

September 2026

The Guide

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



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC

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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

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Photo by Michele Wright

Letting Go and Trusting in God

When I think of fall, I think of cool nights, hot beverages, falling leaves, and a deep sense of rest and recovery. There is something about this time of year that makes me “relax and unwind” a bit. Is that the way you feel, too?

For me, the pace changes in the fall, and suddenly sleeping in becomes much more enjoyable. In general, I am an early riser, but fall changes everything for me. When the temperatures change and my bedroom is cooler, sleeping in is nicer. Having the covers snug tightly around my face is just more enjoyable.

Another thing I think of “letting go.” As the leaves descend, I think about

being mortal and all that “being mortal” implies. I think I can accomplish a lot as a human being, but in the fall, I am more able to accept my limitations. I know I can do some things, but as the days begin to grow darker, I feel a summons to walk slower, inhale deeply and to “let go.”

Letting go of expectations is the biggest challenge for me. In my mind, I have hopes and dreams as we all do, but this time of year I contemplate that fact that my “agenda” or my “plans” can often interfere with God’s plan for my life.

Soon I will visit mom again. I wonder, will this be my last visit?

Continued on next page



Memorials

Memorials for Carol Himes

Jerry & Candy Hinnens
Bill Hitch
Marilyn & Kevin Lynn
Patti Miller

Memorials for Mike Cook

Ron & Deborah Engelman
Linda Gracey
Henry & Kathleen Wise
HHS Class of 1968



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. There will be no photos and names are optional. Please email this to Michele or leave it on her desk.

Love to Sing? Choir is Back!

Voices rise together again on **Sunday, September 13!** We will sing that Sunday, so meet in the Chapel at 10 a.m. to review the morning anthem. Don't forget, there will be choir rehearsal after church as well. New members are

always welcome. Just walk into the Chapel at 10 a.m. and join the song!

"Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works."

—Psalm 105:2

Continued from front page

I also wonder how I can show up differently and offer what she needs, and then I am suddenly reminded that if I let go of the outcome, my visit might be even better. If I let go of my expectations, then I might be able to be present with "what is."

The Buddhist say that all suffering is rooted in desire. We all desire something and want something, but often what shows up is not what we had hoped for. The plumber does arrive on time. Our children have different ideas about how to raise a family, and our spouses or good friends often do not agree with us. That is life, isn't it? It is great if we can let go, but when we cannot, then we find ourselves in battles with our family, friends or the plumber over the "right way to do things."

In a Christian worldview, Jesus spoke about The Kingdom of God with such passion and such dedication. The Kingdom is the idea that "God reigns." When God reigns, and we firmly believe this, then we do our part, no more and no less.

Finding balance is a big part of this. Striking the balance makes life so much more enjoyable. We can think about this when we divide up the chores, stop to pray, or even make time for our afternoon walk. Sure, we can say "I did

not have time," but when we do this, when we cut out our prayer or our afternoon walk, then often it does not feel right.

What if this fall, we all let go of expectations, trusted in God and did our part and let go of the rest. Would life be easier? Would we be freer? Would some of the anxiety diminish? I would hope so.

Embracing our limitations and the limitations of those we love is so freeing. When we let go, we can let God in. I also believe that God just might be at work with the plumber, our families, friends and our spouses. Yes, their choices, decisions or beliefs may not be our own, but we cannot rule out the fact that God might be working in them and through them, too.

Here's to fall and letting go. When we do less and accept friends and family members as they are, then we can watch what happens before our very eyes. Perhaps our spouses or dear friends will not change, but maybe, just maybe we will be able to appreciate them for who they are and for what they bring to our lives just the way they are.

Happy Fall y'all!

With Grace and Gratitude,

Rev. Diane Vego

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:

(1) Cleaning Buckets

Young people moving from foster care to their own place and others in transition to their own housing, need cleaning supplies. There is a list at the front and the back of the sanctuary of what you need to buy to fill your bucket. Our goal is 40 buckets!

(2) A High Demand for Food

Brighton Center is experiencing high demands on its food pantry and has concerns about low supplies. You now have the ability to purchase a case of food and have it delivered directly to Brighton Center via an Amazon Wish List.

(3) September collection

Please bring in **Toothbrushes** and **Toothpaste**.

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

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 to this program.

Be sure to check out page 7 to see the amazing job the church did filling over 200 school supply bags for Church World Service.

These are bags of supplies that will be shipped to Church World Service for kids in refugee camps, disaster areas, and other areas both here and abroad.

Don't forget to sign up to serve a meal at Hosea House!

The date is Sunday, September 20.



Thanks to everyone who helped at the Ronald McDonald House! What a wonderful example of helping our neighbors!



Donations for Brighton Center

Sept.— Toothbrushes, toothpaste

Oct.— Macaroni and cheese

Nov.— Canned yams and potatoes

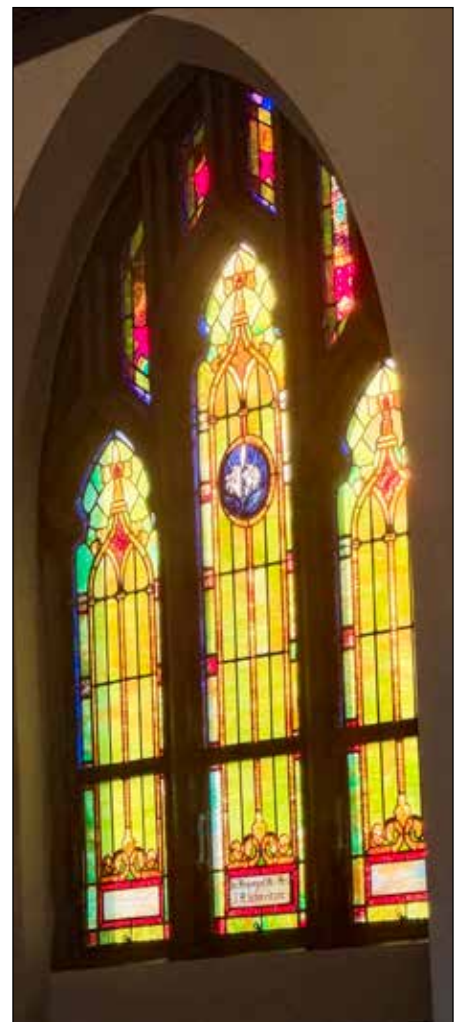
Dec.— Canned beans (pork and beans, refried beans, lima beans, etc)

Christian Education Update

From: Christian Education Team

The team is working toward developing a new Sunday School program to interest children and use their talents.

We recently mailed an interest survey to anyone who is connected to a child that may attend. We look forward to getting the replies back by **September 11.**



This beautiful photo of the morning sun coming through one of our stained glass windows was taken by Nancy Barre.



Schedules for September

Liturgists

Sept. 6	Marcia Storm
Sept. 13	Carolyn Tyler
Sept. 20	Scott Turner
Sept. 27	Nancy Barre

Deacons

Sept. 6	Jack Hurtt
Sept. 13	Greg Vogel
Sept. 20	Marie Cunningham
Sept. 27	Jean Braun

Ushers

Sept. 6	Jack Hurtt Nancy Pinguely Jeff Pinguely Audrey Bernhard
Sept. 13	Greg Vogel Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette Patti Miller
Sept. 20	Marie Cunningham Nancy Pinguely Jeff Pinguely Jean Braun
Sept. 27	Jean Braun Ellen Turner Scott Turner Marcia Storm

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

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 11:30 a.m.
People Working Cooperatively is a community-based organization that performs critical home repairs and services so that low-income homeowners can remain in their homes living independent and healthy lives in a safe, sound environment.

It all started with two men and a dream. After over 50 years and more than 320,000 services later, People Working Cooperatively has become the region's leader in providing professional home repairs and services for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners. Join us to hear our guest presenter,



Saving HOMES. Restoring PRIDE.

Sara Bourgeois, Executive Director of People Working Cooperatively.

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.**

Thank You! to Our Volunteers

Seriously — where would we be without our incredible volunteers!

Thierry Paillette spent hours carefully lining up the photos in the History Room and the art in Hoffman Hall. What a difference some photos and art can make!



Mike Mairose, a friend of Marie Cunningham, spent several days going around the entire church grounds pulling weeds. It was a huge, hot job and the grounds look amazing now.

Jean Braun immediately volunteered when we needed the flowers moved from around our current church sign so they don't get destroyed when they put in our new sign on September 10.

Then there are all our consistent volunteers: Joe Stevenson who mows our lawn, Executive Council, Finance Committee, our counters, communion helpers, people who send cards and take food to those who can't get out, the fellowship hour group, our building and grounds committee, the Mission Team, our children's Sunday school team, the Lunch and Learn group, deacons, ushers, Liturgists, our choir, the Green Team, and so many more! **THANK YOU!**



Church Council Meeting Notes

7/27/2026

In Attendance:

Greg Vogel, Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Gordon Braun, Linda Gracey, Karen Robinson, Marcia Storm, Josh Woodward

Guest:

Mike Evans, Chairperson of the Search Committee

• **Gathering/Centering Prayer**

Mike Evans

• **Approval of Minutes**

Linda made a motion to approve the minutes from July 27, 2026. Beckie seconded, **Minutes approved.**

• **Financial Report**

- Paying our bills and financials are in decent shape
- Some months are better than others but staff has kept expenses down.
- Josh made a motion to approve the Financial Report, Linda seconded. **Report approved.**

• **Other Business**

- Mike Evans gave an update from the Search Committee. The committee has met with

Mimi Chamberlain, The association Minister of SONKA.

He passed out three forms.

First Form: Letter to update the Active Mambership

Second Form: A survey for congregation to complete to provide a church profile to prospective ministers

Third Form: "Exploring Possibilities for Your Church's Future"

- Jean Braun is working on active membership list
- Congregational survey is being sent via e-mail and US mail. This will also include proposed updated Mission Statement; that will be brought to the congregation
- Tim Borah will visit the sick and shut-ins
- Greg distributed pulpit supply which has been scheduled through October 25, 2026
- Air conditioning has been installed in Hoffman Hall.

• **Meeting ended with closing reflection by Mike Evans**

Our Electronic Sign is Coming Soon!

Our electronic sign in Jim Gracey's memory will be installed on Sept. 10!

We have received the approval forms from the city, and the church is incredibly grateful to the Gracey family for this amazing gift and what they've gone through to make it happen!



Simulation of the sign

Schedule of Speakers

The talented speakers we are blessed to receive:

9/6	Rev. Marjorie McDaniel
9/13	Rev. Marjorie McDaniel
9/20	Tom Daria
9/27	Tom Daria
10/4	Rev. Melissa Stephens
10/11	Don Gibson
10/18	Rev. Marjorie McDaniel
10/25	Rev. Marjorie McDaniel



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, Brady Evans, Kathy, Jim Korpik, Brenda Scharber

(Underlining indicates anonymity)

For changes or requests, please contact the office

Summer Highlights from Our Members



Patti Miller

Patti and her family had a wonderful week in South Haven, Michigan



Donna and Larry Stinson

Donna and Larry went to the beautiful Swiss Alps on their vacation. The Matterhorn is in the background of this photo.



Barb and Jen Korpik

Barb and Jen made some priceless memories in Norway during their summer vacation!



CWS Kids Kits

After the service on August 30, we had our annual school kit assembly. These are bags of supplies that will be shipped to Church World Service for kids in refugee camps, disaster areas, and other areas both here and abroad.

Over 200 bags were filled that will help kids cope with their situation.

Thank you to everyone who stayed after the service to get these filled. What an amazing example of doing for others!

August Attendance

	In Person	Online
8/2/26	60	N/A
8/9/26	55	N/A
8/16/26	57	N/A
8/23/26	55	N/A
8/30/26	60	N/A

Lost and Found

Are you missing a gold bracelet? You may find it in our lost and found basket located in the Parlor. It's on the credenza on the left as you enter.

Thank You from Washington UCC

Washington UCC church sent us a thank you note "for the generous contribution of \$500 to their Back to School ministry." They went on to say, "This week we were able to give about 80 children and youth backpacks filled with school supplies, along with hygiene kits and school clothes." Now, thanks to our support and many others, "these kids from low-income families will be able to go back to school with everything they need."
— Rev. Melissa Stephens, Pastor

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Amy Pendery
Greg Houben
Ken Pendery
Pamela Foote
Andy Luken
Gary Plummer
Sarah Huelsman
Thomas Luken
Joyce Steinman
Jean Braun

Robert Witte
Jean Mettens
Katie Leftin
Pam Weber
Melody Bizzarro
Emma Lyman
Amy Thornton

Timothy & Rebecca Borah
Natalie & Brandon Fugate

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	2 7 pm- AA Group	3	4	5
6 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	7 LABOR DAY Office Closed!	8 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	9 7 pm- AA Group	10	11	12
13 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Choir	14 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 7 pm - Finance Meeting 7 pm - Survivors of Suicide	15 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	16 7 pm- AA Group	17	18	19
20 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Choir 11:30 am-Mission Team	21 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	22 11:30 pm - Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	23 7 pm- AA Group	24	25	26
27 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Choir	28 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 6 pm-Church Council	29 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	30 7 pm- AA Group			