

April 2024

# 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, 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



Photo by Edward Goode

## The Other Side *Going Where Jesus Calls Us*

I don't know how old I was but when I was a little tike, my aunt and uncle came to visit from Connecticut. One morning during their visit we went up for breakfast in the mountains and set up right next to Boulder Creek. While breakfast was cooking, my Uncle Bill and his two sons started crossing over the creek, hopping across stones. This looked like fun but when I started toward the creek to follow, my mom told me I couldn't go with them. I was not too happy about this and I'm clearly still having issues from it (Sorry Mom...).

So, to help me work out my unresolved issues, our next focus in worship (from early April through late May) is going to focus on "crossing over" stories throughout the Bible. (I'm kidding about working out the unresolved issues, but not kidding about the worship focus). In my own personal Scripture reading, I am doing a re-read through the Bible and I

keep seeing different "crossing over" points (literal and not-so-literal) that take place and how they are central to the experience of the covenant people of God.

There are literal crossings-over like when the Hebrew people cross out of Egypt through the Red Sea and then decades later as they cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. There are also crossings-over that aren't so literal such as when Abram and Sarai must cross over from what they've always known and go to the land that God would show them, or when Peter had to cross-over from what he'd always eaten and places he'd always avoided when God called him to visit the home of the Roman centurion known as Cornelius. And there are courageous crossings such as that of Esther having to cross over a line that could cost her life but were necessary to take the step.

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Why are we talking about crossings? It is continuing what we have been building through this year. We started by talking about the meaning of covenant — as we explored this central idea of how we are in relationship with God and each other.

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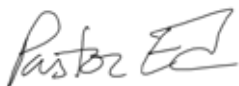
***“The crossings that we will look at will not only go back to those ancient stories but also how they speak to our courageous following of the way of Jesus today.”***

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Covenant has been the foundation of our table time stories throughout Lent — what it means that we come around the table together with Jesus. Through many of those table stories we have seen the willingness to act with courage to sit with people with whom we disagree (Jesus and the Pharisees), to invite those who might not normally have a place at the table (Feeding of the Multitude and Matthew’s Banquet), and to be bold in our expressions of gratitude and love for Jesus (the unnamed woman at Simon’s table and then Mary with the oil in her home).

The crossings that we will look at will not only go back to those ancient stories but also how they speak to our courageous following of the way of Jesus today. So, tie on your metaphorical waterproof hiking boots, grab your trekking poles, and let’s cross over where Jesus calls us.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,



Pastor Ed

## An Open Invitation to the Covenant Conversations Team

**From Beckie Borah, Chairperson**

As noted in the ONA Core Team’s Report delivered during our Congregational Meeting, the time for replacing the original team with the Covenant Conversations Team is here, so as chairperson, I invite interested members of the congregation to volunteer to serve and continue our ongoing discernment process. The new team will be formed consisting of people—regardless of specific thoughts on ONA—to expand from one-to-one conversations to wider discussion and study groups.

Members will begin with this common covenant which affirms our work together in humility, lifelong learning, gentleness of process,

compassion, love, peace, reconciliation, healthy communication, and justice. Members will join with the expectation that all participants will affirm the team covenant and let that be the guide for the team’s work going forward together. If members agree with these principles and would like to join the Covenant Conversations Team, please contact me or one of the original ONA Core Team Members.

Once again, thank you all for your continuing grace and encouragement as our church family explores how we might better “embrace all as we journey the Way of Jesus.”

If you have questions, please contact Beckie Borah.

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## How Could ONA Change Us?

One of the questions raised at the annual meeting around Open and Affirming was around how covenanting as an ONA congregation would change us. To respond to this, the team reached out to several other UCC congregations in SONKA who have covenanted as ONA and asked them a series of questions about how they have changed. The first comes from First UCC in College Hill and was shared by Rev. Dan Weyand-Geise. His first initial reply is included and then his responses to the questions we shared are below.

***Rev. Weyand-Geise’s Initial Response***

We recently had a “Church Curiosity” session and the 20 who attended are all new faces in the congregation over the past year. They are here because they know that we

explicitly are an ONA congregation and there is no hesitation. We officially became ONA in 2018. The congregation always saw themselves as “welcoming,” but it wasn’t until 2020 when things began to change for the better and we started to live into the ONA covenant. There is curiosity and wonder in the congregation as to what is next. There is excitement and a spirit of welcome and service beyond Sunday. I feel the ONA process and pronouncement have been a big asset in this movement.

***How long did your process of ONA Discernment take?***

A motion was made at a Church Board meeting in January 2017 to explore the UCC materials at becoming an Open and Affirming congregation.

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# Mission Team Update

First off, thank you to those who jumped in at the last minute to help with Hosea House in early March! We are so grateful for you!



## April 14 - Hygiene Kits

The Mission Team is planning its next Second Sunday mission event for April 14, which will coincide with the celebration of Kelly Kuhnhein's outreach and education ministries. We will offer the congregation the opportunity to pack hygiene kits for distribution through Church World Service to disaster areas.

## Ronald McDonald House and Hosea House

The team is scheduling a date for serving at Ronald McDonald House on May 6 and the next Hosea House serving will be on July 14. Signups for both will be made available closer to those dates.



## Donations for Brighton Center

We will be continuing to collect canned spaghetti and spaghetti-o's through the end of April. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



# Christian Education Update

*From Kelly Kuhnhein*  
**How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.**  
— Winnie the Pooh

As I prepare to end my time at Christ Church, I reflect on the abundant blessings this role has bestowed on my life. In August 2018, I had no idea what to expect or where the journey would take me as I began working with the children. It is hard to put into words what the experience has meant in my life and how grateful I am to each of you for warmly accepting and supporting me for the last five-plus years. I knew how much I would love and enjoy my time with the children, and it wasn't long before I learned the true value of working in a church. I feel so blessed for my time with Christ Church. I was not aware of the level of warmth and security that could be found in the arms of a loving church community. Thank you for giving me the amazing opportunity to work with our children, it's been a pure joy. Thank you for allowing me the grace to try various ideas, some that worked well and others that were less successful. Thank you for loving our children and families and ensuring they are valued members of the congregation.

Thanks to those of you who have given of your time in the Sunday school room (too many to list by name, but you know who you are and I'm forever grateful), helped with projects, and/or donated items to support our littlest members. Thanks to those of you who have prayed for my work with the children and for me personally over the years. Thank you to my incredible co-workers who have offered care and understanding. Thank you to Sallie, coordinator of teaching, for providing loving guidance and steadfast support regardless of the situation. Thank you to each parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, or caregiver who have brought your children to Sunday school giving me the opportunity to know and love them. My hope is always that children who come feel accepted and valued for who they are and grow in their faith through love. Thank you for making me feel all those things (accepted, valued, loved) throughout my time and may you welcome the next person into the role with the same enthusiasm and heart. I will honor their role by stepping away for a period so they may get settled and established. Please know that while I will not be physically present, I will continue to pray for our congregation. You are a gift!

# Lunch and Learn

Tues., March 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest presenter at Lunch and Learn will be Professor Paul Tenkotte Ph.D from Northern Kentucky Uni-



versity. His Presentation is titled, "With Malice Toward None; With Charity for All:" Abraham Lincoln, Sarah Worthington King Peter, and Henrietta Scott Cleveland. Come explore the Civil War through the eyes of Abraham Lincoln, and two remarkable women of Cincinnati and Covington, Sarah Worthington King Peter and Henrietta Cleveland. Their unconditional love for others and sacrificial works of mercy will fill your heart!

**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](mailto:nhunter@zoomtown.com).**

## The Art of Beverly Erschell

Beverly Erschell, a life long member of Christ Church, was a renowned contemporary artist. Sadly, we lost Bev in 2023. After her death, her family gave us, *The Art of Beverly Erschell*, a beautiful book of her art pieces. Bev's family would love for anyone interested in this book to have one. They are located on tables in the Narthex, or if you would like one delivered, please let Linda Gracey know. (859-380-1588 or [lgracey1216@gmail.com](mailto:lgracey1216@gmail.com)).



## Memorials

**Memorial for Evie Weber**  
Bill Hitch

**Memorial for Bonnie Jones**  
Bill & Donna Wilson  
Kenny & Carolyn Honchell

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*  
— John 14:27



## Prayer Requests

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

Jack Weber, Gary Kennedy, Kent, the family of Evie Weber, the family of Al Rice, Mike and Laura Randall, Stacey Seiter, Bonnie, Daryl, Susan Snyder, the family of Bonnie Jones, Susan Gabbard, Beth Caby, Erin, Nancy H., Chris Naomi Carroll, Stephanie, June Warriner, Robyn Cox, Phyllis Clark, Elsie Loos, Eve Wellborn, Stacey

## Building Updates

You may have noticed that there are some building issues around our facility that need work. Well, the good news is that our newly re-formed Building Team is working on many of those things. The team has prioritized several things that are going to be worked on over the coming months.

- **Water issues on the Audubon side of the building** – There is a concrete pad on that side of the building that needs to be capped to prevent leaking into Hoffman Hall. This will be done once the weather starts to stay consistently warmer.
- **Water Issues on the Audubon side of the building Part 2** – There is also water leakage coming in around the stained-glass windows on that side because of failing concrete. We have bids out for these to get fixed. Once the seepage is taken care of, we will work to fix the plaster on the inside walls of the sanctuary.
- **Painting and Ceiling Repair** – There are some areas where

some touch up painting and ceiling painting is needed in the sanctuary, in the parlor, and in the hallway between the two. We have several volunteers who have agreed to take care of these needs.

- **Outer Wall of Offices** – As you can see as you walk up to the building from the parking lot, the outer wall of the office area of the building has major work to be done. We have been working on different options for fixing this and plans are in place for this to be fixed in the Spring. All the outer windows in the offices will also be replaced while this is being done.
- **Energy Savings Steps** – New LED (low power) bulbs have been purchased for the sanctuary. These bulbs will provide the same lighting as we currently have but will use far less energy.

There are other issues we will be working on in the months ahead, but these are the initial things we are taking care of.

# Christ Church UCC Congregational Annual Meeting

3/10/2024

- **Welcome:** Christ Church Council Moderator Snezana Tenhundfeld welcomed all the members in attendance
- **Declaration of Quorum:**
  - o The members in attendance were counted by Snezana and Jennifer Korpik. A quorum was achieved with 58 members in attendance.
- **Opening meeting:** Nancy Hunter made the motion to officially open the Annual Meeting. Susan Gabbard seconded. **Motion passed.**
- **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Ed Goode led us in prayer.
- **Financial Report:**
  - o Bert Bathiany IV presented the budget for 2024 and summarized last year's budget and giving.
  - o The floor was open for discussion.
  - o Bert made a motion to approve Christ Church's 2024 budget. Bob Witte seconded. **Motion passed.**
- **Nominating Committee:**
  - o Members included: Gordon Braun, Katie Leftin, Nancy Hunter, and Betsy Beimesche
  - o Snezana thanked the members that were going off Church Council and the Legacy Committee for their service to the church and those who agreed to serve a second term.
  - o Snezana presented the nominees for:
    - **Officer Elections for Council** (\*Continuing terms, 2 years)  
**Moderator** – Snezana Tenhundfeld\*  
**Secretary**- Jennifer Korpik\*  
**Coord. Of Personnel** - Debbie Paillette\*  
**Coord. Of Worship** – Donna Hoffman\*  
**Councilor** – Marcia Storm (1 yr. finishing Nancy Hunter's term)  
**Councilor** – Jane Petracco
    - **Officer Elections for Legacy Committee**  
Larry Stinson\*, Tammy Weidinger
  - o The floor was open for discussion.
  - o Barb Korpik made a motion to vote in all nominees to their respective offices. Nancy Hunter seconded. **Motion passed.**
  - **Open and Affirming Team (ONA):**
    - o Beckie Borah talked briefly about the ONA process.
    - o A video, made by the ONA team, was shown updating the congregation on where we are in the process and answered frequently asked questions from the one-to-one conversations.
  - o The video introduced the formation of the Covenant Conversation Team with an open invitation to any member to join. This team will replace the current ONA team moving forward.
  - o Paper copies of the ONA toolkit from the UCC website were requested and will be made available to those who would like a copy.
  - o Questions about what would change if we became an Open and Affirming Church, and other concerns were brought forward.
  - o The ONA Team said it would reach out to churches in the Cincinnati area that are Open and Affirming and ask them what changes, if any, happened after becoming an ONA church. (Please see article on page 2)
- **Meeting Concluded with a prayer from Pastor Ed**

Jennifer Korpik,  
Church Council Secretary

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Christy Stevenson

Nancy Pinguely

Joshua Vogel

Gregory Oetjen

Jessica Bach

Jane Cox

Marie Cunningham

Toni Sheffer

Sara Mai

Nate Kuhnhein

Benjamin Gise

Emily Gise

Steve & Shelley Kappesser

James & Helen Long

Joe & Christy Stevenson

Ryan & Abby Vogel

Jack & Evelyn Weber

Terry & Jorene Lyman

## ***“How Could ONA Change Us?”***

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The formal process began that Spring, then we officially became an ONA church on April 1, 2018.

### ***Can you describe how the process went? Was there unanimity throughout? Was there pushback?***

When the official motion to explore the process was made, we had already made several steps to becoming ONA. For one, when the congregation called the Rev. Dan Weyand-Geise in 2000 they were open and responsive to his leadership around social issues. In 2005 when he served on the UCC delegation to General Synod, they were aware of his support of Marriage Equality. At that time, the congregation approved of Dan performing same sex blessings. The Board decided that if a couple were to come to the church to hold a ceremony, they would face the same process as a heterosexual couple in submitting an application and awaiting Board approval. We did not seek ONA status until 2018 because we were dealing with issues around race and membership in other ways that occupied our time and spirit. The ONA designation was not something the congregation was ready to honestly and faithfully engage in at that time. We lacked courage and energy to study and declare publicly what many felt was already a reality.

### ***Here is part of our chairperson's statement made on the day we voted to become ONA:***

“To remind us why we voted to become an ONA congregation, it is best answered by a short story from the dearly departed Betty Olding. She and her partner Ginny Schumacher, (Kathie Steinhard's

mom) were together for more than 40 years. As a same sex couple, Betty said churches will say all the time that they welcome people. Yet, after a few visits, it was clear they were not welcome into full fellowship of particular churches. She found that churches who make an explicit statement or covenant are clear and authentic — ‘Yes, we welcome and we include ALL in our ministries and public witness. And WE MEAN IT.’

An ONA commitment is a bold statement and ACTION of including all in our ministry, leadership, outreach and pastoral care. We share this proudly and publicly that ‘ALL of US are Beloved Children of God!’”

After sharing the covenant with members through the newsletters and direct mailings, our voting process took place over the past three Sundays. We broadly defined what membership is – Anyone who comes to church, contributes to the church financially or participates in the ministries of the church. We left it up to some to define their membership as their conscience guided them. We held a closed voting process so that no one would feel singled out for their opinion or left out of the conversation.

### ***How has being an ONA covenanted congregation changed how you live out your mission and ministry? Also, how has your congregational identity stayed consistent since covenanting?***

In conjunction with the UCC's Our Whole Lives program, the ONA covenant makes it clear to members and visitors alike that we attempt to honestly, openly, and appropriately discuss sexu-

ality. These discussions are part of the Health Ministry, Pastoral Care, and Christian Education within the congregation and outside the congregation. We have families and individuals who are part of the congregation because they know we are ONA. The consistent theme since we became ONA is that we hold one another accountable to live out the covenant – we are to welcome and seek understanding and provide a safe place for all.

### ***How did those who were not supportive of covenanting respond to when you did affirm your covenant?***

There are some who remain and support the ONA designation and yet have some reservations and discomfort with some of the stance. They faithfully wrestle with the issue and express themselves in honest ways. There were about five families that opposed the decision to become ONA. They remain friends with some of the members and even with the pastor, but they no longer attend First UCC. They have moved on to other worshipping communities or none at all. Our pastor and members have remained open to dialogue with them, but also respect that they have chosen to attend to their spiritual needs in another setting.

### ***What advice would you give to Christ Church as a congregation in this discernment process?***

Be patient and unapologetic. In other words, don't hesitate in moving forward. Our ONA designation is the right thing to do. We didn't do this to attract members. We did it because it is the right thing to do.

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# N. KY Youth Events

**April Fools Mystery Dinner  
(Here, at Christ Church!)  
Sunday, April 7, 5:30-7:30  
Christ Church UCC**

We'll celebrate the season with an April Fools Mystery dinner. Join us for a three-course meal, an evening of laughs, and more! We're also doing a canned food

drive collection. Register at <https://lakesidechurch.org/index.php/nkyyouth/>

- **Sunday, April 14, 5:30-7:30**  
Regular meeting
- **Sunday, April 21, 5:30-7:30**  
Dinner Party
- **Sunday, April 28, 5:30-7:30**  
Regular meeting



## Schedules for April

### Liturgists

- April 7 Katie Leftin
- April 14 Nancy Barre
- April 21 Laura Petracco
- April 28 Jane Petracco

### Deacons

- April 7 Jack Hurtt
- April 14 Jean Braun
- April 21 Greg Vogel
- April 28 Marie Cunningham

### Ushers

- April 7 Jack Hurtt  
Ellen Turner  
Scott Turner  
Mike Evans
- April 14 Jean Braun  
Gordon Braun  
Jay Wainscott  
Audrey Bernhard
- April 21 Greg Vogel  
Carol Himes  
Marcia Storm  
Andy Borah
- April 28 Marie Cunningham  
Patti Miller  
Nancy Pinguely  
Jeff Pinguely

March Attendance		
	In Person	Online
3/3/24	89	20
3/10/24	97	12
3/17/24	97	18
2/24/24	100	12
3/31/24	168	24

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### Could you share a copy of your congregation's covenant?

We, the members of First United Church of Christ, welcome you

- If you are Asian, Black, Brown, Hispanic, Native American, or White;
- If you are male, female, transgender, or gender non-conforming;
- If you are 3 years old, 33 years old, or 103 years old;
- If you are from just down the street, from across the country, or from another part of the globe;
- If you grew up at Hoffner Church, were confirmed in the Catholic Church, got married in a non-denominational church, worshipped in a synagogue or mosque, or have never attended a religious service;
- If you are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated, or partnered;
- If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or unsure of your sexuality;
- If you are a Democrat, Independent or Republican, affiliated with another political party or no party at all;
- If you have, or have had, addictions, phobias, or a criminal record;
- If you own your home, rent, live with your parents, or are homeless;

- If you were baptized at First Church, or are worshipping here for the first time;
- If you attend services every week, once a month, or once year;
- If you have typical or atypical skills, no matter your abilities or disabilities;

However the rest of the world describes you, and however you describe yourself:

You are a beloved child of God and are welcome at First Church.

Being fully welcome in our community here at First United Church of Christ means that as we keep the love of Christ at the center of all we do, our congregation will:

- Always seek to affirm the person that you are with loving hearts and open minds.
- Follow the way of Christ Jesus with you in loving and being loved by both God and neighbor, with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Support and encourage you in your ongoing spiritual and religious journey.
- Love you for the person you are by living out our denomination's promise that "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at First United Church of Christ."



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