

December 2022

The Guide

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



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC

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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

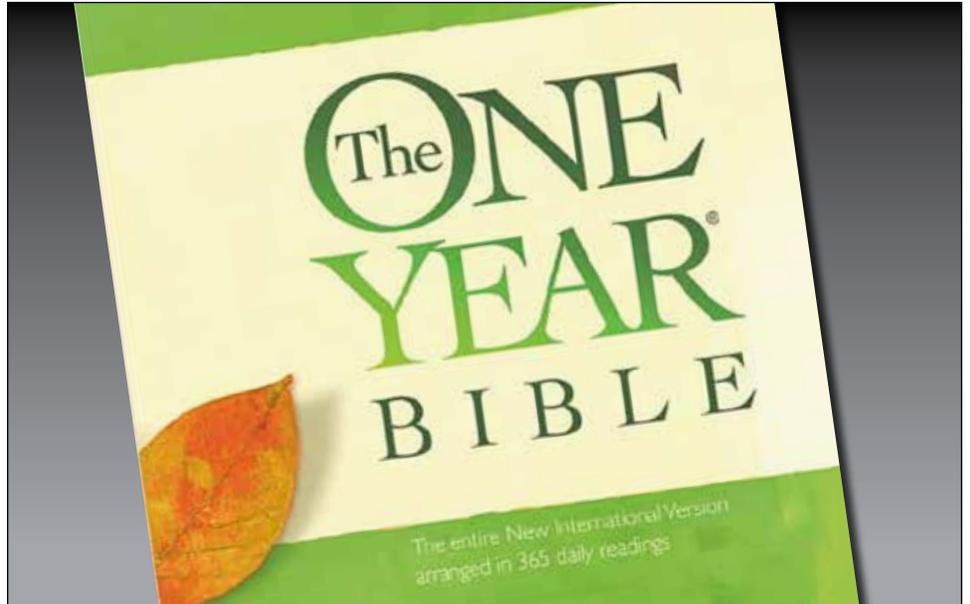
Talia Zoll
Vocalist

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst-Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright,
Communications Director

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab
Pastor Emeritus



The One Year Bible

A Look Back

I know, the year isn't quite done yet and there's still more to read but we're pretty close to finishing up our "Bible in a Year" reading. This is not the first time that I have done this. I don't say this to brag but this is probably the fourth or fifth time I have done this. And each time, I experience God speaking through the Word in new ways. One of the gifts of this year's reading was sharing it with a group of others in the congregation – those who participate in our 9 a.m. Sunday Bible study as well as quite a few others in the congregation. There's power in how the Spirit speaks to an individual through the Scriptures and there's even more power in how the Spirit speaks through a group. I am deeply grateful for the meaningful and deep conversations I have had throughout the year with people about what we have been reading.

Our journey through the Scriptures was not just straight from Genesis to Revelation but instead there were four daily readings. One from the Hebrew Scriptures, one from the New Testament, one from the Psalms (which we read through twice in the year) and then a short segment (1-4 verses) from Proverbs. This was a unique way to read because it gave an element of variety each day. This may not sound like a big deal but when you're right in the middle of Numbers or in the middle of Jeremiah, it makes a difference.

So what challenged me as I read through? Most definitely it was R-rated sections of the Bible – the extreme violence that is described and seems to be sanctioned by God.

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There's a lot of ways we can interpret and try to understand God's role in these stories but plain and simple, there are parts of the Bible that are really hard to read and really hard to find grace and hope. There is a reality of God's call to holiness and faithful living that is present throughout and God does take those things seriously. And so should we.

What encouraged me? The thread throughout all of the Bible about God's faithfulness to the covenants God has made. Even though we break the covenants time and time again, God is faithful and even with the harder parts to take in, God's love shines through. I also was really blessed by the Proverbs this time through. Other times I have read the Bible, I read Proverbs as a whole which makes it very easy to miss the beauty and deep wisdom of these sayings. Reading them bit by bit really helps hear God's wisdom.

What surprised me? I experienced something different in Paul's letters this time. I knew there was a unity through them but this time, I really saw the ways that the same themes from Paul come up over and over – unity, faithfulness, and commitment. I also saw the ways that Paul had some "catchphrases" that showed up many times over. I didn't remember those from previous times through.

I am grateful for this journey and I am going to do it again in the new year. One of the pastors in my covenant group challenged all of us to make this an annual practice. So, I'm going to do it again. Anyone want to join me?

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,
Pastor Ed



Christmas Worship Services

From Pastor Ed

We will have two Christmas Eve services – a 1 p.m. involving the children and some special visitors, and our traditional 10 p.m. candlelight service. Please note that there will not be an

in-person service on Christmas Day but instead an online service and resources for a service at home. Please be sure to invite others to join you for the celebration of the birth of Jesus!

The Gift of Music

From Toni Sheffer

Thank you to Marcia and David Hosea for sponsoring the **Christ Church Music Series** during December. You won't want to miss this special gift during the Advent season:

- **Sunday, November 27:**
1st Day of Advent – HOPE, in-house musicians
- **Sunday, December 4:**
2nd Day of Advent – PEACE, in-house musicians, Also, as part of the Holiday Walk we will be hosting the Immanuel Youth Orchestra in our sanctuary from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 11:**
3rd Day of Advent – LOVE, guests, Highlands HS Choir
- **Sunday, December 18:**
4th Day of Advent – JOY Children's Program, guests will be Tony and Joy Burdette, and our Chancel Choir will sing.



Also, you will soon find small Christmas trees on a table in the sanctuary. **Please write down your favorite Christmas Carols to be sung on Sunday, January 1, 2023.** We will have the carols you choose woven throughout the service that morning.

We are still open for choir members! Aren't they doing great?! You can join us for the Christmas season or in the New Year.

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

Every November our congregation comes through in a big way! Whether purchasing boxed and bagged mashed potatoes for the Brighton Center Holiday food drive or helping our neighbors through Prepare Affair, you stepped up! We are so blessed with members that come together to support our local community.

This month, you joined our Mission Team in supporting families by purchasing gifts for children served by Washington UCC. The gifts are to be returned by December 4, and the team will meet that morning following the service to organize and prepare them for delivery. Due to the many activities this month, the Mission Team will not have a regularly scheduled meeting. They

appreciate your generosity and look forward to serving together in the new year. Our next meeting will be in 2023 on January 15 at 11:30 a.m. following the service.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

• Brighton Center:

Thank you for filling the bin with boxed/bagged mashed potatoes, it was overflowing and will help so many in need this holiday season. Our church will continue to collect items in an ongoing effort to help fill the most needed items:

◦ November/December:

Kraft Mac and Cheese and canned soup

◦ Toys for Children:

If you are interested in purchasing a gift for a child this season, please visit their Amazon Wish List and select to have the gift delivered to the Brighton Center at checkout: <https://amzn.to/3EfrLYe>

• Washington UCC

Thank you for generously supporting the children and families through the purchase of clothing and toys. Please return the purchased items, unwrapped, with the tag attached by Sunday, December 4 and place in front of the fireplace in the parlor

• Ronald McDonald House

We are excited to get back in the kitchen and will serve lunch at Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, December 21, beginning at 10 a.m. Volunteers need to be at least 16 years old and will be required to wear a mask. Please email Barb Korpik by December 14 if you can volunteer to serve and she will share all the relevant details and information.



Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The month of November was full of activities focused on giving thanks for our many blessings. The children took turns sharing what they are thankful for including mac and cheese, family, friends, and Minecraft, while filling our big felt turkey with feathers. We discussed taking a moment each day to share and give thanks to God for something happy that happened each day.

As we approach the season of Advent, the children will spend time learning about the true meaning of Christmas while focusing on the story of Jesus' birth. They will prepare to share the story with our congregation during our Children's Program at

the service on December 18.

On December 4, the children will decorate gingerbread churches, on December 11 the children will have a pajama party, and then the service on December 18 with the children. They will also participate in the Christmas Eve service at 1 p.m. in various ways including sharing their musical talents.

It is a wonderful time of year to be with children as we explore ways to live out hope, peace, love, and joy. I look forward to how we will continue to grow together in 2023. If you would like to volunteer in the new year, please reach out to Kelly.

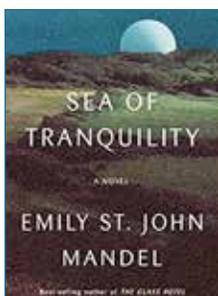
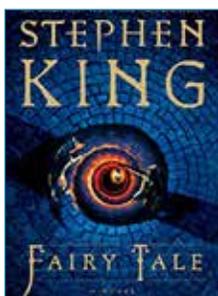
Pastor Ed's 2022 Book Gift Guide

(in addition to reading through the Bible in a year)

It is that time of the year again – time for me to share some of the books I have read that I would recommend as great possible gifts for people in your life. Author Neil Gaiman once said, “Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them. And it’s much cheaper to buy somebody a book than it is to buy them the whole world!” Truth. So here we go:

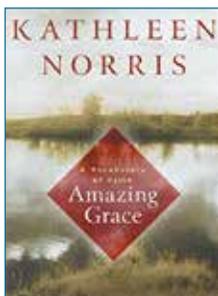
Fiction

The best fiction books I read this year were far and away *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King and *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel. The first is not your typical Stephen King horror novel but instead a fantasy journey into another world connected to our own (and there’s a dog in it so that’s great). I could not put it down. *Sea of Tranquility* is very much science fiction going back and forth in time and how time intersects even across the years.

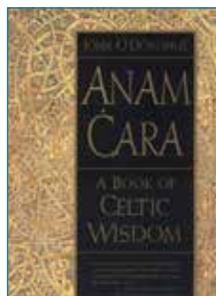
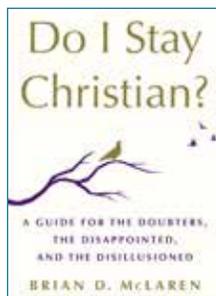


Faith

I was all over the map this year in this area. I did a slow re-read through a book I had read several times before called *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris. This is a marvelous read with short chapters digging deep into “churchy” words. It is so rich and beautiful. I also read Brian



McLaren’s newest book *Do I Stay Christian: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*. This one was one I read to be challenged because the reality is that the numbers of those who consider themselves doubters, disillusioned, and disappointed in the Christian faith is growing. So I wanted to really wrestle with these questions. It is not an easy read but it is a worthwhile read. The third I would recommend is also not the easiest read but goes deep into the spirituality of relationships. It is called *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* by John O’Donohue. If you received one of the birthday or anniversary poems from me over the last year you have read something of John O’Donohue’s wisdom and insights.



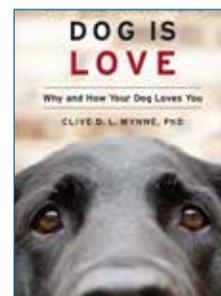
This book goes deep into the Celtic Christian ideas of what it means to have someone as your Anam Cara – a deep soul friend. It is such a rich and deep read.

Others

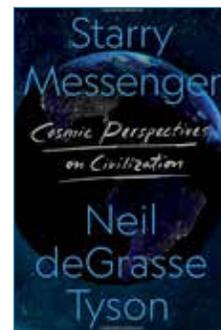
I have continued to spend time with poetry each night and this year it was several books of poetry by the musician Carrie Newcomer. She writes a book of poetry to go with each of her albums. So good. I also spent time with poetry books by Padraig O’Tauma.

There were a few dog related books as well – one about one of the greatest and most amazing

dogs in history called, *No Better Friend* about a dog named Judy who was quite literally a war hero during World War II. I also read *Dog is Love* which digs into (pun intended) some of the research behind why humans and dogs are so connected.



Finally, another book that really pushed me was *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by the astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Dr. Tyson goes into a lot of “big topics” in this book and reflects on things like war, politics, beauty, gender, race, and religion.



He explores these trying to step back from a cosmic and scientific perspective. It isn’t trying to get people to change their perspectives but instead to think about why they hold them and what that means.

There are others that I read this year but those are the highlights from the 25+ books I have gone through. And don’t forget the wise advice of Groucho Marx: “Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”

Happy reading!
Pastor Ed



N. Kentucky Youth Group

Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 11, 5-7 p.m.

11281 Banklick Road,
Independence, KY.

Warm dress and blankets are encouraged. Celebrate the season with our first Youth Christmas Party! Join us for dinner and *At the Manger*, an intergenerational worship experience. We'll finish with a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Click here to [register](#).

**Sunday, January 8, 2023,
5:30-7:30**

Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Carriage House, 2690 Dixie Hwy., Lakeside Park, KY
Our regular and awesome meeting! We'll enjoy a night of fellowship and food. RSVP at this [link](#) to let us know your youth is coming or if you'd like to volunteer as an adult.

The Green Team's First Year

By Michele Wright

How many churches have a recycling station, a butterfly garden, and the support of such a responsive congregation? The people in this church are simply amazing.

This has been a productive first year for the 12 members of the Christ Church Green Team. We installed a recycling station, planted a butterfly garden, and reusable bags for the congregation are on their way.

The recycling station was paid for by a grant from Rumpke. **To see videos showing what Rumpke is recycling, check out this [link](#).** Our

recycling station collects items for the [Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub](#). These are items Rumpke can't take yet. Someone from the Green Team takes them there twice a month.

Our Butterfly Garden hosted a variety of flying visitors over the summer. A grant from the Campbell County Extension Service paid for the plants, soil, and mulch. A stone in memory of Lois Basham for her love of nature is installed.

Please consider calling the office to join this amazing group: (859) 441-2565

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lauren Thomas
Carole Lukjan
Ryan Vogel
Nancy Hunter
Barb Stinnett
Julie Mai
Lela Bach
Susan Houben
Linda Gracey
Margaret McKenna
Max Gise
Tom Pendery
Bill Hitch
Jeanne Karrick
Jack Weber
Marcia Storm
Nancy Faulkner
Snezana Tenhunfeld

David Pendery
Nancy Witte
Talia Zoll
Carolyn Watts
Christi Stevenson
Scott Turner
Richard Pendery
Faye Gateley
Stephen Gracey
Kevin Siple

Robert & Nancy Witte 68 yrs.
Bill & Bonnie Hitch 54 yrs.
Tom & Amy Pendery 37 yrs.
Michael & Carolyn Cook 50 yrs.
Mike & Nancy Evans 54 yrs.
Cynthia & Bob Blau 37 yrs.
Toni & Mark Sheffer 22 yrs.



Schedules for December

Liturgists

- Dec. 4 Bert Bathiany
- Dec. 11 Jean Braun
- Dec. 18 Donna Hoffman
- Dec. 25 No Service

Deacons

- Dec. 4 Jean Braun
- Dec. 11 Marie Cunningham
- Dec. 18 Barb Korpik
- Dec. 24 **1:00 p.m.**
Jean Braun
10 p.m.
Melissa Cox
- Dec. 25 Online Service

Ushers

- Dec. 4 Jean Braun
Nancy Pinguely
Greg Vogel
Jay Wainscott
- Dec. 11 Marie Cunningham
Scott Turner
Jane Petracco
Carol Himes
- Dec. 18 Barb Korpik
Patti Miller
Andy Borah
Steve Weber
- Dec. 24 **1:00 p.m.**
Jean Braun
10 p.m.
Melissa Cox
Marie Cunningham
- Dec. 25 Online Service



Office Closed December 26-29

All church staff will be working from home the week between Christmas and New Year's. Phone messages will be monitored from home by Michele along with any emails. The staff will be there for any emergencies. The Christ Church staff thanks you for giving them extra time with their families. May this Christmas season touch your heart with hope, peace, love, and joy.



A Successful Prepare Affair

Thanks to our Hard Working Volunteers!

Volunteers gathered on a cold Saturday, November 19, to help elderly and disabled homeowners prepare their homes for winter. They completed tasks that would otherwise not be possible for them such as cleaning gutters and raking leaves. What a wonderful gift for so many!

Christ Church Questionnaire

In addition to sharing how God is moving in the life of Christ Church, we also want to share how many ways we're connected to each other.

————— *Patti Miller* —————

- **Favorite Dessert:** Brownies with no nuts
- **One thing I own that I should really throw out:** Old college textbooks
- **Favorite animal:** Hummingbirds; It is so relaxing watching them chase each other.
- **Have you asked for an autograph? Who?**
I don't believe I have ever asked anyone for an autograph.
- **What do you think happens when we die:** I feel that we are reunited with our loved ones who have earned eternal life. I believe they will greet me and embrace me with open arms.
- **Favorite smell:** Snickerdoodles baking in the oven
- **Least favorite:** Stink bugs
- **Exercise... worth it?** Exercise is not only good for the body but also our mental health.
- **Favorite Movie:** "Beauty and the Beast"
- **Most used app on my phone:** Google photos — I am constantly looking back at family photos.
- **Favorite Bible story/passage:** Psalm 23
- **One Song for the rest of my life:** "The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel
- **Describe the rest of your life in five words:** Family, Peace, Love, Sharing, Grandkids



Church Council Meeting Notes 10/24/2022

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

- **Gathering/Centering:** Pastor Ed showed us how to play the “Telestrations” communication game.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes approved.
- **Financial Report:** Bert said we were \$19,000 short (balance vs. budget). The expenses are still lower than expected. \$10,000 under what was predicted
- **Pastor’s Report:**
 - **Stewardship:** Theme – Cherishing our past, present and future
 - Nov 6:** Recognition of long standing members
 - Nov 13:** Baptism of Michael Luken
 - Nov 20:** Future of Christ Church
 - **Advent:** Starts Nov 27
 - Nov 20 after church:** Hanging of the Greens, Making Advent candles for families, creating paper chains and Friendsgiving potluck
 - **Ed is making Advent devotional:** Available online or in print by Nov 20.

- **Children’s Program:** Dec 18
The children will perform their Christmas Program
- **No Council meeting in December.**
- **Mission Team:**
 - Still collecting items for Brighton Center and Hosea House.
 - Bring Mashed Potatoes for Brighton Center in November
- **By-laws Review:**
Reviewed Article IV
Several changes discussed.
- **Nominating Committee:**
Snezana is going to reach out to the past committee members and see if they are still interested in serving this year.
- **Meeting Closed with Prayer:**
Ed gave us an update on several members that need our prayers and we added others.

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

Nov. Attendance

	In Person	Online
11/6/22	86	21
11/13/22	117	15
11/20/22	99	18
11/27/22	77	12



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH
Faye Gately, Jim Gracey, Margi McKenna, Al Rice, Mary Strange, Linda and Tara, Amber Schmidt, Dan Atkinson, Chris Witt, Marsha, Jeff Waxman, Roman, Lyuda and Nataalka Shostak, Samantha Mecamp, Mike and Laura Randall, Thomas, Tice & Yon Cox, Dave Schwab, Genevieve Lyons, Robert Neace, Marcia Storm, Jean Mettens, The family of Marvin Cox, Marissa, Tim, Ev & Jack Weber, Jean Lacalley, Brenda Swan and family, Emma Hamann, Donna Hoffman, Joe Wuest, Sharon, Jessica, Owen, Shawna, The Griggs Family, Kelsey S. Foltz, Pierce, Tim Weber, Don Spaulding, Bonnie Hitch, Joy, Shawna T., David, Tom Cox, Nicole and Zach Lawson
(Names underlined indicate request for first name usage only)
Please call the office about changes.
(859) 441-2565

Beginning in January, we will start with a new prayer list. Please call the office if you or someone you know would like to remain on the list.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 8:30 am - Fellowship 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 3:00 pm - Holiday Walk	5 9:30 am - SPARK Homeschool 3:30-7:30 pm - Talia Rehearsal	6 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	7 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group 11 pm - Matinee Musicale	8 10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 2:30-4:30 pm - Talia, recital
11 8:30 am - Fellowship 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	12	13 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting	14 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	15 10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 8:30 am - Fellowship 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship KID'S SERVICE	19	20 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	21 9:30 am - Mom's Group 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	22 10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 1:00 pm - Early Service 10:00 pm - Candlelight Service
25 NO SERVICE AT CHURCH	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED NO Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	28 OFFICE CLOSED NO Small Group 7 pm - AA Group	29 OFFICE CLOSED NO Clergy Meeting	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31

The office will be officially closed between Christmas and New Year's. Urgent phone calls will be monitored off site. Staff is available for emergencies. Thank you and have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!