

July 2022

The Guide

*We embrace all
as we journey
the way of Jesus*



15 South Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas KY 41075
Phone: 859-441-2565
Fax: 859-441-3117

www.christchurchft.org
facebook.com/christchurchcft
Twitter @ChristChurch_FT

Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Closed on Fridays

Worship Schedule:

Check calendar on back for
worship, Bible studies, and
Youth & Children's Ministry

Christ Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode
Pastor
ed@christchurchft.org

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

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

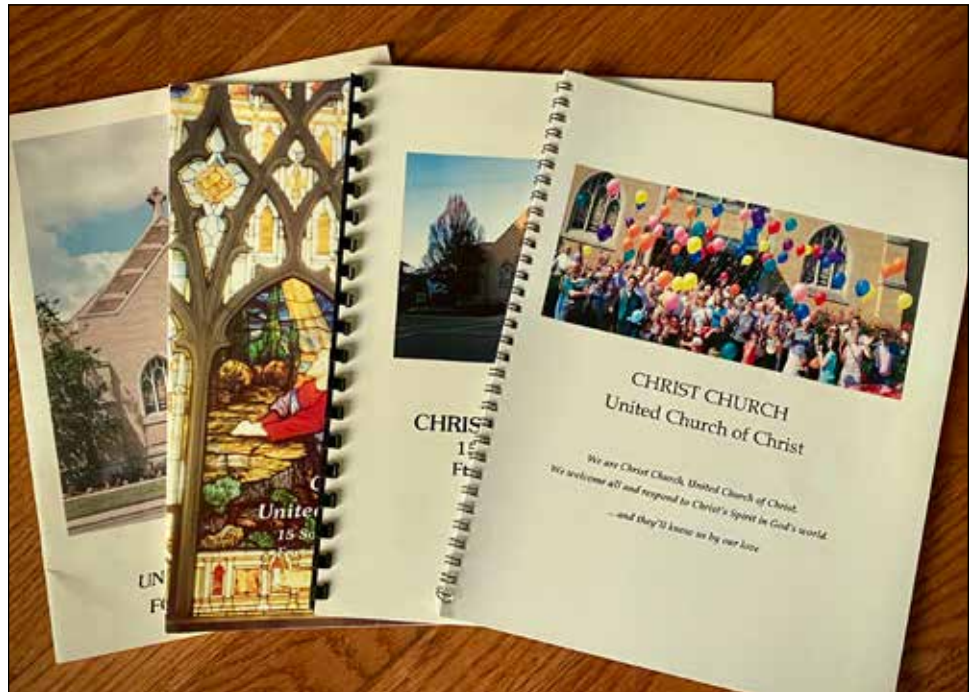
Max Gise, Guitarist
maxgise@gmail.com

Talia Zoll, Vocalist

Michele Wright,
Communications Director
michele@christchurchft.org

Barb Walkenhorst-Derby
Bookkeeper

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab
Pastor Emeritus



Did You Sign Up?

The Christ Church photo directory needs you!

You have the opportunity to be part of our new photo directory! Each member or family photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo and directory. You will also have access to an app called, myUCD. It allows participants a full directory of all church members, the ability to view church events, and much more.

You can schedule an appointment online at www.ucdir.com. Simply click where it says, "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login," enter **ky383** in the **Church Code** field and enter **photos** in the **Church Password** field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. You'll see the dates available to have your photo taken are **Monday, the 22nd of August**

and **Tuesday, the 23rd of August**. You can also sign up after church in the Narthex. There will be a table set up and someone to guide you.

We will need many volunteers to make this a successful directory. If you can volunteer for any of the following days and times, please contact the office.

August 22: 3 p.m.–8 p.m.

August 23: 2 p.m.–8 p.m.
(2-3 hour shifts on both days)

We also need volunteers on:
July 17, 24, 31 and **August 7**.
(15 minutes after church to schedule people)

We want a directory we can proud of. Schedule soon!

What's Coming Up in Worship?

From Pastor Ed

By the time you read this, we will be wrapping up our four-week series on faith and movies. I hope you have found it to be illuminating and it helps you focus on ways that you can see your faith in new ways (and yes, puns were intended with "illuminating" and "focus").

Starting on July 10, we will be doing a series alongside what will be taking place for our young people in Sunday School. In Galatians 5:22-25 there are series of characteristics of followers of Jesus that are commonly known as *The Fruit of the Spirit*. To that ancient church, Paul wrote: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."

Now, these are different from spiritual gifts. Not everyone has the same spiritual gifts but I do believe that each of us, as we grow and mature in faith, can grow to express love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

You may be saying, "Wait! I am not a patient person, so am I not being faithful?" Here's the thing... I believe that we each may be more inclined to some of these aspects of the Spirit's work (our "default") but I do believe that we are called to grow into how we can come to express the others. It may not come naturally but as we allow the Spirit to work, we can get there. But there may be a few that come still more naturally than others.

Continued on next page



Feeling It Too

I'm one of those really detail oriented people when it comes to our family's finances. My wife Amy is probably tired of hearing me ask, "What was that purchase at _____ for" (insert Target, Kroger, etc in the blank spot) when I download transactions into Quicken. We keep a pretty detailed budget and so I can see that our spending on groceries, clothes, housing supplies, etc... pretty much everything is higher right now than in years past. I feel it when I buy a \$3.19 gallon of milk at the store when I remember not much more than a year ago that milk was more like \$1.99. So, like you, I'm feeling it. The increases in costs for just about everything affects everything else. It hits when we are deciding where we are going to get clothes at the store or where we are going to go out to eat. And each time I go past a gas station with \$5+ / gallon gas, I get frustrated too.

And we're feeling it at Christ Church as well. So far this year, a lot of our expenses (especially utilities) have been much higher than normal. For example, our utilities are on pace to be \$12,000+ higher than what we budgeted for the year. We're feeling it in some other areas as well. And we are also feel-

ing it in the giving that is coming in so far this year. Right now, we are about \$8,000 behind through the first five months of the year and on pace for being about \$28,000 short on pledges for the year.

I am not sharing this in a manner of guilt. This isn't a "come on people, let's get it together!" type of thing. It is just an honest sharing of where we are. And it is also an invitation for you. If you are in a time where you are being challenged in your personal finances because of everything going on in the world and you aren't sure you will be able to make what you have pledged, can you please contact Steve McAlister, Bert Bathiany, or me to just let us know? No guilt. No shame. Just open conversation. This helps us to be able to plan for what we are looking at for the remainder of the year.

As I write this, I am reflecting on the print that I got my wife Amy for her graduation. It is called "The Storm" by John August Swanson. Swanson wrote this about it: "Inspired by Pope Francis' Urbi Et Orbi on Friday, March 27, 2020, which juxtaposed Mark 4:35-41 with the COVID-19 Pandemic, I was moved to create an artwork. *Continued on next page*

What's Next for Youth Ministry?

Well over 10 years ago, God opened up a door for a collaborative youth ministry that emerged out of a group of youth who had gone through Confirmation together. Out of this emerged Illumination Youth Ministry which has connected with many young people over the last decade with the Gospel and community centered on the story of Jesus.

Over the last few years, Illumination has been challenged by the realities of Covid-19 and by graduations to where the Illumination Youth Advisory Board has been prayerfully discerning what the ministry would be looking like in Fall of 2022. Amid this discernment, the Lord opened an unexpected door. The door came in the form of a contact from a pastor of one of the Presbyterian churches in Northern Kentucky who were forming a ministry similar to Illumination. The initial contact was about getting information about how IYM was organized and shifted into a discussion about joining their group and ours.

Over the last few months, our two groups have worked together and are excited to announce this collaborative ministry between our three UCC congregations (Christ

Church, St John's UCC Newport, and St John UCC Bellevue) and five Presbyterian congregations (Lakeside, Community of Faith, Crescent Springs, Union, and First-Ft Thomas)! The ministry has hired John Hodges-Batzka, MDiv, as the coordinator and will begin in the Fall.

The still-unnamed ministry will be for students in grades 5-12 and will meet on Sunday nights twice per month. It will initially meet in the Youth Carriage House at Lakeside Presbyterian but will shift to different locations as the group gets going. The group will also be participating in mission opportunities and camps each summer.

The first event will be a cookout the night of Sunday, July 31 which will simply be a time to meet John and get to know one another before the regular every-other-week gatherings begin on September 11.

We are so excited about this opportunity. It feels truly Spirit-led as this door opened just as we were praying about what our next steps were going to be. It will be exciting to share this ministry with these other congregations and expanding our witness to our communities and our region!

Feeling It Too

Continued from previous page

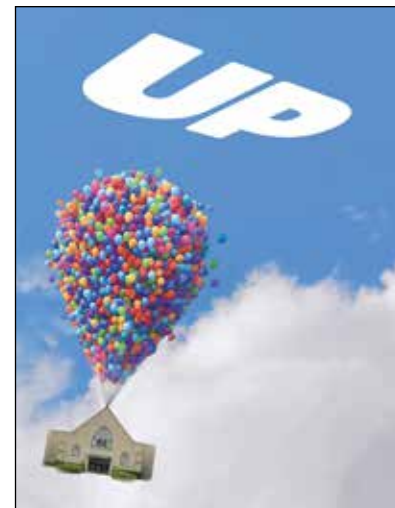
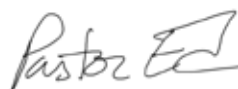
The Pope's words perfectly encapsulated the world's plight, and our need to help each other..."

We were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have

realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

We've been facing some challenging times together the last few years and this is another one. We've got a lot of resources, a lot of wisdom, and a lot of blessings, but most of all, we're all in the boat together and God's got this.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,
Pastor Ed



Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

This summer we began with a lesson on the Pixar film, *UP*. We've had fun this month with various discussions and activities primarily focused on friendship and will round it out the first week of July. Over the next two months, we will focus on Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5: 22-23.

The summer is a great time to get involved with children's ministry. If you would like to volunteer in the coming months, please reach out to Kelly at kelly@christchurchft.org.

What's Coming Up in Worship?

Continued from previous page

We'll get into all of that as we explore each of these. In addition to the Sundays when I'll be sharing, Melissa Stephens (a member-in-discernment in the UCC) will be preaching on Faithfulness on August 21 and Rev. David Long-Higgins (Heartland Conference minister) will be sharing about Gentleness on August 28.

Which of these nine "fruit" comes most naturally to you?

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

Thank you for continuing to give generously with items for local agencies and financially to support the mission work at Christ Church. The mission team will meet next on August 21 at 11:30 a.m. following the church service. All are welcome to attend. Below are some updates on our current projects.

Globally

- **Donation to Ukraine:** You may have been present when Natasha Chesnova shared the work being done by the non-profit, Ambassadors of Father's House, for the children of Ukraine. In response, the mission team will donate \$2,000. This donation is made possible by the

generosity of our congregation. If you would like to make an additional donation, please visit www.a-fh.org.

- **Back to School Kits:** The team will again complete back to school kits for Church World Service later in the year. **Susan Gabbard is heading this effort and looking for those willing to help sew bags for the kits.** She has the fabric and simple pattern and would love some support in completing the sewing. If you can help, please reach out to Susan via email at suzycherie@icloud.com. **Of note: her email was listed incorrectly in some previous newsletters. She could really use some support so if you sew, please consider reaching out.**

Locally

- **Hosea House and Brighton Center:** Thank you for supporting our efforts! We collected 171 rolls of toilet paper and 48 bottles of shampoo! This will be an ongoing effort to respond to the needs of our community. **Hosea House:** Bar soap
Brighton Center: Deodorant (both men's and women's)
- **Meal Servers Needed:** On **July 17**, Christ Church will prepare and serve a meal at Hosea House and we need you! This will be our first time since the start of the pandemic. Please consider donating brownies, fruit, or offering to serve. Please contact Kelly via email at: kelly@christchurchft.org if you can help.

Jesus said, "Follow me..."

From Ken Weidinger

The severe weather that erupted on December 10, 2021 cut a path nearly 20 miles wide and 200 miles long through more than 16 counties and caused extensive damage to life and property. Christ Church went there to help in partnership with the Indiana/Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. A group of 10 volunteers, including three from Christ Church, went to Western Kentucky to assist with the tornado recovery efforts.

We found devastation and many homes in need of repair. But we also found a community working together to address the needs of everyone. The needs varied, but they all experienced a traumatic event, knew people who lost everything, and had hope that their community would rebuild.

The project we worked on was for a family who needed a roof rebuilt on their barn and a soffit on their back porch repaired. This may not seem like the most critical need, but it was important to this family. The dad was older and was recovering from surgery. The mom worked full time and they had just opened their home to two young foster children. This family had helped a lot of families but they needed help too.

We worked Monday through Friday as a team, building and repairing, so this family could feel like their life was getting back to normal. We met the family rooster and dog, and we chatted with the children. The dad and mom often came by and offered their thanks and appreciation. It felt good to see our finished product and show this family that people cared about their well-being.



We were told it would take at least five years to rebuild all the communities affected by the storm. The UCC Disaster Response Ministry will continue to provide work teams and could use your help. All skill levels are welcomed and needed. We will be going back in October and hope to have a full team to continue sharing our time and talents.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the group **the week of October 23**, please contact Ken Weidinger at **(859) 380-4140**.

Luken Baby Arrival!

Congratulations to Bridgette and Andy Luken on the birth of their son, Michael Henry. He made his debut on June 23 weighing in at 6 lbs. 14 ozs. and 21 inches long. Also welcoming Michael is big brother, James!



Green Team Update

The Butterfly Garden is in full bloom! We're still working on getting the marker and there needs to be some minor adjustments to the stones and bricks. Our Recycling Station is getting a lot of donations but we are discussing how to get more. If you are interested in joining the Christ Church Green Team, please contact Michele Wright at michele@christchurchft.org

Lunch and Learn

Join us on Tuesday, July 26 at 11:30 a.m. as we explore the long history of how punch lines have crossed party lines to sway votes, popular opinion, and political agendas in America. Our guest presenter will be Dr. Peter Robinson, Ph.D. Dr. Robinson is a Professor of History at Mount St. Joseph University. He will be presenting his book, "The Dance of the Comedians: American Humor and the American Presidency."



Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. For lunch reservations call Nancy Hunter at (859) 441-4190 or email nhunter@zoomtown.com by Friday, July 22.

"A cheerful heart is good medicine." — Proverbs 17:22



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Faye Gately, Jim Gracey,
The Himes family, Margi McKenna, Kerri Preston and family, Al Rice, Mary Strange, Linda and Tara, Amber Schmidt, Dan Atkinson, Chris Witt, Marsha, Jeff Waxman, Roman, Lyuda and Natalka Shostak, The family of Audrey and Bruce Bernhard, Samantha Mecamp, The family of Lois Basham, Mike and Laura Randall, Thomas, Tice & Yon Cox, Jeff Searcy, Dave Schwab, Genene Lyons, Bill Hitch, Robert Neace, Marcia Storm, Jean Mettens, The Family of Marvin Cox
(Names underlined are first name only)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kelly Kuhnhein	7/1	Andrew Bach	7/24	
Cynthia Blau	7/8	Benjamin Kuhnhein	7/31/2009	
Michael Cook	7/11	Stella Pendery	7/31	
Debbie Paillette	7/13	Linda & Julie Griffith	7/7/1973	49 yrs.
Jeff Searcy	7/14	Kelly & Scott Kuhnhein	7/12/2008	14 yrs.
Kristyn Lukjan	7/15	Betsy & Rob Beimesche	7/13/2002	20 yrs.
Sandra Hurtt	7/15	Max & Anna Gise	7/15/2006	16 yrs.
Gordon Braun	7/16	Janet & William Fischer	7/16/1966	56 yrs.
Mike Randall	7/19	David & Sarah Huelsman	7/22/2000	22 yrs.
Barb Korpik	7/19	Guy & Jeanne Karrick	7/23/1996	26 yrs.
Bernie Barre	7/21	Donna & William Wilson	7/30/1977	45 yrs.
Janet Fischer	7/22			
Emily Karrick	7/23			



Memorials

Memorial for Jack Steinman

Jean Mettens

Jim & Linda Gracey

Schedules for July

Liturgists

- July 3 Bert Bathiany
- July 10 Jean Braun
- July 17 Donna Hoffman
- July 24 Barry Petracco
- July 31 Katie Leftin

Deacons

- July 3 Jack Hurtt
- July 10 Jean Braun
- July 17 Amy Thornton
- July 24 Melissa Cox
- July 31 Barb Korpik

Ushers

- July 3 Jack Hurtt
Scott Turner
Jane Petracco
Audrey Bernhard
- July 10 Jean Braun
Shelley Kappesser
Steve Kappesser
Jay Wainscott
- July 17 Marcia Storm
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Carol Himes
- July 24 Melissa Cox
Nancy Pinguely
Greg Vogel
Andy Borah
- July 31 Barb Korpik
Scott Turner
Jane Petracco
Patti Miller



Who Cares? We Care!

From Howard Storm

Work progresses on the Community Center in San Victor, Belize. The main structure is built and now the long process of finishing it continues every day by the men of San Victor village.

The interior walls have been plastered. The windows and doors are being shuttered. We are waiting until we have the funds to purchase proper doors and windows. Soon the men will begin putting stucco on the exterior of the building. Plans are to start very

limited plumbing and electrical access inside. Plilberto Teck has completed the background mural for the shrine to "Our Lady of Guadalupe" inside the building. A security guard stays in the building every night. If you would like more details, please ask Howard Storm.

Right now we are out of funds and pray for more generosity to complete this building. God has taken it this far and we know He will carry it to completion. Please pray for us!

You Can Help Rebuild Lives

From Ken Weidinger

The Disaster Response Team of the Heartland Conference is looking for volunteers to help with a house rehab the week of **July 25-29** in Dayton, Ohio. This build is a cooperative effort between the Christian Church Disciples of Christ (DOC) and the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

The work consists of rehabbing a house that will provide affordable housing for a family displaced by the tornado that passed through the Dayton, Ohio area on Memorial Day weekend, 2019. The house is located at 418 Smith Street, Dayton, Ohio 45417. This is approximately 1 hr. 13 min. drive from downtown Cincinnati.



Volunteers are needed for Monday, July 25; Tuesday, July 26; Wednesday, July 27; Thursday, July 28; and Friday, July 29. Volunteers can work for one or more of those days, but we would want to coordinate partial week workers to align days as much as possible.

Volunteers are responsible for providing their own lunch and drinks for the work day.

Continued on next page



Church Council Meeting Notes

5/23/2022

In Attendance: Pastor Ed Goode, Kelly Kuhnhein, Snezana Tenhundfeld, Debbie Paillette, Joe Stevenson, Bert Bathiany, Jen Korpik, Donna Hoffman, Sallie Schmidt, Jenny Hermann, Nancy Hunter, Betsy Beimesche, Bill Hitch

- **Gathering/Centering:** Meeting opened with prayer.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes reviewed. Minutes approved.
- **Illumination Youth Ministry:** Pastor Ed shared several updates with a focus on the changes coming to Illumination Youth Ministry and an update on the custodial care coverage. His written report also reminded about the new photo directory coming up and celebrated new members joining Christ Church
- **Financial Report:** Giving was down \$8,000 for the year and \$6,000 in April. There was not the usual Easter bump in giving. Expenses were under budget for April.
- **Building/Capital Campaign:** Bill Hitch proposed several projects to be paid for by capital campaign funds.
- **Concrete Work** – replacement of stairs from parking lot to education wing and work on Audubon Place and in front of the building
- **Replacement of office exterior siding**
- **Conversion of old lift elevator into closet storage**
- **Several energy conservation projects** – lights, new toilets
- **Replacement of windows in Sunday School building**
- **Replacement of front entrance doors.**
- **Building Issues:** Other building issues were discussed including parking lot, history room, and building processes.
- **AED Training:** Will take place in the Fall
- **Personnel:** Coverage for Jeff Searcy has been secured both by a contracted cleaning service on Saturdays and volunteers at other times in the week. Jeff will also continue to be paid during his recovery following personnel policy guidelines.
- **Meeting Closed with Prayer**

You Can Help Rebuild Lives

Continued from previous page

The work begins at 9 a.m. (EST) and finishes around 3 p.m. Most volunteers from the Cincinnati area choose to drive back and forth each day but overnight accommodations can be arranged at United Christian Church (DOC) on Hoke Road in Clayton, Ohio for a nominal fee. The church is 25 minutes north of the job site. Contact Ken Weidinger at

(859) 380-4140 if you would like to pursue that option.

While things change daily on job sites, the hope is that the house will be ready for flooring and finish trim work by the last week in July. Volunteers could bring their own basic carpentry tools for this kind of work if they choose (hammers, nail aprons, squares, pencils, nail sets, etc.) or use tools that are provided on site.

June Attendance

	In Person	Online
5/29/22	69	14
6/5/22	102	20
6/12/22	68	15
6/19/22	71	15

Our Finances

Greetings from the Finance Board. We are closing in on the first half of the year. Financially we are paying our bills but have been relying on some reserves. Our budget for giving through May is \$95,800. Our actual giving is \$83,900. This means we are \$12,000 behind in our giving. We work hard on determining our yearly budget and the staff does a fantastic job of keeping expenses in check. But we need help. Please consider prayerfully where you are in your giving and your pledge. I have always said that the Christ Church congregation rises to the occasion of supporting the ministries of Christ Church. One of my Charges is keeping you informed of our financial status. If you have any questions, please contact me or anyone on the board.

Blessings,
Bert Bathiany, Treasurer

Construction experience is not necessary. Jaye Herrick is the Construction Site Supervisor and she will be assigning tasks to the volunteers who have experience and coaching/teaching volunteers with little to no experience.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this build should contact Ken Weidinger at (859) 380-4140 for information regarding registration for this site.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9 am – Adult Discipleship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am – Worship	4	5 12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	6 3:30 pm – Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	7 10 am – UCC Clergy 11 am– Talia Recital	8	9
10 9 am – Adult Discipleship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am – Worship	11	12 12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm– Finance Committee	13 3:30 pm – Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	14 10 am – UCC Clergy 11 am– Talia Recital	15	16
17 9 am – Adult Discipleship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am – Worship 11:30 am–Mission Team	18	19 12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	20 10 am–Mom's Group 3:30 pm – Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	21 10 am – UCC Clergy 11 am– Talia Recital	22	23
24 9 am – Adult Discipleship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am – Worship	25 SPARK Open House 6 pm – Executive Council	26 11:30 am – Lunch and Learn 12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	27 10 am–Mom's Group 3:30 pm – Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	28 10 am – UCC Clergy 11 am– Talia Recital	29	30 11:30 am– 2:30 pm Talia Recital
31 9 am – Adult Discipleship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am – Worship	SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS: Sunday, July 3: Church Family Cookout – Christ Church, After worship Sunday, July 10: BYO Picnic – Tower Park, 7:30–9 p.m. Sunday, July 17: Sign up to get photo taken– Christ Church, After service Sunday, July 24: Sign up to get photo taken– Christ Church, After service Sunday, July 31: Sign up to get photo taken– Christ Church, After service					