

December 2023

The Guide

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



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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 Christian Education

Toni Sheffer,
Music Director/Organist

Max Gise
Guitarist

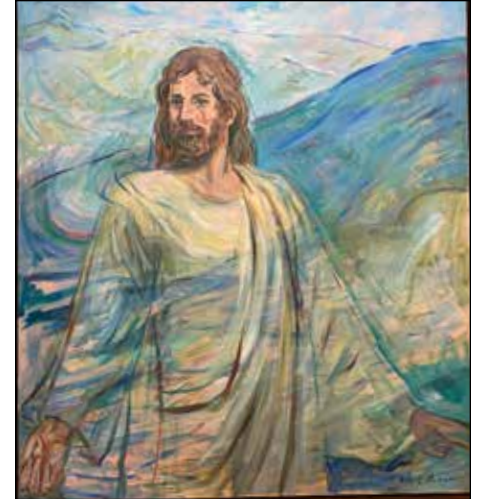
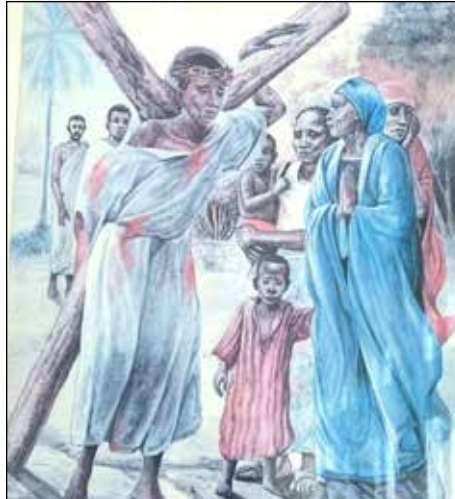
Talia Zoll
Vocalist

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright,
Communications Director/
Church Administrator

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab
Pastor Emeritus



Translating the Gospel

God Speaks to All

By the time you read this, we will be at about the beginning of the Advent season. Even though Christmas décor has been showing up for what feels like months now, the season hasn't really begun. But now that it is here...let's talk about Nativities. When you start going through our Advent devotional, you'll see a variety of figures from the story and some may look like what many are used to seeing representing Mary, Joseph, the Magi, the shepherds, and the rest. But you will also see some that look quite different. These come from Belize, Cambodia, El Salvador, Benin, Ghana, Peru, and Thailand. What I love about them is they represent how each culture takes the Jesus story and brings it into their own experience.

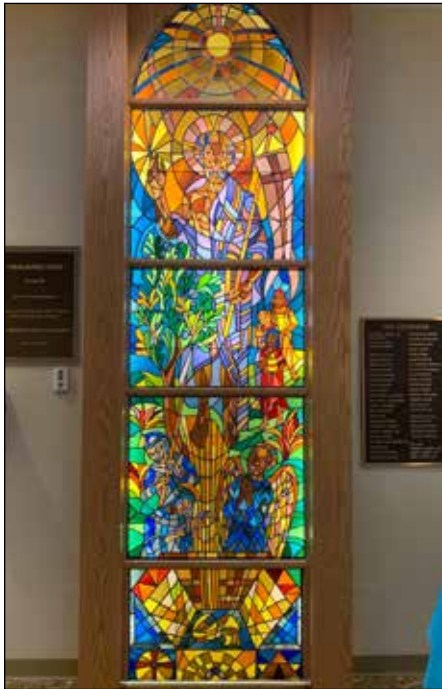
I have been lucky enough to be a part of different ministries in various places in the world – Belize, Cambodia, Kenya, Jamaica, and South Africa. In each, it has been a

privilege to see the ways that each culture has “translated” the Gospel into their culture and their context. At the Catholic center where we stayed in Kiisi, Kenya, their chapel was adorned with very simple yet beautiful depictions of the Stations of the Cross where Jesus looked as a Kenyan would look. In Cambodia, I saw a painting of Jesus carrying his cross while he was wearing very traditional everyday Cambodian clothing. Amy shared with me many times about the different ways that she saw how the Gospel was transcribed into Chinese culture when she lived there in the years before she started seminary. But we don't have to go far to see the ways that different cultures depict the story. Here at Christ Church, we have a beautiful depiction of Jesus painted by Bev Erschell that hangs over the fireplace in the Parlor (note the way that the background is seen through Jesus' resurrected body).

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But if you visit Allen Temple AME Church in Roselawn, you'll see a very different resurrected Jesus in this stained glass created by Ashley Bryan.



As I reflect on all these different ways of seeing the same Jesus, I think of the message we read in the Gospel of Luke of the angels to the shepherds. "...I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people..." (Luke 2:10) and then how this connects to a story that takes place years later of how this message begins to go to all people. In Acts 2 we read of how the Holy Spirit comes upon the early believers and that everyone gathered was able to hear the story of Jesus in their own language.

It is a beautiful thing, this way that God speaks to all whether it in word, in painting, in stained glass, or in figurines.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Ed

Advent and Christmas

December 3

- First Sunday of Advent: Elizabeth & Zechariah – Finding Hope
- 4:00 -7:30 p.m. – Ft Thomas Holiday Walk: Music, and refreshments to welcome people to Christ Church!

December 10

- Second Sunday of Advent: Celebrating Love – Mary and Elizabeth

December 17

- Third Sunday of Advent: Celebrating Joy with the Angels. Special music from Highlands High School Chamber Choir.
- 11:30 a.m. – Christ Church Chili Cookoff in Hoffman Hall



December 24

- Fourth Sunday of Advent: Finding Peace with Mary and Joseph – Children's Christmas celebration
- 10:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 31

- 10:30am – First Sunday of Christmas and Carols Sing

Christmas Music Series

Thank you to Marcia and David Hosea for sponsoring the **Christ Church Music Series** during December. You won't want to miss this special gift during the Advent season:

- **Sunday, Dec 3: (Holiday Walk)** Immanuel Student String Quartet at 5:30 p.m., Max Gise and Toni Sheffer will be playing your Christmas favorites from 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- **NEW ADDITION!** **Tuesday, December 5: 7 p.m.** Viva Voices Chamber Ensemble will be singing a Christmas concert in our sanctuary. Tony Burdette is conducting, Larry Stinson is in the ensemble, and Toni Sheffer is accompanying. It will also include solos and a Carol Sing.
- **Sunday, Dec 10:** Talia Zoll and her student, Ella Clark, will do a solo and duet during Sunday worship. We will also hear from our Chancel Choir men.



- **Sunday, Dec 17:** Highlands High School Chamber Choir with conductor Jisoo Bae.
- **Sunday, Dec 24:** Our regular worship service will feature the Children's Program, the Chancel Choir, and in-house soloists.
- **Sunday, Dec 24: 10 p.m.** Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service
- **Sunday, Dec 31:** Our regular worship service will feature our annual Carol Sing. **Be sure to get your favorite Christmas Carols to Toni Sheffer before Sunday, Dec 24.** Look for drop boxes (actually small red Christmas Trees) to drop in the names of your favorites.

Christian Education Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

This month the children spent each week focused on gratitude and giving thanks to God for our many blessings.

We spent the first week focused on being grateful for themselves and we discussed what they love most about themselves. One child said he was thankful for his grit, and then explained what that meant to the other children. They amaze me every week! The second week we focused on being grateful for the people in our lives such as close friends and family. Lastly, we talked about being thankful for nature and the world around us. The children made self-portraits, painted fall trees with empty toilet paper rolls, and made/decorated handprint turkeys. Each lesson was accom-



panied by scripture, prayer, and new books that will now be a part of our children's library.

Next, we will spend our time keeping a focus on the birth of Jesus as we enter the season of Advent. There will be many fun activities including gingerbread

churches, pajama day, and other art activities.

The children will participate in a nativity program on Christmas Eve, the fourth Sunday of Advent at 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping, **please contact Kelly.**

Mission Team Update

From Kelly Kuhnhein

As the year ends, the mission team would like to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your contributions in 2023. Our congregation offered support through financial contributions, bringing non-perishable goods, purchasing items for those in need, and volunteering many hours of your time. We are grateful and thank you!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



• Brighton Center:

Thank you for the many donations from boxes of cereal to boxes of mashed potatoes, you came through for this important mission.

• Hosea House:

We served three times this year with the last being 12/10 and hope to add more dates next year. Thanks to each of you who provided brownies, prepped food, and served the meals.



• Prepare Affair:

You showed up with your rakes, leaf blowers, and energy to care for our church and those in need in the community. Thanks for your time and hard work to support others.

• Washington UCC:

When the team discussed adopting 25 children, it seemed like a large amount to ask of our congregation. The first week, every single tag was taken. You really stepped up to care for the children and we are so thankful.

• Ronald McDonald House:

We served dinner earlier in the year and are set to serve on December 27th for lunch. Thank you for taking care of the children and their families through giving of your time. We have several folks from our church who have become ongoing volunteers at RMH.



Nov. Attendance

	In Person	Online
11/5/23	99	38
11/12/23	87	19
11/19/23	82	25
11/26/23	65	N/A



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Joy, Genene Lyons, Pierce, Ev & Jack Weber, Tom Cox, Marie Shields, Barry Bordenkircher, 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, 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, Andrew, Howard Storm, the family of Faye Gateley, Marshall Gantt, Sophia, Carolyn Tyler, Shane, Parker, Dave, Jane Cox, the family of Lillian Chapman, the family of Steve and Lesley Ann Gracey, the family of Billie Crowder, Paulina, Gregg Frank
(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

Christmas Chili Potluck

Sunday, Dec. 17, Hoffman Hall
Immediately after the service.

Join your church family for lunch. Please bring your favorite chili in a crock pot. The church will supply sides, drinks and

desserts. Helpers appreciated!

Please let Jenny Herrmann know if you'll be bringing chili. jennyherrmann@msn.com or (859) 992-1707



Because of you (and the Holy Spirit), the church changes lives

Hopefully, you have received a packet of information from the church about our commitments for the year ahead.

Much of what we shared in there is a celebration of how you have allowed the Holy Spirit to work through you to be a part of God's life-changing work. I am so grateful for your commitment in your time, your energies, your giftedness, your resources, and simply yourselves to the work of God in this past year.

Take some time with the resources you received in the mail and prayerfully reflect upon your commitment in the year ahead. Maybe

pray this simple prayer over it and around your decision.

Lord, thank you for your Holy Spirit working in and through me and through us to change lives in this past year. Guide me in what you call me to share in the year ahead and guide us all as we listen for your still-speaking Spirit in our lives, in our church, and in the world. Amen.

Online commitment form:
Either follow this link, <https://bit.ly/ccucc2024>
or scan the QR code below.



Our Finances for the Year

From Bert Bathiany, Treasurer

Greetings from the Finance Board. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of 2023. Everyone should have received their giving statement for the last 10 months of 2023.

This is my annual state of the church financial update. First of all, we are paying our bills and are financially sound. But our pledged giving is down \$11,500 so far.

Usually we are a little over our pledged giving at this time of the year because many members of our congregation don't pledge but give. We are doing well at keeping expenses down and are a little under budget but have had some unexpected expenses. Every year, the Finance Board and Council have presented a negative budget and every year our congregation

steps up to make up most of the difference allowing us to minimally tap into our reserves. November and December are traditionally generous months of giving and I am hoping that we benefit from that and catch up. So I am requesting that everyone check on their pledged amount and catch up by year end.

Between that and what we usually receive in unpledged giving, we can come close to a balanced budget and avoid reaching too much into our reserves. It is hard, as treasurer, to continually ask for money from the members of Christ Church. I realize that the economy has been weak and that many are on a fixed income. Every year I am amazed at the generosity of our church to ensure that we are financially secure. That's what treasurers pray about. If you have

any questions about the budget, please call me (859-380-1201) or talk to me at church.

Blessings,
Bert Bathiany, Treasurer

Pledged Giving through October: \$194,100

Actual giving through October: \$182,600

Deficit: <\$11,500>

Budget through October: \$298,300

Income through October: \$267,200

Deficit: <\$31,000>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lauren Thomas

Carole Lukjan

Ryan Vogel

Nancy Hunter

Barb Stinnett

Julie Mai

Lela Bach

Susan Houben

Linda Gracey

Bill Hitch

Tom Pendery

Max Gise

Jeanne Karrick

Jack Weber

Marcia Storm

Snezana Tenhunfeld

David Pendery

Nancy Witte

Carolyn Watts

Christi Stevenson

Scott Turner

Richard Pendery

Kevin Siple

Robert & Nancy Witte

Tom & Amy Pendery

Michael & Carolyn Cook

Mike & Nancy Evans

Cynthia & Bob Blau

Toni & Mark Sheffer



Memorials

Memorial for Judy Robinson
Greg & Viki Grimme

Memorial for Billie Crowder
Gordon & Jean Braun
Melvin & Shirley Brown
Donna Burkhardt
Pamela & Eda Case and
Dischar Family
Linda Gracey
Nancy Hunter
Jeffery & Patricia Patton
Kevin & Christi Sell
Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Elizabeth Vank
Ed & Mary Lou Vogel
Rick & Donna Woeste



N. KY Youth Events

● **Sun., Dec. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Carriage House

Join us for a meeting of dinner, games, learning, and fellowship.

[Sign up at this link.](#)

● **Sun., Dec. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
Christmas Party!

Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Carriage House

We'll decorate, share in dinner, and take part in a white elephant gift exchange (bring a wrapped gift valued between 5 and 10 dollars to take part). Hope you can join us!

[Sign up at this link.](#)

Lunch and Learn

From Nancy Hunter
No Lunch and Learn in
December. Merry Christmas!



Office Closed December 25-28

All church staff will be working from home the week between Christmas and New Year's. Phone messages will be monitored from home by Michele along with any emails. The staff will be there for any emergencies. The Christ Church staff thanks you for giving them extra time with their families. May this Christmas season touch your heart with a personal experience with the Holy Spirit.

Help Needed

Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-Noon
2950 Sidney Ave., Cincinnati

Washington UCC needs help getting presents wrapped for 314 children from 83 families for their Gifts to the Manger program. Volunteers select from a variety of toys and clothing items to fill each child's requests and then gather it all together for each family. It's a fun day that almost feels like Santa preparing for Christmas Eve. If you would like to help, No need to register! Just be there between 9 and Noon. Work for an hour or all three. Every gift of time is greatly appreciated.



Schedules for December

Liturgists

Dec. 3 Barry Petracco
Dec. 10 Jean Braun
Dec. 17 Donna Hoffman
Dec. 24 Katie Leftin
Dec. 31 Janet Fischer

Deacons

Dec. 3 Marie Cunningham
Dec. 10 Jack Hurtt
Dec. 17 Greg Vogel
Dec. 24 Jean Braun
Dec. 31 Barb Korpik

Ushers

Dec. 3 Marie Cunningham
Shelley Kappesser
Steve Kappesser
Jay Wainscott
Dec. 10 Jack Hurtt
Patti Miller
Jane Petracco
Carol Himes
Dec. 17 Greg Vogel
Nancy Pinguely
Jeff Pinguely
Scott Turner
Dec. 24 Jean Braun
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Audrey Bernhard
Dec. 31 Barb Korpik
Marcia Storm
Mike Evans
Andy Borah



Church Council Meeting Notes

11/20/2023

In Attendance:

Snezana Tenhundfeld, Jen Korpik, Bert Bathiany, Betsy Beimesche, Beckie Borah, Rev. Ed Goode, Donna Hoffman, Nancy Hunter, Kelly Kuhnhein, Debbie Paillette, Sallie Schmidt, and Greg Vogel

• *Gathering/Centering*

Snezana's reflections on her trip to Bosnia

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

• *Financial Report*

Giving is down \$11,000 for the year. Budget will not change much for 2024. The stewardship campaign is ongoing please send in pledges if you haven't already. **Report approved.**

• *Council Nominations*

Discussions of those whose terms are ending, who is eligible for another term, and plans for formation of nominating team

• *New Sound System*

- Will be installed in early December. Waiting for a part.
- A technician from the company will be here to balance the sound during a service.
- The hearing assist part of the new system will not be operational until January 2024. The current hearing assistance units will still be operational with the new system.

• *Update on Kitchen*

- Nancy updated on the basement kitchen, dishwasher and other appliances shared
- **Glass block window above refrigerator installed:** A big THANK YOU! to all who helped with this project.

• *Update on Siding on Office*

Greg updated on siding for around office exterior. Greg is working on plans for installation.

• *Open and Affirming (ONA)*

See Beckie's report to the right of the Minutes.

• *Advent – Theme "People of the Story"*

- HOPE will be the first week (December 3) and will serve as a "Blue Christmas" service
- Advent Devotional is available in print and PDF
- Services for remainder of Advent were discussed

• *Missions*

- There will be plenty of ways to serve in the next few months.
- Serving at Ronald McDonald house after Christmas
- Serving at Hosea House on Dec. 10

• *Meeting concluded with prayers for church members and the Lord's Prayer*

Open and Affirming Update

From Beckie Borah, ONA Group Leader

The ONA Core Group met again on November 1, 2023, to discuss the continuing One-on-One Conversations—Graceful Engagement with members of the congregation. As before, we discussed how the conversations were progressing and picked more church members to interview. We're concentrating our efforts on members who regularly participate in worship and activities. Again, please reach out if you'd like to be interviewed. We'll keep the engagements going through the beginning of the calendar year with a target date of mid-February for finishing up the interviews.

The conversations continue to inform us about the variety of viewpoints our church family includes. Core Group members have heard and shared with the group many heartfelt stories about the ways God has moved people in our Church Family. We're also hearing that some members have concerns about the process. Let me reassure everyone that we are still in the listening stage and holding space for everyone's input. LGBTQ+ issues are complex as are members' feelings surrounding them. Therefore, the group is carefully taking its time to hear what people have to say before we as a church family make any decisions about how to proceed together on our journey. The Core Group continues to identify subjects our congregation members want to learn more about, so we can plan the group's steps thereafter. Our next scheduled meeting is November 29, 2023.



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 4 pm-Holiday Walk</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy No Green Team 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 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 2 pm-Hosea House</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 6-8 pm - ONA 7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 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-Potluck</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 pm - Church Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 am - UCC Clergy 3:30 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Choir practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 10:00 pm-Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED NO Lunch & Learn 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 10 am - NO Clergy Group NO Small Group 7 pm- AA Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED NO Bible Study 6:30 pm - Choir practice</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship</p>						