

October 2025

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

Igniting Peace *Learning How to Speak With Each Other*

May the grace and peace of Christ
be with you!

My friends, there is a program that
was recently brought to my atten-
tion. It is something I want to intro-
duce to you by way of this letter. I
would welcome your feedback and
your thoughts.

Right before I took this post at
Christ Church, I was assisting at
Second Presbyterian Church with
the children and the youth in my
community in Lexington, Ky. During
Sunday School, we regularly sang
the song, "The Fruits of The Spirit."
In fact, the children would often
ask for that song specifically. I
must admit, I had a hard time with
the hand gestures, but I grew to
love that song. In fact, it made me
consider a lot of important things —
like whom to trust, whom to follow,
and whom to give my attention to.

We live in a divided nation and a
divided world. It is often hard to know
whom to trust, but I do believe that
as Christians, we have to look no
further than the fruits of the spirit
to identify who is in the right rela-
tionship with Jesus Christ. According
to Galatians 5:22-23, the fruits of
the spirit are the following: love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, good-
ness, faithfulness, gentleness and
self-control. If we follow Christ, then
these should be the fruits of our
actions, our speech and our work.

We have experienced several horrors
in the last few months. The killing of
Charlie Kirk was just one. There was
also the LDS church in Michigan, the
children, Fletcher Merkel and Harper
Moyski, at Annunciation Catholic
church, and the Democratic leader,
Melissa Hortman and her husband
Mark in Minnesota.

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Of course, as I write these words, I know I am leaving someone out. The horrors continue, and I am so disturbed by them. Furthermore, in the face of such horrors, it is hard to know what to do or what to say. After each one, I was outraged and angry. I know deep in my bones that this is not what God wants of us! Not at all! These were brutal murders, and they are never to be celebrated. However, in the aftermath of these tragic deaths, you and I can pause and ask ourselves, what kind of a nation are we, and what kind of a nation do we want to become? This reflection, on our parts, can change the course of our history and our conversations.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to meet folks from Ignite Peace. Their office is in Cincinnati, and leaders from Ignite Peace were invited to Highland Methodist

Church for some education and conversation last week. One of the big projects Ignite Peace is leading is Nonviolent Communication. Shannon Hughes, the Executive Director at Ignite Peace, educated all of us about the good work she and Ignite Peace are doing. This specific program on nonviolence caught our attention collectively. In fact, one mom said her daughter was more interested in learning how to speak with those who have different viewpoints more than attending church. She was very persuasive saying, "Young people want to know how to live in this world. This matters more to them than Sunday worship."

I didn't know this member of our community, but when she spoke she did so with the purpose of asking church leaders and church members to help young people find a way to talk with each other.

It sounds so simple, but in this day and age, it is not.

This topic engaged my heart and caught my eyes. Could we bring something like this to Christ? What if we all learned to speak in a nonviolent way? Would that training keep us in line with the Holy Spirit and Spirit's invitation?

I hope and pray that we can *all* forge ahead in a Christlike manner. I hope that we can *all* embody these precious Fruits of the Spirit. Our future depends upon them, and if we are Christian then perhaps this is the banner we should *all* wear!

Blessings to you in the Autumn Season. So glad to be on this journey with you!

With Grace and Gratitude,

Pastor Diane

Should You Wait to Clean Up Your Leaves?

Did you know insects are declining by almost 10% every decade? Plus almost 40% of insect species are facing extinction.

One reason is many insects hibernate in dead leaves and are killed during an early fall leaf cleanup. These are insects like bumblebee queens (bumblebees do more pollinating than honey bees), luna moths, fireflies, lady bugs, and various moths and butterfly larvae. Our birds and small mammals rely on these insects — and even the leaves themselves— for food and nesting material. Birds rely on insects hiding in leaf litter during fall and early spring so keeping leaves around helps sustain them. There are only half as many song birds now in the U.S. as there was in the 1970s according to the National Audubon Society.

Instead of eliminating all the leaves in your yard, consider the following:

1) Putting the leaves in your garden beds for the winter acts like mulch, helping regulate soil temperature and moisture. As leaves break down, they fertilize your yard by returning organic matter and minerals to the soil. They also shield plants from frost and temperature swings.

2) Bagging and hauling leaves adds to landfill waste, where they release methane. Letting them decompose in place means the carbon (which is fertilizer) is absorbed by your yard.

3) Less work for you! Waiting until later in the season, or even spring, means fewer raking sessions since most leaves will have already fallen.



Photo by Michele Wright

The trick is balance. Avoid leaving thick mats of leaves on your lawn all winter (they can smother grass), but consider raking them into garden beds, under shrubs, or just leaving them in a light layer until spring. Leaving even some of the leaves until late Spring can make a big difference.

Thanks for caring!
The Christ Church Green Team

Christian Education Update

From Madeline Queen

Director of Christian Education

This past month we kept things simple with Sunday School each week. **On Sunday, September 28, we made a small but exciting change:** children now begin in the worship service and then head downstairs for Sunday School, instead of starting downstairs. Parents can pick them up downstairs after church. We look forward to helping our kids feel even more connected to the full life of worship in our church.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our **Fall Fest on Sunday, October 19, right after church around noon.** We'll enjoy fellowship and fun with a **Chili Cook-Off.** To enter, please email Ms. Madeline to sign up. Don't forget to bring your

spare change—you'll vote for your favorite chili by dropping change in their jar, and the chili with the most votes will win a prize. All proceeds will go directly to support our children's ministry.

We invite everyone, young and old alike, to come dressed in your Halloween costume that Sunday. It will be a festive day for the whole church family.

Please contact Miss Madeline if you are interested in helping!



Mission Team Update

From Christ Church Mission Team

Our congregation continues to support the work of the Mission Team, and the community organizations that serve our area to an amazing extent. This month, volunteers helped to pack 240 kids kits to be sent by Church World Service to children living in refugee camps and disaster areas who would otherwise not have supplies for their schools. **Thank you to all who participated!** Here is a thank you from Kevin Gehres, the Heartland Conference Disaster Response Coordinator:

"Thank you so much for the 240 kits, as well as the pictures of the Christ UCC folks during their Kids Kits Assembly Day! Please share our heartfelt appreciation with all the folks at Christ Church UCC, as this outpouring of love shows their true hearts for helping others!"



On October 5, we are asking for a team of volunteers to prepare and serve a meal at Hosea House. You should have received an email message with a link for

signing up to help. If you are free that afternoon, please join us. [Click here](#) to sign up. We'll have another date for Hosea House and one for Ronald McDonald House in December.

We'll have more information next month about our big volunteer project in November, Prepare Affair. Please keep November 15 open on your calendars if possible and be part of the team raking leaves and cleaning gutters for elderly and disabled homeowners.

Thank you for everything you do to share God's love with our neighbors.

Mission Team Members:

Melissa Cox, Pam Foote, Susan Gabbard, Barb Korpik, Judy Land, Jeri McMath, Thierry Paillette, Sallie Schmidt



Schedules for October

Liturgists

October 5	Bert Bathiany
October 12	Jean Braun
October 19	Janet Fischer
October 26	Shelley Kappesser

Deacons

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

Ushers

October 5	Jean Braun Mike Evans Nancy Pinguely Jeff Pinguely
October 12	Marie Cunningham Audrey Bernhard Ellen Turner Scott Turner
October 19	Jack Hurtt Marcia Storm Jay Wainscott Andy Borah
October 26	Greg Vogel Patti Miller Carol Himes Audrey Bernhard

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

Thanks to Our Church Family

Christ Church Family, Thank you for the diapers and wipes. This was very generous and thoughtful. We appreciate you thinking of us during this exciting time in our life!

Brandon, Natalie, Kemper, and Conner Fugate



Congratulations!

Natalie (Turner) and Brandon Fugate welcomed a son into the world on Sept. 29. Kemper and Connor are excited to have a new brother. Ellen and Scott Turner are excited to have a new grandson.

Church Repairs

Dear Friends,

Nancy Hunter, Greg Vogel, and I, after completing a extensive tour of the inside and outside of our church, made a priority list of repairs. I'm sure you have seen the disrepair areas and you feel as sad as we do that our beautiful church needs so much.

We are planning two workdays in October for volunteers to help with these projects. (Other days will be planned as well.) One way you could contribute if you are unable to physically assist is with a monetary donation for supplies (listed below) or with a gift card to Lowe's or Sherwin Williams. We are also collecting for new chairs and new window coverings for Hoffman Hall. This all will be quite an expense, and your help is needed. If you would like to contribute, please complete the form below, earmark for church supplies on the envelope, and put in offering plate, drop off in the locked box outside the office, or give to Nancy, Greg, or Linda. Thank you for helping with this Church Mission as we work to make repairs needed for our church.

Blessings and Love,
Linda L. Gracey

REPAIRS NEEDED

- Foundation scraping and power washing
- Material to fill cracks and chipped areas
- Painting foundation
- Securing hand rail outside Narthex (Audubon side)
- Replacing ceiling tiles stained from water marks
- Caulking different areas
- Replacing tread on steps to Hoffman Hall
- Killing tree growing out of kitchen window
- Cleaning stairs and stairwell to Hoffman Hall (Audubon side)
- Attaching baseboards in Hoffmann Hall & top floor hall (preparing walls for baseboard)
- Painting areas all over church (also a winter project)

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Lowe's gift card
- Sherwin Williams gift card

Money for the following:

paint, paint supplies, scrapers, concrete, caulking, baseboards glue for baseboards miscellaneous (ie food to feed the workers) Hoffman Hall chairs, windows (approx. \$65.00 each)



Need Pet Therapy?

By Ramel Vogel

Just a reminder about the dog therapy program that is available free to Christ Church members. Three years ago, I offered our dogs for pet therapy for church members. Since that time, we were able to visit a member in a nursing home until her passing, and to visit a church member in her home once a month.

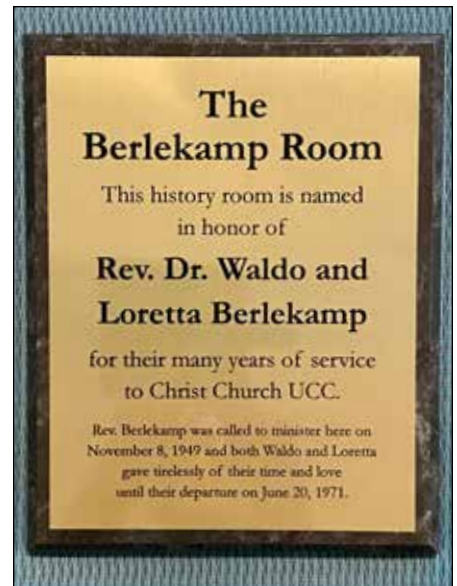
Therapy dogs help people by providing emotional comfort and support. They create a safe, non-judgmental space for emotional expression. They help lower stress, anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Physiologically, interacting with therapy dogs can lower blood pressure and heart rate. One of the benefits of this therapy is you don't have to talk to them or express your feelings. They already know. They are not asking for anything in return — well maybe a little petting. I have seen with my own eyes the miracles dogs can do, especially for those that cannot verbalize how they are feeling. Therapy dogs are **not** service dogs. A service dog is trained to do a job and you never pet them. Therapy dogs are provided to give love and enjoy the petting, hugs, belly rubs, and all the love you want to give them.

Our dogs went through countless years of training to become ther-

apy dogs and passed two tests to become nationally certified. We are certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and are required to have so many visits quarterly and to take a written test once a year. Our dogs are insured through this agency so there is no liability for our church. We are also members of the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati Therapy Dogs.

Some information on our dogs: Macy is a chocolate Labrador Retriever. She is nine years old, has worked in hospice in the past, and is amazing at therapy work. She has such empathy for people and somehow just knows who needs her the most. She has worked with non-verbal children and has sat quietly with the actively dying. She is 90 pounds of pure love. Due to Macy's size, some people are a little intimidated so we have Holly, a six year old Cockapoo that weighs 29 pounds. Since Holly is smaller, it is easy to pick her up so individuals can pet her. She enjoys belly rubs and people of all ages.

If you have any questions or have a church member who would like to try out the program, please contact Michele or Pastor Diane. You can also reach out to me directly. My phone number is available in the church directory.



Berlekamp History Room

From 1949 until 1971, Waldo Berlekamp, with his wife, Loretta, served Christ Church with dedication and love. They raised two children, Elwyn and Miriam. When Elwyn returned for his 60th Anniversary from Highlands High School, two of his classmates donated \$20,000 to create a History Room in memory of the Berlekamps.

Bill Hitch and his team did an amazing job remodeling the Library/Adult Sunday School classroom into a beautiful space to hold the archives of Christ Church. During the past month, Mike Evans, Patti Miller, Scott Turner, Linda Gracey, and our custodian, Jeff Searcy have sorted through a plethora of materials and have been organizing the information that will be arranged in the room.

Additional news will be coming as the Berlekamp History Room is completed. A special **Thank You!** to Bill Hitch and his team for their construction talents as well as Mike, Patti, Scott, Linda, and Jeff for their faithful work.



Congratulations!

Terri and Dave Jagger welcomed a grandson, Henry Lee Jager. He met the world on August 30 at 7 lbs. 11 ozs. Greeting Henry are parents, Maddy and Josh Jager, and big sister, Olivia.

Thanks to Our Church Family

Christ Church family, I don't have words to properly describe just how much your love, good luck wishes and prayers, get well cards, calls, reading materials, coffee cakes, and the love behind those have meant to me. The love and concern you have shown me is returned to you over and over again.

Bless you all! Gordon Braun



Our Choir

From Danny Manning, Choir Director
I have a lot of wonderful ideas for our choir at Christ Church. If you have not been a part of our choir, we would love to have you. Our rehearsals are at 10 a.m. before the service and immediately following until about 12:30 p.m. after a brief time of fellowship. All are welcome. Let's make some beautiful music together!

Sept. Attendance

	In Person	Online
9/7/25	78	N/A
9/14/25	65	N/A
9/21/25	55	N/A
9/28/25	76	N/A



Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 11:30 a.m.

For centuries tourists from around the world have traveled to a region in southwestern Spain to hike or bike the numerous trails that lead to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in the city of Galicia. The **Camino de Santiago** or the **Way of Saint James** has drawn pilgrims to this place where tradition holds that the remains of the Apostle James are believed to be buried. Our guest presenter will be **Marcia Storm**, a member of the Christ Church family, who will share her experiences and photos from her walk that started in Portugal in September of 2024.

Reservations Required for Lunch
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon. **For lunch reservations contact Nancy Hunter before Sunday, October 24.**



Prayer Requests

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:
Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Jeff McDonald, Nancy Castleman, Fred Nippert, The family of Maxine Noble, Makayla, Jamie & Kelly Greenwalt, Mike Bizzarro, Dave Jager, Chris P., Bènè, Don Seifert, Mike & Laura Randall, Shane, Dave, Tim, Karen, Jan Kennedy, Allen, Tammy Weidinger, Jim Rehtin Jr., Carol Manning, Danny Manning, Jana Guido, Nelly, Carol Blair, Tony Asher, Shelley, Steve McCall, Jackson Vanderpool, Warren Witt, Jason Pierce, Donna Hoffman, Tim Kennedy, Barbara Walkenhorst-Derby, Mark Helminiak, Donna Prues and family, Tom Raney, General Fernbach, Mary Hertzman, Gordon Braun, Chris Evans, Karma Klingenberg, Marcia & David Hosea, Jeff K.



Diapers! Diapers! Diapers!

Nathan and Laura Randall are having **Twins!** Excited grandparents are Laura and Mike Randall. Please support this mission by filling the diaper bin in the Narthex with diapers and wipes. The twins are expected at the end of the year.

Photos from Our CWS Kids Kits



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Josh Woodward
Stephen Weber
Mark Sheffer
Annelise Mai
Abby Vogel
Dana Pendery
Donna Hoffman
Jenny Herrmann
Connor Fugate
Patti Miller
Helen Long
Dave Draper
Natalie Fugate
Anna Beimesche

Guy Karrick
Brandon Fugate
Lucy Houben
Larry Stinson
Carolyn Honchell
Howard Storm
Margo Menefee
Joyce Grau

Andy & Bridgette Luken
Bud & Kathy Leftin
Angie & Jeff Wells
Eugene & Carole Lukjan
Jane & Barry Petracco

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 Bridal Shower
5 8:30 am - Fellowship 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship HOSEA HOUSE	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 4 pm - Talia- Rehearsal	11
12 8:30 am - Fellowship 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 2 pm - Talia- Recital	13 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 7 pm - Survivors of Suicide 7 pm - Finance Meeting	14 10 am - Coffee with Pastor Diane 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
19 8:30 am - Fellowship 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship 11:30 am - Mission Team 12 pm - FALL FEST	20 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 4 pm - FT Mom's Trunk or Treat	21 10 am - Coffee with Pastor Diane 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	22 9:30 am - Mom's 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 9 am - Adult Discipleship 10:30 am - Children's Christian Education 10:30 am - Worship	27 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 6 pm - Church Council	28 10 am - Coffee with Pastor Diane 11:30 am - Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm - Art Group 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous	29 3 pm - Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm - AA Group	30 12 pm - Study Group	31	