

October 2024

# The Guide

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



CHRIST  
CHURCH UCC

15 South Ft. Thomas Ave.  
Ft. Thomas KY 41075  
Phone: 859-441-2565  
Fax: 859-441-3117

office@christchurchft.org  
www.christchurchft.org  
facebook.com/christchurchcft  
Twitter@ChristChurch\_FT

#### 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 Manuel Thelemsman

## A Sabbatical Practice (and some info)

First off, thank you for the gift of this time in October/November and then again in the first part of next year. I recognize the gift that it is and recognize the reality that not every profession has this. I am humbled to be able to have this time and I look forward to what the Spirit will speak through what is ahead for me.

Second, you will be in good hands for worship and pastoral care while I am gone. Rev. Diane Vego will be helping to lead in worship five of the six Sundays I'm gone this Fall while the other will be led by a dear friend of mine named Troy Bronsink. In addition, Rev. Vego has amazing pastoral care skills and will be here at least one full day each week in addition to Sunday mornings and afternoons. We also

will have another pastor on call each week for the days that Diane is not in Fort Thomas. You are in good hands.

Going into this time, I have many things that are stirring in my heart but I am trying to not feel like I need to check off a bunch of boxes for it to be a "successful" sabbatical. Instead, I want to try to simply rest in the moments and allow myself to be surprised by what the Spirit speaks and how the Spirit leads. But there is one thing that has really spoken to my heart about the time ahead and it comes from a new book I'm reading called *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valerie Kaur.

*Continued on next page*

# Northern Kentucky Youth

## Fall Festival

**Sunday, Oct. 13, 2-4 p.m.**

Neltner's Farm

6922 Four Mile Rd., Melbourne

We're hitting the road for a special Fall Celebration! Get in the spirit of the season with us for an afternoon of activities including a corn maze, hayrides, pumpkins, and more.

## Fall Retreat

**Fri., Oct. 18 – Sat., Oct. 19**

Lakeside Presbyterian Church

Join us for our first ever lock-in.

More information to come.

## Halloween Party

**Sun., Oct. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

More information to come.



## 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, Beth Caby, Erin, Naomi Carroll, Stephanie, Robyn Cox, Elsie Loos, Eve Wellborn, Stacey, Jamie & Kelly Greenwalt, Jennifer Flynn, Chris P. 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, Suzanne Jones, the family of Carlie Mc Mahon, the family of Guy Traylor, Susan Gabbard, Dave Jager

*(Underline indicates request for anonymity)*

## Continued from front page

I am not far into the book but in the first chapter, I came to this:

*Seeing no stranger is an act of will... (So) I started a simple practice. As I move through my day and come across faces on the street or subway or on a screen, I say in my mind, Sister. Brother. Sibling. Aunt. Uncle. I start to wonder about each of them as a person. When I do this, I am retraining my mind to see more and more kinds of people as part of us rather than them. I practice this with animals and parts of the earth, too. I say in my mind: You are a part of me I do not yet know. I practice orienting to the world with wonder, preparing myself for the possibility of connection.*

Kaur, Valarie. *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* (The Revolutionary Love Project) (p. 26-27). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

I am going to be seeing a lot of different people during this sabbatical time. I will be continuing to work canvassing as I have been doing and having conversations with people who are similar to me and those very different from me. I'll be here at home, I'll be in Boston, in Maine, and likely also a quick trip to Colorado. Along the way, I'll be

seeing lots of different people and I am going to try to do a practice similar to Ms. Kaur's — seeing each and saying in my mind, "Sister. Brother. Sibling. Aunt. Uncle." And I'll likely add, "Child of God" as well.

While she doesn't come at this from a Jesus perspective, what she shares is what we saw of Jesus in the Gospels. Fellow Jew? Yup. Roman Centurion? Yup. Pharisee? Yup. Saduccee? Yup. Beggar or person in need of healing? Yup. Woman? Yup. Man? Yup. Samaritan? Yup. I could keep going but you get the idea. To all of them, Jesus lived what Ms. Kaur shared and what I am going to try to practice — each was a sister, a brother, a sibling, an aunt, an uncle, a child of God.

Grace, Peace, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Ed

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

— Galatians 3:28





## AED and CPR Training

**Saturday, October 12, 9-11 a.m.**  
We will provide training for 10 folks from the church. Thanks to a generous donor, the training is free. Please contact **Jean Braun**.



## Congratulations

**Hannah Caroline Stephens** was born on Sept. 3. Proud parents are Sarah Weidinger and Scott Stephens, big brother is Otto, and proud grandparents are Ken and Tammy Weidinger. We're collecting diapers for Hannah in the Narthex.



## Congratulations to the Penderys

**John Spencer Pendery** was born on August 31 and weighed 7 lb., 14 oz. Proud parents are Ben and Devin Pendery and proud grandparents are Amy and Tom Pendery.

***"Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."***

— Matthew 19:14

# October Mission Update

**From Christ Church Mission Team**  
The Mission Team didn't meet in September but that doesn't mean nothing is happening in this area of our ministry!



### • Brighton Center

As you have been doing and seeing, we continue to collect Peanut Butter for Brighton Center and we'll do that through the end of October. Once we hit November, we'll be shifting into collecting instant potatoes for Brighton Center's Holiday Food Drive! We will also be sending in our third financial contribution for Brighton. Center's overall work in the Northern Kentucky area!

### • Ronald McDonald House

By the time you read this, we will have served at Ronald McDonald House on Sunday evening, September 29. We had a wonderful group with some new folks serving! It was wonderful! We will be serving one more time this year in late December so watch for the sign up!



### • Rubate Kenya Mission

A few months ago, we heard in worship from Amy Weyand-Geise from SONKA about a reconnection of relationship and ministry with the nursing school in Rubate, Kenya. After meeting with Amy as a team, we have approved an initial \$2,000 contribution to the ministry for 2024 with likely more funds in 2025. We are excited to be partnering in this way with

our local churches and our sibling churches in Kenya!

### • Our Calling

In the book of Acts, we see the ways that the early church had a holistic sense of what ministry in the Way of Jesus looked like. They not only shared about what Jesus had done in their lives and witnessed to that story with others but they also had a deep heart for those in need within their community (sharing their possessions and goods with those who had need) but also for those beyond their community as well (caring for the widows who were being neglected in the distribution of food). This calling hasn't changed and your Mission Team is grateful for your support through your giving and your sharing of your energies and time.

# Election year wisdom (or lack thereof) from a biblical anti-hero

Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber  
(Edited by Pastor Ed)

The heated rhetoric in the U.S. right now, meaning the “they are all racists who hate women” and “they are all marxists who hate America” stuff is cranked UP and I find it exhausting and I’m sick to death of how everything we read online (no matter your affiliation) is meant to make us feel righteous and make millions of other Americans look ridiculous.

But the reason I find it exhausting isn’t because I am so much more evolved than everyone who falls for it, it’s because I KEEP FALLING FOR IT. And while I am hesitantly hopeful for the first time in eight years, and have my own strongly held beliefs about how I’d prefer for my country to move forward, I am also trying to be honest about what this is doing to my soul. So here’s a short Bible story that helps me when I get caught up:

## Jonah and my enemies

The detail most people remember about the story of Jonah is that he got swallowed by a whale, probably because this image lends itself to nursery wallpaper in a way that Jonah throwing a temper tantrum, or Jonah being a bigot does not. The whale part — that’s like, ok and everything... but the rest of Jonah is *amazing* — I mean, you have to love a Bible story where the least interesting thing about it is that some guy gets swallowed by a big fish and is spat back up on dry land.

Background: The Assyrians were the enemy of Jonah’s people — they had ravaged and pillaged so much of Israel taking their wealth, occupying their land, and demanded that they be paid tribute — basical-



ly District 12 and the Capitol from *The Hunger Games*.

And then one day, The Word of the Lord comes to Jonah and God says, “Go tell that wicked Assyrian city Nineveh to repent — those guys suck so much that their wickedness is like, totally stinking up heaven”.

It’s like if God came to me and said “Hey Nadia, you know all those people you hate and you think hate you...well, you’re right, those people suck. So I’d like you to cry out against them for me.”

Can you imagine? I don’t know about you, but I’d take God up on it in a heartbeat. A divinely sanctioned call out? I’d throw up some tweets and go on some podcasts about it and even show up in person with a bullhorn to cry out against my enemies, The Horrible People. So, it’s kind of weird that Jonah doesn’t take God up on this offer. Instead, Jonah takes off on a boat in the opposite direction. God says for him to go speak against his enemy — to tell them to repent — and Jonah takes off. Which is weird. So here’s where he gets thrown off

a boat, swallowed by a big fish and spat up on the shores of Nineveh where he finally speaks his little low-energy prophecy: “repent or be destroyed” but like, quietly and with about zero sincerity.

But the thing is, it worked! Jonah’s reluctant prophecy worked. His enemies repented. They stopped their violent ways, they dealt with their systemic racism and provided universal health care and separated their recycling.

And God did not destroy them!

## A difficult-to-control kind of God

But here’s the rub: Jonah, rather than being delighted that his enemies repented and changed their ways, pouts like a big fat baby. Sitting on a little hill outside Nineveh, Jonah finally admits why he was so reluctant to call for his enemy’s repentance: it wasn’t because of low self-esteem, home sickness or fear of public speaking. No. When his enemies repent and are then spared, Jonah is like, Yeah, that’s why I didn’t want this stupid job in the first place — because I knew, God, that you were gracious and

merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Yep. That's a biiiig problem, a God like that. Why? Because that kind of God is really hard to recruit onto our own team.

God was like, wait, you're angry? And Jonah says hell yeah I'm angry (and here's where he becomes a total drama queen) he says I would rather DIE than for my enemies to be spared. *I would rather die than for my enemies to do better and be shown mercy.*

**That's what's hard about reading Jonah – I have to look at how maybe I too need my enemies to stay my enemies, since it's hard to know who I am if I don't know who I'm against.** And maybe I need for the apologies of those who have done wrong to never ever be “good enough” for me, because being the one who is right is a comfy place to be. Not to mention that showing up with a bullhorn to cry out against someone else is a pretty effective way for me to avoid being the one

being cried out against.

Reading Jonah, I am confronted by how uncomfortable it is to me that God loves even those who I think are WRONG, like seriously wrong.

Don't mistake me. I haven't budged on women's rights and gun control and a number of other issues that make me other people's “enemy”. I just want to have a modicum of humility – just barely enough to say that maybe God's mercy is as much for me as it is for them. Because as impossible as this is for me to believe most days, I may be wrong about some things. And if I am, I'm going to need a God who is *gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love*, not a God who sides with me and smites my enemies.

I guess what I am saying is that my ego loves being “righteous” but my soul can only rest in a God whose mercy is great enough for all.

Original - <https://thecorners.substack.com/p/election-year-wisdom-or-lack-thereof>

## Rev. Diane Vego

While Pastor Ed is on sabbatical, Rev. Diane Vego will be filling in for him. Diane has been an ordained member of



the UCC since February of 2018. Since that time, she has served at Chapel Hill UCC in Louisville as their part time pastor, and at St. Elizabeth Healthcare as a hospice chaplain. Currently, Diane is teaching at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. At BCTC, Diane is assisting Internationals with their English language skill development. Diane is also interviewing for a new position in ministry closer to home. She is in discernment about a new path that may open in the next few months. Diane is married to Asmund Vego. Diane and Asmund live in Lexington, Kentucky, and they have one son who is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Josh Woodward  
Stephen Weber  
Mark Sheffer  
Annelise Mai  
Abby Vogel  
Dana Pendery  
Donna Hoffman  
Jenny Herrmann  
Connor Fugate  
Patti Miller  
Helen Long  
Dave Draper  
Natalie Fugate  
Anna Beimesche

Guy Karrick  
Brandon Fugate  
Lucy Houben  
Larry Stinson  
Carolyn Honchell  
Howard Storm  
Margo Menefee  
Joyce Grau  
  
Andy & Bridgette Luken  
Bud & Kathy Leftin  
Angie & Jeff Wells  
Eugene & Carole Lukjan  
Jane & Barry Petracco

## Sept. Attendance

	In Person	Online
9/1/24	94	13
9/8/24	96	24
9/15/24	84	10
9/22/24	75	17
9/29/24	??	??

## 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

James & Ray Anne Best  
Mike & Laura Randall



## Electronics Recycling

REBOOT Electronics Reuse and Recycling said Christ Church is doing an amazing job filling up our bin on the Audubon side of the church. Let's keep up the good work!



## Lunch and Learn

**Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 11:30 a.m.**

Our guest presenter will be **Mr. Todd Swormstedt** from the **American Sign Museum**. Signs, in their simplest form are meant to inform. Signs tell us how fast to drive, help us locate places and in general help us navigate in our daily lives. What makes us pay attention to a sign? Is it the color or shape? We will learn about the museum's large collection of signs that explore the ingenuity and innovation of the many signs that have shaped our culture.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR LUNCH.**

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



## Skills for Disagreeing Better

**Sunday, October 6  
6-7:30 p.m.**

**Christ Church, Hoffman Hall**

In this polarized time, we may not understand why people on the other political side hold their beliefs. We don't see them as they see themselves—their core values and central concerns—but instead as we choose to see them. We are tempted to regard our own side as principled and the other side as self-interested.

At this important workshop, we will learn to disagree better in polarized times by not just seeing

where we differ but also where we share common ground.

### Workshop Goals:

- More understanding of the values and concerns of people who differ from you
- Better skills for listening so other people feel heard
- Better skills for sharing viewpoints so other people might hear — even if they disagree.

Created by Better Angels, this is a FREE program (donations help) but you **MUST** have reservations.

**Please register at**  
<https://bit.ly/disagreebetter>.



# Church Council Meeting Notes

## 8/16/2024

### **In Attendance:**

Snezana Tenhundfeld, Bert Bathiany, Jenny Herrmann, Donna Hoffman, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco, and Greg Vogel.

### **Gathering/Centering**

Discussed "Canoeing the Mountains" Ch. 2-3.

### **Approval of Minutes from June (No meeting in July)**

Debbie made a motion to approve the minutes, Jane seconded.

**Minutes approved.**

### **Financial Report**

- o Bert reported that giving is down. They plan to move some savings into higher interest accounts.
- o We have \$165,000 left on the Cornerstone loan. We will be getting the \$116,000 in escrow back.
- o We will be paying Diane Vego \$500 a week during Ed's sabbatical.
- o Bert and Ed will finalize the Stewardship plans

### **Pastor Ed's Sabbatical**

- o 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.
- o Rev. Diane Vego will be serving as pulpit supply and provide pastoral care for both six-week periods.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

- o Barry will be caulking around the stained-glass windows in the hopes of stopping the leaks. The stained glass itself is in excellent condition.
- o We received a quote from Smith and Jolly Landscaping Design for seasonal maintenance and clean-up of the church grounds. Jane made a motion to hire them for the fall clean-up using the \$400 left in the landscaping budget and the rest from the Living Memorial Fund. We will get more bids for next year.
- o There have been minor issues with the elevator. Greg thinks the problem stems from it not being used consistently. We are going to encourage the staff to ride it a few times a day when they are working.
- o Maintenance for the organ and piano will need to be scheduled.

### **AED/CPR Training**

- o An AED/CPR training is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th.
- o An anonymous donor is willing to pay the \$55 fee for the first 10 people scheduled. Please let Jean Braun know if you are interested.

### **Advent**

- o Planning has begun, please see Jane if you are interested in helping.
- o Special music is planned.

### **Meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer.**



# Schedules for October

### **Liturgists**

- October 6 Donna Hoffman
- October 13 Katie Leftin
- October 20 Laura Petracco
- October 27 Nancy Barre

### **Deacons**

- October 6 Jack Hurtt
- October 13 Jean Braun
- October 20 Greg Vogel
- October 27 Marie Cunningham

### **Ushers**

- October 6 Jack Hurtt  
Ellen Turner  
Scott Turner  
Mike Evans
- October 13 Jean Braun  
Gordon Braun  
Nancy Pinguely  
Jeff Pinguely
- October 20 Greg Vogel  
Carol Himes  
Marcia Storm  
Andy Borah
- October 27 Marie Cunningham  
Patti Miller  
Jay Wainscott  
Audrey Bernhard

*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
		<b>1</b> 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	<b>2</b> 10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Music Together 3 pm- Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> 7 pm- AA Group	<b>3</b> 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 6 pm-Braver Angels	<b>7</b> 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	<b>9</b> 10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Music Together 3 pm- Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> 7 pm- AA Group	<b>10</b> 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice 7 pm- Doll Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 am - AED & CPR Training
<b>13</b> 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	<b>14</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> for Indigenous People's Day 7 pm - Survivors of Suicide	<b>15</b> 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous 7 pm - Finance Meeting	<b>16</b> 10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Music Together 3 pm- Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> 7 pm- AA Group	<b>17</b> 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</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	<b>21</b> 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 5:30 pm - Trunk or Treat 6 pm - Church Council	<b>22</b> 11:30 am - Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	<b>23</b> 9:30 am- Mom's Group 10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Music Together 3 pm- Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> 7 pm- AA Group	<b>24</b> 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9 am-Adult Discipleship 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	<b>28</b> 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	<b>29</b> 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	<b>30</b> 10 am - UCC Clergy 10 am - Music Together 3 pm- Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="http://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> 7 pm- AA Group	<b>31</b> 12 pm - Study Group 6:30 pm - Choir practice		