

August 2025

# 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. Diane Vego**  
Interim Pastor

**Madeline Queen**  
Director of Christian Education

**Max Gise**  
Worship Coordinator

**Talia Zoll**  
Worship Coordinator

**Danny Manning**  
Choir Director

**Barb Walkenhorst Derby**  
Bookkeeper

**Michele Wright,**  
Communications Director

**Jeff Searcy**  
Custodian



Photo by Michele Wright

## The Stages of Faith *We Are All Pilgrims on the Journey*

In my sermon on Jonah in July, I mentioned James Fowler and his work on The Stages of Faith. I have studied his faith stages, and I find that his work helps to explain many of the challenges and misunderstandings that often take place within the church and among people of varying religious beliefs and backgrounds. I also think his life and work are worth repeating here in *The Guide*.

James W. Fowler (1940-2015) was an American theologian who was Professor of Theology and Human Development at Emory University. He was director of both the Center for Research on Faith and Moral Development and the Center for Ethics until he retired in 2005. He was a minister in the United Methodist church and is best known for his developmental model based on faith, which he wrote about in his

book, *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning*.

In Fowler's research, he found that most people rarely get beyond Stage 3 – The Synthetic-Conventional Stage of Faith. This is not a bad thing, necessarily. Stage 3 is characterized by what is familiar and what has been taught from generation to generation. People at Stage 3 find comfort in the traditions with which they grew up. They feel at home in the stories, symbols and spiritual teaching that they have inherited. It is common for believers at Stage 3 to claim that church membership and religious observances are part of their tradition, and that tradition helps believers make sense of a world that is often hard to understand.

*Continued on next page*

# Thank You from Our Missions



Dear Christ Church UCC,  
Thank you for supporting your neighbors in need in a time of emergency! Your gift will provide more relief and supplies. It will also provide a message of love, resilience, and solidarity. Thank you!  
Church World Service

*Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

— Luke 10:37 NIV

Dear Friends,  
Thank you so very much for the gift we recently received for Summer Youth Program.

As you know, about 25 children from the Camp Washington and surrounding low-income neighborhoods attend our program, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Thursday, for six weeks in June and July.

This summer, we were able to run two church vans to transport children whose parents or grandparents cannot provide transportation.

During the program, children receive breakfast and lunch, meals

they would get at school. There is programming that includes daily worship, spirituality, creative arts, recreation, reading and writing, and field trips.

Specifically, your grant is being used to help pay staff stipends and cover the costs of food and fuel. We appreciate the help very much!

On behalf of Rev. Melissa Stephens, and especially all the children who are benefiting from your gift, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Laurel Humes  
Church Council  
Washington UCC

## *Continued from front page*

Stage 6 is called, The Universalizing Faith Stage. According to Fowler and his research, this stage is rarely achieved. People at this stage are the ones who become altruistic. They incarnate principles of love and justice. They also feel connected to all beings. According to Fowler, Ghandi, Jesus and Mother Teresa are a few of the human beings who reached this stage of Faith development.

If Fowler is correct, then I see Jesus and many of the prophets (both living and dead) calling us to a new perspective or faith stage beyond what we have always known and considered sacred. Of course, moving beyond our "world view" or "faith stage" is hard. Asking God to expand our vision has consequences, and some of those consequences will mean that you and I will be at odds with many folks in this world. Expanding our vision takes courage, and at stages beyond the Conventional Level we are

being asked to "rework" many of the things we have all known and loved. It takes courage to move beyond the conventional level of faith because when we do, principles of love and justice become more important than right doctrine or dogma or even attending church on Sunday.

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*"Jesus, who often spoke of the kingdom of God, did so with very little concern about his tribe alone. The kingdom, which we pray for each week, is God's reign of love and justice for all."*

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We are all pilgrims on the journey — the journey from birth through life to death and then on to eternity. On that journey, we are being asked to expand our vision and our hearts. Jesus did this. He challenged his followers and his community to expand their vision all the time. Jesus, who often spoke of the kingdom of God, did so with very little concern about his **tribe**

alone. The kingdom, which we pray for each week, is God's reign of love and justice for **all**.

As I type these words, I feel a heaviness in my own heart. I am reminded right here and now that I keep on falling short of the vision God has for us. I realize I still have more work to do!

When tribal affiliations are all that **really** matter then a brother of one tribe will kill a brother of another tribe, and our communities and our world become places where war games flourish and love and justice disappear.

I pray for an expanded vision and a larger faith perspective for us **all**. I pray for love and justice for us **all**. May our living faith and our deep connection to Christ inspire us to grow and to change on the journey right here and now and on the way to eternity.

With Grace and Gratitude,  
Pastor Diane

# Christian Education Update

*From Madeline Queen*

*Director of Christian Education*

July was such a fun and full month in Children's Sunday School!

Every week, the kids gathered to dive into Bible stories, ask big questions, and get hands-on with activities that made the lessons stick. Their excitement and energy filled the room, and it was such a joy to see their faith growing week after week.

Now we're looking ahead to our Back-to-School Bash on August 10! It's going to be a day of games, treats, and celebration as we send our kids into the new school year surrounded by love and support. We can't wait to see you there!

Please contact Miss Madeline if you are interested in helping!



# Mission Team Update

*From Christ Church Mission Team*  
**Save the date – Our annual CWS Kids Kits assembly day is Sunday, August 24 after worship. Please join us for this important and meaningful mission project!**

Formerly called School Kits, these colorful bags made with God's love are filled with school supplies for children in refugee camps and disaster areas, both in the U.S. and abroad. They help children have a much needed sense of structure in difficult times. The kits have been changed this year – only one notebook now, and additions include glue sticks and pencil pouches. Thanks to Susan Gabbard for sewing all the bags and Karen Weber for helping to sew pouches! **Please join us on August 24!**





## Prayer Requests

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

Jeff McDonald, Nancy Castleman, Fred Nippert, The family of Maxine Noble, Makayla, Jamie & Kelly Greenwalt, Mike Bizzarro, Dave Jager, Chris P., Bèné and Janis, Don Seifert, Mike & Laura Randall, Shane, Dave, Tim, Karen, Jan Kennedy, Allen, Tammy Weidinger, Jim Rehtin Jr., Carol Manning, Danny Manning, Jana Guido, Bèné, Nelly, Carol Blair, Tony Asher, Shelley, Steve McCall, Jackson Vanderpool, Warren Witt, Jason Pierce, Donna Hoffman, Tim Kennedy, Barbara Walkenhorst-Derby, Mark Helminiak, Donna Prues and family, Tom Raney, Jim Oates, General Fernbach, Mary Hertzman

(Names underlined indicate request for anonymity)

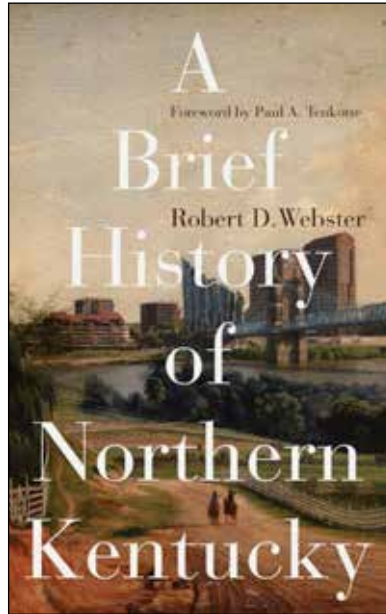


## Diapers! Diapers! Diapers!

Brandon and Natalie (Turner) Fugate are giving a baby brother or sister to Kemper and Connor. Please support this mission by filling the diaper bin in the Narthex with diapers and wipes. The collection will go until September 21.

## July Attendance

	In Person	Online
7/6/25	74	N/A
7/13/25	66	N/A
7/20/25	67	N/A
7/27/25	80	N/A



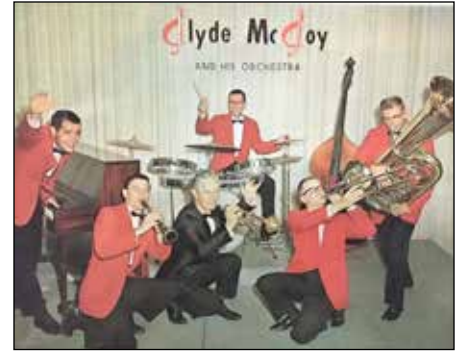
## Lunch and Learn

**Tuesday, August 26 at 11:30 a.m.**

our guest presenter at Lunch and Learn will be author and historian, **Robert Webster**. His new book titled, "A Brief History of Northern Kentucky," explores the dramatic changes to the landscape and population of our region, while delving into the region's unique past and the ever-evolving future. We will learn about the arrival of the Native Americans and the first European immigrants to our region.

**Reservations Required for Lunch**

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



## Marvin Cox is Honored

Marvin Cox was a long-time member of Christ Church until his passing in June 28, 2022. His wife and daughter, Jane and Melissa Cox, are members here and recently received the exciting news that Marvin would be one of eight people honored by the NKY Music Legends Hall of Fame as a 2025 inductee. Musicians honored are considered to have made a lasting impact on the region's musical heritage.

Marvin was a drummer and at only age 16, he became a member of his first big band, the Velvet Tones. After enlisting in the army, Marvin attended band school as part of the 83rd Army Band. Eventually he was selected to play in the legendary 7th Army Symphony Orchestra.

In early 1960, Marvin joined the Clyde McCoy Orchestra in Denver, traveling all over the U.S. and Canada. He closed every show with a 15 minute drum solo that brought down the house.

When he decided to settle down, Marvin became part of the Paul Dixon Show band in Cincinnati and settled in Fort Thomas.

Marvin had an extensive article written about him in *The Enquirer* on July 6, 2014.



# Church Council Meeting Notes

## 7/28/2025

### *In Attendance:*

Pastor Diane, Snezana Tenhundfeld, Bert Bathiany, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco, Greg Vogel, Josh Woodward

### • *Gathering/Centering*

### • *Approval of Minutes*

Jane made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28 special council meeting, Snezana seconded. **Minutes approved.**

Greg made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19 meeting, Debbie seconded.

**Minutes approved.**

### • *Personnel*

- If you are interested in serving on the Search Committee, please see Debbie Paillette.

### • *Pastor's Report*

- Diane gave us a report on all the pastoral visits she has made.
- The Back-to-school after church picnic will be on August 10.
- Diane is going to meet with the Methodist church to see if we can partner with them for Vacation Bible School in the future.
- Diane attended an AA meeting at the church and talked to their leadership about cleaning after the meetings. She said that the meeting went well and Jeff reports that things have improved.
- Diane brought up members in the church that are in need of our prayers

### • *Fellowship Report (Snezana reported for Linda Gracey)*

- Ed's luncheon went well
- We are having Diaper Drives for the Fugates and then the Randalls (twins!)
- Linda Gracey and Nancy Hunter cleaned the kitchen pantry (thank you!)
- No news on the new sign for in front of the church.
- Two plaques have been ordered for the tree in memory of Bonnie Hitch, and the History Room in memory of the Berlekamps. They should arrive July 29.

### • *Building and Grounds (Greg Vogel reported)*

- Greg Vogel, Linda Gracey and Nancy Hunter did a thorough inspection of the building and grounds and made a list of items that need to be addressed.
- Greg wants to organize work-days for members to come and work on specific tasks.
- More information to come.
- We are going to look into getting a service to weed the church grounds and new benches for the prayer garden.

### • *Approval of Adjournment*

Bert made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jen seconded, **Motion passed.**

### • *Meeting concluded with prayer.*



# Schedules for August

### *Liturgists*

August 3	Jean Braun
August 10	Katie Leftin
August 17	Barry Petracco
August 24	Jane Petracco
August 31	Laura Petracco

### *Deacons*

August 3	Jean Braun
August 10	Jack Hurtt
August 17	Greg Vogel
August 24	Jean Braun
August 31	Jack Hurtt

### *Ushers*

August 3	Jean Braun Gordon Braun Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette
August 10	Jack Hurtt Ellen Turner Scott Turner Marcia Storm
August 17	Mike Evans Patti Miller Carol Himes Andy Borah
August 24	Jean Braun Gordon Braun Ellen Turner Scott Turner
August 31	Jack Hurtt Nancy Pinguely Jeff Pinguely Jay Wainscott

# Vacation Photos from Our Church Family



*Jen Korpik went to Prince Edward Island, Canada*



*Debbie and Thierry Paillette went to the Alps and Paris in France*



*Pam and Steve Weber went rafting in New River, W. Virginia*



*Pastor Diane and Asmund Vego went to Orlando, Florida*



*Linda Gracey is currently in Norway*

# More Vacation Photos



*The Stinsons were in England, Denmark, and Norway*



*The Borahs had a "staycation" at Kings Island*



*The Bathiany's went to New York, Hungary, and Austria*



*The Vogels went to Madeira Beach, Florida*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dee Bathiany  
Andrew Hack  
Jennifer Korpik  
Michael Long  
Kristen Whalen  
David Hosea  
Sharon Siple  
Joe Stevenson  
Emma Hamann  
Sandra Kuhnhein  
Brenda Swan  
Joseph Houben

Jim & Barb Korpik  
Bert & Cindy Bathiany IV  
Krista & Joseph Hack  
Stephanie & Brian Laake  
Jeri & Jack McMath  
Gary & Nancy Hunter  
Jeff & Susan McDonald  
Dave & Jill Draper



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am</b>–Fellowship <b>9 am</b>–Adult Discipleship <b>10:30 am</b>–Children's Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b>–Worship</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b>– Art Group <b>7 pm</b>– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>3 pm</b>–Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="https://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b>– AA Group</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>12 pm</b> – Study Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am</b>–Fellowship <b>9 am</b>–Adult Discipleship <b>10:30 am</b>–Children's Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b>–Worship</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>7 pm</b> – Finance Meeting <b>7 pm</b> – Survivors of Suicide</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b>– Art Group <b>7 pm</b>– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>3 pm</b>–Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="https://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b>– AA Group</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>12 pm</b> – Study Group <b>7 pm</b>– Doll Group</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am</b>–Fellowship <b>9 am</b>–Adult Discipleship <b>10:30 am</b>–Children's Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b>–Worship <b>11:30 am</b>–Mission Team</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b>– Art Group <b>7 pm</b>– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>3 pm</b>–Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="https://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b>– AA Group</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>12 pm</b> – Study Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am</b>–Fellowship <b>9 am</b>–Adult Discipleship <b>10:30 am</b>–Children's Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b>–Worship</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>6 pm</b> – Church Council</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>11:30 am</b> – Lunch and Learn <b>1:30 pm</b>– Art Group <b>7 pm</b>– Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>3 pm</b>–Small Group Zoom Link is: <a href="https://bit.ly/ccwednesday">bit.ly/ccwednesday</a> <b>7 pm</b>– AA Group</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>12 pm</b> – Study Group</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am</b>–Fellowship <b>9 am</b>–Adult Discipleship <b>10:30 am</b>–Children's Christian Education <b>10:30 am</b>–Worship</p>	<p>Events in black are affiliated with Christ Church • Events in blue are outside groups</p>					