were crafting this program, we wanted to be intentional about making it accessible to all people – ages, backgrounds, physical ability – and we wanted it to be leading into practices that are not just for a week during a single summer but that can be integrated into the whole of our lives of following Jesus.

Each week during the summer, we'll start with the teaching on Sunday morning on the specific gift. On Sundays there also will be journaling questions and personal practices that you can pick up and will be emailed out on Sundays. These will be practices you can work with at home on your own or with those you live with. Then on Thursday nights, we will have times in small groups to practice these in community. Some of those times will be more discussion focused, some will be more activity focused – it depends on the specific week. Kelly will also have an activity and lesson set up for kids as well each week.

I am excited to share this sacred summer with you and I pray that it is a time that helps you grow deeper in your living the way of Jesus and draws us closer together as a community of faith.

Just a reminder that we start with “Rest” on Sunday June 20 and Thursday, June 24.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Ed

Christ Church UCC

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www.christchurchft.org

facebook.com/christchurchuccft

Twitter @ChristChurch_FT

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-4pm
Closed on Monday & Friday

Worship Schedule:

Check schedule inside for online links for worship and bible studies

Call for Youth & Children's Ministry Information

Christ Church Staff:

Edward Goode, Designated Pastor
ed@christchurchft.org

Kelly Kuhnhein, Director of Outreach & Christian Education
kelly@christchurchft.org

Toni Sheffer, Music Director/Organist
toni@christchurchft.org

Max Gise/Guitarist
max@christchurchft.org

Sherri Spaulding, Parish Administrator
sherri@christchurchft.org

Melanie Sorrell, Co-Director of Illumination Youth Ministries
melaniemcb@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab
Pastor Emeritus

Prayer Requests

Chip Price, Jane & Marvin Cox, Jim Gracey, Mary Hertzman, Faye Gateley, Larry Chapman, Bob Derby, Pete Stinnett, Judy Robinson, Laura Randall, Jeff McDonald, Ken Himes, Carol, Karen Elliott, Scott, Michael, Michelle & Faris, Mary Nell Crumfield, Larkin Vogel, Ramel Vogel, Al Rice, Marcia Storm, David Hosea, Matt Hoffman, Gus Byers, The Kuhnhein Family, Rick Hoffman, Joe & Barbara Gateley, Amy Dunn, James Odewo

Youth Mission Team

Christ Church is developing a Youth Mission Team for middle and high school aged youth. The team will be given a budget in order to determine projects locally and/or globally to serve others. The youth will be given autonomy to determine what causes they would like to support. If you are in that age group or know any youth that might be interested in making a difference, please reach out to Kelly at kelly@christchurchft.org. Please note, you do not have to be a member of Christ Church to participate, just focused on making a difference in our world through service to others. The team will begin meeting soon either in person or virtually.

Open Church on Wednesday's is back!

Join us every Wednesday between 11-1 to rest & pray in the Sanctuary. Thanks to Emma Hamann for helping with this mission!

Christian Education Update

The children returned to our regular Sunday school room this month and it has been so wonderful to be back in our familiar space.

All ages meet during the service rather than beforehand and it is wonderful to see them helping and guiding one another. The older children often help the little ones with crafts and enjoy playing with them as well. This month we created special gifts for Mother's Day and celebrated Pentecost Sunday. The children would like to extend thanks to Ruth Rowe for donating beautiful cigar boxes that were transformed into special boxes filled with notes for mom. The children are invited to participate in the summer program, A Sacred Summer, on Sunday mornings and by meeting on Thursday evenings beginning June 24th from 7pm-8pm. If you are interested in helping with children's ministry, please reach out to Kelly at kelly@christchurchft.org.



To My Friends and Family in Christ,

As my first year of seminary comes to a close, I wanted to take the time to thank each of you for the constant love, support, and prayers you have sent my way! In my apartment, I have a cork board to which I have pinned every letter I have received. On the days when being far from my family and friends gets to be a little difficult, nothing brings me more joy than looking at that board and knowing that you all are cheering me on! 😊

There is not a day that goes by that I don't continue to feel God calling me to Liberty and to youth ministry. This semester I have learned a great deal about what it means to be a true disciple of Christ. Two of the most significant verses I have studied are:

Matthew 28: 18-20

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 16: 24-26

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

True discipleship isn't just showing up to church on Sundays. It is suffering, sacrifice and denying your own wants and needs in order to grow God's kingdom. Clergy and laity aside we are all called to create disciples and I am so ecstatic to be given the opportunity to pursue a life of doing so.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to continue my children's ministry at Immanuel UCC through zoom and have seen the direct impact that my studies have had on my teaching style and my students' spiritual growth. There will never be a way that I can thank each of you for the part you have played in that! Whether its cheery cards/notes, pizza money, grocery cards, prayers of hope or even just funny jokes, you all have transformed my time here and I am eternally grateful!

I know I will be incredibly busy as I begin my summer classes, but I hope to stay in touch with each of you. In June, I am moving in with two friends whom I have met here, so my address will be changing. I love communicating with you through letters so please direct all future ones to my new address:

1611 McKinney Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24502

As always if there is absolutely anything, I can do or pray for you for please let me know!

Much Love and Many Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Mai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastoral Discernment Team – Your Help Needed!

As was shared in the congregational meeting earlier in the year, the Church Council is has recommended extending Pastor Ed's Designated Pastor contract for another year effective September 2021 through September 2022. One of the things that will take place during the fall is the work of a Pastoral Discernment Team

to write up the Christ Church congregational profile while Pastor Ed prepares the UCC call paperwork as well. The team will then meet with Pastor Ed and prayerfully discern whether to extend a call to him to serve as the settled pastor at Christ Church.

We would like to form a diverse group of people (ages, gender, time with Christ Church, etc.) to be a part of this team. To do this, we need your help. Would you please contact Jean Braun via phone 859-750-8493 or email Jeanbraun917@gmail.com with the name(s) of people you think would be good to contact to serve with this group?

The plan is to present the group to the congregation at a special meeting in late August when we would also be voting on extending Pastor Ed's designated contract.

You may be asking, "why do we have to go through this step?" The reason is that Pastor Ed was initially brought here as our interim/transitional pastor and not necessarily as the settled pastor. It is important for us to approach the role of settled pastor in the same way – interviewing Ed as if he would be our settled pastor and for him to approach Christ Church that way as well.

This process will also enable Christ Church to be able to proceed with a wider search if it is discerned either by this team or by Pastor Ed that him serving as the settled pastor is not how the Spirit is leading.

Thank you for your help with suggesting names – either yourself or others – for this important group.

Yours in Christ,

The Council of Christ Church



Mission Team Update

The mission team met on Tuesday, May 25, to discuss current missions as well as future opportunities. Over the summer months, the team will meet on the 4th Tuesday in person at Christ Church. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22. Please see the information below outlining our plans for giving.

Locally:

- The team agreed to send funds to Washington UCC in the amount of \$1,000 to support their summer programs and are asking about the possibility of doing power packs again as a congregation.
- The team recently sent \$1,000 to Hosea House to support their work in feeding those in need.
- Save the date, September 5th, for our Hoxworth Blood Drive at church. This is the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

Globally:

- We discussed and approved giving \$750 to Heifer International to support Water for Life which is a program that works to bring clean water to those in need around our world.
- The team will be seeking out an individual to work with Howard Storm on his project to build a community center in San Victor, Belize. Howard will join us for our June meeting to discuss more about his work.
- The team will explore options to work with World Vision in adopting a child and how we might engage the congregation in their mission. Stay tuned for more information on this in the coming months.
- Susan Gabbard is coordinating efforts to sew bags that will be filled with school supplies for Church World Service. She has enough supplies to make 90 bags and would like some help getting them sewed. Please email her if you can assist with this simple sewing project: suzycherie@icloud.com

Dear Christ Church Family,

I want all of you to know how much your thoughts, cards, calls, visits, food, flowers, and (above all) your prayers have meant to me. Bill and I both have felt the love of God and the power of prayer through you and your reaching out to us. We will continue working through this challenge for most of the summer, I am sure. But with your continued love and prayers, I know that I can expect God's perfect outcome for us. And, you know that I trust, and will continue to do so, in Romans 8:28.

With love and prayers of thanksgiving,

Bonnie Hitch

Returning to the Table



Ultimately, this message is an ask for your willingness to help with one of the most meaningful things in our congregational life - sharing the Lord's Supper in worship by serving on one of the Communion Teams that we are setting up at Christ Church. So if you don't want to read the story below, know that this is the ask in this message. If you are willing to help (serving 2 or so times a year and helping with setup/cleanup and serving in worship), email [Ellen Turner](#) or [Jane Petracco](#). So, that's the ask ... Now, here's the story...

This past Sunday was not only Pentecost, but it was Amy and my Pentecost-i-versary. What does that mean? Well, it means that when we got married on June 11, 2000, it was not only our wedding day but it was Pentecost Sunday that year. So, we get to celebrate two anniversaries every year - our "traditional" one and then our Pentecost-i-versary!

One of the most memorable and significant pieces of our wedding was that we shared the Lord's Supper as a part of the service. We served it with people coming forward to receive the bread and then dip it in the cup before returning to their seats. Amy and I (then newly married by like 15 minutes as Communion came after our vows and exchange of rings) each held halves of the bread while Cindy and Kim, our two pastors held the cups of grape juice. Side note - Amy made sure to hold the bread as she didn't want to take any chances of spilling grape juice on her wedding dress...but ask me sometime about the loaf of bread and my tuxedo... End of side note.

What was so beautiful was that, as Amy and I stood in the center aisle, we were able to see each and every person who came to our wedding and to offer them a piece of bread with the words, "This is the bread of life offered for you..." and then speaking their name while looking into their eyes. So, this is the bread of life offered for you, Mom... for you, Dad... for you, Beth... for you, Sam... for you, Aunt Jeannie... for you, John... for you, Crystal... for you, Lynne... It was a truly special and holy moment and one that we will always treasure.

That kind of moment is the beauty of being one standing before a congregation serving the Lord's Supper - we are able to look our sisters and brothers in the eye and offer them this beautiful gift... this is the bread of life... this is the cup of salvation... this is the body of Christ... this is the blood of Christ... offered to you....

So, back to the ask at the beginning of this message... please contact [Jane](#) or [Ellen](#) about your willingness to serve. It is only a few times a year and it is truly being a vessel of God's grace to others. We will do a training so you are comfortable with the process as well.

Thank you for being a part of this vital ministry!

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,
Pastor Ed

Update on Office Administrator

As we have shared, our long-time office administrator extraordinaire Sherri Spaulding, has informed us that she is ready to retire and would like to do so by August of this year. At the council meeting on Monday, a position description was approved and we have begun the process of receiving resumes and interviewing. We have posted the position on indeed.com and have also shared it widely in denominational (SONKA and Presbytery of Cincinnati), social media (individual feeds and groups), and direct emails to colleagues and networks of churches in the area. We started sharing it on Tuesday the 25th and we have already received four resumes and it hasn't been 24 hours yet (as of this writing).

We are going to review resumes that come in over the next few weeks and anticipate interviews in mid-June and hopefully will be making the hire shortly thereafter.

We welcome your prayers for discerning the person who is best gifted for this role and know that we will also be setting up a time to honor and celebrate Sherri's time with us as well.

If you have any questions about this process, feel free to contact me.

Debbie Paillette
Chairperson, Personnel Team

Graduate Sunday, June 6th, 2021

Please congratulate our 2021 graduates who will be recognized during worship on
Sunday, June 6th!

Andrew Gabriel Borah
Christian Mai
Aaron Cunningham

Executive Council Meeting Notes 5/24/2021

Present: Alex, Lois, Bert, Jim, Sally, Kelly, Ed, Joe, Jenny

Approval of minutes: Lois motions, Jenny seconds, Motion passes.

Financial report:

-Income is roughly ten thousand more than expenses

-a little bit down to covid but we are still stable

Concrete update:

-Ed is waiting on a quote from his concrete guy to see about fixing/replacing the stairs coming out of the kindergarten room.

-Need to get a second quote to satisfy church rules

Kitchen door:

-Barry is working on replacement to meet the fire safety codes

Preschool:

-the potential daycare is not happening.

-main reason is that there are no sinks in the rooms needed.

-Those rooms would work better as a preschool for only 1/2 days

Future of 2021:

-hiring office administrator (1 single position).

-No church members eligible for hire.

-Responsibilities would take on more multimedia responsibility, social media and live streaming.

-Handle less of the building improvement/upkeep responsibility

ONA:

-need to aim for more 1 on 1 conversations

-Second step would be moving to larger conversations with groups and congregation

-aim towards the focus on preaching towards the "Purple Crowd" (red mixed with blue)

Council Meeting Notes Continued ...

Congregational meeting:

-In August

-Create profile for direction of 2022

-Reaffirm Ed's contract and form a search committee

-Ed will create his own profile to compare with Church's

-He went from interim to designated. We must follow the UCC steps accordingly towards his permanent hire.

AA:

-Back to meeting Wednesday nights.

-Need to get details about members children attending, members cleaning afterwards and possible rent in the future.

June 24th:

-Scared Summer Circles

-7 to 8 pm

-8 weeks long

-one way to bring discipleship back stronger into Christ Church

-Helps grow congregation

-Bellevue UCC will participate in some ways

Communion help:

Jane Petracco and Ellen Turner will be reaching out to widen the list of helpers with communion that will resume on June 6th.

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	2 Open Church 11-1pm	3 10am UCC Clergy Grp 3pm Small Group	4 Office Closed	5
6*9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Phone-in worship service 10:30am Online Facebook service *10:30 Worship Service	7	8 12:00 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	9 Open Church 11-1pm	10 10am UCC Clergy Grp 3pm Small Group	11 Office Closed	12
13 *9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Phone-in worship service 10:30am Online Facebook service *10:30 Worship Service	14	15 12:00 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	16 Open Church 11-1pm	17 10am UCC Clergy Grp 3pm Small Group	18 Office Closed	19
20 *9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Phone-in worship service 10:30am Online Facebook service *10:30 Worship Service	21	22 12:00 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	23 Open Church 10:00 am Ft. Thomas Mom's Group	24 10am UCC Clergy Grp	25 Office Closed	26
27 *9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Phone-in worship service 10:30am Online Facebook service *10:30 Worship Service	28 6:00 pm Executive Council	29 12:00 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	30 Open Church 11-1pm			

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

6/02	Bert Bathiany V	6/21	Jeffrey Pinguely
6/02	Kelsey Thomas	6/24	Ryan Byers
6/03	Sarah Stephens (Weidinger)	6/28	Sallie Schmidt
6/03	Tim Lyman	6/28	Aaron Cunningham
6/06	Karolyn Lukjan	6/29	Lillian Chapman
6/10	Al Rice	6/29	Susan McDonald
6/12	Barry Petracco	6/29	Megan Abner
6/13	David Huelsman	6/29	Betsy Beimesche
6/20	Gabriel Byers	6/29	Russ Laake

6/04/1966	Carolyn & Ken Honchell
6/05/1976	Donna & Larry Stinson
6/09/1973	Rebecca & Gary Plummer
6/09/2018	Josh & Erin Vogel
6/16/1989	Kevin & Sharon Siple
6/17/2011	Daniel & Snezana Tenhunfeld
6/18/1977	Bernie & Nancy Barre
6/25/1988	Jack & Sandra Hurtt
6/30/1984	Greg & Ramel Vogel

