

April 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

Happy Easter! *Christ Has Risen! Alleluia!*

It gives me such great pleasure to reach you this month with the Good News of Christ's Resurrection. What a moment this is for *all* of us!

The Resurrection is at the heart of our Christian story, for with it we know that death is not the end. Death is merely a passageway into a brand new future. The flowers and plants, the trees and the birds all speak of this new life that is waiting for *all* of us. Hopefully, you can feel it and see it, too.

When I first moved to Kentucky, I was so surprised at the way Spring arrives here. Life was certainly beautiful in Illinois, but Springtime in Kentucky can't be beat. Asmund and I are privileged to live around some amazing horse farms, and when we take a drive or cycle the

hilly terrain, we get to enjoy the tremendous beauty of Central Kentucky. It is always a treat. And when visitors come from out of town, they get so excited to experience what we call "home." They, too, marvel at the majestic scenery.

Friends, I certainly hope you are living into this glorious moment whether you are feeling able-bodied or not. Christ's message of New Life and New Hope is something we all need no matter where we are on the lifecycle and no matter what our circumstances may be.

We have many reasons to celebrate this Easter season, and I want to mention a few events that might make a difference in this Glorious Season.

Continued on next page

March Attendance

	In Person	Online
3/1/26	74	N/A
3/8/26	74	N/A
3/15/26	83	N/A
3/22/26	73	N/A
3/29/26	91	N/A

Thanks to Barry!

Once again, Barry Petracco has added beauty to our church. Be sure and check out the new baseboard in Hoffman Hall and in the upstairs hall by the chapel. Thank you, Barry, for all you do for our church!



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 Rechtin 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, Joe, Jed, Kelsey Morgan, Rich, Carolyn Honchell, Donna Hoffman, the family of Barb Stinnett

(Underlining indicates anonymity)

For changes, please contact the office at: (859) 441-2565 or office@christchurchft.org

Electronic Sign Update

As most of you probably know, the Gracey family wants to replace the old sign in front of the church with a new electronic sign in memory of Jim Gracey who passed away three years ago.

Although we believed the Church met the criteria to install an electronic sign under the City Zoning Ordinance, the city denied the request. The Gracey family paid to challenge this decision in court, and the judge assigned to the case

decided in our favor, concluding that we met the criteria to install an electronic sign according to the zoning ordinance that was in place at the time.

The Church is now working with the city to obtain the permit, and getting bids to install the sign. The costs of buying and installing the sign will be paid for by donations made to the Church in memory of Jim and the Gracey Family.

Continued from front page

On April, 12 we will have "Pack the Pew Sunday." That day we are asking you to invite friends, family members, neighbors, and those you love to Christ Church. I will deliver a message which everyone will find meaningful.

Right after Church, we will have a **Creative Conversation** in the History Room. We are hoping this conversation will help make a big difference welcoming those who are returning or those who are considering membership at Christ.

On April 19, we will have a special service. That day we will experience a wonderful song-filled service with visitors from First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake in Illinois. This is their 54th tour, and we will be welcoming 13 young people whose ministry of song is something you won't want to miss. We will have dinner for these young vocalists and musicians the night before on April 18, and some snacks the morning of the service. If you can help with either the dinner or snacks, please contact Linda Gracey.

Finally, on April 26, we will have a guest preacher. Pastor Marjorie

McDaniel will be here to lead you as I spend my mom's 87th birthday with her. I am sure you will enjoy her message, and I am grateful that she can step in. Pastor Majorie is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and she is new to the area. I am sure you will give her the same warm welcome you gave me.

That same day, **Madeline will be offering a "Game Day" right after the service for our young people along with anyone else who would like to come.** It will include refreshments and a pizza lunch! All ages are welcome!

Friends, let us continue to celebrate all that our God has done with us and for us, and may our celebration extend beyond the walls of this church out into neighboring communities as we give witness to the Risen Christ who has turned our night into day.

Here's wishing you a Glorious Easter — one that you will remember for years to come!

In Christ,
Pastor Diane Vego

Christian Education Update

From Madeline Queen

Director of Christian Education

As we move through this joyful season of spring, our Children's Ministry has been especially meaningful during Lent. We've spent these weeks focusing on gratitude and recognizing God's presence in our everyday lives through simple moments, kind actions, and time spent together. It has been such a blessing to see our children grow in awareness of how God is always with them.

We are looking forward to celebrating Easter together! **As always, we will hold our Easter Egg Hunt immediately following worship on Easter Sunday.** We hope your family will join us for this fun and festive tradition.



Later in the month, **we invite everyone to stay after church on April 26 for our Board Games Event.** This will be a special time of fellowship, laughter, and con-

nection for all ages. Lunch will also be provided. Please contact Ms. Madeline if you are interested in helping!

Mission Update

It is so good to see signs of spring. As temperatures warm and trees bud, the mission team will be working to keep our support for local and global individuals and agencies growing and flourishing as well.

On Palm Sunday, a great group of volunteers served a meal at Hosea House.

If you've been hearing how rewarding it is to volunteer at Ronald McDonald House and have been wanting to help, you'll

have a chance on Monday, May 4, when our church is scheduled to serve dinner. Information on how

to sign up is forthcoming. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to care for our neighbors.



Donations to Brighton Center to Bring in for 2026

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)

Aug.— Complete pancake mix (just add water)

Sept.— Toothbrushes, toothpaste

Oct.— Macaroni and cheese

Nov.— Canned yams and potatoes

Dec.— Canned beans (pork and beans, refried beans, Lima beans etc)



Schedules for April

Liturgists

April 5	Barry Petracco
April 12	Nancy Barre
April 19	Marcia Storm
April 26	Carolyn Tyler

Deacons

April 5	Jean Braun
April 12	Marie Cunningham
April 19	Jack Hurtt
April 26	Greg Vogel

Ushers

April 5	Jean Braun
	Mike Evans
	Debbie Paillette
	Thierry Paillette
April 12	Marie Cunningham
	Audrey Bernhard
	Ellen Turner
	Scott Turner
April 19	Jack Hurtt
	Patti Miller
	Jay Wainscott
	Andy Borah
April 26	Greg Vogel
	Marcia Storm
	Carol Himes
	Audrey Bernhard

Congratulations!

Erin and Josh Vogel's daughter, Lorelei Hope was born on March 25. Welcoming Lorelei is big sister, Larkin, and grandparents, Ramel and Greg Vogel.

The Magic of Fireflies

Every year there are less fireflies than the year before, and changing this starts in the spring. Putting off yard work for a little while can be an important way to protect them and the delicate ecosystems they depend on. These glowing insects rely on tall grasses, leaf litter, and undisturbed soil to live out their life cycles. When we rush to mow, rake, and tidy every corner of our yards in early spring, we may unknowingly destroy their habitat before they have a chance to emerge and reproduce.

Fireflies spend much of their lives not as the flickering lights we admire, but as larvae hidden in the soil and under organic debris. Clearing away leaves or cutting



grass too early can disrupt this stage, reducing their numbers later in the season. By simply delaying yard work—letting grass grow a bit longer or leaving some natural areas untouched—we create safe spaces where fireflies can thrive.

Beyond helping fireflies, this small act also supports a wider range of beneficial insects and promotes biodiversity. A slightly less manicured yard can become a lively, balanced environment full of life.

Additional Church Repairs

From Linda Gracey, Nancy Hunter, and Greg Vogel,

Since last October, the repairs that have been made in Hoffman Hall and the outside foundation are amazing. Our deep appreciation to all the volunteers and those who made donations. There are a few areas that still need to be completed in Hoffman Hall as well as outside the building. Our concentration will now be on the inside of the building. We are presently getting bids for scraping and painting the bottom of the inside of the stained glass windows as well as several ceilings that have holes in them.

The inside list:

- Lighting and sound system on Hoffman Hall stage
- Complete walls from Narthex to Hoffman Hall
- Paint wall around elevator on parking lot level
- Paint frames around history room doors

- Clean all wood doors
- Scrape and paint any doors that are chipped
- Spread kilz on walls under stained glass windows
- Paint walls under stained glass windows
- Scrape and paint all chipped railings and baseboards
- Paint hall wall outside Parlor
- Repair or remove drinking fountains
- Art work is being considered for walls in Hoffman Hall and around the building

Two Saturdays in May will be set up as work days. We are taking donations or gift cards to Sherwin Williams and Lowes to help with the expenses of paint and supplies. Your donation is in addition to your offering. Thank you in advance for all the love you share to beautify our church. It is truly amazing what we are able to do.



Church Council Meeting Notes

3/23/2026

In Attendance:

Snezana Tenhundfeld,
Linda Gracey, Jen Korpik,
Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco,
Ellen Turner, Greg Vogel, and
Josh Woodward

• *Gathering/Centering Prayer*

Snezana read a devotional

• *Approval of Minutes*

Linda made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2026, Josh seconded, **Minutes approved.**

• *Financial Report*

Greg made a motion to approve the Financial Report, Jane seconded. **Report approved.**

• *Personnel*

Pastor Diane has requested two weeks of time off in May. Supply preachers have been scheduled. Greg made a motion to give Pastor Diane two weeks paid time off, Jane seconded, **Motion Passed**

• *Council Meeting in April*

The council voted to move the April meeting to **Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m.** They will be meeting for dinner at Padrino's. All newly voted in members are welcome.

• *Council Meeting in May*

Due to Memorial Day, council will now meet on **May 18 at 6 p.m.**

• *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 and will be meeting with Max and Danny to hear their recommendations. They are looking at rental agreement documents for Hoffmann Hall, the sanctuary, the parlor and other places in the church and are going to adjust the rental fees to reflect current market values.

- There are some more inside projects that can be tackled by our congregation. Look for a couple of workdays coming in May. Special thanks to Nancy Hunter, Linda Gracey and Greg Vogel for methodically looking at every space inside and out to make this project list and getting bids on jobs that are too big for us to tackle.
- This is a reminder that all outside doors are to be locked after the start of the worship service for safety purposes. This was voted on by council in October 2025.

• *Nominating Committee*

- Welcome to Melody Bizzarro who was voted in at the Annual Meeting to fill the Councilor – Personnel Committee head position. We still have three positions to fill.

Positions available are:

- **Secretary**
- **Councilor**
- **Worship – Spiritual Life**

- Please see Snezana, Jen, Jane, or Debbie if interested.

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

Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Annie and Daniel Gold on the birth of their son, Peter Roy, on March 30. Big brother, Gabe, and grandparents, Melody and Mike Bizzarro, are happy and proud.



Lunch and Learn

The Ohio River and the rolling hills that surround the city of Newport made it an ideal place for the early settlers of our region to set up their homes and businesses. Many of the early settlers were very successful and built many elegant homes along the river and the surrounding neighborhoods. **On Tuesday, April 28, 2026**, our guest presenter for Lunch and Learn will be **Jennifer Williams**, Director of the Newport Historical Preservation Department. She will be teaching us about the City's efforts to preserve the character and architectural elements of the many elegant homes located throughout the city of Newport, while allowing the home owners the ability to modernize and refurbish their home to today's living standards.

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 .**

A Note of Thanks

To the Christ Church family, We are so overwhelmed by all the love and support you have shown our mom, Barb Stinnett, during the last few years of her life. The continuous cards you sent always lifted her spirits. Her funeral service was beautiful. Thank you Diane. And the luncheon put together for our family and friends by Linda and the great cooks and bakers from church was wonderful. We are forever grateful. Love and appreciation, Barb's Family



Memorials

Memorials for Marcia Hosea

Ruth Rowe

Memorials for Barb Stinnett

Linda Gracey

Bill Hitch

Memorials for Susan Braun-Drach

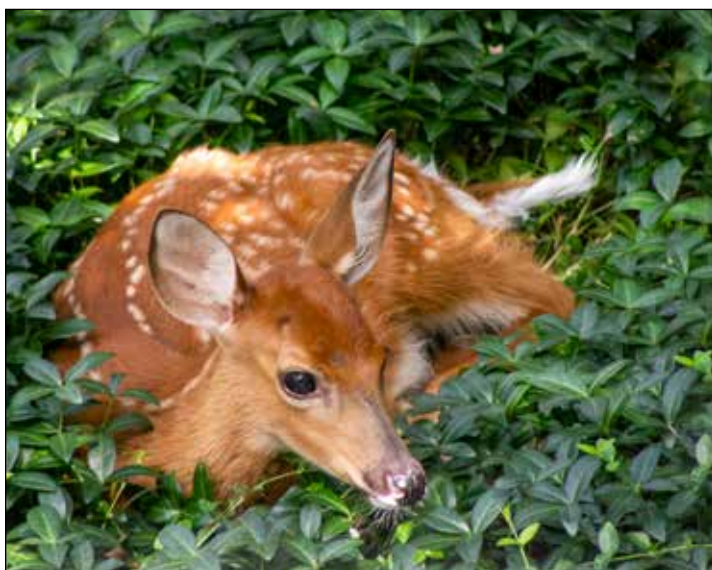
Linda Gracey

A Special Treat!

Sunday, April 19

Get ready to experience a wonderful song-filled service with a choir from First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake in Illinois. We will be welcoming 13 young people whose ministry of song is something you won't want to miss. We will have dinner for them the night before on April 18, and some snacks the morning of the service. If you can help with either the dinner or snacks, please contact Linda Gracey.

Spring is Here!



Northern Cardinal, daffodil, White-tailed Deer fawn, Canadian Goose goslings

Photos by Michele Wright

Congregational Annual Meeting

3/15/2026

- **Welcome:** Christ Church Council Moderator Snezana Tenhundfeld welcomed all the members in attendance.
- **Declaration of Quorum:** The members in attendance were counted by Snezana and Jennifer Korpik. A quorum was achieved with 54 members in attendance.
- **Opening meeting:** Jane Petracco made the motion to officially open the Annual Meeting. Emma Hamann seconded. **Motion passed.**
- **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Diane Vego led us in prayer.
- **Moderator's Report:**
 - **Pastoral Search Committee** will include Mike Evans, Mary Hertzman, Josh Woodward, Peter Borah, Snezana Tenhundfeld and Donna Stinson. The search committee will be reaching out to SONKA to ask for guidance and will start on the church profile.
 - **Electronic sign** — The judge ruled in our favor, and we will be working with the Fort Thomas Planning and Zoning Committee for a permit and are getting bids for the sign.
- **Nominating Committee**

Six positions are open on the Council — three have been filled (2-year terms), three more need to be filled (Secretary, Spiritual Life, Councilor)

 - **Melody Bizzaro** (Councilor – Personnel)
 - **Josh Woodard** (Councilor)
 - **Marcia Storm** (Vice Moderator)
 - **Greg Vogel** will be completing his second year as Moderator and not Vice-Moderator
 - **All voted in.**
 - **Financial Report**
 - Bert Bathiany IV presented the budget for 2026 and summarized last year's budget and giving.
 - Bert thanked the Financial Committee for all their hard work creating the budget and to all who have spent countless hours working on the church building in the last year.
 - This year's budget is \$334,959 which is around \$5000 less than last year's.
 - Please get your pledges in if you haven't already.
 - The floor was open for discussion.
 - Susan McDonald made a motion to approve Christ Church's 2025 budget. Jane Petracco seconded. **Motion passed.**

History Room Update

From Linda Gracey

Michele Wright has done a beautiful job restoring the photos of all the ministers who have served Christ Church since 1904. Frames have been ordered and we hope to hang them soon.

Michele will also do the restoration of the Sons and Daughters of Christ Church photos, those who have grown up in the church and become ministers. Once all the pictures have been hung, decisions will be made for the other walls.

Thank you, Michele, for all the energy, time, and work you have given to the pictures of the clergy.

- **Close of Meeting**

Barb Korpik made a motion to close the meeting, Greg Vogel seconded. **Motion passed.**
- **Meeting Concluded with a prayer from Pastor Diane Vego**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Christy Stevenson

Nancy Pinguely

Joshua Vogel

Gregory Oetjen

Jessica Bach

Jane Cox

Marie Cunningham

Toni Sheffer

Sara Mai

Nate Kuhnhein

Benjamin Gise

Emily Gise

Steve & Shelley Kappesser

James & Helen Long

Joe & Christy Stevenson

Ryan & Abby Vogel

Terry & Jorene Lyman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	2 12 pm - Study Group	3	4
5 8:30 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship EASTER	6 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	7 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	8 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	9 12 pm - Study Group 7 pm - Doll Group	10	11 5 pm - Wedding
12 8:30 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	13 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 7 pm - Survivors of Suicide 7 pm - Finance Meeting	14 12 pm - Green Team 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	15 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	16 12 pm - Study Group	17	18 5:30 pm - Rhythm Choir arrives
19 8:30 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship Rhythm Choir 11:30 am - Mission Team	20 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	21 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	22 10 am - Moms Group 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	23 12 pm - Study Group	24	25
26 8:30 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	27 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	28 11:30 am - Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm - Art Group 6 pm - Church Council at Padrino's 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	29 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	30 12 pm - Study Group		