

August 2023

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/christchurchcft
Twitter @ChristChurch_FT

Office Hours:

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

Worship Schedule:

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

Christ Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode
Pastor

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



Photo by Edward Goode

A Guide for Our Guidebook

By the time you read this article, we'll be about a third of the way through our pilgrimage in the Sermon on the Mount. As was shared leading into this, we are using Charles Moore's book, *Following the Call* as our "guidebook" for the journey. Moore's book was very helpful in breaking this teaching of Jesus down into a series of sections: Kingdom Character, Kingdom Commands, Kingdom Devotion, and Kingdom Priorities. We're about halfway through the second section.

I have had several conversations with folks about some challenges they have had as they read the book alongside what we're doing in worship. So I wanted to just touch on a few things that might help.

First, what we are doing in worship doesn't line up exactly with the chapters. In putting together the sermon series, we combined and moved a few things around.

Second, I wish that the book had a more detailed author index at the end. It is extremely helpful to know

the background of some of the authors as you read their reflections. Each of them is informed by the time they were writing, their experiences, and their specific theological "bent." As you're reading, do a quick internet search on the name.

Third, be open. One of the things I really love about the book is that we have insights from people from across the historical, theological, and worldview spectrums. But that means that we will hear things that will both challenge and encourage. Be open to how God's Spirit may speak through both the challenges and the encouragements.

And finally—jump into a discipleship group. Nothing beats being part of a community of people listening and discerning together. We have a 9 a.m. Sunday group, a 12 p.m. Tuesday group, and a 3 p.m. Wednesday group (online via Zoom).

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Responsible Engagement

From Pastor Ed

(Pastor, political observer,
and tech geek)

I'm going to take a step into politics (sort of) for this month's article. As an Ohio voter, I'm neck deep in two upcoming elections with a special election in August and then a constitutional amendment vote regarding abortion access in November. And even though the actual elections are over 15 months away, we are getting deeper into the presidential and other down-ballot races for 2024. As we approach these elections, I am very concerned about a lot of things but one thing I wanted to lift up in particular – Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI has revolutionized various aspects of our lives, offering tremendous advancements and opportunities. However, it also presents risks that can impact the integrity of our democratic process. It is crucial for us, as a church community, to be aware of these challenges and respond with discernment and prayer.

One of the primary concerns is the proliferation of disinformation and manipulation through AI algorithms. False narratives and misleading content can easily spread, influencing public opinion and distorting the democratic discourse. As followers of Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life, let us be vigilant in seeking truth and resisting the temptation to be swayed by deceit.

Additionally, the development of deepfake technology poses a significant threat. These sophisticated AI-generated videos and audio recordings can be used to fabricate false evidence, po-



tentially causing immense harm to candidates and the electoral process itself. Let us remember the biblical call to integrity and honesty, standing firm against deceptive practices that undermine the values we hold dear.

Moreover, cybersecurity vulnerabilities must not be overlooked. Malicious actors can exploit weaknesses in AI systems, compromising the fairness and accuracy of elections. We must pray for the protection of our electoral infrastructure and for the wisdom of those responsible for safeguarding the process.

As a community of faith, let us approach the upcoming elections with prayer, discernment, and responsible engagement. Let us seek God's guidance and ask for His wisdom to navigate these complex challenges. May we be informed, discerning, and active participants in shaping a just and fair electoral process.

Did you get to the end of this article? If so, did you notice anything different about the last five

paragraphs before this one? Well, here's what it is: I didn't write those paragraphs. An artificial intelligence (AI) called ChatGPT wrote it when I asked it to write a 500 word church newsletter article from a pastor to a congregation about the dangers of AI in the upcoming election. Scary, huh? It is that simple and that good and the reality is there will be many people using tools like ChatGPT, voice manipulators, and video manipulators in the upcoming elections. In fact, they already are. These may not come from official campaign sources but from those either trying to support their candidate(s) or simply to cause chaos in the election.

So, I simply want to ask you to be careful about what you read and what you see. If it feels fishy, trust your gut. If you aren't 100% confident in what you are seeing or reading, just delete it or simply ignore it. Jesus told us we are to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. As we approach this next election, let us seek to be gentle and kind with one another but also be wise and discerning.

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The mission team met on July 16 and used our meeting time to assemble and pack 72 hygiene kits for Church World Service. Susan Gabbard purchased the supplies and headed this mission with the team. We are blessed by her leadership and initiative!

The team continues to meet monthly to assess needs of our community and beyond. We welcome anyone interested in participating in mission work at Christ Church to join us for our next meeting on August 20 in the conference room following the service.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

• Brighton Center:

– Thank you for supporting our collection of hygiene items, your

generosity will make a difference for those in need.

– **August/September: Cereal**
Don't forget we have an additional shelf in the parlor to make donating easier.

• Hosea House:

We will serve again on August 6 and need your help. Please sign up if you can help with: Picking up food at Kroger, baking brownies, preparing the meal, or serving and clean up. You can use the following link to volunteer: www.bit.ly/hoseahouse806



• Church World Service (CWS):

The team packed 72 hygiene kits this month and look forward to assembling back to school kits with the congregation on August 27 following the worship service in Hoffman Hall.

• Washington UCC:

The team sent \$500 to the summer program for their outing to the Reds game this month. Those funds were used to transport children in the program to the game and purchase snacks/drinks. The team approved an additional \$1,500 to be used to purchase uniforms and supplies for 20 children preparing to return to school. Please see their thank you letter to us on the bulletin

Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

Multiple volunteers stepped up this month while I took time away to be with my family in Orange Beach, Alabama. It was a wonderful trip, and I am grateful to have so much support for the children at Christ Church while I was away.

The children continue to follow along with the congregation as we journey through the Sermon on the Mount. We've discussed finding peace through Jesus, coping with anger through prayer, and shining our light on others.

On July 30 children will have an opportunity to stay after worship for a communion workshop with Pastor Ed and will participate in communion on August



6 with the congregation. Please join us in supporting the children as they make this special step in their faith.

I look forward to attending our outdoor service at Rossford Park

on August 13 as the children prepare to return to school.

If you have any ideas or would like to share time with the children, please reach out to Kelly.



Serve God with Singing!

From Toni Sheffer

Chancel Choir Rehearsals begin Thursday, August 31, 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

If you are new and interested in joining this group, let's talk. If you have finally decided to use your talents this way, let's talk. If you have any questions, let's talk.

Reading music is a very helpful tool to have since we have limited time to work on each piece. Past choral experience is a plus but not a deal breaker.

The one requirement I have is that you let me know anytime you can NOT be at a rehearsal or service. We all understand you have lives to live and there will be days when conflicts arise. Other than that, your commitment is weekly Thursday evening rehearsals and weekly Sunday morning services.

Contact **Toni Sheffer** if you have questions.

Come, let us sing for joy to God; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and extol our God with music and song.

— Psalm 95:1-2

Service in Park!

On August 13, we will have our Sunday morning church service at Rossford Park in the Pavilion (219 Rossford Ave.) at 10:30 a.m. The church building will be closed that Sunday. If you'd like to eat lunch together afterwards, please pack your lunch. Let's lift up our hearts to worship God in his creation!

Meetup in Park

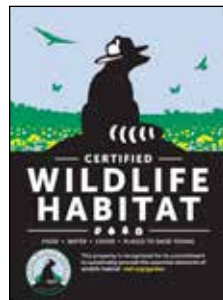
On Sunday, August 6, in Tower Park, let's attend the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra concert together. **We'll meet at the shelter by the main playground at 6:30 p.m. The concert is at 7:30 p.m.** Pack your own dinner or purchase it at one of the food trucks. Let's enjoy the concert together!

Certified Backyard Habitat

From Michele Wright

Have you checked out the information about creating your own certified backyard habitat displayed in the Parlor? The beautiful illustrations were drawn by Jan Jolley, a member of the Fort Thomas Forest Conservancy.

In front of the display you'll find information to take home that explains how your backyard can be qualified by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as a Certified Backyard Habitat.



Christ Church recently received a letter and certificate from NWF that certifies it as a backyard habitat thanks to our butterfly garden and several other features in the landscape. A small sign from NWF will soon be displayed near the butterfly garden.

Anyone can create a welcoming haven for local wildlife. It's fun, easy, and can make a lasting difference in our area. Rapid and large-scale changes to our land and water mean wildlife is losing the habitats they once knew.



Every habitat garden helps replace resources for bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians, and more.

After you've checked to see if your yard qualifies, fill out a form online or print it out and mail it in. There is a \$20 application fee that supports the National Wildlife Federation's programs that address issues leading to declining habitat. You'll receive a personalized certificate, a one-year membership in the National Wildlife Federation, a subscription to *National Wildlife* magazine, and other benefits. Please go to www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify for more information.





Advent, Already? Yes!

From Pastor Ed and Donna Hoffman, Spirituality Coordinator

Yes, it is only August but we would love your help with some of the plans we are starting on for Advent this year. We are planning on creating another devotional like we did last year and our focus will be on “getting close” to the characters in the stories of the season. There are two ways that you can help.

First, do you have a Nativity set that you could bring to Pastor Ed sometime in August? He would like to photograph a variety of

different nativity sets as visuals for the devotional.

Second, would you be interested in writing a short reflection that focuses on one of the characters in the Nativity for the devotional? If so, please reach out to Pastor Ed or Donna Hoffman. Unlike past years where it may have been more of a general focus for reflections, you’ll be asked to write with a “getting close” focus on one of the characters in the nativity story.

If you can help, please contact Pastor Ed or Donna Hoffman.



Lunch and Learn Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest presenter will be Reverend Samuel Finley. His presentation “Tuskegee Airmen Memories” will tell the story of the brave group of African-American airmen and their contributions to the war effort during WWII. Samuel, who served 23 years in the US Air Force, is a resident of North College Hill, active in many community youth programs, and a current member of the local Cincinnati Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. Reservations are required for lunch.

For lunch reservations call Nancy Hunter.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dee Bathiany	Jim & Barb Korpik	54 yrs.
Andrew Hack	Bert & Cindy Bathiany IV	38 yrs.
Michael Long	Krista & Joseph Hack	23 yrs.
Jennifer Korpik	Stephanie & Brian Laake	20 yrs.
Sharon Siple	Jeri & Jack McMath	62 yrs.
David Hosea	Linda & James Gracey	55 yrs.
Joe Stevenson	Gary & Nancy Hunter	58 yrs.
Emma Hamann	Jeffrey & Susan McDonald	53 yrs.
Sandra Kuhnhein	Dave & Jill Draper	14 yrs.
Brenda Swan		
Joseph Houben		



Memorials

Memorial for Jim Gracey
Christie Dunham & Dave Freer

Memorial for Wilma Graves
Phyllis Basham Smith

Thanks to Our Church Family

From Washington UCC

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the additional \$500 gift for the Summer Youth Program. We are grateful.

The funds will allow us to rent a large bus to take the kids to a Cincinnati Reds game. The mission group with us next week is bringing snacks, so we were able to use your gift to take a small group of children on a field trip to the Museum Center.

This summer, we were not able to have kids onsite every week due to mission group cancellations and staffing problems. They are receiving meals and at-home activities and having field trips.

Thank you again on behalf of Rev. Melissa Stephens and all those your gift will help.

Sincerely,
Laurel Humes, Church Council,
Washington UCC



Congratulations

Jenna and Drew Bathiany's son, **Brayden Grey**, was born on May 24. His sisters, Brynleigh and Remi, are excited to have a brother. Proud grandparents are Cindy and Bert IV, and great-grandmother Dee.

Bert Bathiany V has been named the head football coach at **Moeller High School**. His parents, Cindy and Bert are thrilled to have their son and family return to Ft. Thomas.



Christi Stevenson and Wayne Posey's son, **Mateo James**, was born on July 23. Mateo is the grandson of Amy Wainscott, the great-grandson of Barb Stinnett, and the nephew of Joe Stevenson.

Thank You!

A special **Thank You** to Joe Stevenson and his crew for taking care of the church lawn every summer. If you haven't done it, take some time to walk completely around the grounds including South Ft. Thomas Avenue and Audubon Street to see the size of the property. **Thank you Joe!**



Schedules for August

Liturgists

- Aug. 6 Nancy Barre
- Aug. 13 **Rossford Park**
Marcia Storm
- Aug. 20 Carolyn Tyler
- Aug. 27 Scott Turner

Deacons

- Aug. 6 Marie Cunningham
- Aug. 13 **Rossford Park**
Jack Hurtt
- Aug. 20 Melissa Cox
- Aug. 27 Jean Braun

Ushers

- Aug. 6 Marie Cunningham
Shelley Kappesser
Steve Kappesser
Jay Wainscott
- Aug. 13 **Rossford Park**
Scott Turner
Marcia Storm
Jane Petracco
Carol Himes
- Aug. 20 Steve Weber
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Patti Miller
- Aug. 27 Jean Braun
Nancy Pinguely
Greg Vogel
Andy Borah



Church Council Meeting Notes

6/19/2023

In Attendance: Pastor Ed Goode, Snezana Tenhundfeld, Jen Korpik, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Jenny Herrmann, Nancy Hunter, Sallie Schmidt, and Greg Vogel

• **Gathering/Centering**

Matthew 5-7, Chapter 3 of *Following the Call*, Upside-down ball.

• **Approval of Minutes from March**

Jen made a motion to approve the minutes. Beckie seconded. **The Minutes were approved.**

• **Financial Report**

We are under budget for expenses for staff. Bert is looking into moving some funds into a CD or other account for a higher return rate. **Report approved.**

• **Update on Building Projects**

- **Hoffman Hall Dishwasher:** Nancy Hunter received a quote of \$5864.65. Jay Wainscott and Barry Petracco will help hook up plumbing. The old dishwasher will need to be removed.
- **Elevator:** Greg Vogel talked to several people about the electrical issue with the elevator. An Arch Electric electrician was going to look at things with his son that works for Schindler to find a long-term solution.
- **Flooding:** Leaves in the gutters were causing the flooding. The leaves have been removed and the trees trimmed.

• **Pastor's Report**

- **Belize:**

- o Ed reported that the trip went well, and the people were great.
- o They finished some last-minute things with the building.
 - Children's room
 - Computer room
 - Shopped for items needed.
- o Electrical should be installed in the next few weeks.
- o They would like to set up a thrift shop, sewing room (rented for use), computer lab and have events in the main area on the first floor and expect the building to be financially self-sustaining.
- o Paperwork is being completed to start a bank account for the non-profit.
- o Possibility of being able to sponsor children for their school tuition.

- **Time Away:** Ed will be leaving for vacation on June 24 and will return on July 9.

• **Meeting Closed with Prayer**

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

— Isaiah 6:8 NIV

July Attendance		
	In Person	Online
7/2/23	67	10
7/9/23	91	23
7/16/23	82	21
7/23/23	92	16
7/30/23	94	15



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner: Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Faye Gately, Joy, Genene Lyons, 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, 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, Mike & Sheila Smith, the family of Margi McKenna, Steve Kappesser, John Fugate

(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	2	3	4	5
6 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 6:30 am - KSO concert picnic	7 10 am - UCC Clergy	8 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting	9 6-8 pm - Open & Affirming 7 pm - AA Group	10	11	12
13 Change of Venue 10:30 am - Worship held at Rossford Park in pavilion. Building closed No Sunday School	14 10 am - UCC Clergy	15 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	16 7 pm - AA Group	17	18	19
20 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 11:30 am - Mission	21 10 am - UCC Clergy 6 pm - Church Council	22 11:30 am - Lunch and Learn NO Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	23 6-8 pm - Open & Affirming 7 pm - AA Group	24	25	26
27 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	28 10 am - UCC Clergy	29 12 pm - Bible Study 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	30 7 pm - AA Group	31 6:30 pm - Choir practice starts back		