

March 2026

The Guide

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



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC

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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 Lenten Discipline: *Fasting, Praying, and Almsgiving*

This is the season of Lent, and although, that might seem like bad news, I happen to see it as good. In Lent, we step back and examine our lives in more detail. We live with less, we pray more, and we fast so as to deepen our relationship with Christ. Following Christ may seem easy to some, but you and I know it is not an “easy” path.

Fasting this Lent does not necessarily mean we stop eating chips and salsa, although some may give up treats and snacks for Lent. Instead, Lent invites us to fast from our ways of living and being that interfere with Gospel living. For example, some people like to gossip. Some like to spread news, often unfavorable, because this means he or she is “in the know.” Gossip is often the “inside scoop” that others do not have. Some people enjoy knowing what is really going on with our neighbors

or community members, and some want you and me to know, too. What if we collectively said we were giving up gossip for Lent? What would that do for you, for me, for our community? How would giving up gossip change us? What if, at the conclusion of Lent, we did not return to gossip, and we noticed keeping “secrets” to ourselves has really changed us? Wouldn't that be grand?

I am giving up Facebook and Social Media for Lent. Yes, I have found when I have free time, I spend too much time looking at Facebook posts when I could be reading, biking or praying. These past few days, I have found that my life has been much easier as I deleted the app from my screen. Perhaps this is not something with which you struggle, but if you are honest, there is probably at least one behavior or practice
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Feb. Attendance

	In Person	Online
2/1/26	65	N/A
2/8/26	58	N/A
2/15/26	66	N/A
2/22/26	80	N/A



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

David Hosea, Makayla, Kelly Greenwalt, Karma Klingenberg, Katie Leftin, Barb Stinnett, Suzanne Jones, Greg Vogel, Jim Rechten Jr., Maggie, Sallie Schmidt, Jeff McCall, Marcia Storm, Chris P., Mike Bizzarro, Mark Helminiak, Tim Kennedy, Jim & Barb Korpik, the family of Marcia Hosea, Jack Emmerich, Melissa Brockman

(Underlining indicates anonymity)



Diapers Please!

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

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that *is* getting in the way of a full life for you or a deeper relationship with Christ.

What if at Lent we also took a deeper step in our prayer life and decided we would pray three times a day — morning, noon and night? What would that be like? You and I would not have to do anything elaborate, but if we stopped to pray at the beginning of the day, in the middle, and at the end, I would venture to say our lives would be different. Calling on the name of the Lord wouldn't just be a Sunday duty. No. It would be intertwined in the very fabric of our lives.

What if in Lent we decided that we would not spend any money on ourselves. In other words, what if we would step back and live with less? Then what if we were to take that money and give it to a charity we love? What if? Would you and I begin to see that many of the things we purchase are really not needs at all? Interesting!! It is so easy to buy things to replace the hunger within. In fact, shopping addictions can be a way to fill a void that only Christ can fill.

What if you and I would step back with each thought, word, activity or snack to examine our hunger for the Divine, first? I know it is there in you because it is here in me. We all hunger for intimacy with Christ, yet we busy ourselves with things that really will not

sustain us long term. Stepping back to contemplate our actions, our words, our opinions and our relationships can really serve us now and for the long haul.

Finally, "metanoia," a change of mind and heart, is what we are really after during Lent; however, those changes cannot take place if you and I provide no space for the Spirit to speak. We must actively make space for the Divine, and if we make space for the divine to speak, then we might feel God's love deeply, and God's call to Justice and Peace at the very depth of our being!

Having our lives built on Christ as the Foundation makes a difference, and let's face it, that is what **we** have promised at the Sacrament of Baptism or **our** family has promised for us at the sacrament. Living faithfully into our Baptismal Call means that you and I are walking with Christ in **all** ways.

My hope and prayer is at this Holy Season, you and I will find more stillness and listen — listen to God's great love and God's great desire for a **rich** life for all of us. Those riches may not be material at all. Grace is not always "tangible." The "Grace" I am talking about here is what will change us on the inside out. Trust me, the changes **will** have an impact on you and on your living and your dying. This is Good News, indeed!

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me." (ESV)*

— Psalm 51:10-12

Christian Education Update

From Madeline Queen

Director of Christian Education

Our Children's Ministry continues to grow, and we are so thankful for the energy and joy our kids bring each week! We currently hold Sunday School every Sunday, and due to our increasing numbers, we are exploring the possibility of splitting into two groups so we can better serve each child and create more space for meaningful connection and learning.

With this growth comes a wonderful opportunity for more helping hands. If you have ever considered volunteering with Children's Ministry, now is a great time! Please reach out to Madeline if you are interested or would like to learn more about how you can help.



Be sure to mark your calendars for a church-wide **Game Night on March 15** following the service. We'll share pizza for lunch and enjoy a fun time of fellowship to-

gether. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Ms. Madeline if you are interested in helping!

Mission Update

Our team is scheduling dates for service at Hosea House and Ronald McDonald House in the spring.



We will also be assembling kits for Church World Service later this year, so the team will be working on gathering items and prepar-



ing bags. We will send dates (and sign up sheets) when those are available.



In March, we will be collecting peanut butter again for the Brighton Center food pantry. Please bring in jars and leave them on the shelves in the Narthex or parlor.

Apologies for neglecting to remind everyone of what to donate in February! Reprinted below is the calendar for the year so you can keep it handy and watch for items on sale.



Donations to Brighton Center to Bring in for 2026

March:	Peanut butter, nut butter	July:	Canned pastas with meat or cheese (such as cheese ravioli)	November:	Canned yams and potatoes
April:	Canned meat (tuna, chicken, salmon, spam)	August:	Complete pancake mix (just add water)	December:	Canned beans (pork and beans, refried beans, Lima beans etc)
May:	Pasta and canned pasta sauces	September:	Toothbrushes, toothpaste		
June:	Canned hearty soups and chili	October:	Macaroni and cheese		



Schedules for March

Liturgists

March 1	Bert Bathiany
March 8	Jean Braun
March 15	Katie Leftin
March 22	Laura Petracco
March 29	Jane Petracco

Deacons

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

Ushers

March 1	Jack Hurtt Jay Wainscott Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette
March 8	Marie Cunningham Audrey Bernhard Mike Evans Marcia Storm
March 15	Greg Vogel Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette Andy Borah
March 22	Jean Braun Ellen Turner Scott Turner Jay Wainscott
March 29	Marie Cunningham Patti Miller Nancy Pinguely Jeff Pinguely

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday – April 2

St. John UCC – 7 p.m.
520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue

Good Friday – April 3

Highland Methodist – 7 p.m.
314 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Green Team Plans

If you went to Lunch and Learn on February 24, you may have noticed we used reusable dishes and silverware. The Green Team is beginning to help with events and fellowship by loading and unloading the dishwasher. **A special thanks to Thierry Paillette for doing so much!**

Using reusable dishes and silverware saves the church money, looks nicer, and provides a massive environmental benefit, reducing greenhouse gases by up to 88% and cutting down on waste, water consumption, and energy use compared to disposables. Reusables reduce landfill waste, with durable items lasting for thousands of uses.

Paper products require large amounts of natural resources. Trees must be cut down, and the manufacturing process uses water, energy, and chemicals that contribute to pollution and climate change.



Disposable paper products usually end up in landfills, where they break down slowly and release greenhouse gases like methane.

These small daily choices add up and make a meaningful difference for the environment.

If you are interested in being on the Green Team, or just want to help with this specific project, we would love to have your help. Please contact Michele in the office.

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you.”

— Job 12:7-8

David's Cats Need a Home

David Hosea needs to find a new home for his kittens that are 10 months old. They are both up-to-date on their shots, neutered, and are very friendly.

Johnny is the black and white cat and Cash is the black one. Johnny will turn 1-year-old on April 5 and Cash on April 7. Johnny is more playful and Cash is more laid back.

If you are interested or have questions, please call Kiley Sanders



(David's caretaker).



Church Council Meeting Notes

2/23/2026

In Attendance by Zoom:

Pastor Diane, Snezana Tenhundfeld, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Linda Gracey, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco, Marcia Storm, Ellen Turner, Greg Vogel, and Josh Woodward

• *Gathering/Centering Prayer*

Pastor Diane

• *Approval of Minutes*

Linda made a motion to approve the minutes from January 26, 2026, Josh seconded, **Minutes approved.**

• *Financial Report*

- We are \$40,000 down in pledges for 2026
- Our utility bills are way up with the cold weather.
- Jane made a motion to approve the Financial Report, Debbie seconded. **Report approved.**

• *Pastor's Report*

- Members of the Transition Team have been meeting, and Diane presented a draft version of a new mission statement and "The Values We Hold".
- The council agreed to present a finalized version of this at the Annual Meeting. This would replace our current Mission Statement in the Christ Church By-laws.
- **The Annual Meeting has been set for March 22.** We had originally set it for March 15 but needed to move it back a week.

• *Building and Grounds*

- A Church Rental Committee has been formed with Jane Petracco, Steve McAllister and Michele Wright. They are looking into ways to enhance the audio, video, and lighting for the stage area. Thanks for volunteering your time to do this!!
- There are some more inside projects that can be tackled by our congregation during these winter days. We will be planning another workday soon!
- Nancy Hunter and Linda Gracey are going to get bids for the bathroom/closet and Audubon side stairs.

• *Nominating Committee*

- Those going off Council will form a committee for next year.
Positions available are:
 - **Moderator**
 - **Secretary**
 - **Councilor (head of Personnel committee)**
 - **Worship**
- Please see Snezana, Jen, Jane, or Debbie if interested.

• **The next Council meeting will be March 23, 2026**

• *Meeting ended with prayers for members in need and the Lord's prayer.*



Lunch and Learn

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, our guest presenter for Lunch and Learn will be **Diane Burket**, founder of the **Affinity Project**, a non-profit organization focused on supporting the health and wellbeing of military warriors impacted by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Most Americans will never serve in the military or fight in combat. But most Americans know or have connections with people who have. The goal of the Affinity Project is to provide after-hour activities to the service members suffering from PTSD or TBI during their seven-week residence at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center located here in Fort Thomas.

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.**

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!

Spring is on the Way!



Photos by Michele Wright



Lenten Rose (Helleborus orientalis) and *Snowdrops (Galanthus)* start blooming in February during the season of Lent.

Odds and Ends

Discipleship Opportunities

Each week... All are welcome!
No need to sign up.

- **Sundays, 9 a.m., History Room**
Adult Discipleship
- **Wednesdays, 3 p.m. (Online)**
Small group discussion.
(Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/cwedenesday>)
- **Thursdays, 12 p.m., History Room**
Book study group

Many Hands Make Light Work

We need help with our Fellowship hour on Sundays. If you can help, please contact **Jenny Herrmann**.

The Green Team Needs You!

If you'd like to spend time with a great group of people who care about the environment, please join us! Our next meeting is **Tuesday, March 10 at Noon** in the Conference Room.



Memorials

Memorials for Marcia Hosea

Stanley and Joyce Grau
Kenny and Carolyn Honchell
Jean Mettens
Patti Miller
Debbie Paillette
Bob and Nancy Witte
Linda Gracey
Steve and Fran McAllister

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

— 1 John 4:7-8 NRSV



Thanks to Our Church Family

Dear Christ Church Members and Diane,
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls, gift cards and meals during my recovery from my heart attack and Covid. It meant so much to me to know you were out there rooting for me. Every prayer was appreciated and every card like a ray of sunshine. Special thanks to Linda Gracey and her mighty band of cooks for keeping us well fed and our freezer stocked for awhile. Also, thanks to Diane for her visit and concern. The love and kindness that you've shown Jim and me has reminded us of the overwhelming love of God.
Love, Barb and Jim

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Suzanne Jones
Cindy Bathiany
Benjamin Hack
Steve McAllister
Eugene Lukjan
Zachary Hurtt
Donna Wilson
Mike Evans
Kemper Fugate
Noah Beimesche
Leland Stevenson
Thierry Paillette
Angie Wells
Audrey Bernhard

Amy Wainscott
Donna Pendery
Christian Mai
Bridgette Luken
Nancy Evans
Terry Lyman
Bud Leftin
Steve Pendery
Susan Gabbard
Rebecca Plummer
Carol Himes

Debbie & Thierry Paillette
Jeffrey & Nancy Pinguely

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	2 10 am – Bloom Homeschool	3 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	4 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	5 12 pm – Study Group		
8 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	9 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 7 pm – Survivors of Suicide 7 pm – Finance Meeting	10 12 pm –Green Team 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	11 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	12 12 pm – Study Group 7 pm – Doll Group		
15 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship 11:30 am –Annual Meeting	16 10 am – Bloom Homeschool	17 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	18 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	19 12 pm – Study Group		
22 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	23 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 6 pm – Church Council	24 11:30 am –Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	25 10 am – Moms Group 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	26 12 pm – Study Group		
29 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	30 10 am – Bloom Homeschool	31 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous				