

The Guide

We embrace all
as we journey
the way of Jesus



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC

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/christchurchuccft
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 Christian Education

Toni Sheffer,
Music Director/Organist

Max Gise
Guitarist

Talia Zoll
Vocalist

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright,
Communications Director/
Church Administrator

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab
Pastor Emeritus



Living Out a Covenant

What does this word mean?

I love word clouds – visual representations of what words are used most frequently in a passage. For example, above is a word cloud of Luke 1 & 2 (Luke’s telling of the birth of Jesus).

If we did a word cloud of 2023 at Christ Church, I think the phrases that would be the most frequent would be “Sermon on the Mount” and “Way of Jesus.” These were two phrases that came up a lot this year as we spent the majority of the year centered on the teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and how it speaks to how we understand living out the Way of Jesus as a congregation and as individuals.

So what will be the word that will be at the center of our 2024 word cloud at Christ Church? We won’t

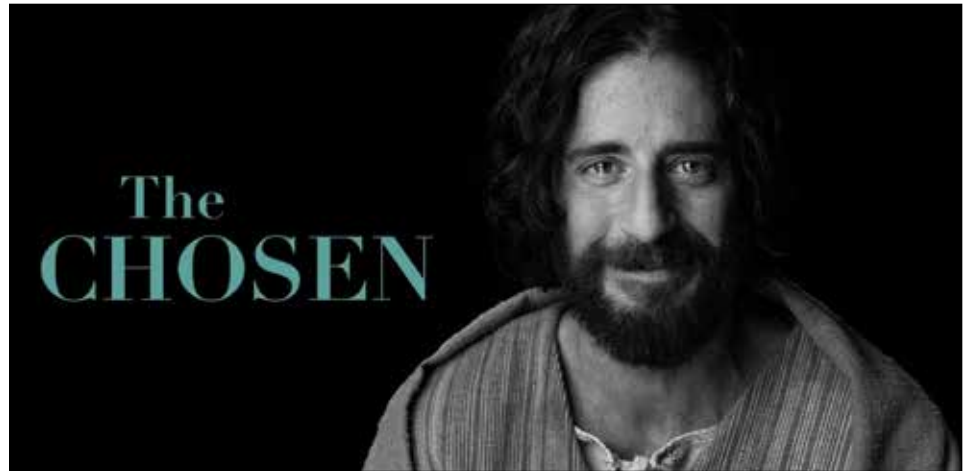
know until we get to the end of 2024 but my hunch right now is that it may be the word, “Covenant.” That word is a central word for our identity as Christ Church of Ft Thomas and also central to our relationship with the other settings of the UCC. Most of all, it is a central word for understanding God’s relationship with humanity as we read it through the pages of the Bible.

But what does this word really mean? Well, the basic dictionary entry looks something like this:
Covenant - kŭv’ə-nənt – 1. a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement. 2. a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action. (Merriam Webster Dictionary)

Continued on next page

Discipleship Update – The Chosen

Two of our weekly discipleship groups (Sunday at 9 a.m. and Thursday at 12 p.m.) have just started watching the series, “The Chosen” as a group and spending time soaking in what these beautifully done tellings of the Jesus story speak into our lives. The Chosen started on streaming services in 2019 and is just about to begin its fourth season. It tells the stories that we read in the Gospels with an emphasis upon Jesus’ chosen followers. It does not follow the Gospels exactly but instead tries to fill in the blanks so to speak to try to get to a deeper understanding of how and why



people began to follow Jesus.

If you have not participated in one of these groups, this would be a

great time to jump in. We are a few episodes in, but we can get you caught up pretty easily. No need to sign up – just show up!

Continued from front page

Okay, pretty standard stuff but nothing of God in there. So, what does it mean for us as followers of Jesus? Because the word covenant shows up in lots of places in the Bible – covenants with Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the Hebrews, King David, and Jesus speaks of it many times but notably at the Last Supper (“This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you.” – Luke 22:20). Even the terms that we use for the two sections of the Bible could be called “Covenants” instead of “Testaments” because the Greek word can be translated either way.

We’ll dig deeper into this in future issues of the Guide and also in worship starting in January but, rooted in the Biblical stories about covenants, we have a few ways to think about what this means for us from others in the UCC (<https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/covenant-definition.pdf>)

A Biblical covenant is based on

grace and built on love. It “has a gratuitous, growing edge that nourishes rather than limits.” A covenant has accountability like a contract but it is mutual accountability rather than one-sided. And finally covenants require public affirmation and renewal. We see these things throughout the covenant stories in the Bible and they are at the heart of our identity as Christ Church and in our covenantal relationship with other settings of the church.

I would also add to this that covenant means that we bear with one another like Paul talks about in Colossians 3:12-17:

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your

hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

There’s a lot more to come with this but I wanted to close with a beautiful quote about covenant that I read this week from Jeff Chu: “Folks love to talk about Jesus flipping tables. For some of us, the more challenging and complicated stories might be the ones where Jesus sat at tables, sharing meals.”

Jesus lived out covenant as he sat at tables with anyone and everyone.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Handwritten signature of Pastor Ed.

Pastor Ed

Photos from Christian Education

The photo to the right is from our pajama day on December 17. The photos below are from December 3, when the children made gingerbread churches and another Sunday making ornaments. Each Sunday was also focused on one of our Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.



Christmas Eve Morning and Evening





Sound System Update

From Pastor Ed
 By the time you read this, the new audio system will be installed in the Sanctuary with additional speakers routed to the Narthex and to Hoffman Hall so that the audio from services will also be accessible there if necessary. It was hoped this would have been completed for Advent but because of components being back ordered, it took a bit longer than expected. As with any new equipment, there will probably be some growing pains as we get used to the new system but we have a great company that will be providing support both in the initial training and the ongoing.

One item that will not yet be installed will be the hearing assist upgrade. The unit that we have ordered is on back order until at least late January so we will continue to use the current system until that time. When the new system is installed, we will have new receiver units for people to use and also there will be the ability for people to access the audio through their smart-phone-connected hearing aids. We'll have more information about that once it is installed.

Thank you for your patience in this process and we look forward to a cleaner and fuller sound throughout the sanctuary for all!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

<p>Ramel Vogel Jeffrey McDonald Gayle Francis Kenneth Weidinger Bert Bathiany IV Kathy Leftin Fran McAllister Peter Borah Ella June Stevenson</p>	<p>Michele Wright Jack McMath Bradley Leftin Tammy Weidinger</p> <p>Steve & Fran McAllister Stephen & Pam Weber Ken & Stella Pendery</p>
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Memorials

Memorials for Judy Robinson
Shirley Kruer

Memorials for Bev Erschell
Judy Erschell
Linda Gracey
Dave & Terri Hill
Carolyn & Kenny Honchell
Bonnie & Mike Roth
Jane & Bob Sand
Ruth Sandner Stewart
Shari & Chuck Thompson
Nancy & Bob Witte



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH
Ev and Jack Weber, Chris,
Linda Gracey, Gary Kennedy

We have started a new prayer list.
If you would like a name added,
please contact the office:
(859) 441-2565 or
michele@christchurchft.org



Schedules for January

Liturgists

Jan. 7 Katie Leftin
Jan. 14 Jean Braun
Jan. 21 Jane Petracco
Jan. 28 Laura Petracco

Deacons

Jan. 7 Jack Hurtt
Jan. 14 Jean Braun
Jan. 21 Greg Vogel
Jan. 28 Marie Cunningham

Ushers

Jan. 7 Scott Turner
Ellen Turner
Steve Kappesser
Shelley Kappesser
Jan. 14 Mike Evans
Patti Miller
Jane Wainscott
Audrey Bernhard
Jan. 21 Greg Vogel
Marcia Storm
Jane Petracco
Carol Himes
Jan. 28 Marie Cunningham
Nancy Pinguely
Jeff Pinguely
Andy Borah

Thanks to Our Church Family

*Many thanks for the cards, calls, and prayers following my recent surgery. I am so blessed to be part of this loving, caring church family and can't wait to get back and be with you all again!
Love, Judy Land*

*My Dear, Dear Friends,
The love in my heart flows over with all you have given to me during my rehab from a beautiful new knee. From cards, emails, calls, gift cards, meals, etc., you have enclosed me with thoughts, prayers, and love. I am ever so grateful for my amazing, wonderful Church Family and love you very, very much. Blessings surround me each and every day!
Linda Gracey*

Our family would like to thank you for all the love, hugs, prayers, and thoughts during this difficult time. We were overwhelmed with the amount of cards we received which make you feel loved during

*your darkest hours. Thank you to all who donated in Mom's memory and took time out of your life to attend her visitation and service. To everyone that helped with her service, a huge thank you for making everything perfect. To Gordon Braun, you brought me comfort seeing you there helping. To Talia, we received so many compliments on your musical ability. Thank you for making the service special. To Pastor Ed, we are blessed to have your leadership. I made it through this challenging time with your help. You always seem to have the right thing to say. Thank you!
My mom would have been overwhelmed with all the love! As our family continues on this journey of life without Mom, Grandma, Granny, we covet your continued prayers for strength and healing.
Thank you,
Greg, Ramel, Josh, Erin, Larkin, Ryan, Abby, Colt, and Cory Vogel*

Dec. Attendance

	In Person	Online
12/3/23	105	20
12/10/23	97	20
12/17/23	154	15
12/24/23 AM	166	14
12/24/23 PM	90	20
12/31/23	60	20



Thanks for Our Music Series

From Toni Sheffer

Many thanks to David and Marcia Hosea for sustaining the Christ Church Music Series for 2024. They have been responsible since the inception of this series and never need to be asked from year to year. They come to me and ask when and how much? Through

these years we have been thrilled by the talent found in our area across many disciplines as well as intergenerational. What a wonderful gift to the church to share with the congregation during the blessed Christmas season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Happy New Year to all.

Volunteering at RMH

Thanks to our volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House, families

from Cincinnati Children's Hospital had a wonderful lunch.

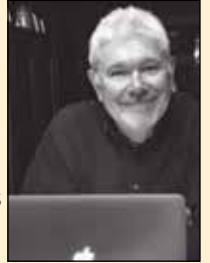


Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest presenter will be author, and storyteller, Mr. David Wecker.

His presentation is titled, "Heroes, Hardheads & Oddballs: My Favorite Stories from 20-Some Years at *The*



Kentucky Post." David previously worked as a feature writer/reporter for the Post from 1980 through 2005. **Please join us!**

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. Reservations are required for lunch. **Please contact Nancy Hunter.**



N. KY Youth Events

● **Sun., Jan. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

Lakeside Presbyterian Church Carriage House
2690 Dixie HWY, Lakeside Park
Join us as we kick off the year with an evening of food, games, and more. RSVP at <https://lakesidechurch.org/index.php/nkyyouth/>

● **Mon., Jan. 15, 1-3 p.m.**

St. Vincent de Paul, 2655 Crescent Springs Pike, Covington
A special day of service at the thrift store and food pantry as we commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	3 10 am - UCC Clergy 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group	4 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	5	6
7 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	8	9 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting	10 10 am - UCC Clergy 12 pm-Green Team 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group	11 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	12	13
14 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	15 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6 pm - Church Council	16 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	17 10 am - UCC Clergy 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 6-8 pm - ONA 7 pm- AA Group	18 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	19	20
21 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Mission Team	22	23 11:30 am - Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	24 9:30 am- Mom's Group 10 am - UCC Clergy 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group	25 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	26	27
28 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	29	30 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	31 10 am - UCC Clergy 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group			