

The Guide

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



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



From the Manger *Advent and Christmas 2025*

This Advent season, we will be centering around the idea of what has come from “The Manger.” First, what is a manger anyway? A manger is not the cradle-looking thing that we often see for the baby Jesus in nativity scenes. Instead, a manger is simply a feeding trough. Not much more than that – basically the baby Jesus was placed in a long rectangular box of wood or stone surrounded by the hay that was yet to be eaten. Not much of a glamorous start for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

But from that unexpected start came the already-but-not-yet of hope, joy, peace, and love. Now when I say, “already-but-not-yet” what I mean is that, from the

manger, we have experienced hope and joy and peace and love. But we also know that none of those are present in the world *yet* in their fullest. There are still places and moments of hopelessness and times when joy is hard to find. Peace, at times, feels in very short supply both on an individual level but also between peoples and nations. And love? Sometimes it seems hate is far more present than love. Already...but not yet in their fullest, Jesus’ work is ongoing.

But we will be centering on the promises of those beautiful things coming from that inconspicuous start and opening ourselves up to the ways that God will move those things in and through us.

Continued on next page

Northern Kentucky Youth

Christmas Party

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

Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Join us for a special Christmas Party. We'll decorate, have dinner, and take part in a white elephant

gift exchange (bring a wrapped gift valued between \$5-\$10 to take part). Join us as we celebrate the most joyous time of the year.

[RSVP here!](#)



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, 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, Béné, Jim Rehtin Jr., Maggie, Gary Hunter, Audrey Bernhard, Jeff McDonald, Nancy Castleman, Carolyn Watts-Raisor, Nancy Gabbard

(Underline indicates request for anonymity)

Christmas Eve "Unplugged"

On **December 24 at 10:00 p.m.**, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Eve service. It will be a candlelight service with acoustic "unplugged" music. It will be a beautiful celebration of the coming of Jesus into the world!



Thanks to Jeri McMath

The beautiful Christmas banners hanging in the sanctuary were created by Jeri McMath. What a special gift!

Nov. Attendance

	In Person	Online
11/3/24	86	0
11/10/24	75	72
11/17/24	89	107
11/24/24	95	118

Lunch and Learn

No program for December

Continued from front page

The four Sundays of Advent will be at our normal worship time of 10:30 a.m. and the Sunday after Christmas will be at 10:30 as well. That service will be a carol sing so plan to bring your choices of favorite carols!

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 10:00 p.m. and will be

"Christmas Eve Unplugged." It will be a (mostly) candlelit service and the music will be largely acoustic. It will be a beautiful, meditative, hopeful service celebrating the presence of Jesus in the world.

Please plan to be a part of all of this through December and also be sure to invite others to be a part as well.

Prayer List

Starting in January, we will begin a new prayer list. If there is anyone currently on the list you'd like to keep there, please contact Michele in the office at: office@chrsitchurchft.org or call 859-441-2565. We will be starting a new prayer list every six months after this. Thank you.

Christian Education Update

From Madeline Queen

As I reflect on this beautiful season of thanksgiving, my heart is just overflowing with gratitude for each and every one of you who contributed to the success of our ThanksGIVING community dinner! Your dedication, time, and love were evident in every aspect of this event, making it a truly memorable experience for our neighbors and fellow children of God.

Thanks to your hard work, monetary donations, and copious amounts of donated food, we were fortunate enough to serve a little over 200 meals to families in our community, sharing not just food, but also warmth, joy, and fellowship. From our members who donated their time to get the ingredients, to the members who made monetary donations, to our volunteers who worked tirelessly in the kitchen to prepare the delicious meal, and to everyone who

greeted and served our guests with smiles, you exemplified what it means to love like God.

In a world that may often feel divided, your efforts brought people together, fostering a spirit of unity and compassion. This event was not just about feeding bodies; it was about nourishing souls and demonstrating the love of Christ in action. Let us continue to carry this spirit beyond Thanksgiving and strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

In our Sunday School class we have embarked on a journey of learning to love like God. This is a 12-week curriculum that we have been working through. One of the most impactful things throughout these lessons are our "Compassion in Action", and how we can relate stories from the Bible to our lives today and by using these stories to love God's children the way he loves us.



We are quickly approaching December which means – Christmas Pageant time! We will be using a new "no rehearsal" pageant script that we are so excited about, but we will have sign up sheets for our main characters and readers, so be on the lookout for those! We will be hosting our Christmas Pageant December 15 during the service.

December Mission Update

From Christ Church Mission Team

As always, the Mission Team has a lot of things happening!



• Prepare Affair

We just got finished up with Prepare Affair where we cleaned up not only around the church but several more homes in the area. Thank you to everyone who came out and to those who made the wonderful lunch after! We are so grateful!

• Gifts for Washington UCC

As of writing this, there are only a

few tags left on the sharing trees! Thank you! We are excited to get to share these gifts with the families served by Washington UCC and to continue to partner with Washington UCC in ministry and service.

• Brighton Center

We are in mashed potato mode through early December! Through December 8, we are collecting instant mashed potatoes for Brighton Center's Holiday Drive along with packets of gravy. Thank you for helping to russet up lots of potatoes. You are all so sweet to help out like this. It is such a *spud-tacular* way to give. Don't be a *spec-tater* – help out with this great outreach! Watch the stores for *tuber-one* sales!

• Ronald McDonald House

We will be serving again on Thursday, December 19 for lunch so watch for a signup to be shared in early December.

• Financial Support Plans

One of the things the team does at the end of the year is we spend our budget! One of the worst things a Mission Team can do is leave a budget unspent! So our meeting in December will be used to distribute to the organizations that we support, often a bit more than we originally had pledged to them. That being said, if there is a need you are aware of, please let the team know!

Thank you all for helping share Jesus' love in deed and in word!

Photos from Thanksgiving for Everyone!



More Photos



Thanks to our Church Family

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for being there for me after my auto accident. I appreciate the meals, desserts, cards, and calls with your well wishes. I am thankful for a very caring church family. And I look forward to returning in the near future.
Love,
Audrey Bernhard*

*Dear Church Family,
There is no way to sufficiently thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and well wishes on our behalf. They have been a huge blessing to us. We are settling in and meeting many wonderful people. However, please know that the people at Christ Church are in a class by themselves.
God bless you,
Howard and Joy*

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

Marcia Storm

Jeanne Karrick

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

Jeff & Cherie Draper

Toni & Mark Sheffer



Photo by Edward Goode

Ordinary Meaningful Benchmarks

From Pastor Ed Goode

For the last five or six years, I have been noodling on a book about the intersection of photography with faith and contemplative practice. I have been working on different ideas and testing them out a bit in the classes I've taught at The Hive but when it came down to just sitting and writing, it never came together.

One of my goals during my sabbatical was to really make some headway on the book, but it did not start well. For the first ten days before we left for Boston and Maine...nothing. But while we were in Acadia, I was reading Anne Lamott's newest book, *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*, and it was like inspiration lit up. It was due to just a single very short sentence: *Love is a bench.*

These four words came a few pages after the opening words: *My husband said something a few years ago that I often quote: Eighty*

percent of everything that is true and beautiful can be experienced on any ten-minute walk. (Lamott, Anne. *Somehow: Thoughts on Love* (p. 1). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

And I suddenly realized that the photography project I've been working on all year was what I was supposed to be writing about. Since January, I've been photographing the same bench at Winton Lake at approximately 7:45 a.m. several days a week.

I wasn't sure why I was doing it (after all, a single montage photograph of 100+ photos might be a bit unwieldy) until those two thoughts from Ms. Lamott.

What I was experiencing in this bench scene on those many mornings at 7:45 a.m. was finding meaning in the absolutely ordinary. In that same bench at the same lake at the same time, finding meaning.

Suddenly, it all started to flow together, and it looks like it will be ready to self-publish before the end of the year. It has monthly "introductions" that go deeper into the faith/photography intersection and then each month are reflections on the ordinary moments photographed.

The book will be available as an ebook (PDF and Kindle formats) and also as a print book. I am also so grateful for Michele Wright agreeing to do the layout for me! The prices are TBD until the book is finished but I am super excited about this. It really fits with what I feel is a big part of my life calling — finding meaning in the everyday and sharing it with others so they can do the same.

I am so excited for the ways that I felt the Spirit speaking through this and I am excited to share it with you when it is completed!



Church Council Meeting Notes

11/18/2024

In Attendance:

Snezana Tenhundfeld, Jen Korpik, Pastor Ed Goode, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Jenny Herrmann, Donna Hoffman, Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco, Sallie Schmidt, Marcia Storm, and Greg Vogel

• ***Gathering/Centering***

Writing down what we are grateful for today.

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

• ***Electronic Sign***

- o Snezana discussed that the city of Fort Thomas Board of Adjustments denied our request to replace our current sign in the front with a new electronic sign. After reading the zoning rule, the council agreed that we should be able to put up a sign under the current rules.
- o Since a family said they would cover the legal costs for the first appeal, Bert made a motion we appeal the decision regarding replacing the sign. Debbie seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- o An email will be sent to the congregation this week.

• ***Financial Report***

- o Bert reported that our expenses are below the budget and that two generous donations were made to the church for expenses, the Christian Education Director's salary and special Christmas music. The Council is thankful for the generosity of those individuals.
- o Greg made a motion to approve the Financial Report and Jane

seconded the motion. **Report approved.**

• ***Personnel***

The Music Director search committee will be meeting to discuss plans for filling the position(s)

• ***Personnel***

The Music Director search committee will be meeting to discuss plans for filling the position(s)

• ***Pastor's Report***

- o Ed thanked Council for the first half of his sabbatical and reported that the book he is writing is coming together and will hopefully be available soon.
- o We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on November 24th, remembering those we have lost in the last year.
- o The Christmas Eve service will start at 10:00 p.m.

• ***Buildings and Grounds***

- o Greg reported that all the windows were leak-free after the hard rain we just experienced. There is a different leak that will be fixed soon.

• ***Advent***

- o Decorating will begin on Sunday, November 24th.
- o Special music is planned

• ***Holiday Walk***

Music and food are all set for the event on Dec. 1

• ***Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.***



Schedules for December

Liturgists

- December 1 Scott Turner
- December 8 Bert Bathiany
- December 15 Jean Braun
- December 22 Janet Fischer
- December 24 Donna Hoffman
- December 29 Shelley Kappesser

Deacons

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

Ushers

- Dec. 1 Jean Braun
Debbie Paillette
Thierry Paillette
Jay Wainscott
- Dec. 8 Jack Hurtt
Nancy Pinguely
Jeff Pinguely
Audrey Bernhard
- Dec. 15 Greg Vogel
Patti Miller
Mike Evans
Audrey Bernhard
- Dec. 22 Marie Cunningham
Ellen Turner
Scott Turner
Carol Himes
- Dec. 29 Jean Braun
Nancy Pinguely
Jeff Pinguely
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</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10 am – Bloom Homeschool</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10 am – Music Together 7 pm– AA Group 12 pm – Green Team</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 7 pm – Finance Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 am – Music Together 7 pm– AA Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>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</p>	<p>18</p> <p>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>1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED Christmas</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>	<p>31</p> <p>1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous New Year's Eve</p>				