

July 2023

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



Let's Talk About Perfection

What did Jesus Mean?

In just a few weeks, we will come to a really tough verse in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:48 has Jesus saying, "be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Um... Perfect? How are you doing with your perfection? Last time I checked, I was far from perfect. After all, on the day I am writing this, I have already been cranky with several people, and it isn't even 10 a.m. yet. My perfection didn't start out too well.

"Isn't Jesus saying here that we need to follow all of what is in these teachings perfectly? I don't think so. Let's dig a bit deeper."

We can read this verse and feel like it is a lot easier to just toss out the whole of the Sermon on the Mount. Isn't Jesus saying here that

we need to follow all of what is in these teachings perfectly? I don't think so. Let's dig a bit deeper.

Honestly, I don't get why most Bible translators use the word "perfect" here. The word that is in the Greek is the word *telios* which can speak of perfection but more in a sense of wholeness or completeness. To understand this, take a moment and draw a circle on a piece of paper. Take a look at the circle that you just drew. How does it look? Is it a perfect circle? Unless you have incredible skills of precision, it isn't perfectly round but it is complete. That is *telios*. *Telios* refers more to a sense of wholeness and completion rather than perfection. The idea is that something is perfect in the sense that it is whole, just like the circle you just drew.

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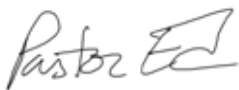
So, when it comes to the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and our listening for how we seek to journey the way of Jesus, it isn't necessarily about perfection but it is about seeking to be made whole and complete in Christ. So how do we do this?

Let's go back to drawing the circle. If we try to draw a circle completely on our own and freehanded, we can draw a circle but it will probably be pretty rough and uneven. That's a lot like how it is when we try to journey the way of Jesus without relying on Jesus working through us and in community with others on the journey. Sure we can get a part of the way there but it will be pretty rough.

But to draw a circle on a piece of paper, if we root our pencil to something (a compass, tie a string to the pencil and a pin in the middle of the paper, or use a rubber band), we can get a lot closer to the circle we are hoping to draw. Same thing with journeying the way of Jesus. If we root ourselves in the things of God through Scripture, prayer, community, and accountability with others, we are going to find that the path is a lot easier to follow and that completeness comes more readily.

So, I hope this helps to understand a bit more of what we're hearing as we have begun this pilgrimage through the sermon on the mount. Maybe draw a circle each day to remind you to be rooted in Jesus and let Jesus work in you towards telios – wholeness and completeness.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,



Pastor Ed



Photo by Edward Goode

We Are to Be Meek

From Pastor Ed

Meekness is teachability. "The meek will he teach his way" (Ps. 25:9). It is the readiness to be shown, which includes the readiness to lay down my fixed notions, my objections and "what ifs" or "but what abouts," my certainties about the rightness of what I have always done or thought or said. — Elisabeth Elliot

I have been a part of service and learning trips with churches in many different places: Inner-city Denver, areas near the US-Mexico border around Tucson, Belize three times, Cambodia, Kenya, and the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota just to name a few. There is a temptation with these trips to think that those of us going on the trips are bringing the Gospel and bringing knowledge and insights that others do not have. This is a harmful missionary perspective that has been propagated for centuries and has thankfully finally begun to be repudiated in the last several decades.

A transformative perspective for me about these kinds of trips came from a book called, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. At one point, they write, "We are not bringing Christ to poor communities. He has been active in these

communities since the creation of the world, sustaining them 'by his powerful word' (Heb. 1:3). Hence, a significant part of working in poor communities involves discovering and appreciating what God has been doing there for a long time! This should give us a sense of humility and awe as we enter poor communities, for part of what we see there reflects the very hand of God."

This book, and the perspective it shares with many others, is that our job when we go on any kind of "mission trip" is that we are to be meek, we are to be teachable, we are not to be the ones saying "we have the answers that you lack" but instead open to learning and growing from the wisdom with whom we serve and in the relationships that we begin and (hopefully) continue. We are there to learn, to discover, and to appreciate first and foremost. But this truth isn't only for mission experiences but instead for every day of our lives. Do we approach each day open to what new things God is going to teach us or open to the changes that God wants to do in us? Or do we feel we have it all figured out and our job is to show that to others? I am grateful that God is in the business of surprising us with what we do not yet know.

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The mission team met on June 18 for our monthly meeting to discuss current and upcoming needs in our community and world. Pastor Ed joined the team this month to share information about the mission trip to Belize and update on the progress of the community center. Members approved funds to be used to reimburse for a rental car needed for the Western KY mission trip as well as other spending items in the budget and discussed strategies for adding dates for serving at Hosea House. The team welcomes anyone with 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 July 16.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

• Brighton Center:

– Thank you for supporting our collection of canned fruit and vegetables. We delivered 75 cans last month due to your generosity.

– **June/July: Hygiene Items** (deodorant/toothpaste/soap/etc.) Don't forget we have an additional shelf in the parlor to make donating easier.

– The team voted to send our quarterly amount of \$900 to the Emergency Assistance Fund through the Fort Thomas Ministerial Association in July

• Hosea House:

We will serve again on August 6th and need your help. Please sign up if you can: pick up food at Kroger, bake brownies, pre-

pare the meal, or serve/clean up. You can use the following link to volunteer: www.bit.ly/hoseahouse806

• Church World Service (CWS):

Ken Weidinger assisted with delivering the period packs to Temple Hills for CWS. Susan Gabbard agreed to purchase items to make hygiene kits, and the team approved \$500 for approximately 60 kits.

• Washington UCC:

The team discussed the challenges WUCC had with the summer program this year in terms of staffing and volunteers. Discussed potential ways to offer support and agreed to send \$500 to go towards things needed for group outings such as taking the children to a Reds game in July.

Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The summer is in full swing, and the children are following along with the series on the sermon on the mount with the rest of the congregation. Each week they go on a hike either up the stairs inside the church, outside and around the building, or even just moving in place in the Sunday school room. Once we get to the top of the mountain, we spend time exploring Jesus' teaching through our children's Bibles and/or children's books.

One Sunday, the children asked to take turns reading the book to each other one page at a time. We have some excellent readers! We made key chains on Father's Day for dads, grandpas, or special people in their lives, including one for Pastor Ed.



The children loved making bracelets with UV beads that became colorful in sunlight as we reflected on how we are powered by God's love just like the sun powered the beads. They are smart, inquisitive, and bring our church so much joy!

On July 30th, Pastor Ed and I will hold a communion class. Children who participate will receive communion the following Sunday on August 6. If you have any ideas or would like to share time with the children, please reach out to Kelly.



Help With Our Butterfly Garden

The Green Team wants to thank two wonderful groups who helped us out this Spring with our pollinator garden.

Bloom Home School, who rents space at the church on Mondays, did a wonderful job planting annuals and mulching.

Girl Scout Troop 2139 and their leader Briana Smith, made some lovely stepping stones. They also made a list of the plants for an educational brochure which will be created soon, and registered the garden with the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden which certified the garden as a "Certified Pollinator Habitat."



Can You Help Out on the 4th of July?

This year, Christ Church will be handing out cups of water and lemonade during the Fourth of July parade.

Help is needed! Please contact **Jean Braun** at (859) 750-8493 or Jeanbraun917@gmail.com if you can help.



Mourning

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted

— Matthew 5:4

From Pastor Ed

"Just as a young plant, surrounded by darkness, stretches itself, as it were on tiptoe, to find its way out into the light, so when death suddenly throws the darkness of negation round the soul it tries and tries to rise into the light of affirmation."

— Rabindranath Tagore

I marvel at the power and tenacity of life. I marvel how life can grow in the most inhospitable of places and I marvel at the ways people go on living even in the midst of deep pain or loss.

One commonality that happens in grief is that we reach toward something or someone. The reaching might be towards support, help, comfort, or assurance. The reaching might also be for solitude, quiet, or stillness. And it can also be towards something that is not healthy or helpful — things that we think will numb the pain or make it go away. But

regardless, there is a reaching toward something. I believe that the reaching is the instinctual response that we have, but what to reach for isn't always instinctual.

In her book, *This Here Flesh*, Cole Arthur Riley writes about her father sharing about his experience of grief: "I don't know what that did to me. It was like someone poured heat all over me and I was burning too.' My father didn't know how to grieve for his friend until the whole world stopped and grieved. It is not always instinctual."

What I am hearing in this beatitude and in Tagore's words is that we need to be available to others to be aware of their reaching and to be present with them as they reach out in their grief and hurt. For it is through presence that people can grow through the grief and the loss. To go from the place of emptiness and pain into hope and healing.

Where Are the Fireflies?

From Michele Wright

Have you noticed there are less fireflies now than when you were a child? I know I loved putting them in a jar and watching them glow. Fireflies (also called lightning bugs) are a special part of summer magic, but according to National Geographic, their populations are declining around the world and 18 species face extinction. We can't let this experience be lost to our grandchildren.

Here's what you can do:

The biggest threat is the loss of their habitats. Firefly eggs are laid in damp soil, moss, or rotting wood. The adults live underground and need moist soil, leaf litter, and native plants.



Keeping your grass a little longer, leaving some leaf cleanup until late Spring, and planting native shrubs and trees, helps retain the moisture fireflies love.

Another issue is light pollution. Flashing lights are an important part of the firefly mating ritual. When male fireflies flash their



lights, they look for a response from a female on the ground (female fireflies don't fly). Suburban lights make these cues much harder to see. Consider installing motion sensors, timers or dimmers outside at home and close your curtains at night.

The last thing to consider is pesticides. Pesticides kill fireflies at almost every stage of their development. Plus, while you may be killing insects you don't want (like aphids), you're also killing their predators like lady bugs and preying mantises. The irony is that aphids rebound much faster than their predators so you end up becoming completely dependent on insecticides.

Insects are crucial to the conservation of our fragile ecosystem. If we can become better stewards, we'll never have to stop enjoying the magical glow of fireflies.

Photos from the W. KY Work Trip

Ken Weidinger headed up a work trip on June 5-9 to Western Kentucky. They worked in cooperation with the Indiana/Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Mayfield Longterm Recovery Group to help those in need.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kelly Kuhnhein
Cynthia Blau
Michael Cook
Debbie Paillette
Jeff Searcy
Kristyn Lukjan
Sandra Hurtt
Gordon Braun
Mike Randall
Barb Korpik
Bernie Barre
Janet Fischer

Emily Karrick
Andrew Bach
Benjamin Kuhnhein
Stella Pendery

Kelly & Scott Kuhnhein
Betsy & Rob Beimesche
Max & Anna Gise
Janet & William Fischer
David & Sarah Huelsman
Guy & Jeanne Karrick
Donna & William Wilson



Memorials

Memorials for Bonnie Hitch
Christine Pletcher &
Jeffrey Stinehelfer

Memorials for Jim Gracey
Dan & Carol Scavone

Memorials for Wilma Graves
Mike & Lisa Bowman
Gordon & Jean Braun
Paula Brumfield
Shirley Collins
Tony & Janet Fago
Connie Hammond
Nancy Hunter
Jim & Ruth Kevil
Rob & Sandy Kiefer
Steve & Fran McAllister
T. Jeffrey & Joann Prigge
Bill Pritchard
Ruth Rowe
Judy Schulte
Gary & Phyllis Stephens
Larry & Donna Stinson

Memorials for Nancy Faulkner
Linda Gracey

Memorials for Nancy Parrott
Linda Gracey

Send Postcards!

Just a reminder: If you head out on vacation, please remember to send a postcard to the church with a sentence or two about where you saw God in your travels.

Christ Church's address is:
15 S Ft Thomas Ave
Ft Thomas, KY. 41075



Thanks to Our Church Family

Thank you for all the birthday cards I received from Christ UCC church members. They were very much appreciated.
Phil Goode (Pastor Ed's father)

Dear Christ Church Family & Friends, Bob and I appreciate all the love and caring you shared with us while we have been recovering from Covid and all its many after effects. One card read, "The One who made us knows how to mend us – gently, wisely, and patiently." We feel this is so true as we travel this path to better health. Thank you for helping us find the way.

*With love and blessings for all of you,
Nancy and Bob Witte*

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, July 25 at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest presenter will be Ashley Tinch, who has a BA in music and is currently working on her MA in music therapy. Her presentation is, **Music Therapy: its Purpose and Benefits**. She will explain what music therapy is, what it helps with, and how to become a music therapist. **Please join us!** Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. **For lunch reservations contact Nancy Hunter.**



Schedules for July

Liturgists

July 2 Janet Fischer
July 9 Shelley Kappesser
July 16 Laura Petracco
July 23 Jane Petracco
July 30 Barry Petracco

Deacons

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

Ushers

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

Photos from the Belize Mission Trip



The Community Center in San Victor, Belize



June Attendance

	In Person	Online
6/4/23	106	N/A
6/11/23	53	N/A
6/18/23	92	N/A
6/25/23	69	N/A



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Faye Gately, Joy, Genene Lyons, Margi McKenna, Pierce, Ev & Jack Weber, Tom Cox, 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, Mike & Laura Randall, Marcia Hosea, Emma Hamann, Sallie Schmidt and family, Barb Walkenhorst-Derby, Landon Schmidt, Jesse Clayton, Bill P., Don Seifert, Raenon Justice, Dale Ann Wight, The family of Bonnie Hitch, Sarah, Kim Schnier, Chris, the family of Wilma Graves, the family of Nancy Faulkner, David Hosea, Scott, Stacey Seiter, Lori Collins, Jeff McCall, Kelly Greenwalt, Kristin Bailey, Jenny Holek, Nancy McLane, Jamie, the family of Lenir Kechu
(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

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



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>10 am-UCC Clergy</p>	<p>4</p> <p>NO 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>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Bloom Work Day</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>6-8 pm - Open & Affirming 7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</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>10 am - UCC Clergy 6 pm - Church Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:30 am - Lunch and Learn NO Bible Study 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Bloom Work Day</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6-8 pm - Open & Affirming 7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>27</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 11:30 am-Children's Communion class</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy</p>	<p>Events in black are affiliated with Christ Church Events in blue are outside groups</p>				