

September 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

Madeline Queen
Director of Christian Education

Joshua Woodward
Choir Director

Max Gise
Interim Worship Coordinator

Talia Zoll
Interim Worship Coordinator

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright,
Communications Director



Painting by John August Swanson, The Storm

Hope *Rowing Together in the Storm*

By the time you read this, I will have finished a lengthy series of reflections on my photo/writing site, imagoscryptura.com. Some of you follow what I share there and so you may have seen most, if not all of those reflections. I started every-other-day reflections at the beginning of June based upon Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana's book, *Hope: A User's Manual* and the last reflection was posted on August 30. I didn't plan it out to work out that it covered the three summer months that perfectly – just worked out that way. As I wrote, I thought about it as a summer of hope. And hope is so needed, not just in all that we have all (collectively) and each (through challenges that have come in our individual lives) experienced this summer but hope is vital every day, every moment of our lives.

And hope is at the heart of the story of God that we read through the Scriptures. Jeremiah speaks of a "future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11) when writing to the people in exile. The prophet Micah shares about watching in hope for God, his savior (Micah 7:7). Paul shares of the flow of hope that starts in suffering and moves through perseverance and character before arriving at hope (Romans 5:3-4). Paul also shares of foundational ideas for us – faith, hope, and love in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These are but a few of many many places in Scripture that emphasize hope.

And these scriptures and personal life experiences shaped what MaryAnn wrote in her book. Both of them – faith and experience – form how we understand hope. She writes in the introduction:

Continued on next page

Youth Kickoff Cookout

Sunday, Sept. 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Carriage House

2690 Dixie Hwy., Lakeside Park

Join us for a special evening of food, games, and fellowship. We will also have volunteer training

from 2:30-5 p.m. All volunteers are asked to attend so that we can help create a safe environment for our students. RSVP for the cookout and the volunteer training at

<https://bit.ly/YouthKickoff24>

Continued from front page

Too often, hope is the stuff of Instagram memes, pithy enough to fit in a perfect square, rendered in elegant, sans serif type. But true hope resists such reductions...When the world's on fire, a better question may be: What is worth doing even if you think you will fail? Once we can answer that question, we'll be in touch with a hope that cannot fail us.

As she goes through the book, she shares her experience of what hope is not and what hope is before moving into how we experience hope in our bodies and in our stories before moving to practices of hope and finally forward-looking hope. I read the book for the first time a year ago and have read it three times since and continue to find new wisdom and finding how it overlaps into my own life.

I cannot recommend the book highly enough for you regardless of what is taking place in your life. In the midst of pundits, media, and life circumstances that push us to despair, MaryAnn reminds us of the core Gospel truth that we are not alone in this. We have a deep foundation in a Creator of hope, a Savior who taught and lived hope, and a Spirit that continues to resonate hope. But we hold that hope alongside (not ignoring) the reality of life. Hope is found in the midst of it all.

But that truth is realized only when we recognize that hope is not getting away from the chal-

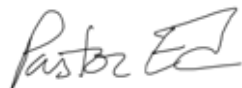
lenges of live but moving through them. It is like what we read in Psalm 23 — it isn't that God meets us on the other side of the "darkest valley" but instead that God goes with us through it. Towards the end of the book, MaryAnn reflects on the story of Jesus stilling the storm that hope comes in the midst of the storm and sailing through it. She quotes one of her running coaches who says:

Those moments where everything is moving fast and your heart is slamming into your chest and you're asking yourself whether you can hang on—that is living. Where else would you rather be? Don't check out on it.... Stay with it, because it's what you came for. It is why you are here.

This sense of hope hangs on the wall in our living room. My gift to Amy when she finished her Doctor of Ministry (which had a *lot* of challenges throughout) was a print of John August Swanson's painting, *The Storm*.

Swanson wrote that his inspiration for this was a reminder that hope comes when we are all rowing together in the storm. It's all in there isn't it?

I am grateful to be rowing in hope with you all.



Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,
Pastor Ed

Pastor Ed's Sabbatical Part I

*From Debbie Paillette
Personnel Chairperson*

Pastor Ed begins the first part of his sabbatical on October 1. This will be a six-week period through mid-November. A second six-week part of the sabbatical will be in February-April of 2025. This was written into a pastor's terms-of-call (aka contract) for intentional renewal and re-centering. Pastoral ministry is a very emotional and challenging vocation and this allows Pastor Ed to step away for a bit, especially with some of the things that have come into life and ministry for him since he started here in 2018.

During this time, Rev. Diane Vego will be the primary pastoral presence with Christ Church. She will not be working full-time but will be here on Sunday mornings as well as at least one other day during the week for pastoral care needs, organizational needs, etc. Pastor Ed has also arranged for other local clergy to be on-call each week for needs that arise when Rev. Vego is at home in Louisville. She will be leading in worship for five of the six Sundays while the fifth will be led by Rev. Troy Bronsink, one of Pastor Ed's colleagues in the Cincinnati area.

One key thing to remember in this is that this sabbatical period is not because Pastor Ed is burned out or struggling in his role. In fact, just the opposite. However, it is a proactive step for personal and spiritual health. We invite you to please be praying for him through this time that God will be seen in beautiful new ways and that Pastor Ed will feel a deep sense of renewal in body, mind, and spirit.

Christian Education Happenings

Well, the big news in our Christian Education ministry is that Madeline had her healthy and beautiful baby boy, Mateo! So, Rosie now has a baby brother!

While Madeline is on her maternity leave, we will be continuing our Sunday morning times but they will be volunteer led. We are so grateful for those sharing their time and energies both for this vital ministry and also to support Madeline as she adjusts to a new baby at home.

If you have any questions during this time, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Ed and please continue to pray for Madeline in this exciting (but also TIRING) transition.



Mission Updates

From Christ Church Mission Team Friends, as we come to the last several months of the year, your Mission Team has continued to stay busy and stay serving! First, let's look back a bit.



In July and August, we have been collecting a LOT of peanut butter! Thank you for your generosity for Brighton Center! We also served once again at Hosea House in July and served nearly 100 people a great meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and fruit salad. We also sent a contribution of \$1,750 to Washington UCC for their Fall outreach programs.

So looking ahead for the next few months. We have several more

regular contributions going to Brighton Center and then likely further assistance to individuals through St Vincent DePaul along with funds that will go to Washington later in the year.

But let's also talk about opportunities for all of us to help. By the time you read this, we will have packed up several hundred back-to-school bags for Church World Service (we did that on August 25 after worship). On September 29, we will be serving at Ronald McDonald House (first time serving on a Sunday!) and we will also serve again at Ronald McDonald House towards the end of December. In early November, we are planning on scheduling our third Hosea House



serving of the year. And also in November we will work with Washington UCC on their sharing tree program.

And then the other big news is that the Mission Team approved a \$2,000 donation to the Kenya-Rubate project that Amy Weyand-Geise shared about a few months ago. This donation will go towards helping a ministry partnered with SONKA in becoming a nursing school to serve the beautiful country of Kenya.

All of this happens because of your generosity of your giving, your time, and your prayers. Please be sure to be looking for signups when we get them out for Ronald McDonald House, Hosea House, and the sharing tree. Thank you thank you thank you! God is at work!



Photo by Michele Wright

Music Ministry Search Update

*From Larry Stinson
Team Chair*

Here is a brief update on our efforts to select a new person to lead our music ministry. The search team has completed a position description which identifies the skills, experiences and personal traits we are seeking in the successful candidate. We have posted the announcement of vacancy and the position description through SONKA, the Heartland Conference and the Presbytery of Cincinnati. We have also shared this information with several individuals who were identified by a variety of sources. To date, the response from potential candidates has been extremely limited.

As the search team continues its work, we will appreciate any help members and friends of the congregation can provide. Please share any names or sources of candidates you might know that may help us widen our search. Of course, we need your continued prayers for the search process and for the wonderful work being done by our regular and temporary music ministry staff as they lead us through this period of transition.



Photo by Edward Goode

An Invitation and a Contest

In worship this month, I am going to be inviting you to “see more.” What do I mean by that? Well, as you know I am a bit of a photography nerd (some might say obsessive) and a practitioner of something that I call “contemplative photography.” So this month, we are going to explore the relationship between photography and faith. Even though cameras weren’t around at the time of Jesus, there’s a lot of overlap between some of the basics of photography and core parts of our faith lives. Each week we’ll center on a different aspect of photography – framing/focus, shutter/time, aperture/light, and light/shadow – and how each is experienced and seen in Scripture.

Along with this, I’ll be inviting you to play a bit with photography

each week. You’ll be invited to share what you see around you each week tied to that theme. The whole focus of this time (pun intended) is how do we see more of God’s work around us?

And related to this... I have a contest I would like to run during September and then during my sabbatical coming up. As you know I take a lot of photos and will be during this time ahead. So, the contest is simple, guess how many photos I will take during that time. The winner will get a special prize from me! Just by way of comparison, when we were in Canada for 10 days last summer, I kept around 250 photos (which means that I probably took around 500).

Mission: Back to School Bags

Thanks to everyone who stayed after the service to fill the back-to-school bags. We packed 190 school kits for Church World Service! These kits will go around the world to children in refugee camps and

disaster areas. CWS serves all without proselytizing, which allows them to get into countries other groups can't. A huge thank you to Susan Gabbard for sewing all these bags! Such a gift from the heart!



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Gary Kennedy, the family of Al Rice, Mike and Laura Randall, Stacey Seiter, Susan Snyder, the family of Bonnie Jones, Beth Caby, Erin, Naomi Carroll, Stephanie, Robyn Cox, Elsie Loos, Eve Wellborn, Stacey, Jamie & Kelly Greenwalt, Jennifer Flynn, Chris John Thomas Flynn, The Flynn Family, the family of Phyllis Clark, the family of Evie and Jack Weber, the family of Rev. David Schwab, the family of Doug Miller, the family of Judy Gadd, Carolyn Tyler, Denise, Makayla, Gregg Frank, Cathy Van Lierop, Gordon Braun, Howard Storm, Sharon Roach, the family of Shane Miller, Steve Jarboe, Bette Ament, the family of Stella Pendery, Mike Bizzarro, the McMahon Family, Suzanne Jones
(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

Please call the office with changes.



Photos by Edward Goode

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Amy Pendery
Edward Goode
Greg Houben
Ken Pendery
Pamela Foote
Andy Luken
Gary Plummer
Sarah Huelsman
Thomas Luken
Joyce Steinman
Jean Braun

Robert Witte
Jean Mettens
Katie Leftin
Pam Weber
Melody Gold Bizzarro
Emma Lyman
Marcia Hosea
Amy Thornton

Timothy & Rebecca Borah
Natalie & Brandon Fugate

Aug. Attendance

	In Person	Online
8/4/24	83	17
8/11/24	78	10
8/18/24	94	27
8/25/24	100	10

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



Memorials

Memorials for Stella Pendery

Linda Gracey
Bill Hitch
Patti Miller
Nancy and Bob Witte



Photo by Michele Wright

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest presenter will be **Ms. Jackie Bray** from Raptor Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of local birds of prey through rehab, education, field research and community service. The organization rehabs approximately 400 birds of prey annually and delivers over 350 educational presentations each year. **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.**

“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” —Isaiah 40:31

Peace and Prayer

Thanks to Ken Weidinger and Pastor Ed for installing our new Peace Pole. A wonderful reminder

to “Make peace prevail on earth.” Thanks also to the generous donors that made it possible.



Photos by Jean Braun



Church Council Meeting Notes

8/19/2024

In Attendance:

Snezana Tenhundfeld, Beckie Borah, Jenny Herrmann, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco, Sallie Schmidt, and Greg Vogel.

• Approval of Minutes from June (No meeting in July)

Sallie made a motion to approve the minutes, Jenny seconded
Minutes approved.

• Personnel Manual Changes

- Madeline is currently on her 6-week maternity leave. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to fill the Sunday spots while Madeline is on maternity leave. All spots are filled!
- A search committee has been formed to look for an organist and choir director. A job description has been written and the job has been posted at CCM, SONKA and the Presbyterian job sites. Josh Woodward will serve as the temporary choir director until a replacement is found

• Pastor Ed's Sabbatical

- Ed's first six-week sabbatical will be from September 30 to November 11, 2024. His second six-week sabbatical will start February 24, 2025, and end on April 7, 2025.
- Rev. Diane Vego will be serving as pulpit supply and provide pastoral care for both six-week periods.

• Maintenance

- Murphy Concrete re-sealed and re-caulked the concrete on the Audubon Ave. side.
- We are still trying to find an additional bid for the work around the windows.

• New Sign

Snezana and Linda Gracey submitted a request to the City of Fort Thomas to allow a new electronic sign to be placed in the front of our church.

• Gardening/Weeding

Going to get bids to see how much this would cost monthly

• Plaques for History Room and Bonnie Hitch's tree

Sallie will get quotes and report back to the council.

• Meeting concluded with prayer for church members and their family and friends.

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



Schedules for September

Liturgists

- September 1 Scott Turner
- September 8 Bert Bathiany
- September 15 Jean Braun
- September 22 Janet Fischer
- September 29 Shelley Kappesser

Deacons

- September 1 Jean Braun
- September 8 Jack Hurtt
- September 15 Greg Vogel
- September 22 Marie Cunningham
- September 29 Jean Braun

Ushers

- September 1 Jean Braun
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Jay Wainscott
- September 8 Jack Hurtt
Nancy Pinguely
Jeff Pinguely
Audrey Bernhard
- September 15 Greg Vogel
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Patti Miller
- September 22 Marie Cunningham
Nancy Pinguely
Jeff Pinguely
Carol Himes
- September 29 Jean Braun
Ellen Turner
Scott Turner
Marcia Storm



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