

# The Guide

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



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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

## UCC 101–Part 2 *Our Covenantal Relationship*

Last month, I shared what it means that Christ Church is an autonomous congregation. Our bylaws state “Christ Church, United Church of Christ has congregational polity. The ultimate governing body of Christ Church, United Church of Christ is its members assembled in a properly called meeting of members.” However, our bylaws go on to say how we are connected with the United Church of Christ, with other local congregations, with the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association, the Heartland Conference, and the General Synod (national body of the UCC). Our bylaws speak of our responsibilities “toward other congregations that are a part of the United Church of Christ and pledges itself to share in their common religious and educational work.” A simplified way to put this is that, while we are autonomous, we are not on our own.

The governance (or polity) of the UCC is very different from many other Christian denominations that are more hierarchical where decisions made by larger bodies or individuals (bishops, etc) are then expected to be followed by individual congregations. In my denomination of ordination (PCUSA), when an action by the General Assembly is affirmed by the individual presbyteries, that action is for all the bodies in the denomination. In our governance, actions by the General Synod are not automatically enforced for all the other settings but instead, as the



UCC Constitution puts it, “Actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, a Conference or an Association, should be held in the highest regard by every Local Church.” This means we are not required to follow every action or pronouncement of the UCC but neither should we simply ignore them.

But why should we even listen to the other settings of the UCC? The one word answer to this is “covenant.” We are in a covenantal relationship to the other settings of the UCC. The word covenant is not one that is used too often in regular conversation, but it is a vital word to understand when it comes to our Christian faith tradition. Covenant is *everywhere* in the Bible – from some of the earliest parts of Genesis to the messages of the New Testament. God and humanity are in covenant *with* one another. I emphasize the word “with” because a covenant is not a contract of one over another or simply a business agreement.

*Continued on next page*

# The Community Center is happening!

## From Rev. Howard Storm

The photos of women weaving hammocks in the community center in San Victor, Belize we helped finance show one of the activities that have been taking place for the past few months. Most people in Belize sleep in hammocks. By teaching how to weave them they can save the cost of buying them, they can make money selling them, and they have the satisfaction of learning a new skill. This is win, win, win.

Thanks to our leader, Amarily Teck, this is one of many things she is passionately doing. She is also teaching sewing which will be one of the many parts of the center as soon as the electric company connects the building to the electric supply. We have been waiting for months for the electric company to make the connection.

Making your own bedding and making your own clothes is a really important step in empowerment and development.

It is my privilege to be a part of this journey for 23 years and I hope you, the people of Christ Church, share this joy.

Maybe someday you will go there and see for yourself. You will be most welcomed. God is good.



## Continued from front page

Instead it is a commitment made by all parties to trust, listen, and share. There are covenants made in the Bible between God and Noah, God and Abraham, God and Moses, God and David, and the new covenant in the work of Jesus.

Again, the UCC constitution puts it very well. "Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each expression of the Church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole Church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission. Decisions are made in consultation and collaboration among the various parts of the structure. As members of the Body of Christ, each expression of

the Church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. Each expression of the Church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others. In this covenant, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ seek to walk together in all God's ways."

A key line for me in that statement is that "as members of the Body of Christ, each expression of the Church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. Each expression of the Church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others." This is a beautiful way of stating what it means that we are in covenantal relationship with one another, starting within Christ

Church UCC of Fort Thomas, Kentucky and extending to our other local UCC congregations, to SONKA, to the Heartland Conference, and to the whole of the UCC.

So, last month we looked at what it means that we are an autonomous congregation and then moved this month into what it means that we are in covenant relationship with the other settings of the UCC. Next month we'll get into some of the specifics of what is coming up in Indianapolis this summer – the next General Synod of the UCC – and how that relates to our ministry here.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,  
Pastor Ed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ed".

# Mission Team Update

*From Kelly Kuhnhein*

The mission team continues to meet monthly to thoughtfully consider the needs of local and global communities. This month, the team served at Hosea House and received an overwhelming response from members of the congregation to volunteer. It was wonderful and we are so grateful to all of you who made brownies, arrived early to prep, served the meal, or reached out to offer to volunteer even after the spots were filled. If you were unable to be there this time or the spots were full, you have another opportunity as we will serve again on August 8. Our team would love to hear from you with any ideas, or if you just want to learn more about what we do, please join us



on the third Sunday after the service in the conference room. Our next meeting is April 16.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Brighton Center:**  
Our church will continue to collect items in an ongoing effort to help fill the most needed items.  
**April/May – Canned vegetables and fruit**
- **Hosea House**  
Our church will serve again on

August 8. Thank you to everyone who volunteered or offered to volunteer in March. It was so wonderful to have the outpouring of support for this mission.

- **St. Vincent de Paul**  
Donated \$500 to support a local woman in maintaining her housing. The agency is working with her to help her stabilize her housing so her child can stay in their school while also connecting her to all available resources.
- **Church World Service (CWS)**  
Period Packs – the team approved \$500 to be used to put together packs for women in need of these essential items. Susan Gabbard will head this project and we hope to engage your support as well, details to come.

# Christian Education Update

*From Kelly Kuhnhein*

This month, as we enter the season of Lent, the children are learning about the final days of Jesus' life. We've used a few books to help us take the journey through this time to learn what happened in those final days.

Each week, we review what led up to that day's events and discuss them. While it is powerful to walk through those final days, it can be difficult to discuss, especially with young children. The children learned about Jesus humbly riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, the last supper where Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and taught about serving one another, and the lesson that Jesus prayed to God in his time of need in the Garden of Gethsemane. While it

is important not to dwell on the darkness of this time, it is full of rich lessons for the children. I am impressed with their ability to grasp the concepts of being humble, loving and serving one another, and praying for help when asked to do hard things. We used the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar to talk about resurrection and look forward to celebrating Easter with the congregation.

This year, the children will be encouraged to attend the service with their family to worship together rather than separate downstairs. It will be a time for our whole congregation to embrace one another and be together in the service. There will be an Easter egg hunt following the service if weather

permits. If there will be a child visiting with you on Easter Sunday, please reach out to Kelly.



Sara Loving, our long-time babysitter on Sunday mornings, received an early surprise. Nathaniel (Nate) Muir Gillingham was born on March 7 at 9:09 a.m. 8 pounds even, 21.5 Inches. Mom and baby are healthy and everyone is doing well. If you would like to send a card, please call Kelly to receive her address.

# New Members Gathering

*From Pastor Ed*

After Easter, we will hold our next gathering for people interested in exploring what it means to become a covenant member of Christ Church. This is a time to learn more about Christ Church — where we've been, what God's doing now, and where we feel led by the Spirit to go — and a time to learn about how membership is lived out here. If you are interested in exploring this, please contact Pastor Ed and we will schedule a time to meet as a group.



*Our church is a part of The Northern KY Youth Group. During their last meeting, they made Blessing Bags for the homeless.*

# Our Dog Therapy Mission

*From Ramel and Greg Vogel*

We wanted to update everyone on the Christ Church dog therapy program since we have had some questions.

First, are we still working with our dogs? Absolutely yes! We have been approached by several members asking this question. Christ Church Dog Therapy Mission officially began the first of this year. We have a church member that we visit at a nursing home and one at their home once a month. Both are excited about our visits and we are happy that it is working out well for our members and our dogs.

Second question: Is there a charge for this service? Absolutely not! We enjoy visiting with folks who miss their pets. Our dogs have years of training for this program. They enjoy the visits and when we mention one of the church member's names they immediately begin to dance around. They love visiting their people.

As I mentioned in August our dogs have been to universities, schools, nursing homes, libraries, private homes, Girl Scout meetings, and one of them has participated in



Hospice. If anyone has someone who loves dogs or cannot have pets due to age or medical reasons, we would be happy to visit them. If you have a child involved in an organization that would like to learn more about therapy dogs, let us know. Dogs are often helpful with children or youth that are grieving. Dogs just listen, they don't judge.

So Christ Church Dog Therapy Program is up and running. We appreciate our two members who allow us to come to visit with them once a month. If you are interested in a visit for a loved one or have any questions, please contact me. I will end this update with a quote from Oprah Winfrey, "Over the years I have felt the truest, purest love — the love of God, really, I imagine that's what God's love feels like — is the love that comes from your dog."



# Lunch and Learn

**Tuesday, April. 25 at 11:30 a.m.**

Have you ever wondered why Cincinnati never finished the proposed underground subway? David Savage, a docent from the Cincinnati Museum Center, explains how the plans for Cincinnati's transit/subway system got derailed. The remnants of the never-completed system may still be seen around the city and it remains a topic of discussion for transportation studies and elections.

**Please join us!**

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



## Serve God with Singing!

From Toni Sheffer

We are continually looking for those with musical talent, both vocal and instrumental. If you have a love for music and would like to participate in the music program at Christ Church, please let me know.

New ideas are also welcome. If there are people you would like to hear sing/play or hymns/songs you would like to hear our congregation sing, please see me after any service.

Many thanks to all the dedicated choir members and soloists who diligently work to contribute to our weekly services. Please let them know when their music has spoken to you.

## Thanks to Our Staff

From Debbie Paillette

As chair of the Personnel Committee, I would like to take a few minutes to share how fortunate we are at Christ Church to have such an amazing staff. It is rare to find such a wonderful team all working toward the same goal... to improve and enhance our church. We are blessed that everyone works together as a team. When more is requested, each staff member rises to the challenge and does what is needed. Everyone goes above and beyond the job descriptions they were hired to do. With budget restraints being what they are, not one staff member has voiced displeasure or expected a higher increase than what we could fiscally offer. Our staff are here, I think, because they love what they are doing!

Please take the time to let each and every one of the staff here at Christ Church know how truly appreciated they are. Whether it's a card, phone call or a "thank you," please tell them how much their devotion is a blessing to us all.



## Prayer Requests

**Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:**  
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Faye Gately, Joy, Genene Lyons, Margi McKenna, Ev & Jack Weber, Don Spaulding, Tom Cox, Marie Shields, Pierce, 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, Mike & Laura Randall, Marcia Hosea, Emma Hamann, Lori Collins, Mary Ellen Harvey, Sallie Schmidt and family, Barb Walkenhorst-Derby, Landon Schmidt, Jesse Clayton, Liz Hotz, Bill P., Don Seifert, Raenon Justice, Dale Ann Wight, the family of Bonnie Hitch, Sarah, the family of Jim Gracey, Kim Schnier, the Parrott family  
*(Underline indicates request for anonymity)*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Christy Stevenson  
Nancy Pinguely  
Joshua Vogel  
Gregory Oetjen  
Jessica Bach  
Jane Cox  
Marie Cunningham  
Sara Mai  
Toni Sheffer  
Nate Kuhnhein  
Benjamin Gise  
James Gracey

Mary Strange  
Emily Gise  
Judy Robinson  
Wilma Graves  
  
Steve & Shelley Kappesser  
James & Helen Long  
Joe & Christy Stevenson  
Ryan & Abby Vogel  
Jack & Evelyn Weber  
Terry & Jorene Lyman



## Schedules for April

### Liturgists

- April 2 Marcia Storm
- April 9 Carolyn Tyler
- April 16 Nancy Barre
- April 23 Scott Turner
- April 30 Jean Braun

### Deacons

- April 2 Amy Thornton
- April 9 Jean Braun
- April 16 Jack Hurtt
- April 23 Melissa Cox
- April 30 Barb Korpik

### Ushers

- April 2 Amy Thornton  
Shelley Kappesser  
Steve Kappesser  
Audrey Bernhard
- April 9 Greg Vogel  
Debbie Paillette  
Thierry Paillette  
Jay Wainscott
- April 16 Jack Hurtt  
Nancy Pinguely  
Jane Petracco  
Carol Himes
- April 23 Marcia Storm  
Scott Turner  
Greg Vogel  
Andy Borah
- April 30 Barb Korpik  
Audrey Bernhard  
Steve Weber  
Patti Miller



## Memorials

### Memorials for Bonnie Hitch

- Bernie and Nancy Barre
- Julianne Baumer
- Dan and Patti Beimesche
- Jayne Black
- Gordon and Jean Braun
- John and Cathy Burt
- Edna Daniels and Theresa Andrews
- Allison Dungan
- Lynn and Steve Emminger
- Lela Emmerich
- Michael Foulks
- Gary and Stephanie Faulkner
- Nanci Gabbard
- Tom and Rhonda Gabbard
- Kurt and Gai Gainer
- Linda Gracey
- Stan and Joyce Grau
- Paul and Joann Gray
- Merry and Rick Gurren
- Emma Hamann
- Joyce, Mike, and Bryan Harris
- Dave and Terri Hill
- Gerald and Candace Hinners
- Ken and Carolyn Honchell
- Jim and Sheila Jones
- Kim Keidel
- Jim and Barb Korpik
- Jennifer Lage
- Judy Land
- Bud and Kathy Leftin
- Tom and Linda Lloyd
- Sara Loving
- Larry and Cathy Machalak
- Steve and Fran McAllister
- Judy McClain
- Marvin and Pat McCord
- Jim and Niesje McElroy
- Jean Mettens
- Patti and Doug Miller

## N. Kentucky Youth Group

Sunday, April. 9

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 2690 Dixie Hwy., Lakeside Park

Come for one of our regular (but awesome) meetings. A night of fellowship and food. RSVP at: <https://lakeside-church.org/index.php/nkyyouth/>

### Memorials for Bonnie Hitch – Cont.

- Roger Neff
- Thierry and Debbie Paillette
- Hank and Nancy Pogue
- Richard and Patti Seither
- Mike and Bonnie Roth
- Pat and Cindy Roth
- Ruth Rowe
- Ruth Moyer Elementary
- Richard and Patti Seither
- Toni and Mark Sheffer
- Tim and Robin Slater
- Frank and Judy Sower
- Sherri and Don Spaulding
- Ronald Sperry
- Larry and Donna Stinson
- Charles and Sharon Thompson
- Steve and Pam Weber
- Ken and Tammy Weidinger
- Bill and Donna Wilson
- Bob and Nancy Witte

### Memorial for Delbert "Gene" Swaney Cindy Bathiany's father

- Linda Gracey
- Steve and Fran McAllister

### Memorials for Jim Gracey

- Bernie and Nancy Barre
- Emma Hamann
- Kenny & Carolyn Honchell
- Steve & Fran McAllister
- Charles and Sharon Thompson

### Memorials for Jim Parrott

- Linda Gracey

# Church Council Meeting Notes

2/20/2023

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

- **Gathering/Centering:**

Ed talked about language and how words matter. Read the Resurrection Story from John 24

- **Opening Prayer:** Lead by Ed

- **Approval of Minutes:**

Sallie made a motion to approve the minutes. Beckie seconded.

**Minutes approved.**

- **Congregational Meeting:**

Date changed to 3/12/23

- **Financial Report:**

Bert reported that January was a good month for giving. \$9000 of the PPP money used to balance the budget with ~\$15,000 left.

Expenses all paid. Jen made a motion to approve the Financial

Report for January. Jenny seconded. **Report approved.**

- **By-laws Revisions/Changes:**

Discussed proposed bylaw changes

- **Belize-San Victor:**

Ed discussed the progress in setting up the non-profit account in Belize.

## March Attendance

	In Person	Online
3/5/23	91	15
3/12/23	80	20
3/19/23	83	12
3/26/23	92	14

- **Pastor's Report:**

- Shrove Tuesday pancakes at IHOP at 6:30 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday service at First Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Diane Vego to preach on Feb. 26, 2023
- Pastor Ed and Rev. Dr. Amy Snow to do a pulpit exchange during Lent

- **Meeting Closed with Prayer:**

3/20/2023

In Attendance: Snezana Tenhundfeld, Jen Korpik, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Jenny Herrmann, Donna Hoffman, Nancy Hunter, Kelly Kuhnhein, Debbie Paillette, •

- **Gathering/Centering/Opening Prayer:** Lead by Snezana

- **Approval of Minutes:**

Bert made a motion to approve the minutes. Jenny seconded.

**Minutes approved.**

- **Financial Report:**

Bert reported February giving was on track for the year. Some money in the account will be moved to get a better interest rate. Donna made a motion to approve the Financial Report for February. Nancy seconded.

**Report approved.**

- **Pastor's Report:**

(Ed sent report in before meeting)

- Thanked Nancy, Jenny and team for hosting such a wonderful time of community after Bonnie Hitch's service.

- **Open and Affirming Process**

o Reached out to all those who

had been on the ONA team prior to Covid-19 and most said they would be interested in picking up the process.

- o Going to set up an initial get together to elect a chair person(s) and get the process moving again.
- o In conversation with Rev. Paul Forrey at St. Paul's UCC in Alexandria to see if both congregations can work through the process together.

- **Green Team/Solar**

- o Government rebates are available to non-profits and religious institutions, this is a good time to look into it.
- o Talked to Icon Solar and they are preparing an estimate and determining how much electricity would be generated.

- **Other updates**

- o The Wednesday night Lenten groups at Ft Thomas Coffee have been wonderful.
- o We have several folks who have expressed interest in

joining Christ Church and I would like to set up a New Members time sometime after Easter. If you would like to help in putting that together and putting it on, please let me know!

- o Will likely be gone for a chunk of mid-May as both Zach and Zoë finish up their semesters after May 8.
- o Likely getting a person for pulpit supply for May 14.
- o During the summer, we are looking at a vacation time in late June (dates still being finalized)

*Thank you all for your care and concern you have shared over the last few weeks*

- **Update on Building Projects:**

- Kitchen dishwasher, Looking at options to maintain water temperature. Water not staying as hot as it needs to be
- Plans to revisit Capital Campaign Kitchen remodel soon

- **Meeting Closed with Prayer:**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>2</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 am - Bloom Homeschool</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>Maunder Thursday</b> 10 am - UCC Clergy 5:30 pm - Choir 7 pm - Maunday Thursday Service at Christ Church</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b></p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>Holy Saturday</b></p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>Easter</b> 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship <b>Children in service</b> 10:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 am - Bloom Homeschool</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12 pm - Green Team 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Jim Gracey Service</p>
<p>16</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</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am - Bloom Homeschool 6 pm - Church Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 pm - Viva Voices</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6 pm - Open and Affirming meeting 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Earth Day</b></p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 11:30 am - Green Team at Earth Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 am - Bloom Homeschool</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:30 am - Lunch and Learn <b>NO Bible Study</b> 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 am - Mom's Group 7 pm - AA Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 6:30 pm - Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship</p>						