

January 2026

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

For the New Year *Some Things to Consider*

Greetings to you in this wonderful New Year. It is hard to believe the New Year is here, but time does have a way of “Marching On.” As the New Year begins, I always like to review my life, my relationships, my work and my practices. I think a review is helpful, but my list this year is shorter because I know that I cannot tackle everything. Therefore, when considering the essentials this year, I am considering three things: **prayer, exercise and self-care.**

Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God. In prayer, we are saying that we “need God” and we “depend on God.” It is a very radical step. I know that many of you attend our services on Sunday, but I want to encourage you to keep up a daily practice of prayer as well. Whether you spend 10 minutes or an hour, God does listen. Also, that daily practice of prayer helps you

lean into the Holy Spirit in ways you cannot imagine, and when the difficult times come, you have an anchor to help you and a lifeline to turn to. Your prayer can include traditional resources like the Psalms or The Lord's Prayer, but it can also include non-traditional resources. Leaving space to be “open” to the mystery is so helpful. In that space consider a mantra or your breath or a candle to gaze upon. Sometimes the silence and the stillness can be overwhelming at first, but as you continue you will get more comfortable with fewer words and more “holy listening.”

Exercise is on my list, too! Although I cannot do the things I did when I was younger, I find that when I move my body, my attitudes change. Sometimes, I am worrying about a friend or a loved one, and when I
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Nov. Attendance

	In Person	Online
12/7/25	93	N/A
12/14/25	N/A	N/A
12/21/25	104	N/A
12/24/25	78	N/A
12/28/25	59	N/A



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Marcia & David Hosea,
Makayla, Kelly Greenwalt,
Karma Klingenberg, Katie Leftin,
Barb Stinnett, Suzanne Jones,
Greg Vogel, Jim Rechtin Jr.,
Maggie, Sallie Schmidt, Jeff McCall,
Marcia Storm

(Underlining indicates anonymity)

A new prayer list has started.

Please contact the office.
if you have a change.



Please Join Us!

From Danny Manning,
Choir Director

If you've ever thought about singing in the choir, give it a try! We rehearse from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. every Sunday. We also have a brief review before every service at 10 a.m. **All are welcome!**



Thank You!

A deep appreciation to the beautiful music Talia, Max, and Danny provided during Advent! From our choir to the soloists to the additional instrumental players, it added so much to the wonder of the Christmas Holidays. Thank you!



Remembrance

A beautiful bench has been added to the Prayer Garden in memory of Doug Miller Sr. It was given by his family and friends.

Thanks to Patti Miller, the Paillettes, and the Petraccos for their help.

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walk in the Arboretum, I can truly let my worry go. I find meditative walks the most beneficial for my spiritual and physical life, too. I know some of you do not have much strength as you age, but even some hand exercises can help get the blood flowing to your hands and keep the mobility up in your hands. That makes a big difference. Moving our bodies, even in small ways, can be life giving. I hope you all consider some gentle movements in the New Year.

Remembering to practice self-care in this New Year can also be a "game changer." Some of you attend to the needs of others, first. I see this. I have noticed, but without self-care practices we are neglecting the life God has given to us. This is true! So, do consider self-care practices in addition to those listed above. For example, having boundaries is essential for all of us. Taking breaks is also helpful, and learning to say "no" can be hard, but it might be what is needed. I realize that there are seasons in our lives when we can **all** get busy with responsibilities that take up much of our time, but implementing rest breaks or time to read and relax

can make the workload so much more manageable.

Finally, Michele and I and the entire staff love to be available to **all** of you to make our services meaningful, our environment beautiful and to make your lives richer. None of us on the staff at Christ is working for a paycheck alone. Not at all. We do what we do because of our passion for ministry, or music, or administration. However, let us all be mindful of the fact that after 4 p.m. the office is closed, and unless you have an emergency, please contact Michele the next business day. I work late on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and when we have council meetings, I am often in the office all day. So, please be mindful of our schedules, and let's make this New Year the very best for everyone! Thank you so much!

I am looking forward to Lent and Easter this year. We have more "Good News" in store!

With Grace and Gratitude,

Pastor Diane Vego

Photos from Advent



Mission Team Update

From Melissa Cox

The Mission Team is looking forward to another year of sharing the resources with which God has blessed us with others in our community who need them. We will continue to work through local and global organizations supporting individuals and families with both basic needs and tools to achieve self-sufficiency. **We meet on the third Sunday of each month after the worship service;** feel free to join us for just one or all meetings.

Our next service opportunity is at Hosea House on January 25. Please watch for information on how to sign up to serve a meal that afternoon.

Happy New Year!



Our wonderful volunteers at Ronald McDonald House. RMH provides a home for critically ill children and their families while they get the life-saving medical care they need at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Donations to Brighton Center to Bring in 2026

January: Cereal, oatmeal
February: Canned vegetables or fruit
March: Peanut butter, nut butter
April: Canned meat (tuna, chicken, salmon, spam)
May: Pasta and canned pasta sauces

June: Canned hearty soups and chili
July: Canned pastas with meat or cheese (such as cheese ravioli)
August: Complete pancake mix (just add water)
September: Toothbrushes, toothpaste
October: Macaroni and cheese

November: Canned yams and potatoes
December: Canned beans (pork and beans, refried beans, Lima beans etc)



Schedules for January

Liturgists

January 4	Jean Braun
January 11	Katie Leftin
January 18	Laura Petracco
January 25	Jane Petracco

Deacons

January 4	Jean Braun
January 11	Marie Cunningham
January 18	Jack Hurtt
January 25	Greg Vogel

Ushers

January 4	Jean Braun Mike Evans Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette
January 11	Marie Cunningham Audrey Bernhard Ellen Turner Scott Turner
January 18	Jack Hurtt Patti Miller Jay Wainscott Andy Borah
January 25	Greg Vogel Marcia Storm Carol Himes 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

Operation Hoffman Hall Chairs

Thank you Nancy and Bob Witte for the new chairs! There was a temporary crisis but all is well now! The 200 new chairs were ordered in December with a tracking of their arrival on the 31. A team got to work on the 30. Barry Petracco and Thierry Paillette folded all the tables and hid them out of sight.

After the 175 old chairs were stacked and ready to depart the hall the morning of the 31, Mike Mairose, Leland Stevenson, plus Nancy Hunter and Linda Gracey's recruits, (grandsons and their friends) loaded them up in a truck Joe Stevenson borrowed. Joe, Mike and all the boys delivered them to the ReStore in Bellevue. Back in the hall, Barry and Jeff Searcy were working beyond human strength to scrub, wax, polish, and repair the floor while Thierry and Mark Sheffer were on their hands and knees touching up any damaged spots. Everything was going so smoothly until Nancy (who had become best friends with the Erlanger Fed Ex supervisor), was told **the chairs had started from Illinois on the 30 but had returned to IL** (no reason.)

The floor looked amazing, better than it had forever. No problem, right? Wrong! AA was having a Memorial Celebration on January fourth with 200 people coming and all we had were folded tables and **no chairs!** Plus the holiday, New Year's Day, was Thursday. Would chairs be shipped on the second? If they arrived at the Erlanger Depot, could they be delivered on a Saturday? If so, could the hall be set up in time for the Sunday celebration? So many questions and no answers! A plan B was being formed, just in case (with a generous offer from our

Episcopal neighbor to let us use their chairs), when Nancy heard early Saturday morning that the chairs had arrived in Erlanger and would be delivered within a short time. Hallelujah! Breathing resumed!

An amazing team, including both church folks and AA members, came together to set up the hall for the Memorial Service. Bert Bathiany arrived first, and with some AA folks, started moving and setting up the tables. Thierry and Mike helped AA members bring the chairs to the hall to be placed around the tables. Debbie Paillette, Nancy, and Linda cleaned the tables while colored table cloths were put on top.

Within a few hours, our Hoffman Hall became a beautiful event center. All of this could not have happened without dedicated work and love for our church. **Thank You to All!** To complete the hall, new blinds will be installed (also a wonderful gift from the Wittes) and new baseboard will be put in.

Remodeling Fund

We are still collecting for the Remodeling fund. Soon we will begin work on other needed areas in the building. Very little of that money has been used to date as well as a small amount of the Capital Campaign fund. We were fortunate to have money left by gracious donors in 2025 plus some Living Memorial fund was used. If you would like to still give towards the upcoming work, please mark your contribution to "repairs." This would be in addition to your Stewardship Pledge. **Thank you to all workers and contributors!**

Photos from Our Christmas Eve Service



Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 11:30 a.m.
Our guest presenter for Lunch and Learn will be **Michelle Snodgrass Demling**. A graduate of Western Kentucky University and Salmon P. Chase Law School, Michelle became the first Female Commonwealth Attorney for Campbell County. During her 26 year career as a prosecuting attorney, Michelle prosecuted thousands of felony cases including murders, sexual assaults, child abuse, robberies and burglaries. Several of her cases garnered national attention. Join us and learn about her illustrious career and how the justice system works in the State of Kentucky.

Reservations are Required for Lunch. Please join us!
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. **For lunch reservations call Nancy Hunter.**

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!

Photos from Our Christmas Pageant





Congratulations

Welcome to Madeline and Mackenzie Randall born to Laura and Nathan Randall on December 5. Proud grandparents are Laura and Mike Randall.



Christmas Walk 2025

With the cooperation of the weather on Sunday, December 7, we had a huge turnout eating barbecue, chips & drinking hot chocolate. Many sat in our beautiful, festive sanctuary as our music

team, Talia, Danny, Max, and Jack, played holiday songs. It truly was a wonderful night. A special thank you to all the people who gave in so many ways to make the evening a huge success.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

— Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV



Diapers! Diapers! Diapers!

Josh and Erin Vogel are having a baby in March! Excited grandparents are Ramel and Greg Vogel. Please support this mission by filling the diaper bin in the Narthex with diapers and wipes.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NO Study Group OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!	2	3
4 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christmas Pageant 10:30 am–Worship	5	6 10 am–Coffee with Pastor Diane 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	7 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	8 12 pm – Study Group 7 pm– Doll Group	9	10
11 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship	12 7 pm – Survivors of Suicide 7 pm – Finance Meeting	13 10 am–NO Coffee with Pastor Diane 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	14 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	15 12 pm – Study Group	16	17
18 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Mission Team	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED	20 10 am–Coffee with Pastor Diane 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	21 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	22 12 pm – Study Group	23	24
25 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship	26 6 pm – Church Council	27 10 am–Coffee with Pastor Diane 11:30 am–Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	28 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	29 12 pm – Study Group	30	31