

January 2025

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, study groups, and
Youth & Children's Ministry

Christ Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode
Pastor

Madeline Queen
Director of Christian Education

Joshua Woodward
Choir Director

Max Gise
Worship Coordinator

Talia Zoll
Worship Coordinator

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright,
Communications Director



Photo by Edward Goode

Boldness

We Can Do This Hard Thing

I know you may be tired of me talking about her, but I need to share about a Carrie Newcomer song that you'll be hearing a good bit about in 2025. The song is called, *You Can Do This Hard Thing* and will be a big part of what we'll be doing in our worship services in the first part of the year ahead. The song begins with recounting a time when Carrie was a child learning to do math at the kitchen table and it was not going well. A loved one was with her and encouraged her with that statement – You can do this hard thing. The song goes on to share of other moments when those six words spoke deeply into her life and how they continue to shape how she moves through the world.

In the year ahead, we're going to be looking at stories of people in the Bible who faced hard things and, with the help of God and others, did that hard thing. There will be some familiar names – Abraham and Sarah, Ruth, Elijah, Paul, Peter and John, and of course, Jesus. But there will be some others you may not recognize – Shiphrah and Puah, Abigail, Jethro, and a woman whose name we don't know but had some amazing courage and boldness.

In the early stories of the church in Acts 4, there's a wonderful story about what the early believers prayed for. In Acts 4, it says that they specifically prayed for boldness in their witness.

Continued on next page

Northern KY Youth

Youth Gathering

Sunday, Jan. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Lakeside Carriage House

We're back for a new calendar year! Join us for a regular (but always awesome) meeting. We'll gather for dinner, games, a special lesson, and fellowship. We can't wait to have you join us!

[RSVP here!](#)

MLK Weekend

Youth Service Project

Sunday, Jan. 20, 1-3 p.m.

Saint Vincent de Paul, Erlanger

We have another special day of service planned to commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Join us at the Saint Vincent de Paul thrift store and food pantry in Erlanger. Register [here](#) to let us know you're in!

Ice Skating Outing

Sunday, Jan. 26, 1-3 p.m.

Northern KY Ice Center

We're hitting the road for an ice-skating outing. Suggested donation for an evening of winter fun is just \$13. We can't wait to have you there. [RSVP here](#) and meet us at the rink for an amazing evening.



Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 11:30 a.m.

Many of us grew up watching television with shows like *Star Trek* and movies like *Star Wars* and wondered what it would be like to travel into space and hang out among the stars! Join us when our guest presenter will be **Dave Traut**, docent from the Cincinnati Museum. He will be sharing the experiences of the men and women from Ohio who actually did more than dream about traveling into space, they actually went there! **Reservations are Required for Lunch.**

Please join us!

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. **For lunch reservations contact Nancy Hunter.**



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:

Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Jeff McDonald, Nancy Castleman,

Carolyn Watts-Raisor,

Fred Nippert, Susan Gabbard,

The family of Maxine Noble,

Jamie & Kelly Greenwalt,

Makayla, Mike Bizzarro, Dave Jager

(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

Prayer List

We have started a new prayer list. If there is anyone you'd like to add, please contact Michele in the office at:

office@chrsitchurchft.org or call 859-441-2565. We will be renewing the prayer list every six months. Thank you.

Lost and Found

If you've left anything at the church, you may find it in our lost and found basket located in the Parlor. Thank you!

Continued from front page

I think there's a lot we can learn from them. We can pray for the needs of the world, and we should. We can pray for growth, and we should. We can pray for protection and guidance, and we should. But we don't often pray for boldness. It is a dangerous prayer because boldness isn't boldness without something to be bold about. If we pray for boldness, we have to be ready for

God to put things before us to be bold about.

You can do this hard thing. I can do this hard thing. **We** can do this hard thing.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Ed

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

— Joshua 1:9 NIV

Christian Education Update

From Madeline Queen

As we wrap up an incredible December, I am filled with joy reflecting on all the wonderful moments we've shared together in our Children's Ministry! This month has been nothing short of magical, filled with laughter, creativity, and a deepening of our faith, and love for one another.

We kicked off the festivities with our Gingerbread House Decorating Day, where the children showcased their artistic talents and teamwork. It was heartwarming to see their faces light up as they crafted their delicious creations, and I'm sure the sweet smell of frosting and candy will linger in our memories for years to come! Our PJ Day was a cozy highlight, where everyone came dressed in their favorite pajamas. The warmth and comfort made for a delightful day along with our gingerbread houses.

And of course, our Christmas Pageant was the crowning jewel of December! The children did an outstanding job sharing the true meaning of Christmas through their performances. Their enthusiasm and heartfelt messages reminded us all of the spirit of love and giving that this season embodies. It was a beautiful celebration that truly captured the essence of our faith.

As we close out the year, I am so proud of how our children have grown—not just in their knowledge of the stories of the Bible — but



in their love for each other and their understanding of community. Thank you for all your support and involvement that has made this month so special!

Wishing you a joyful and blessed holiday season. May the love of Christ fill your hearts as we look forward to the new year ahead!

Mission Team Update

From Christ Church Mission Team

By the time you read this, we will have finished our December serving at Ronald McDonald House, distributed all the toys and gifts to Washington UCC, and delivered the Holiday Food Drive potatoes to Brighton Center! We'll share more in our *2025 Annual Report*, but we are so grateful for the ways that you support the mission outreach of Christ Church through your actions, your time, your energies, and your generosity! We are so grateful for you!

Our December meeting is a fun one as we get to decide how to spend money! We always plan to have some monies left over towards the end of the year so we can decide how best to distribute

as we close the year. This year, the team decided to support four organizations with additional giving.

We are giving approximately \$3,600 to Brighton Center which is our final two amounts plus an additional amount. The additional amount will go into the ministerial fund which is used monthly for specific assistance needs that arise. We are giving \$2,000 to a project in Rubate, Kenya with several other UCC congregations. It is seed money to help with the restoration of a medical school in that part of the country.

And then we are giving \$1,000 each to two other organizations. One is Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved (NACU) which

we heard about at the November Lunch and Learn. NACU provides no-cost basic health care in Northern Kentucky to those who have few other options for health needs. It is a beautiful organization.

The other \$1,000 is going to an inter-faith organization in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area called, Friends for Good. This organization used to be known as Kids4Peace and provides intentional ways for young people in our region to get to know people of other faiths in safe, fun, and non-threatening situations. The goal is to help kids learn how to be in relationship with people who come from different backgrounds.

Again thank you all!

Photos from Christmas Services



More Photos



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ramel Vogel
Jeffrey McDonald
Gayle Francis
Kenneth Weidinger
Bert Bathiany IV
Kathy Leftin
Fran McAllister
Peter Borah
Joseph Hall

Ella June Stevenson
Michele Wright
Jack McMath
Bradley Leftin
Tammy Weidinger

Steve & Fran McAllister
Stephen & Pam Weber
Joseph & Virginia Hall

Summaries of 2024

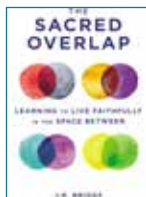
From Pastor Ed Goode

It is the end of the year which means that it is time for online services to send their users their summaries of 2024. Streaming music users got their summaries of songs listened to, most popular artists, and so forth. Exercise apps have sent their summaries of miles walked/ran, total exercise minutes, and how many workouts done. I even received one from a cloud backup service I use noting how many GB of data went back and forth between that service and our devices! So in the spirit of those summaries, I wanted to share a few things from my year as recommendations for your year ahead — books, movies, shows, and podcasts. I'm not going to comment on all of them but if you have any questions about them, let me know!

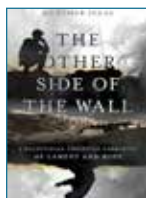
Books:

As always, I read a lot this year and as always it is a pretty diverse list. Don't forget that my book will be available at the end of 2024!, *Ordinary Benchmarks*.

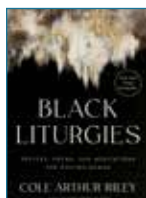
- ***The Sacred Overlap: Learning to Live Faithfully in the Space Between*** by J.R. Briggs



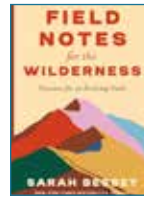
- ***The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Narrative of Lament and Hope*** by Isaac Munther



- ***Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*** by Cold Arthur Riley



- ***Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith*** by Sarah Bessey



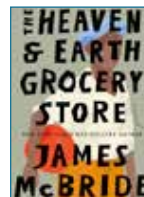
- ***One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder for the Spiritual and NonSpiritual Alike*** by Brian Doyle



- ***Uncertain: The Wisdom and Wonder of Being Unsure*** by Maggie Jackson



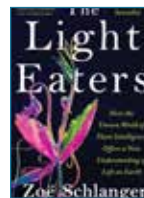
- ***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*** by James McBride



- ***A Short Walk Through a Wide World*** by Douglas Waterbeke



- ***The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth*** by Zoë Schlanger



- ***Shark Heart: A Love Story*** by Emily Habeck



- ***The Ministry of Time*** by Kaliane Bradley



- ***The Spirit of Justice: True Stories of Faith, Race, and Resistance*** by Jemar Tisby



Movies and TV:

Lots of great options this year once again, here are a few of my favorites

- ***Lee***: Amazing film about a female WW2 photographer. Hard to watch at points but super powerful
- ***Shrinking***: A great show on AppleTV about therapists having to learn to deal with their own "stuff". Some content and language that won't be for everyone so just be aware.
- ***Inside Out 2***: a beautiful Pixar film about emotions and growth. Really funny too
- ***Man on the Inside***: A warm, funny, and honest comedy about aging.
- ***American Symphony***: a beautiful documentary about musician Jon Batiste and his wife, Suleika Jaouad about his music and living together through Suleika's leukemia treatments.
- ***Will and Harper***: A funny and powerful road trip documentary on Netflix with Will Ferrell and his friend Harper Steele as Will learns about the journey of transitioning for Harper.

Podcasts:

- ***Poetry Unbound***: one of my go-to podcasts all the time when they are released.
- ***The Soundtrack Show***: A friend put me on to this. It is a *deep* dive into some of the most famous soundtracks of all time
- ***The Slowdown***: Another poetry podcast, but a daily one of a simple reflection and then a poem. Good for just centering in a day

I'd love to hear what you were reading, watching, and listening to!

Church Council Meeting

There was no meeting in December

Changes to the Church Directory

Please contact the office if you have a change for the directory.

Michele Wright
859-441-2565
office@christchurchft.org

Dec. Attendance

	In Person	Online
12/1/24	95	15
12/8/24	102	15
12/15/24	117	10
12/22/24	147	7
12/24/24	113	35
12/29/24	60	30



Schedules for January

Liturgists

January 5	Donna Hoffman
January 12	Katie Leftin
January 19	Laura Petracco
January 26	Jane Petracco

Deacons

January 5	Jack Hurtt
January 12	Jean Braun
January 19	Marie Cunningham
January 26	Greg Vogel

Ushers

Jan. 5	Jack Hurtt Ellen Turner Scott Turner Mike Evans
Jan. 12	Jean Braun Gordon Braun Nancy Pinguely Jeff Pinguely
Jan. 19	Marie Cunningham Carol Himes Marcia Storm Andy Borah
Jan. 26	Greg Vogel Patti Miller Shelley Kappesser Steve Kappesser

Thanks to our Church Family

Dear Christ Church Family,
I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated all the cards, phone calls, food donations, and visits I received from all of you.

I am recovering well from my fall and concussion. Your prayers helped me through some difficult days and I appreciate the continued support and encouragement.
Gary Hunter

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Thanks to our Church Family

Dear Church Family,
I want to brag for the Mission Team's Prepare Affair! A team of church members and, this year, their children have descended upon my house on a November Saturday for quite a few years. They've cleared the leaves from some big trees in my back and front yards. Years ago I would be one of them enjoying the physical labor, but age has its effects on the body. Its because I've done physical work that I appreciate the Prepare Affair so much. Thank you all for giving me your time, strength, and agility!
Love, Donna Hoffman



Thanks to our great group of volunteers at Ronald McDonald House!

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 am - Music Together 7 pm - AA Group OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	2 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	3	4
5 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	6 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	7 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	8 10 am - Music Together 7 pm - AA Group 12 pm - Green Team 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday	9 6:30 pm - Choir practice 7 pm - Doll Group	10	11
12 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	13 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 7 pm - Survivors of Suicide	14 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting	15 10 am - Music Together 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	16 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	17	18
19 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 11:30 am - Mission Team	20 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6 pm - Church Council	21 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	22 10 am - Music Together 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	23 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	24	25
26 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	27 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	28 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	29 10 am - Music Together 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	30 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	31	