

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

office@christchurchft.org
www.christchurchft.org
facebook.com/christchurchucft
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

Kelly Kuhnhein
Director of Outreach
& Christian Education

Toni Sheffer,
Music Director/Organist

Max Gise
Guitarist

Talia Zoll
Vocalist

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst-Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright,
Communications Director

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab
Pastor Emeritus

A Lenten Invitation From the Awesome Kate Bowler

From Pastor Ed

By the time you read this, we will be a few weeks away from beginning a new season of the church year — Lent. This is the season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. But Lent is very different from Advent. Even though they both have been marketed to an insane degree, they have a very different feel about them. In this upcoming season we will be guided through this season by the wisdom and life-inspired insights of Kate Bowler, the author of one of the greatest titled books of all time, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)*. Rather than trying to re-phrase what Kate shares, I want to share with you her invitation to this season:

Sometimes we wait. Spiritually, I mean. We just wait. And wait. Maybe something will happen?

In the meantime, our days are complicated by feelings that don't seem altogether very spiritual. Deep annoyance. Rehearsals of old fights. Anger at friends who are, in our defense, pretty frustrating sometimes. Our bodies ache. We are consumed by somebody else's problems, and we are fairly certain their lives are rushing toward despair.

So we wait. At least I do. I assume that in some future day I will feel the truth of my spiritual belief that God is with us. That God never leaves. That God's presence is best (and I



can't prove that this is theologically true) on bad days. When life is headed downhill, I tend to wait.

When Lent rolls around every year, we are offered a chance to stop waiting. We are in the part of the story when Jesus is an arrow pointed straight at his own end. He will die. But first he will suffer and be betrayed; religious and political structures will conspire and conform to great evil; nothing will be peace on earth or goodwill to all humankind. No wise men and starry nights. It's misery. And it should make us pause. *That* is where we meet Jesus. We meet him on his way down.

Lent is our annual rehearsal of the cosmic moment when Jesus' suffering and death and resurrection will change how we experience death. [Continued on next page](#)

Continued from front page

Death will not be the defining truth about us. Someday we will be freed from the gorgeous and horrible limitations of our human lives, and we will live forever with God (which is VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO IMAGINE. But it's the truth.). But first Jesus suffers and dies. We walk with him. And he walks with us.

Jesus will walk with us through whatever kind of Lenten day you are having. The lovely one. The garbage one. The one that barely seems like it counted at all. As we toggle through every kind of emotion—boredom, devastation, happiness, irritation—we want to say: *bless this Lent*.

This little guide is your invitation to bless whatever this season is actually bringing you. So let's stop waiting. This is the one we have. Let's bless it all.

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

— Isaiah 58:6-7

Jan. Attendance

	In Person	Online
1/1/22	65	0
1/8/22	94	5
1/15/22	99	14
1/22/22	N/A	55
1/29/22	112	34

Our Lenten Practices for 2023

From Pastor Ed

So, as Kate Bowler invited us, I want to invite you into our practices together for Lent. For the season ahead, we will be sharing this season in community in worship (Christ Church and First Presbyterian), small groups, and in a daily devotional. Feel free to also purchase Kate's upcoming book which connects to this study — it is available on February 14 and is entitled, *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* — but you don't need to have the book to participate in the Lenten practices.

Please also note the way we will be sharing this season with First Presbyterian. Two of the Sundays of Lent, their pastor Rev. Dr. Amy Snow (also my wife) will be preaching at Christ Church while I lead at FPC those mornings. We will also be sharing services for Ash Wednesday and for the Thursday of Holy Week. And finally, we will be offering a Lenten small group at Fort Thomas Coffee on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. for the five Wednesdays in March. I love ways that we can share ministry and life together with our other community congregations!

Worship Services

- Ash Wednesday: February 22
Christ Church – 6:30 p.m.
- Sundays as normal: 10:30 a.m.
Two Sundays, Rev. Dr. Amy Snow will be preaching while I'll be at First Presbyterian.
- Holy Week Service: Thursday, April 6, First Presbyterian – 6:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 9 – Christ Church – 10:30 a.m.

Daily Devotional

- We will have a daily devotional available as a printable PDF and we will have a few copies available for those who cannot access it online.
- We will also arrange for a daily email of the devotional for those who would prefer to receive it in that way.

Small Groups using the Group Devotional

- Sunday Mornings, 9 a.m.
History Room
- Tuesday Afternoons, 12 p.m.
Conference Room
- Wednesday Afternoons, 3:30 p.m. – via Zoom
- Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 p.m.
Ft. Thomas Coffee (with First Presbyterian)



Our children enjoying Legos during the January 29 service

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The mission team would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our congregation for continued support in 2022. The end of the year was busy with volunteers serving at Ronald McDonald House on Dec. 21, and collecting/organizing gifts purchased by our congregation for families at Washington UCC. The team worked to disburse any remaining funds to those agencies most in need at the end of the year which included Brighton Center, Washington UCC, and the Ukraine Relief Fund through the United Church of Christ. Our team is only able to support these agencies by way of our incredibly giving members for

which we remain so grateful. If you have ever considered joining the team, you are welcome to attend a meeting. We meet on the third Sunday of each month following the service at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room. Our next meeting is February 19 and all are welcome whether you are interested in becoming an active member of the team or would like to share an idea for the coming year.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

• Brighton Center:

Our church continues to collect items in an ongoing effort to help fill the most needed items. **February/March – Pasta and Pasta sauce**

• Hosea House – Mark the Date!

Our church will serve on the following dates in 2023:

March 26 and August 8

Please mark your calendar and watch for information to sign up to serve closer to those dates.



• Tikkun Farms

Tikkun Farm is a local organization that supports the community through many different programs including food support, education, and animal rescue. More information can be found on their website:

www.tikkunfarm.com

On Christmas Eve this organization lost their main house building in a devastating fire. The team was able to offer support this month by sending \$500 to assist in their rebuilding and we hope to look for ways to continue to support their efforts in the community.

• United Church Homes

Our mission team has supported United Church Homes Abundant Life capitol campaign over the last five years with an annual donation of \$1,000. We sent our final payment this month. United Church Homes is a wonderful organization that offers a wide selection of flexible healthcare and senior living options to meet the unique requirements of every resident. More information can be found at:

www.unitedchurchhomes.org

Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The season of Advent was a special time for the children at Christ Church. They enjoyed reading books and scripture, decorating gingerbread churches, and preparing for the Nativity play.

As we begin the new year, we have a new look to the Sunday school room with things being moved around to create a more inviting environment. The older elementary and middle school youth will have an opportunity to spend time in the adjacent room arranged with items for their age. They will have time to write in journals or draw in sketch books following the weekly lesson with the larger group. The goal is to keep them engaged as they age out of some of our activities and are ready for a deeper contemplation of the scripture.



We will celebrate the upcoming birth of Sara's baby (our hired sitter) on February 5 during Sunday school and following the service in the parlor. Please reach out if you would like to join us as we help her prepare for her new blessing.

I look forward to how we will continue to grow together in 2023 and if you would like to volunteer in the new year, please reach out to Kelly.

Becoming a Creation Justice Church

You may be wondering, what is a Creation Justice church?

It's simply a church that strives to protect God's planet and God's people. It reflects our humble self-awareness that we are part of the order our Creator is working with to redeem and sustain. The word "justice" indicates our commitment to ensure the protection of God's planet and God's people from exploitation.

Here are the five big reasons to become a Creation Justice church:

- 1) It's our calling!** The first job God gave to his people is to care for his creation. (Genesis 2:15)
- 2) It's what Jesus would do!** Paul explains how Jesus sought to right the covenant between God and creation. (Romans 8:20-24)
- 3) Who doesn't want clean air and water?** Every Christian can come together in protecting the gifts of creation.
- 4) It's about justice!** As Christians, we seek justice—to be in the right relationship with God, our neighbors, and all of creation.
- 5) It's in our DNA!** It is one of the most significant parts of the UCC denominational heritage.

Our Green Team has been working towards becoming a designated Creation Justice church of the UCC. One of the final steps is to adopt a Creation Justice Covenant. If this is adopted, we will submit an application to the UCC and receive a Creation Justice banner.

The following is the Creation Justice Covenant we will be voting on at our Annual Meeting:

In affirming the divine gifts of creation and in affirming our connection to God, each other, and the world around us, we unconditionally commit ourselves as

individuals and as a congregation to the intertwined responsibilities of caring for creation and seeking justice for the oppressed.

With purposeful resolve, we commit ourselves with an awareness of how the abuses of creation causes human suffering and of how factors such as race, class, and global inequality inevitably cause some to suffer more than others.

Furthermore, as humanity confronts the current and future crisis of damage to our climate, we commit ourselves with an urgent sense of calling. We desire that these deeply felt commitments be reflected in all the dimensions of our congregation's life. We desire that we launch ourselves beyond the walls of this church to make good on our promises to God our Creator, to Jesus the Redeemer of Creation, and to the Holy Spirit the Sustainer of Creation.

Christ Church UCC therefore seeks to make this covenant commitment as a core part of our



congregational identity and will seek to live this out in the following ways:

- Seek to establish creation-friendly practices in our ministries which include using as much recyclable and reusable materials as possible
- Educating all ages in the congregation of creation care practices that can be done within the congregation and also at home
- Providing opportunities for the congregation and community to participate in recycling and reuse efforts
- Actively seek to advocate for creation-friendly practices in local government and beyond

New Mug Holder in Parlor

Christ Church is blessed with so many talented people and our latest example is the beautifully crafted mug holder on the Parlor kitchen wall. Thierry Paillette made this as part of the Green Team's initiative to use less disposable dishes.

If you are here for fellowship or other gatherings, please consider bringing in a personal mug to keep in the holder. If you forget or there is a visitor that needs a mug, please use one of our Christ Church mugs available. Dish soap and towels are available on the sink for cleaning after use. Thank



you Thierry, for sharing your time and talent with Christ Church!

Thanks to Our Church Family

Washington UCC

January 5, 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you! We have received your very generous gift and we are grateful. Only through the support of others can our outreach ministries continue.

Most recently, our Gifts to the Manger ministry provided 370 children from 93 low-income families with new clothes, underwear, socks, hats/gloves, and of course, toys. The families received a holiday food box, turkey, and gift wrap.

We continue to serve carryout lunch on week days to anyone who comes, including low-income and homeless neighbors. Our lunch count continues to increase – some days to 70! Camp Cupboard – where everything is free – is open two days a week for “shoppers” to get food and donated clothes and household items.

Homework Club, our after school tutoring program, will resume this month. We are pleased to have volunteers from Xavier and University of Cincinnati – the kids like the younger tutors!

Thank you on behalf of all those who will benefit from your gift.
Sincerely, Laurel Humes

Brighton Center

January 6, 2023

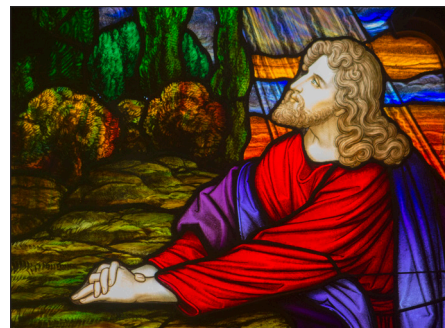
Dear Friends,

For over four decades, Ft. Thomas Ministerial has been an incredible community partner. As a result of this partnership, thousands of lives have been transformed, and more families will be able to access services that help them stabilize and reach their hopes and dreams. Last year alone, 2,364 families accessed emergency assistance services.

A single mother came to Brighton center when she was experiencing a housing crisis. She was working but not making enough money to cover her housing, utilities, and other household expenses. Her dream has always been to be able to provide stable, safe, affordable housing for her family. With your help, she was able to find and secure affordable housing for her and her children. She has now moved into the apartment and is able to afford the monthly rent. Her children are in a stable environment and able to focus and be successful in school.

Thank you for helping us make sure a child does not go to school hungry and families stay on track for self-sufficiency.

With much gratitude, Wonda Winkler



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Faye Gately, Jim Gracey, Joy
Genene Lyons, Margi McKenna,
Pierce, Ev & Jack Weber,
Don Spaulding, Tom Cox,
Nicole & Zach Lawson,
Marie Shields, Barry Bordenkircher,
Allan Smille, Jean Lacalley,
Amber Schmidt, Bobby Grim,
Roman, Lyuda & Natalya Shostak,
Tim, John Jr., Sheila Mains, Sue,
Judy & Greg Gadd, Kristen Bender,
Bonnie Hitch, Mike & Laura
Randall, Marcia Hosea, Emma
Hamann, Lori Collins, Mary Ellen
Harvey, Sallie Schmidt, Barb
Walkenhorst-Derby and family

(Names underlined indicate request
for first name usage only)

Please call the office about changes.
(859) 441-2565

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Linda Griffith
Ben Petracco
Timothy Borah
Isaac Lyman
Ellie Jager
Audrey Jager
Brynn Draper
Nancy Barre
James Long
Maxine Noble
Donna Stinson

Steve Kappesser
Laura Petracco
Daniel Tenhunfeld
Ruth Rowe
Austin Huelsman
Barbara Walkenhorst-Derby
Ellen Turner
Jane Petracco

Stanley & Joyce Grau

56 yrs.



Schedules for February

Liturgists

Feb. 5 Scott Turner
 Feb. 12 Bert Bathiany
 Feb. 19 Jean Braun
 Feb. 26 Donna Hoffman

Deacons

Feb. 5 Jack Hurtt
 Feb. 12 Marie Cunningham
 Feb. 19 Melissa Cox
 Feb. 26 Jean Braun

Ushers

Feb. 5 Jack Hurtt
 Shelley Kappesser
 Steve Kappesser
 Jay Wainscott
 Feb. 12 Marie Cunningham
 Scott Turner
 Jane Petracco
 Carol Himes
 Feb. 19 Steve Weber
 Greg Vogel
 Marcia Storm
 Patti Miller
 Feb. 26 Jean Braun
 Debbie Paillette
 Thierry Paillette
 Andy Borah

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

– 1 Peter 4:11 NIV



Save the Date! Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 5,

immediately after worship

We will vote on the following:

- Approval of 2023 Budget
- Approval of revisions to 2018 bylaws
- Approval of a UCC Creation Justice covenant
- Election of new members of the Christ Church Council and Legacy Committee



Memorials

Memorial for Fred Schmidt

Jim and Linda Gracey

Memorial for Robert Derby

Jim and Linda Gracey

REMINDERS

- **The Photo Directories are Here!**

Please see Linda Gracey after the service or come by the office during office hours to pick up your Photo Directory. We received one for each person who had their photo taken plus a few extras. Thanks for your patience!

- **Discipleship Opportunities**

For February Only:

Each week, we have several opportunities to grow in our faith. All are welcome!

Sundays, 9 a.m., History Room:

Learn more about the sacraments of the church with a video series by Rachel Held Evans

Tuesdays, 12 p.m.

Conference Room:

Prayerful poetry with Rev. David Long-Higgins, our Heartland Conference minister

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m., Zoom:

Viewing and discussing the video series, *Bible Project*. Zoom link:

<https://bit.ly/ccwednesday>

- **Hearing Assist Devices Available**

Please tell an usher as you come in the sanctuary if you need a hearing assist device.

- **Sing God's Praises!**

Chancel Choir meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.**

Please consider serving your church through singing God's praises in a small friendly group atmosphere.

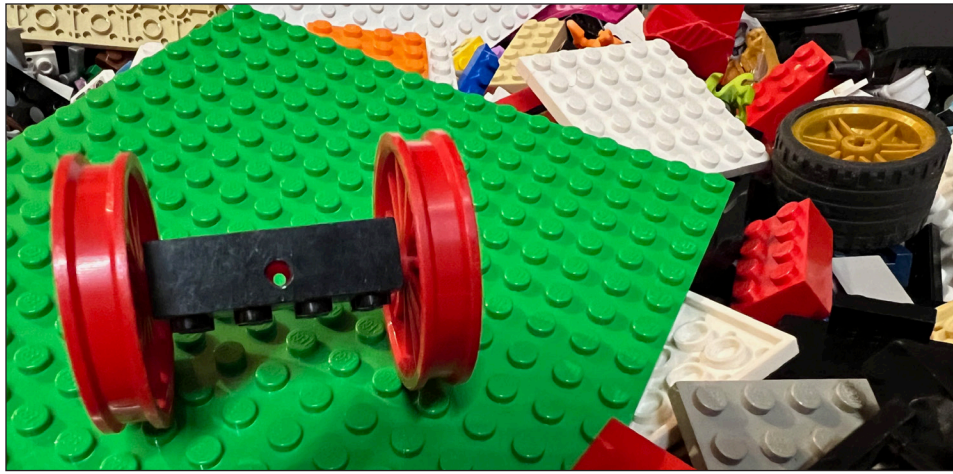
Contact Toni Sheffer for more information.

- **Brighton Center – New Items!**

Please collect the following items: **Dried Pasta** and **Pasta Sauce.**

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:11



Lego Time Machine

From Pastor Ed

I found a time machine this week. Unfortunately it isn't one that I could use to literally go back in time, but I found something that connected my present with my past in a beautiful way. It is this strange Lego of two wheels with a center connecting brick. That is a very old Lego piece. It is probably at least 40 years old? It was from a set I had when I was a kid. The tires that go around the rims are long gone but the rest remains. I found this piece in a bin of Legos in our house this week along with who knows how many other thousands of Lego pieces. In that same bin were pieces from Lego sets of Lego Friends, Star Wars, Marvel, Frozen, Cars, Ninjago, and who knows how many others. What was beautiful about all of these is that it felt like a beautiful connection of the child I was to the child that is still a part of me today. They also show the ways I have seen my own children grow from when they got their first sets to even the ones bought within the last few weeks. And they are the same pieces and they fit together perfectly.

This isn't just a "love song" to Lego (although that would be pretty easy to do) but instead recognizing the ways in which our past is

still our present and our present is rooted in our past and how they all come together to what we will continue to become. They aren't separate but they are linked together and that can be both an honest and a beautiful thing.

In my readings today from the Gospel of John (chapter 8) there is a debate between Jesus and the religious leaders about the connection between the past and the present. Part of the debate is over who controls how the past informs the present. Clearly we have been wrestling with this as a people for a very long time. We still do it today when we try to hide from the realities of our individual and collective pasts thinking that they do not inform who we are today. But they do. We are linked to what has been in beautiful ways and in ugly ways and we need to be honest with ourselves about all of it. As much as I smiled about this Lego piece, it also brought back a memory of when this very piece led to a fight between me and one of my friends of who got to use it. So it is all in there - the beauty and joy of the past and the hurts and wounds as well. We don't need a time machine to go back to where we have been. It is all still present with us.

Church Council did not meet in the month of December

N. Kentucky Youth Group

Sunday, Feb. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Football Party! Watch the Super Bowl together! Enjoy the game and have some snacks! RSVP at: <https://lakesidechurch.org/index.php/nkyyouth/>



Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 11:30 a.m. Join us on for Chris Rust, Chainsaw Artist. Chris began his carving career while doing a community service project to expand the trails in Highland Hills Park. There he was able to take many dead and dying trees and transform them into works of art. Many of you have had the privilege of seeing his work along those trails and throughout Fort Thomas. If you would like to see photos of some of those carvings and learn more about Chris and his work, join us!

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. **For lunch reservations call or email Nancy Hunter**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am - SPARK Homeschool</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12 noon - Green Team 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am - SPARK Homeschool</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 11:30 am - Mission Team</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am - SPARK Homeschool 6 pm - Executive Council OFFICE CLOSED President's Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 pm - Viva Voices</p>	<p>22</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am - Mom's Group 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 am - SPARK Homeschool</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:30 am - Lunch and Learn NO Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous</p>				