

August 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
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

The Art of Saying Goodbye—Well

Greetings. I hope this letter finds you *all* well. I am writing you today with a song in my heart and gratitude on my lips. The ministry that you have offered me here at Christ Church has been so worthwhile. Thank you! I will most certainly miss you and this good work. I appreciate your willingness to ask me to serve you back in April of 2025, and I have been honored by your confidence and your trust in me.

Goodbyes can be hard to do, and who *really* wants to say goodbye? To be honest, sometimes, I would rather sneak out the back door without much fanfare at all.

Yet, each goodbye really can

prepare us for our final goodbye. At least that possibility does exist. I began to notice this years ago. With each ending, I was invited to tie up loose ends, apologize for missteps and to offer thanksgiving for good work and a good salary the job provided.

In the beginning, I was not very good at saying goodbye. I did not like to face my inner landscape and the many emotions that were buried inside me, but as I practiced saying goodbye, it got so much easier. The depth of emotion was still there, but I was willing to face the emotion, to feel my feelings and then move on.

Continued on next page



Memorials

Memorials for Carol Himes

Linda Gracey

Kenny & Carolyn Honchell

Ruth Rowe

If you would like to send a sympathy card to Carol Himes' daughter, her address is:

Kathy Headlee

5530 Lexington Woods Lane

John's Creek, GA 30005



Why Do You Enjoy Coming to Christ Church?

Please write a short sentence or two about why you enjoy coming to Christ Church.

We'd like to create a slide show of these comments that will be shown before each service. If you have a photo of yourself or of you with a group of people, that would make it even better. Please email this to Michele or leave it on her desk.

Continued from front page

In my yoga practice, I noticed something similar. In the beginning, I did not care for how I got into a pose or how I made my exit. Slowly, I started to realize that it was all connected. The way I entered a pose and held the pose and exited were apart of "one whole." This realization was not an overnight experience. No, it took a lot of time for me to recognize this, to claim this, and then to do something about it.

The blessing of yoga has taught me to value all of the moments — the beginning, the ending and everything in between.

"Friends, what matters most for me as we say goodbye, is that we are all connected — we belong to each other, and even if I am back in Lexington, I will take a piece of you with me. I will continue to hold you in my heart..."

So, I am going to come clean. Here at Christ, I want to say goodbye well. I want us to enjoy the moments that we have and to be grateful for what we offered to each other. You offered something to me as I offered something to you. Hopefully, I will leave you with mostly good memories, but if I have offended you in any way, then I do apologize.

I know I can be bold about the Gospels at times and my view of our sacred story, but my training and education have taught me to be critical and not to take everything at face value. Our sacred story is Holy, but our ancestors made many mistakes and did not always serve God with a full heart. For me, the story in a nutshell is

one of God creating and then human kind getting "too big for their britches." Over and over again, our ancestors chose themselves and their own welfare over others. David did not consider Uriah, and Saul did not consider what God wanted from him. Moses was too weak and Samson too full of himself. Over and over again, our ancestor chose "other gods," and yet God remained faithful *all* along. God kept on loving his people even when his people would turn away. I marvel at **the source of all** creation for being with us through it all, and then offering, in the form of Jesus the Christ, his own son who "got it right." **What kind of love is this? What kind of Grace?**

Friends, what matters most for me as we say goodbye, is that we are *all* connected — we belong to each other, and even if I am back in Lexington, I will take a piece of you with me. I will continue to hold you in my heart and to be grateful that Christ Church asked me to lead at a time when you really needed someone to be "all in." I hope I was "all in" and that you recognized my willingness to meet you where you are, but I also hope that I invited you to think and to grow. Both matter to me.

I will have a few more weeks here at Christ and a fall letter to deliver in September. In the meantime, let us cherish the moments we have and be grateful to our God for bringing us together.

My prayers are with each of you and with your community known as Christ Church.

With Grace and Gratitude,
Pastor Diane

Mission Update

There are many upcoming opportunities to assist local organizations with serving those who need help with food, housing, and school supplies.



Brighton Center would like to highlight some of the following and we will send additional information as it becomes available.

(1) Cleaning Buckets. Young people moving from foster care to their own place, and others in transition to their own housing, need cleaning supplies. We will provide a list as soon as possible of the items to be purchased. Our goal is 40 buckets!

(2) Making a Case for Brighton Center. You've been hearing from Pastor Diane that Brighton Center is experiencing high demands on its food pantry and has concerns about low supplies. We hope to be able to offer our congregation the ability to purchase a case of food and have it delivered directly to Brighton Center via an Amazon Wish List. More to come!

(3) Change to August collection. Brighton Center indicated that easy-to-prepare packages of food are especially helpful for families. As a result, we are going to change our August donation. Instead of pancake mix, please drop off Knorr (and similar brands of packaged meals) to either the parlor or narthex.

School is starting soon for kids around the world, and our team has a couple of ways for you to help them have a good year.

(1) Washington UCC has a back to school ministry in which it provides each child it serves with a complete new outfit and a backpack full of school supplies.

The cost is \$75 per child. You may send a check directly to:

Washington UCC (please mark for Back to School) at

2950 Sidney Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45225. The Mission Team will be sending \$500.00 to this program.

(2) Join us after the worship service on August 30 in Hoffman Hall for our annual school kit assembly. These are bags of supplies that will be shipped to Church World Service for kids in refugee camps and other needed areas.



We'll be sending a link soon to sign up for serving a meal to families at Ronald McDonald House. **The date is August 23.**



Finally, we are planning a bulletin board to highlight what our Team is doing and how you can help. We hope to place those in the narthex and parlor to better keep you up to date. Thank you so much for your generosity and care. We are honored to work on your behalf. Feel free to join us at our meetings if you have ideas or suggestions for us. We meet on the third Sunday of each month.

Donations for Brighton Center

Aug.— Knorr side dishes or something similar

Sept.— Toothbrushes, toothpaste

Oct.— Macaroni and cheese

Nov.— Canned yams and potatoes

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

Christian Education Update

*From Ellen Turner,
Church Council — Education*
We are excited about making a great Sunday-time for our youngsters! Carolyn Honchell, Debbie Paillette, and I are still looking for volunteers to help with our "Kids for Christ" program. We always appreciate your suggestions, prayers, and volunteer time.



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

David Hosea, Makayla, Kelly Greenwalt, Karma Klingenberg, Katie Leftin, Jim Rechlin 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, Joe Hall, Bob Daley, the family of Jeff Bathiany, the family of Carol Himes, the family of Michael Cook, Robin Allison

(Underlining indicates anonymity)



Schedules for August

Liturgists

Aug. 2	Marcia Storm
Aug. 9	Barry Petracco
Aug. 16	Jane Petracco
Aug. 23	Nancy Barre
Aug. 30	Laura Petracco

Deacons

Aug. 2	Jack Hurtt
Aug. 9	Jean Braun
Aug. 16	Greg Vogel
Aug. 23	Marie Cunningham
Aug. 30	Jean Braun

Ushers

Aug. 2	Jack Hurtt Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette Jay Wainscott
Aug. 9	Jean Braun Gordon Braun Karen Robinson Audrey Bernhard
Aug. 16	Greg Vogel Patti Miller Mike Evans Andy Borah
Aug. 23	Marie Cunningham Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette Marcia Storm
Aug. 30	Jean Braun Ellen Turner Scott Turner Jay Wainscott

Don't Forget!

Send Michele a summer photo!

The September edition of *The Guide*, is the last chance we have to include a photo from your vacation or a highlight from your summer for everyone to enjoy.
michele@christchurchft.org

Also, anytime you are at an event associated with the church or a special service, please consider taking photos and emailing them to Michele. Always appreciated!

Thank You to Our Church Family

Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my recent health challenges with my hip and my heart. I have more heart surgeries and hip replacement still coming. Thanks for your continued prayers.
 Jeff McDonald



*"They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works."*

— Psalm 145:5 NIV



Photos by Michele Wright



Church Council Meeting Notes

7/27/2026

In Attendance:

Greg Vogel, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Melody Bizarro, Gordon Braun, Linda Gracey, Karen Robinson, Marcia Storm, Ellen Turner, Diane Vego.

- **Gathering/Centering Prayer**

Pastor Diane

- **Approval of Minutes**

Linda made a motion to approve the minutes. Bert seconded, **Minutes approved.**

- **Financial Report**

- Bert said we are slightly up for June based on current expenses. However, he is concerned how we'll be able to meet expenses for the salary of a new pastor and a Director of Children's Education eventually.
- Discussion of hiring a pastor part-time or 3/4 time.
- Linda made a motion to approve the report. Gordon seconded. **Report approved.**

- **Pastor's Report**

- Diane shared that Michael Cook is in hospice. Sallie Schmidt is in hospice as well. Diane would like to lead their funerals.
- Don Fehler would like to join the church.
- Diane asked if the church will be presenting the new mission statement.
- Diane agreed to write the front page article for *The Guide* for September.

New Business

- Melody Bizarro would like to invite the music school her grandchildren attend to perform at Christ Church.
- Bloom Homeschool and AA have signed new contracts with a rental increase. The Mom's group has chosen to go elsewhere.
- Michele Wright has asked who to notify about time off after Diane leaves. Bert or Greg will be the contact.
- Greg spoke to someone about utilizing our current equipment to do closed captioning on television.
- Discussion on whether Mimi Chamberlain from SONKA should be asked to find us a new interim pastor for a year as we're not ready to call a permanent one yet. Greg will call Mimi.
- Discussion about pulpit supply and paying \$150-\$175 per Sunday. Diane said she would contact four people about this. Diane suggested using Mark Roeder for funerals after she leaves. Paul Foray from Alexandria UCC is another possibility.
- Beckie said Tim Borah could assist with visitations. Diane has done such a good job with visitations and pastoral care and we don't want to leave this important need unmet after she leaves.

- **Meeting ended with saying the Lord's Prayer together**



Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, August 25, at 11:30 a.m.

Our guest presenter will be Barb Jennings, a docent from the Cincinnati Museum Center. Her presentation titled, "**The Art and Artists of Union Terminal**" will focus on the Art Deco design of the terminal and about the 18,000 square feet of public art space of the terminal. We will hear about the artists that created the many art elements and some of the techniques and processes used by them. There will be images of some existing art work along with some lost artworks, as well as photos of pieces that may be restored. Thanks to the contributions of Reiss, Bourdelle, Henschell, and Heck, Cincinnati Union Terminal is a National Historic Landmark.

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.**

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.
— Edgar Degas

Summer Highlights from Our Members



Nancy and Bernie Barre

The Barre's took an Alaskan cruise last June.
What an impressive photo!



Audrey Bernhard

This is from a few summers ago when Audrey went fishing and caught the largest fish of her life. She reeled it in and netted it all by herself!

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." —Isaiah 40:31



CWS Kids Kits

This is how Susan Gabbard spent her summer — sewing pouches! **Join us after the worship service on August 30 in Hoffman Hall for our annual school kit assembly.**

These are bags of supplies that will be shipped to Church World Service for kids in refugee camps and other needed areas.

“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

July Attendance

	In Person	Online
7/5/26	41	N/A
7/12/26	57	N/A
7/19/26	47	N/A
7/26/26	59	N/A
(plus one racoon)		



Lost and Found

Are you missing some reading glasses? You may find them in our lost and found basket located in the Parlor. It's on the credenza against the wall on the left as you enter. Thank you!

Changes to the Church Directory

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

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 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship	3	4 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	5 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	6 12 pm – Study Group	7	8 12 pm–Michael Cook Visitation 1 pm–Funeral
9 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship	10 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 7 pm – Finance Meeting 7 pm – Survivors of Suicide	11 12 pm – Green Team 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	12 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	13 12 pm – Study Group	14 Music Group	15
16 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Mission Team	17 10 am – Bloom Homeschool	18 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	19 3 pm–Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm– AA Group	20 12 pm – Study Group 6:30 pm – Special Scheduled EC Meeting!	21	22
23 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship Diane's last service	24 10 am – Bloom Homeschool 6 pm–Church Council	25 11:30 pm – Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm– Art Group 7 pm– Overeaters Anonymous	26 NO Small Group 7 pm– AA Group	27 NO Study Group	28	29
30 8:30 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Children's Christian Education 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–CWS	31 10 am – Bloom Homeschool					