

February 2024

# The Guide

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



CHRIST  
CHURCH UCC

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www.christchurchft.org  
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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, study groups, 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



Painting by Ugolino da Siena, Metropolitan Art Museum

## Coming Around the Table *Our identity as followers of Christ.*

In what room do you spend the most non-sleeping time in your home? Living room? Kitchen? Dining room? Hopefully, not the bathroom... For me, I think it is probably our kitchen / dining room area. We love to cook in our house and one of the things that I am so thankful for in our family is that we have really done a good job being sure that we sit down at the table and eat together as a family. I don't know for sure about the number of hours, but I do know we spend a lot of time in those two areas of our house.

Something that I have seen while we have been watching *The Chosen* in our discipleship groups is how often Jesus and his followers eat together. In their devotional book, *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr write, "stories about tables are everywhere in the Gospels. Jesus tells stories about banquets, and

he goes to a lot of dinner parties. He eats with religious leaders and shady characters. He feeds a hungry crowd and tells his followers to do the same... tables shape our identity as followers of Christ."

Tables shape our identity as followers of Christ. Just as the tables in our homes have shaped our identity in our families, so tables shape our identity as Jesus followers. After all, at the heart of one of the core parts of our covenant life together is remembering and re-enacting Jesus' last meal with his followers. We come around this table whenever we share Communion and we are reminded that somehow, someday, the table that God has for us in the here and now (and the table that awaits us sometime in the future) never runs out of space and there's always more places for people to sit.

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This Lent we are going to be continuing our time with exploring the meaning of covenant but we'll be doing it at the table. Each Sunday we will center on one of the table stories of Jesus in the Gospels and each Sunday of Lent we will share the Lord's Supper in worship. We'll hear stories of the diversity of people with whom Jesus ate, about miracles that took place around meals, and about blessed interruptions that took place at tables. We'll end the season of Lent with a different Easter story than the empty tomb but instead a story that took place around a table later that same day.

In addition, each Sunday there will be a take home page in the bulletin. One side will have a devotional about that story for the week ahead and the other will have a recipe you can make that week. If you do make the recipe, I'd encourage you to make some for yourself and then make some extra for someone else and share it as a surprise gift to them. A simple gift of hospitality and care. It can be a neighbor, a classmate, even a stranger. It is just a simple way to extend God's table!

I look forward to our table time together!

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,



Pastor Ed

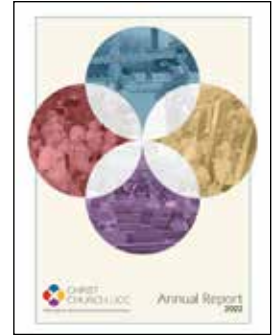
*"Do this in remembrance of me."*

— Luke 22:19 NRSV

# 2024 Congregational Annual Meeting

The Council has scheduled the **2024 Annual Meeting for March 10, 2024** immediately following the worship service. **If you have a report to include in the annual report, please get that to Michele Wright, by February 8.** The annual report will be available by March 3, both in paper copies and PDF versions. At the meeting, we will have the required actions from the ByLaws of reviewing the 2023 financials and approving the 2024 budget and also acting on the report of the Nominating Committee in electing those to

serve on the Council and the Legacy Committee. In addition, there will be a report from the Open and Affirming Team sharing about next steps for our discernment process together. This report will be included in the annual report as well.



## Green Team Tip of the Month

This month's tips are about water. Conserving water can be one of the easiest and most effective ways to positively impact our environment as well as our communities. It not only saves us money, but humans are not the only living organisms that need water, wildlife needs water as well. Every ecosystem is reliant on a water source and as water becomes scarcer these ecosystems are threatened.

Here's a few quick water-saving tips for you:

- **Brushing your teeth** – Do not leave the water on while you are brushing your teeth. Only turn it on to wet the toothpaste and then to rinse after.
- **Water pressure** – Whether it is brushing your teeth or washing your hands, the easiest thing to do is just turn it on full. What if you only turned it on 50%? You will literally cut your water use in half during those tasks.
- **Fix leaks** – including leaky toilets.
- **Install water-saving devices** – high-efficiency toilets, aerators on bathroom faucets, and water-efficient shower heads.

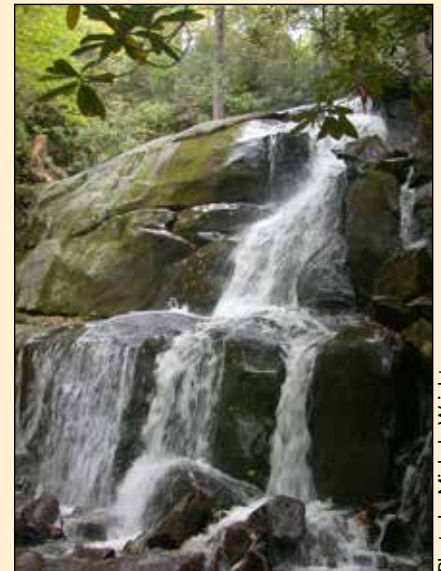


Photo by Michele Wright



# Christian Education Update

*From Kelly Kuhnhein*

The children began the month of January discussing Epiphany and learning more about the wise men. They were asked to think of ways they follow the star leading to Jesus and how they can share their own gifts. We spent time around Martin Luther King Day talking about the importance of serving others whom we are connected including God and what they might do over the holiday to care for someone else. They rounded out the month with a lesson on snowflakes (appropri-

ately after our first big snow of the season) and how each of them was created to be special and unique. We discussed putting unique snowflakes together creates a snowman, and we can put our gifts together to accomplish big things such as providing gloves, hats, and coats to the Brighton Center for those in need. The children are full of energy, ideas, and are so much fun to be with each week. Next month, we will focus on all things connected to love as we celebrate Valentine's Day.



If you are interested in helping, please contact Kelly.

## Mission Team Update

First off, thank you for your response to the cold weather clothing collection! While temperatures started to warm up a bit at the end of January, we know there will be more cold to come. Thank you!

When the Mission Team met in mid-January, we set out the schedule for the coming months for what we'll be collecting and the times we will be serving in various settings.



We have also started to schedule **Second Sundays of Service** where we will have (starting quarterly) times after our worship services to help with service projects.

**Our first service day will be on Sunday, February 11** when we'll hear from Jeri McMath about a quilt project she and Jean Braun are working on with Ronald McDonald House. They'll be showing some of the quilts that have been made and ways you can help with the quilts.

### FUTURE SERVICE DAYS:

**April:** Assembling hygiene kits for Church World Service  
**August:** Assembling school supply bags for Church World Service.  
**October or November:** We will be working on making simple scarves that can be taken to Brighton Center in advance of winter so they can give them out to those in need.



**Our collections for Brighton Center for the months ahead are:**

- **February** – Period Supplies (tampons, pads, etc)
- **March & April** – Canned Spaghetti (like Spaghetti-o's)

- **May & June** – Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- **July & August** – Peanut Butter



Look in the next issue of *The Guide* for dates we'll be serving with Hosea House and Ronald McDonald House in the months ahead! Thank you for being part of the outreach ministries of Christ Church!

## Lost and Found

Don't forget if you've left anything in the pews or anywhere else in the church, you may find it in our lost and found basket located in the Parlor. It's on the table against the wall on the left right as you come in. Thank you!

## Help with Fellowship Time

In order to have breakfast available during Sunday Fellowship time, volunteers are needed.

For more information, please contact **Jenny Herrmann**

## 2023-24

### Finance Update

More will be shared at the Annual Meeting but we closed 2023 with essentially a balanced budget. Thank you!

For 2024, however, we are facing a significant shortfall due to a combination of factors. We are currently approximately \$30,000 behind in our pledges compared to 2023. If you can consider adding an amount to your pledge or make a one-time gift to help make up this deficit, that would be wonderful. Please contact Bert Bathiany, our treasurer, if you have questions.

## Help Needed

There are areas inside the church that need **scraping repairs**. Barry Petracco has volunteered to do the patching and Bert Bathiany has volunteered to paint. If you have the time and would like to scrape, please contact Michele Wright in the office at 859-441-2565 or Linda Gracey. Thank you for helping our church look beautiful!



## N. KY Youth Events

**Winter Retreat and Pilgrimage**  
**Friday, February 2, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Begins at Mt. Washington**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
**6474 Beechmont Ave, Cincinnati**

A special experience for our winter retreat. Join us as we explore local sites pivotal to the struggle for freedom in our area and beyond. RSVP at:

<https://lakesidechurch.org/index.php/nkyyouth/>

**Youth Gathering**  
**Sunday, Feb. 18, 5:30-7:30**  
**Lakeside Presbyterian Church**  
**Carriage House**  
**2690 Dixie Hwy., Lakeside Park**  
Join us for a regular meeting of the Northern Kentucky Youth Group. We'll gather for dinner, games, a special lesson, and fellowship. We can't wait to have you join us! Register at:  
<https://lakesidechurch.org/index.php/nkyyouth/>

## Open and Affirming Update

*From Beckie Borah (chairperson)*  
*Ken Weidinger (vice-chairperson)*

The Open and Affirming Core Team has been continuing their one-to-one conversations with people in the congregation. So far, we have had over thirty conversations with more scheduled to take place. As has been shared, if you would like to have a one-to-one conversation with someone from the ONA team, please reach out to either of us, and we will get it scheduled! We thank everyone who has taken the time to meet with us in these one-to-ones and look forward to hearing from others. It is important that we hear everyone's views and ideas in this process.

We want to give you an update about where we are and what's next. In early January, the team crafted a report for the Council that summarizes much of what

we have heard thus far in our own reflections and in the one-to-one conversations (all reflections from the one-to-ones were anonymous). This was presented to the Council who had some excellent feedback. The team is meeting again in late January to work with Council's feedback and compile a report that will be shared with the congregation as a whole in the Annual Report and at the Annual Meeting.

We have heard a lot through the one-to-one conversations, and we thank everyone who has shared your insights, opinions, questions, hopes, fears, and ponderings. Please know that you have been heard, and we are prayerfully listening to the speakings of the Holy Spirit in how to take all of what we have heard and craft the best next steps in our covenant life together.

# Personnel Announcement

*From Debbie Paillette*

While I have heard from a number of members their sadness as it relates to Kelly's resignation of her position with Christian Education, let's not forget to share in her excitement as she approaches a new chapter and professional journey in her life.

We will be forming a search committee to begin the task of hiring someone. Kelly has graciously given us until May 19 to find someone who will provide programming for the children and continued discipleship through Christian Education. We are so grateful for Kelly's concern to provide a smooth transition and be of assistance in helping to write a job description to best serve Christ Church.

Our work in the coming months will be to bring in someone who will continue and build upon the foundation she has built since she started in August of 2018. That next person will have their own God-given gifts and will bring their own unique self to this role. Please



know that we will be communicating much more on this transition and our plans around it and we will also be planning a time to honor and give thanks for Kelly for all she has shared.

While change is not always easy, please try to stay positive. And

please keep Kelly, the children and families that she has been working with, and the new staff person to be hired in our prayers.

If you have questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Pastor Ed.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Linda Griffith  
Ben Petracco  
Timothy Borah  
Carolyn Tyler  
Isaac Lyman  
Ellie Jager  
Audrey Jager  
Brynn Draper  
James Long  
Nancy Barre  
Maxine Noble

Steve Kappesser  
Donna Stinson  
Laura Petracco  
Daniel Tenhunfeld  
Ruth Rowe  
Austin Huelsman  
Barbara Walkenhorst-Derby  
Ellen Turner  
Jane Petracco  
Stanley & Joyce Grau



## Memorials

**Memorials for Bev Erschell**  
Man-Ching Callahan  
Ken & Denise Grause

**Memorial for Evie Weber**  
Deb & Steve Ader  
Bette Ament  
Marian Dilbert  
Tim & Duncan Draper  
Linda Gracey  
Nancy Hunter  
Steve & Fran McAllister  
Steve & Dana Pendery  
Donna & Larry Stinson  
Angie Wells  
Bob & Nancy Witte

**Memorial for Al Rice**  
Linda Gracey  
Steve & Fran McAllister  
Donna & Larry Stinson  
Bob & Nancy Witte



## Thank You

Christ Church Family,  
*We are so grateful for the love you sent throughout the birth of our son, Mateo James.*  
*The diaper drive was very kind and appreciated. We are still using diapers that were donated!*  
Love,  
Christi Stevenson and Wayne Posey



## Schedules for February

### Liturgists

Feb. 4 Barry Petracco  
Feb. 11 Marcia Storm  
Feb. 18 Carolyn Tyler  
Feb. 25 Scott Turner

### Deacons

Feb. 4 Barb Korpik  
Feb. 11 Jack Hurtt  
Feb. 18 Jean Braun  
Feb. 25 Greg Vogel

### Ushers

Feb. 4 Marcia Storm  
Debbie Paillette  
Thierry Paillette  
Jay Wainscott  
Feb. 11 Jane Petracco  
Shelley Kappesser  
Steve Kappesser  
Audrey Bernhard  
Feb. 18 Mike Evans  
Patti Miller  
Carol Himes  
Andy Borah  
Feb. 25 Ellen Turner  
Scott Turner  
Debbie Paillette  
Thierry Paillette

## Lunch and Learn

**Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 11:30 a.m.**

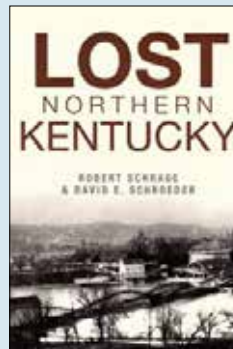
If you are a person who enjoys learning about local history, you'll want to plan on attending Lunch and Learn.

Our guest presenter is David Schroeder, Executive Director of the nationally ranked Kenton County Public Library. We will be learning about the The Ludlow Lagoon, which was a major recreational center for Greater Cincinnati between 1894 and 1917. The Lagoon boasted a large lake with sandy beaches, a roller coaster over water, and a miniature railroad and wood

track for racing, all located in Ludlow Kentucky.

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

**For lunch reservations, contact Nancy Hunter.**



*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

1/15/2024

**In Attendance:** Pastor Ed Goode, Snezana Tenhundfeld, Bert Bathiany, Betsy Beimesche, Beckie Borah, Jenny Herrmann, Donna Hoffman, Nancy Hunter, Debbie Paillette, and Greg Vogel

### • **Gathering/Centering**

The Council Members reviewed the Covenant for Christ Church Council.

### • **Financial Report**

Bert provided a summary of the FY 2023 financial status as well as an overview of FY 2024 budget. The Church utilized \$20,000 in funds from the PPE loan and ended the 2023 year with a balanced budget. As for the FY 2024 budget, our income has been calculated at \$313,281 and our expenses are \$348,226 with a total deficit of \$34,945. The pledges are currently down by \$60,000 from the previous year. The offset will be covered by reserve funds. The budget was endorsed by the Council and will be presented to the Congregation for a vote during the annual congregational meeting.

### • **Approval of Minutes from Nov. Minutes approved.**

### • **Approval of Pastor Ed's Yearly Housing Allowance**

The Council approved Pastor Ed's yearly housing allowance in the amount of \$35,000.

### • **Scheduling the Annual Congregational Meeting**

Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2024, following Church Service

### • **Update on Building Projects**

Greg gave an update to the Council on the most recent developments for the work that needs to be completed on the siding and the windows. Greg will request a formal quote from the contractor to include the materials and labor and will report back to the Council.

### • **Open and Affirming (ONA)**

Becky presented on the ONA process and the recommendations moving forward. The full report will be presented to the Congregation during the March 10 Congregational Meeting.

### • **Toni's Sabbatical Request**

The Council endorsed the actions of the personnel committee in the approval of Toni's sabbatical request

### • **Meeting Closed with Prayer**

## Jan. Attendance

	In Person	Online
1/7/24	76	31
1/14/24	63	24
1/21/24	80	20
1/28/24	88	15

## Lent at Christ Church

The Lenten season begins with our **Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on February 14 at First Presbyterian Church in Ft Thomas.**

Throughout the Sundays that follow, we will be sharing the Lord's Supper every week during worship as a part of our focus is on how we experience Covenant together at the table. Each week will center on a different story of Jesus eating meals with people.



## Prayer Requests

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

Jack Weber, Chris, Gary Kennedy, Kent, the family of Evie Weber, the family of Al Rice, Mike and Laura Randall, Gary Plummer, Stacey Seiter, Bonnie and Daryl, Susan Snyder, Bonnie Jones

(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				<b>12 pm</b> – Study Group <b>6:30 pm</b> – Choir practice		
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9 am</b> –Adult Discipleship <b>10:00 am</b> –Fellowship <b>10:30 am</b> –Children’s Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b> –Worship	<b>10 am</b> – Bloom Homeschool	<b>1:30 pm</b> – Art Group <b>7 pm</b> – Overeaters Anonymous	<b>10 am</b> – UCC Clergy <b>12 pm</b> –Green Team <b>3 pm</b> –Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b> – AA Group	<b>12 pm</b> – Study Group <b>6:30 pm</b> – Choir practice		
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>9 am</b> –Adult Discipleship <b>10:00 am</b> –Fellowship <b>10:30 am</b> –Children’s Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b> –Worship	<b>10 am</b> – Bloom Homeschool <b>7 pm</b> – Survivors of Suicide	<b>1:30 pm</b> – Art Group <b>7 pm</b> – Overeaters Anonymous <b>7 pm</b> – Finance Meeting	<b>10 am</b> – UCC Clergy <b>3 pm</b> –Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b> – AA Group	<b>12 pm</b> – Study Group <b>6:30 pm</b> – Choir practice		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>9 am</b> –Adult Discipleship <b>10:00 am</b> –Fellowship <b>10:30 am</b> –Children’s Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b> –Worship <b>11:30 am</b> –Mission Team	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>President’s Day</b> <b>10 am</b> – Bloom Homeschool <b>6 pm</b> – Church Council	<b>1:30 pm</b> – Art Group <b>7 pm</b> – Overeaters Anonymous	<b>10 am</b> – UCC Clergy <b>3 pm</b> –Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b> – AA Group	<b>12 pm</b> – Study Group <b>6:30 pm</b> – Choir practice		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>		
<b>9 am</b> –Adult Discipleship <b>10:00 am</b> –Fellowship <b>10:30 am</b> –Children’s Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b> –Worship	<b>10 am</b> – Bloom Homeschool	<b>11:30 am</b> – Lunch and Learn <b>1:30 pm</b> – Art Group <b>7 pm</b> – Overeaters Anonymous	<b>9:30 am</b> – Mom’s Group <b>10 am</b> – UCC Clergy <b>3 pm</b> –Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b> – AA Group	<b>12 pm</b> – Study Group <b>6:30 pm</b> – Choir practice		