

May 2026

The Guide

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



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC

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www.christchurchft.org
facebook.com/christchurchuccft

Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Closed on Fridays

Worship Schedule:

Check calendar on back for
worship, study groups, and
Children's Ministry

Christ Church Staff:

Rev. Diane Vego
Interim Pastor

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

Honoring the Nurturers

What a Gift and a Blessing

Greetings! I hope this Easter season has found you full of great joy for your own life, for our church community and for God's constant faithfulness — a faithfulness that extends beyond this lifetime into the vast unknown. Alleluia!

I have been experiencing new life as of late because of *all* the musical talent we experienced on April 19. What a gift! What a blessing! Thank you *all* for your welcome, your generosity and your engagement with the student choir members, the adult leaders, and with Pastor Ann from First Congregational Church in Crystal Lake, Illinois. We sent them on their way with great applause, a donation, and heartfelt appreciation.

In May we celebrate Mother's

Day. That is both good news and challenging news. Not all of our mothers are with us. Not all of our mothers have nurtured us, and many mothers are not the nurturers we would like them to be. Here and now, I want to acknowledge the complications that exist for those of us who miss our mothers, those who have been harmed by our mothers, and those who have felt abandoned and disowned on life's journey. You may say, "There are not many who feel this way in our community." You may be right, but if even one person in our community has felt "cast aside" by their mother, then that is one member too many.

As a result, I see this celebration in May in a much broader sense. I think of *all* those who have nurtured us —
Continued on next page



Memorials

Memorials for Marcia Hosea

Maleah Abner

Memorials for Susan Braun-Drach

Jean & Gordon Braun

Memorials for Barb Stinnett

Judy Land

Ruth Rowe

Jean & Gordon Braun

Donna & Larry Stinson

Carolyn & Ken Honchell



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:

Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

David Hosea, Makayla, Kelly Greenwalt, Karma Klingenberg, Katie Leftin, Suzanne Jones, Jim Rechtin Jr., Maggie, Sallie Schmidt, Jeff McCall, Marcia Storm, Chris P., Mike Bizzarro, Mark Helminiak, Tim Kennedy, the family of Marcia Hosea, the family of Joyce Fehler, Laura, Jeff, Jack Emmerich, Melissa Brockman, Joe, Jed, Kelsey Morgan, Rich, Carolyn Honchell, the family of Barb Stinnett, Donna Hoffman, the family of Elsie Sent, Ellen C., Jim Jones, Jeff Krohmer, Barb Walkenhorst Derby, Jeff Krohmer

(Underlining indicates anonymity)

**For changes,
please contact the office**

Continued from front page

our friends, colleagues, church members and families. I think of those who have believed in us when no one else did. I think of those who took the time to check in with us, to quiz us on our spelling words or those who taught us how to pray. I also think of many of you who have a natural gift for nurturing others. I have witnessed your gift first hand with your generous giving, your heartfelt meal sharing, and your warm welcome to new members and to returning ones.

"In fact, each breath we take is a precious gift from the one who brought us into life and who sustains us on life's journey."

Friends, when I think of God, I think of God's many wonderful attributes but this month, I want to highlight God's nurturing ways. God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, is with us on the journey and is **always** providing for us. In fact, each breath we take is a precious gift from the one who brought us into life and who sustains us on life's journey. Where would be without the love and the nurturing care that God provides?

This month, I want you to create a space at home to remember all those who have nurtured you. Perhaps you could place a bowl on the center of the table, and in that bowl you could place the names of the people who have nurtured you. Then, when you pray, you can lift up the names of those who have supported you. If you are anything like me, then the list might be long and your gratitude might be beyond comprehension. Also, your list might include nurturing men who have

encouraged you, loved you and supported you, especially when life got difficult and challenging.

The second thing I would like you to do is to exam your own life and your own heart. Where have you nurtured others? In what ways have you nurtured others? What examples can you offer of your **own** witness to the world, of a God who nurtures **all** of us? People meet Jesus in and through us **first**, and if we are judgmental, critical, full of prejudice and fear, then others will see that, but if we emulate a Christ who is beyond labels and judgments and fear, then those in our community will see the living Christ in us!

Friends, this month, I want to honor the nurturers. Of course, our God tops my list — for it is our God who has called me forth from my mother's womb to love and to care for you and to love and care for **all** of God's creation. This month, I also want to honor the many ways our mothers, our friends and **you** are offering love, kindness, nourishment and gentleness to one another. This month, I want to celebrate that each breath is a reminder that God is ever present. With each breath we take, we are **all** living reminders of God's great nurturing presence in a world which, all too often, offers suspicion, hate, violence and fear.

Members and friends of Christ Church, let our Easter Joy continue as we bear witness to a God who has nurtured us, sustained us and redeemed **all** of us!

Alleluia! Alleluia, indeed!

Pastor Diane Vego

Christian Education Update

Kids for Christ!

Our new Christian Education program for children will begin the first week in May. We are excited about our new program, and are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in supporting our team, please see Carolyn Honchell, Debbie Paillette, or Ellen Turner. Right now, we are in a time of transition, but our new team, with support from Pastor Diane, is hopeful that with a few more volunteers, we will be able to build a program that may attract new children and new families to Christ Church.



Mission Update

Our church has been a long-time generous supporter of the ministries of Washington UCC (WUCC). Each summer, WUCC offers a program to children in the Camp Washington neighborhood that provides food, fun activities, religious education, and even helps in keeping their math and reading skills sharp for the upcoming school year. WUCC usually has crews from churches across the country that spend a week assisting with the program.

Unfortunately, this year there are still three weeks of the program unfilled and WUCC is relying on local volunteers to fill the void. If they can't get enough volunteers, the program will be canceled,

including a unique opportunity given to WUCC for middle school kids to work on beautifying the neighborhood through a grant from the City of Cincinnati.

Below is the description on WUCC's website. More information, including the registration form, is at washingtonucc.org/immersion. The link to the volunteer form is [here](#).

Volunteers are integral in collaboration with staff to give children from the urban core a deeply enriching summer experience! Our youth rely on loving people willing to volunteer their time and energy to form meaningful relationships. Volunteers simply show up to enjoy

spending time with the kids and keeping them safe. No prep or special skills required!

If you or your organization (or someone you know) are willing to commit a day, a week, or more volunteering from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. during the weeks of June 15, 22, and/or 29, then please complete the volunteer registration form.

Thank you for considering this very special chance to make a difference for kids in Camp Washington. Also, please don't forget to bring items to fill Brighton Center's pantry. The calendar is printed below.

Donations to Brighton Center to Bring in for 2026

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 May

Liturgists

May 3	Scott Turner
May 10	Bert Bathiany
May 17	Jean Braun
May 24	Katie Leftin
May 31	Laura Petracco

Deacons

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

Ushers

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

Thanks to Our Church Family

Thank you to our church family for the diapers and baby wipes for baby Lorelei. We are overwhelmed by the amount of items that were given to our family. Josh and Erin have expressed their sincere gratitude. We are very blessed to be part of such a kind and caring church. Thank you again for your generosity. Greg and Ramel Vogel

Thank you all!

We are so grateful for everyone's love and support. Thank you to everyone who bought diapers, gave clothes, made dinner, and prayed for our family! It made life with twin newborns so much easier for us! So blessed to have had so much help. Thanks and love, Nathan, Laura, Madeline, and MacKenzie, Randall

Thanks From the First Congregational Church Choir

The cash donation you gave us was so generous! We deeply appreciate the support, but more importantly, our youth had a life-changing experience with the host families they stayed with and really enjoyed worshipping with your congregation. They will never forget it.



New Arrival!

Peter Roy Gold was born March 30. Photo shows Daniel, Annie and big brother, Gabe. Proud grandparents are Melody and Michael Bizarro.

Pollinator Gardens

Pollinator gardens are a simple way for homeowners to help bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other beneficial insects. By planting flowers, shrubs, and trees that provide nectar and pollen from early spring through fall, you can create a colorful landscape that also supports local wildlife. Native plants are especially valuable because they are adapted to Kentucky's soils and climate and have evolved alongside native pollinators.

For our area, start with spring bloomers such as eastern redbud, serviceberry, and wild columbine. In summer, add purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, bee balm, butterfly weed, blazing star, and



mountain mint. For late-season blooms, include asters, golden-rod, ironweed, and joe-pye weed, which provide critical food as insects prepare for winter.

To make your garden successful, plant flowers in groups so pollinators can easily find them, choose sunny locations when possible, and avoid pesticides. Leave some stems and leaf litter through winter to provide shelter for native bees and butterflies. Even a small patch of native flowers can turn an ordinary yard into a thriving pollinator habitat.



Church Council Meeting Notes

4/29/2026

In Attendance:

Snezana Tenhundfeld, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Linda Gracey, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette, Jane Petracco, Marcia Storm, Ellen Turner, Pastor Diane Vego, Greg Vogel, and new members, Melody Bizzaro, Gordon Braun, and Karen Robinson

• *Gathering/Centering Prayer*

Pastor Diane

• *Approval of Minutes*

Jane made a motion to approve the minutes from March 23, 2026, Marcia seconded, **Minutes approved.**

• *Financial Report*

- o Beckie made a motion to approve the Financial Report, Jane seconded. **Report approved.**
- o Giving is on track for the year.
- o Received phone call that a former minister, Rev. Anne Kear, left Christ Church \$10,000 from her estate. Details to come later.

• *Council Meeting in May*

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

• *Building and Grounds*

o **Church Rental Committee**

Jane handed out a list of upgrades that Talia, Max and Danny suggested to update the stage area in Hoffman Hall to make it more appealing to musical groups and speakers.

- 1 New flooring on the stage — like the floor of Hoffmann Hall or black vinyl
- 2 An area on the wall on the side of the stage where microphones can be stored (near the electrical outlets area)
- 3 Better lighting and overall sound (contact company that did the sanctuary)
- 4 A locked box for the sound system (code or key to open)
- 5 Speakers for both sides of the stage
- 6 Black curtains on the front of the stage and one across the back of the stage
- 7 Better LED lighting package for stage area
- 8 Tuning the piano in Hoffman Hall
- 9 Rolling lectern with a microphone that is easy to move around the stage.

Thanks to Jane, Max, Talia and Danny for your help with this!

• *Nominating Committee*

- o We still have one position to fill.
 - **Secretary**
- o Please see Snezana, Jen, Jane, or Debbie if interested.

• *Meeting ended with prayers for members in need*

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Changes to the Church Directory

Please contact the office if you have a change for the directory.



Lunch and Learn

Join us on Tuesday, May 26, when our guest presenter will be Jay Kathman from the Cincinnati Museum Center. His presentation will be about Cincinnati's German Heritage: **"Over-the-Rhine: Its People and Its Spirit."** Over-the-Rhine, an area located north and east of the old Miami Erie Canal, was a German settlement created in the 19th century. The German population there established their own city within Cincinnati, reconstructing the culture of their homeland. Churches, shops, schools, building and loans, breweries and other industries were abundant throughout their community, along with beer gardens, singing societies, theater and a Turnerverein (Turner Gym) for recreation. Learn how this lively, crowded, close-knit community left a lasting imprint on the entire society of Cincinnati. **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.**

Hooray for Mothers!



Photos by Michele Wright

April Attendance

	In Person	Online
4/5/26	132	N/A
4/12/26	65	N/A
4/19/26	108	N/A
4/26/26	58	N/A

So Many Thank Yous!

Thank you to Snezana Tenhunfeld, Jennifer Korpik, Debbie Paillette, and Jane Petracco for their dedicated service on Executive Council.

Thank you to all who helped serve meals the past few months to those who have been sick.

Thank you also to so many of you who helped provide food for the Crystal Lake Choir as well as served as overnight hosts to those lovely young adults.

Wonderful, Wonderful You!

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

— Luke 10:37 NIV

Church Work Days

Our next church work days are **May 9 and 16**. We will be inside doing spring cleaning, sanding, and painting chipped areas. If you haven't signed up to help and want to join in on the fun, please contact **Nancy Hunter, Greg Vogel, or Linda Gracey**.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bill Hitch who will be inducted in the Highlands High School Sports Hall of Fame in August.

Don't Miss This!

Our own **Danny Manning** will be the music director and conduct the show/orchestra for the musical, "Into the Woods." The music and lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim. It is being shown **May 1-7 at 7:30 p.m. (except May 3 which is at 2 p.m.) in the Gates-Abegglen Theatre, Miami University, 420 S. Patterson Ave, Oxford, Ohio**. Please click [here](https://events.miamioh.edu/event/into-the-woods) or go to <https://events.miamioh.edu/event/into-the-woods> for more information.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Laura Petracco and Ted Sartini upon their engagement in our Prayer Garden! Barry and Jane, you better start saving your money!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kathryn Lukjan

Jack Hurtt

Anna Gise

Gregory Vogel

Stanley Grau

Judy Land

Jill Draper

Mary Hertzman

Ken Honchell

ZsaZsa Bach

Rebecca Borah

Terri Jager

Elizabeth Beimesche

Shannon & Hunter Thomas

Ellen & Scott Turner

Steve & Dana Pendery

Gordon & Jean Braun

Greg & Susan Houben

David & Donna Pendery

Andrew & Jessica Bach

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	4 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 4 pm – RMH Dinner	5 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	6 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	7 12 pm – Study Group 4:30 pm – Talia-Recital Rehearsal	8 5 pm – Talia-Recital	9
10 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	11 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 7 pm – Survivors of Suicide 7 pm – Finance Meeting	12 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	13 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	14 12 pm – Study Group 7 pm – Doll Group	15	16
17 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship Rhythm Choir 11:30 am –Mission Team	18 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 6 pm –Church Council	19 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	20 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	21 12 pm – Study Group	22	23 10 am –Green Team Work Day
24 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship	25 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	26 11:30 am –Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm – Art Group 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous	27 10 am – Moms Group 3 pm –Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm – AA Group	28 12 pm – Study Group	29	30
31 8:30 am –Fellowship 10:30 am –Children's Christian Education 10:30 am –Worship						