

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



Photo by Edward Goode

Lisa's labyrinth at St. Timothy Episcopal Church in Cincinnati

Accident, Coincidence, Divine Providence, or a Mix of All Three?

I don't understand the mysteries and the workings of God...I don't understand why some things happen the way they do and why some things do not. I don't understand why it feels like some things happen in the ways we pray for and others do not. Yet in the midst of the mystery, I have faith, I have hope, I have trust that God is at work and God is on the move. I know it. I see it. I feel it. I share it. And I am grateful for this reality.

This year, however, there have been a bunch of things that feel like more than coincidences and feel like divine providence and divine intervention. The most recent may be the smallest one of them, but I was walking with Scout this morning while talking and praying

through my sermon for this upcoming Sunday. I was wrestling with one part of the sermon that connected to a song from the movie, *The Greatest Showman*. I checked my email as I got back to the car and saw the UCC's daily email devotion's subject line was the exact title of one of the songs in the movie. Accident? Maybe?

Another is the tattoo on my right forearm I got in memory of my friend, Lisa. The night Lisa died (I didn't know that she was in her final stages when I went to bed that night) I had a dream of getting this labyrinth tattoo in memory of her. The next morning, I saw the message she had died. I had the same dream the next two nights.

Continued on next page

Building Hope Together

Christ Church, along with partners from throughout the Heartland Conference and the Ohio Region of the Christian Church Disciple of Christ, were honored to be a part of building an amazing home for a family. What a delight to build hope together!



Continued from front page

My unconscious speaking? Maybe. Or maybe the Spirit speaking through...

I've never been to Buffalo, New York. Never flown through, driven through, anything. But this summer, my family and I would be driving through Buffalo on our way to our vacation in Canada. Literally just a few days before we left to start driving, I got word that my friend Lynne (who lived in Buffalo) was entering hospice care and wanted anyone who might be in the area to see her. So, I was deeply blessed to spend an hour with Lynne as we shared stories and memories, prayed blessings with each other, and hugged each other one last time. Random timing?

About a month later, I have a deep feeling one morning about how Lynne is doing and specifically feel in my gut that she's dying. I

send a message to Kirk letting him know that they were strongly on my heart. Later that day, I'm walking the newly constructed prayer labyrinth built in memory of Lisa at St Timothy's Episcopal Church when, just as I reach the heart of the labyrinth, Kirk calls me to share that Lynne had died about an hour before.

And then, just a few weeks after that, with all of this year swirling around in me I went to the pastor's retreat for the Presbytery of Cincinnati and was given a small geode to hold throughout the retreat. There was a great deal that spoke to me through the retreat as I kept holding and fidgeting with that geode. Some clarity was brought to some areas I was working through and I was lifting that to the Lord. Just a few days later as I was still reflecting on some of this, I get an email to Carrie Newcomer's subscribers where she started

out by saying that she just felt like singing a song to us that day. The song? One from about 15 years ago called... geodes. A song that speaks to the revealing of beauty and truth that might not be immediately seen on the outside. Really? That song? That day?

Like I said when I started this article...I don't understand the mysteries of God and the ways that God works. But what I do know is that God is at work. God's Spirit is moving. Jesus is making a difference in the world. Be open to feeling that, trusting in that, and looking for it. Sometimes we see ways like I have described and sometimes we don't. But God is on the move and at work. Amen?

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Ed

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

The team continues to meet monthly to assess needs of our community and beyond. This month we planned for packing of the Back to School Kits for Church World Service, reviewed our involvement with Hosea House and adding more dates, began discussions about the holidays, and addressed the ongoing global needs related to disaster response. The team approved \$1,000 to be sent to the relief efforts in Hawaii following the devastating fire.

We welcome anyone interested in participating in mission work at Christ Church to join us for our next meeting on September 17 in the conference room following the service.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Brighton Center:**

The family center was very grateful to receive our large donation of hygiene items just ahead of a major heat wave last month. Thank you for the continued support of our ongoing collection for those in need.

- **September: Cereal**

Don't forget we have an additional shelf in the parlor to make donating easier.

- **Hosea House:**

Thank you to each of you who took time to support this mission on August 6 by volunteering to serve, bake brownies, or prepare the meal. The team is working to add dates to serve at Hosea House and thereby allow more members of the congregation to get involved. Our next date to serve is December 10, please

watch for the sign up next month!

- **Church World Service (CWS):**

The team packed Back to School Kits this month and more than doubled the number of kits we've done in the past thanks to the diligence and hard work of our member, Susan Gabbard. Susan organizes this effort, sews all of the bags, and shops for the best deals to ensure we can maximize our budget. Thanks to each of you who assisted in packing and preparing the kits!

- **Washington UCC:**

The team is working to determine the best ways to support the children and families served by WUCC this holiday season.

- **Disaster Response:**

The team agreed to send \$1,000 to Disaster Ministries at the wider United Church of Christ to support the wildfires in Hawaii.

Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

We continue to join the congregation as we journey through the Sermon on the Mount. It's given us the opportunity to learn about God's love and how to live that out with one another.

The children participated in hands on learning activities, crafts, and listened to books that help make connections to the Bible. We loved spending time together in the park and on the playground when our church worship service moved outside. We discussed the challenges, fears, and excitement of returning to school and reminded the children that they take God with them. This was symbolized by Shrinky Dinks heart key chains the children decorated.



Additionally, the children helped prepare and set up for packing the back-to-school kits for Church World Service. Please plan to join the congregation for a special "Sunday school kick off" event on

Sunday, September 10, following the service. There are opportunities to volunteer with the children throughout the fall as well, please reach out to Kelly if you are interested at: kelly@christchurchft.org



Serve God with Singing!

From Toni Sheffer

Chancel Choir started back for the year on August 31, We meet every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

If you have a love for singing, can read music, and want to join us in leading worship each week, please come and try it out. The only thing I ask is that you let me know when you will be absent by signing a calendar which is present at each rehearsal. This helps to know if we will have enough singers each week to provide the anthems for the Sunday service and what parts, if any, might be needing help for that week.

Contact **Toni Sheffer** at toni@christchurchft.org if you have questions.

“O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things!”
— Psalm 98:1

We Need a Reserve Team

The Green Team needs help with taking recyclables over to the Cincinnati Reuse and Recycle Hub. It's just a 10 min. drive and there are lots of volunteers there to show you where to go. Please contact the office if you'd like to be on a no-obligation email list.



N. KY Youth Group Kickoff

Sunday, Sept. 10, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Lakeside Presbyterian Church-Carriage House
2690 Dixie Highway
Lakeside Park, Kentucky
Come for a cookout along with games and fellowship.
RSVP at: www.lakesidechurch.org



Reminder

Please don't park on the lines next to the handicapped parking spaces. That space is needed to get wheelchairs in and out of the vehicle they use. Thank you!

Open and Affirming Update

From Beckie Borah

The Open and Affirming Discernment Process is entering an exciting new phase as our circle widens to include more perspectives from our church family.

Now is the time to contribute to the process as we determine the path together. Our Core Team has begun reaching out to people within the congregation for one-to-one conversations. These conversations will continue to take place over the

next few months and the team will take what we hear and use those insights to prayerfully consider our next steps together as a congregation in this journey.

Please feel free to reach out to Beckie Borah, the chair of the ONA Core Team, or any of the other members of the team (you'll find their names listed in the Council meeting minutes). Thank you for being part of this process and for your prayers for God's guidance for us all.

Back-to-School Kits

Thanks to everyone for staying after the service August 27 to pack the Back-to-School Kits. We more than doubled the number of kits

we've done in the past thanks to the diligence and hard work of our member, Susan Gabbard.



We're At "That Point" in the Journey

From Pastor Ed

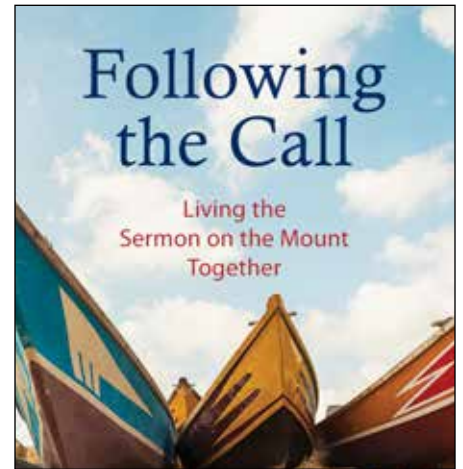
One of the regular hiking loops Scout and I do is about three miles long. Some time ago, we were on the trail when Amy called. She was hoping I was on my way home as there was something in the car she needed. Unfortunately, we were at "that point" in the hike. "That point" meaning about halfway, where it takes just as long to keep going as to turn around and go back. So, I just told Amy, "We'll get there as quick as we can!"

We're at "that point" in our pilgrimage through the Sermon on the Mount. As of Sunday the 27, we are halfway through the sermon series and we're about halfway through our guide book, *Following the Call*. So, we're getting there. But as I shared in my other article for this month, I am convinced there is some divine timing in this sermon series as so many of the themes have perfectly fit with what is going on in our congregation and beyond. So, being at "that point," I wanted to take a bit of time to look back on where we've

been so far as we look ahead to what is still before us.

To use a photography analogy, it feels like we started with a wide-angle look at what Jesus' vision for the Kingdom of God would be. This wide-angle look is what we read about in the Beatitudes — this beautiful picture of the "upside-down" Kingdom of God where the mourning are comforted, the humble are brought up, and an entirely new world emerges. But then we zoom in a bit more to the ways that this new community lives together in the teachings that we just finished with "you have heard that it was said, but I tell you..." All of these are ways in which we live and hold healthy relationships and community with one another. The zooming in has moved from the wide-angle down to the specifics of relationships between people.

And as we begin this next section, we are zooming in even more to the individual — how we as individual disciples of Jesus practice the disciplines of faith



from authentic places within as Jesus uses the examples of giving, prayer, and fasting. Then, after we get through the Lord's Prayer, we start getting wider as the sermon concludes with tangible ways of living all of this out in the world.

I hope that this has been a life-giving series for you thus far and that you have been both encouraged and challenged in how you are following the way of Jesus. And I continue to pray about how God speaks into all of our lives as we continue to see what it means when we say, *We embrace all as we journey the Way of Jesus.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Amy Pendery	9/8	Jean Mettens	9/23
Edward Goode	9/8	Katie Leftin	9/23
Greg Houben	9/9	Pam Weber	9/25
Andy Luken	9/11	Melody Bizzarro	9/25
Ken Pendery	9/11	Emma Lyman	9/26
Gary Plummer	9/14	Marcia Hosea	9/27
Thomas Luken	9/15	Amy Thornton	9/29
Sarah Huelsman	9/15	Nancy Besten	9/29
Joyce Steinman	9/16		
Jean Braun	9/17	Timothy & Rebecca Borah	9/5/1995 28 yrs.
Robert Witte	9/19	Natalie & Brandon Fugate	9/24/2016 7 yrs.



Memorials

Memorial for Bonnie Hitch
Ronald Sperry

Memorial for Jim Gracey
Nancy Belew Follmer

Memorial for Margi McKenna
Bernie & Nancy Barre
Linda Gracey
Kenny & Carolyn Honchell
Tom & Linda Lloyd

Memorial for Judy Robinson
John & Mary Sue Bowling
Ron & Vicki Christian
Tom & Joan Ferrara
Linda Gracey
David & Carol Hentz
Steve & Fran McAllister
Ziegler & Schneider, P.S.C.

Memorial for Fritz Detisch
(brother of Emma Hamann)
Linda Gracey



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and support shown during my brother, George (Fritz) Detisch's illness and death. God bless everyone.
Emma Hamann

Don't Miss Sunday, Sept. 10

It is the start of a new school year, Sunday School year, and just a new year for our church, and **we would like to celebrate!** A potluck lunch is planned for after the church service with the meat and dessert provided. If your last name begins with A-K, please bring a salad. If it's L-Z, please bring a vegetable.



Schedules for September

Liturgists

Sept. 3 Bert Bathiany
Sept. 10 Shelley Kappesser
Sept. 17 Donna Hoffman
Sept. 24 Katie Leftin

Deacons

Sept. 3 Marie Cunningham
Sept. 10 Amy Thornton
Sept. 17 Barb Korpik
Sept. 24 Jean Braun

Ushers

Sept. 3 Marie Cunningham
Shelley Kappesser
Steve Kappesser
Jay Wainscott
Sept. 10 Amy Thornton
Patti Miller
Jane Petracco
Carol Himes
Sept. 17 Andy Borah
Scott Turner
Nancy Pinguely
Steve Weber
Sept. 24 Marcia Storm
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Audrey Bernhard

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 11:30 a.m.
Our guest presenters will be Dr. William Landon, a professor of history at Northern Kentucky University, and Sharyn Jones, Professor of Anthropology at NKU. Their presentation is titled, "The Parker Academy: A Place for Freedom, A Space for Resistance." The Parker Academy is believed to be one of the first schools in the United States to offer fully integrated classrooms. It focuses on issues regarding race, gender equality and social justice. The research involves community partners such as the National Under-



ground Railroad Freedom Center, NKU, Cincinnati Museum Center and many more.

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. Reservations are required for lunch. **For lunch reservations call Nancy Hunter at: (859) 630-0534 or email nhunter@zoomtown.com.**

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



Church Council Meeting Notes

8/21/2023

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

• **Gathering/Centering**

Chapters 21-24 of "Following the Call", Ed read intro of "Jesus Feminist" by Sarah Bessey

• **Approval of Minutes from June Minutes approved.**

• **Financial Report**

We are under budget for expenses for staff. Giving is up. **Report approved.**

• **Update on Building Projects**

- **Hoffman Hall Dishwasher:**

The dishwasher was delivered. Jay Wainscott and Barry Petracco will install with an electrician

- **Elevator:** Greg Vogel talked to an electrician and was told the power coming in is measuring 220V not 180V like before and the extra power coming from Duke Energy may solve the issue.

- **New audio/video equipment for Lunch and Learn:** Nancy Hunter was happy to report that new audio/video equipment was purchased from the Living Memorial fund of Wilma Graves.

- **Appliances from Johnson Elementary School:** The 2-door refrigerator and ice machine we purchased before the renovation of the school will be tested and installed after the floor is fixed and a new water line installed.

• **Open and Affirming (ONA)**

- Beckie reported the ONA team has met several times in July and August. At one meeting, a 3-person panel came and answered questions from the ONA teams of Christ Church and St. Paul in Alexandria.
- Beckie read a statement in church about the ONA process which was made available via e-mail and YouTube.
- The ONA group is preparing to have one-on-one conversations with members of the church in the next week.
- If you have any questions regarding the process, please reach out to Beckie Borah. She is free most days after 3:30 p.m. M-F.
- Members of the ONA Team: Beckie Borah, Ken Weidinger, Melissa Cox, Larry Stinson, Marcia Storm, Joe Stevenson, Jen Korpik, Donna Hoffman, Jeff McDonald, Susan McDonald, and Susan Gabbard.

• **Pastor's Report**

- **The Green Team:**

The Green Team needs volunteers to help take recycling to the Hub. Please call the office if you can help. Christ Church was officially designated as a Creation Justice congregation by the UCC

- **Youth Ministry:** The NKY Youth Group will meet every Sunday except the fifth Sunday of the month. There will be more meetings in the Fort Thomas area this year.

• **Meeting Closed with Prayer**

Aug. Attendance

	In Person	Online
8/6/23	92	25
8/13/23	50	39
8/20/23	97	34
8/27/23	85	11



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

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, Jeff McCall, Kelly Greenwalt, Kristin Bailey, Jamie, Jenny Holek, Nancy McLane, Mike & Sheila Smith, the family of Margi McKenna, John Fugate, the family of Judy Robinson, the family of John Neumaier, the family of Nicholas Cobb, Andrew, Howard Storm, the family of Faye Gateley
(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

Please call the office with changes.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>9 am–Adult Discipleship 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children’s Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12 pm– Green Team 6-8 pm - Open & Affirming 7 pm– AA Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm – Choir practice</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9 am–Adult Discipleship 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children’s Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Sunday School Kick-off</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 am – UCC Clergy 10 am–Bloom Homeschool</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm – Finance Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 pm– AA Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm – Choir practice</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</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>18</p> <p>10 am – UCC Clergy 10 am–Bloom Homeschool 6 pm – Church Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12 pm – Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6-8 pm - Open & Affirming 7 pm– AA Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 pm – Choir practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30 am– AA Step Up Meeting</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9 am–Adult Discipleship 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children’s Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10 am – UCC Clergy 10 am–Bloom Homeschool 7 pm – SONKA re-organization meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:30 am – Lunch and Learn NO Bible Study 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 am– Mom’s Group 7 pm– AA Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm – Choir practice</p>	<p>29</p>	