

November 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

Appreciating Our Blessings *The Connections Within Our Community*

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take a moment to reach out to each and every one of you with heartfelt gratitude and warm wishes. This special holiday gives us the opportunity to pause, reflect, and appreciate the many blessings in our lives — especially the connections we share within our community.

Thanksgiving is not just about delicious meals and festive gatherings. It is about coming together, expressing appreciation for one another, and recognizing the strength that lies in unity and kindness. Whether you are celebrating with family, friends, or neighbors, I hope you find joy in the company of loved ones and comfort in the spirit of togetherness.

As we end the year, let us continue to support one another, extend a helping hand to those in need, and foster an environment of compas-

sion and inclusion. Our community thrives when we look out for each other and build lasting bonds.

I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to two special events in November. The first is a Church Café on November 16 right after church. We will have pizza and lemonade that day and answer some important questions about our church and its future. This is an interactive event that should provide some enjoyment and good fellowship for all those involved. We will need a head count to order pizza, so please do sign up in advance. The second is The Hanging of the Greens on November 23 right after church. That day we will begin decorating our worship space for Advent. Please do consider joining us for these events. All are welcome to attend!

Continued on next page

Prepare Affair

Saturday, November 15 from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

We need you — to help our elderly and disabled neighbors with their outdoor chores. Presented by People Working Cooperatively, the Mission team hopes you and your family will volunteer, and bring a friend!

Prepare Affair helps elderly and disabled homeowners prepare their homes for winter. Services range from raking leaves and cleaning gutters to other small winter preparation tasks. **We'll meet at the Church at 8:30 a.m.** and go out in small groups to individual homes. If you have tools, such as rakes or leaf blowers, please bring them. We also need two people who can bring a ladder for gutter cleaning. Don't forget your work gloves! **At noon, the Mission Team will provide lunch as part of our thanks.**

Please go to www.pwc home repairs.org/prepare-affair to register (click on Volunteer Registration and complete the form using Christ Church UCC as the Volunteer Team Name). **If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Cox**

Continued from front page

On behalf of everyone here, I wish you a safe, happy, and healthy Thanksgiving. May your holiday be filled with laughter, good food, and cherished memories. Thank you for being an essential part of our community and for making it such a wonderful place to worship and to grow in the love of Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

Pastor Diane Vego

Third Quarter Financial Report

From Bert Bathiany, Treasurer
Greetings from the Finance Board. The following is the third quarter financial report for Christ Church. As always, I am being transparent with the congregation. Usually by this time, our giving is greater than our budget. We have many members who don't pledge but are generous throughout the year. This year we are behind in our giving by about \$16,000. I realize many are on a fixed income and times are somewhat uncertain, especially with the government shutdown. I also realize the holiday season is approaching, which is our biggest giving quarter. When we propose our budget, we estimate the unpledged giving based on the past years of giving. By this time of year we usually see that part of giving increase. This is definitely a slower year. We are paying our bills, but had to access some of our reserves.

As most of you are aware, we also have begun and completed some projects that are necessary for the function of the church. All of the money put forth for those projects is from donations or from funds that were designated for projects. No money from the budget to be used for expenses has been used for those projects. But, we do find ourselves under funded for monthly expenses.

So, my request for you is to evaluate what you can afford to give to Christ Church. If you are behind in your giving, please catch up if

you are financially able. If you feel the need and can go above and beyond your initial pledge, Bless you! Our congregation is amazingly generous and have always answered the call to support Christ Church, a fact that we at the finance board truly appreciate. It is hard, as treasurer, to present a report that is less than positive, and even harder to ask people to give money. Christ Church supports many activities in the community through the Misson Fund such as Hosea House, AA, through Pastor Diane's visitations, and the many bereavement meals. Coming up we have the Christmas Walk, where we open the church for prayer and provide music and food. We also have an amazing choir and music program, all of which are important to Christ Church.

In closing, I promise that we are working hard to maintain the financial stability of Christ Church. We are keeping expenses under control and brainstorming about ways to generate income. Any ideas are appreciated. For those who love to look at numbers, they can be found at the bottom.

Our cash flow is calculated as income minus expenses. That amount is <\$56,337> below. We do have some catch up budgetary items that will improve this some over the next 3 months. I am hopeful that we will make great strides over the next three months. If you have any questions, please contact me.

	Budget	Actual		
Income	\$243,000	\$210,337	<\$33,000>	below
Pledged	\$169,497	\$153,015	<\$16,400>	below
Expenses	\$266,625	\$256,217	<\$10,400>	below which is good

Christian Education Update

From Madeline Queen

Director of Christian Education

October was full of fun and fellowship for our Children's Ministry! Our annual Fall Fest was a wonderful success — full of chili, costumes, games, and laughter. A huge thank-you to everyone who participated in the chili cook-off and joined in the "coin voting." Together we raised **\$90** for our Children's Ministry! Your generosity and joyful spirit continue to shine the light of Christ in our church family and community.

Looking ahead, in **November** our kids and volunteers will take part in a **service project (details coming soon!)** as we find new ways to live out our faith and serve others. Stay tuned for more



information — and thank you for continuing to support and pray for our growing ministry!

Please contact Miss Madeline if you are interested in helping!

Mission Team Update

From Christ Church Mission Team

The focus this month is on Prepare Affair! This annual event, held by People Working Cooperatively (PWC), is designed to assist PWC's clients, who are lower income elderly and/or disabled homeowners, remain in their homes by providing teams of volunteers to rake leaves, clean gutters, and do other tasks to prepare for winter.

Our church has had a crew working in the Northern Kentucky area each year for several decades. Consider joining us this year for a great way to be out in the lovely fall weather, have fun with fellow church members and friends, get a bit of exercise, and help your neighbors. **The date is November 15.** We meet at church at 8:30 a.m. Please bring a rake and/or leaf blower. After working up an

appetite, we'll finish back at church with a delicious lunch of homemade chili courtesy of other generous church members giving their time and talent to feed our hungry crew.

Gutter cleaners are particularly prized. Let Melissa Cox know ASAP if you are willing to clean gutters and have a ladder and truck to transport the ladder.

Here's the link to sign up to join our team: <https://www.pwchomerepairs.org/prepare-affair> Where it says, "Crew Leader Name," scroll down until you see "Melissa Cox."

Also be watching for announcements about Christmas gifts for Washington UCC families (the tree with tags will be up before Thanksgiving!) and an opportu-



nity to serve a meal at Ronald McDonald House in December.

As we enter the holiday season, the Mission Team is extremely grateful for your support in helping others have a blessed holiday season too!

Mission Team Members:

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



Schedules for November

Liturgists

November 2	Katie Leftin
November 9	Barry Petracco
November 16	Jane Petracco
November 23	Laura Petracco
November 30	Marcia Storm

Deacons

November 2	Jean Braun
November 9	Jack Hurtt
November 16	Greg Vogel
November 23	Jean Braun
November 30	Jack Hurtt

Ushers

November 2	Jean Braun Gordon Braun Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette
November 9	Jack Hurtt Ellen Turner Scott Turner Marcia Storm
November 16	Greg Vogel Patti Miller Mike Evans Andy Borah
November 23	Jean Braun Gordon Braun Ellen Turner Scott Turner
November 30	Jack Hurtt Debbie Paillette Thierry Paillette Jay Wainscott

Christmas Walk

On December 7 from 4-7 p.m., is the citywide Christmas Walk. It is always a fun night for our church as we provide music, serve barbecue, hot chocolate, and greet friends and neighbors in our beautifully decorated church. As you would expect, it takes a team of folks to set up and clean up, make barbecue, serve the food and beverages, and greet folks. We would love for you to join



in the fun by helping in anyway.

Please contact:

Jean Braun or Linda Gracey.

Update on Church Repairs

From Linda Gracey

A special, warm thank you to all church members who have helped with repairs. October 4 and 11 were great workdays with specific goals accomplished. Also a heart-felt thank you to those who have contributed with money and gift cards to the cause. There is still a lot to do and we will continue to accept gifts until all the projects are completed.

Activities finalized:

- Weeding and dead branches removed
- Steps cleaned (Audubon Side to Hoffman Hall)
- Tree removed from kitchen window well
- Hallway from the Narthex to Hoffman Hall cleaned and power washed (Kilz will be applied and then painted)
- Roll away beds removed

Goal with Hoffman Hall is to repair and decorate it for rental events (extra revenue for the church)

- Cornices removed from windows in hall
- Water marked ceiling tiles replaced
- Hall doors scraped from chipped paint

- Both closets in hall cleaned out
 - Tread to cover steps from elevator area to Hoffman Hall (ordered and should be installed by December)
 - Carpet laid on platform and steps in children's educ. room
 - Bids accepted with Ramirez Brothers for repairing and painting outside foundation (completed in November)
 - Bid accepted with Ramirez Brothers for painting Hoffman Hall and kitchen (completed in November)
 - Conferred with Shari (Witte) Thompson, an interior designer, about foundation and wall colors
- Once hall painting is completed, new baseboards will be attached, new chairs and new window treatments ordered (gracious gifts from Nancy and Bob Witte), plus the completion of any other necessities.

After the New Year

- Painting completed in additional areas of the church
- Baseboards attached along third floor walls
- Any additional needs

Hopefully, these projects can be completed by our church members.

Church Council Meeting Notes

September 29, 2025

In Attendance:

Snezana Tenhundfeld,
Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Linda
Gracey, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette,
Jane Petracco, Marcia Storm,
Greg Vogel, Josh Woodward

• ***Gathering/Centering***

Snezana

• ***Approval of Minutes***

Linda made a motion to approve
the minutes from Aug 25, Debbie
seconded. **Minutes approved.**

• ***Financial Report***

- We are \$7000 down in giving.
- Expenses were less than budgeted.
- Jen made a motion to approve
the Financial Report, Josh
seconded. **Report approved.**

• ***Pastor's Report***

- Diane sent us a report on all the
pastoral visits she has made
- We are still in need of another

council member for Christian
Education. Please let Diane or
any council member know if you
are interested.

- We are going to be collecting
Instant Mashed Potatoes and
canned Yams this year for the
Brighton Center until Dec. 1.
- Diane will attend an Interim
Pastor Training Oct 19-23 but
will still be here on Sunday.
- The front door will be locked
temporarily at 10:40 a.m. on
Sundays. Please knock if you
need to enter and a deacon will
let you in.

• ***Fellowship/Hospitality Report***

- We are having a diaper drive for
the Randalls (twins!)
- Linda and some volunteers are
going through items in the two
rooms across from the chapel.

• ***Building and Grounds***

- There will be 2 workdays sched-
uled. The first will be Oct. 4
and the second will be Oct. 11.
Please see Linda Gracey or Greg
Vogel if you are interested.
- If you eat Pringles, please save
your cans and lids, these can be
used to "save" the paint rollers.
- A new bench will be purchased
in memory of Doug Miller for
the prayer garden.
- Greg to look into getting motion
detector lights for some door-
ways outside.
- Linda got a bid to paint the
foundation. A second company's
bid will be submitted soon.

• ***The next Council meeting will be October 27***

• ***Meeting concluded with prayer.***

October 27, 2025

In Attendance:

Pastor Diane, Snezana Tenhundfeld,
Bert Bathiany, Beckie Borah, Linda
Gracey, Jen Korpik, Debbie Paillette,
Jane Petracco, Greg Vogel,
Josh Woodward

• ***Gathering/Centering Prayer***

Pastor Diane

• ***Approval of Minutes***

Linda made a motion to approve
the minutes from Sept. 29, Josh
seconded. **Minutes approved.**

• ***Financial Report***

- We are \$16,000 down in giving
(\$46,000 under budget).
- Bert had to take \$20,000 out of
reserves to pay bills.
- The money for the recent reno-
vations is from another account
and not in the budget.
- Ideas were given about possible
fundraising.
- Bert will have a finance report
in November in *The Guide*.
- Josh made a motion to approve

the Finance Report, Jane
seconded. **Report approved.**

• ***Pastor's Report***

- Diane gave us a report on all
the pastoral visits she made in
October.
- Diane reported she thorough-
ly enjoyed her Interim Pastor
training retreat in Marysville,
Ohio, learned a great deal about
the interim role, and shared
some of what she learned.
- She thought a small Transition
Team would be helpful in gath-
ering information for the Search
Committee.
- Linda made a motion for Diane
to create a Transition Team and
Greg seconded. **Motion passed.**
- The theme of this year's Advent
season will be "Fear Not" and
the church will be decorated on
November 23 after church.
- We are still in need of another
council member for Christian

Education. Please let Diane or
any council member know if you
are interested.

- We are going to be collecting
Instant Mashed Potatoes and
canned Yams this year for the
Brighton Center until Dec. 1.
- The front door will be locked
temporarily at 10:40 a.m. on
Sundays. Please knock and a
deacon will let you in.

• ***Fellowship/Hospitality Report***

- We are having Diaper Drives for
the Randalls (twins!)
- The Ft. Thomas Holiday Walk will
be Dec. 7. Volunteers needed.
- Work on the History Room is
coming along. Thanks to all
involved in this project!

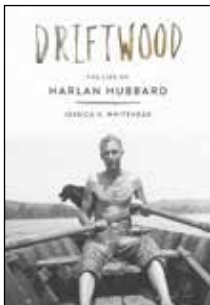
• ***Building and Grounds***

- See report in this Guide.
- ***The next Council meeting will
be November 24***
- ***Meeting concluded with prayer.***

Lunch and Learn

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

Artist and writer, Harlan Hubbard, lived an unassuming life with his wife Anna. Known for their shanty boat sojourn on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, they shared a quest for a simple life at their hand-built home in Payne Hallow. In her comprehensive biography, "Driftwood", **Jessica Whitehead** reveals why Hubbard can serve as inspiration for all readers interested in the history of American landscape painting, adventure, and environmentalism. Join Jessica for a lecture and book signing at our next Lunch and Learn.



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

Oct. Attendance

	In Person	Online
10/5/25	63	N/A
10/12/25	68	N/A
10/19/25	65	N/A
10/26/25	75	N/A



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.

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

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11



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, Gordon Braun, Karma Klingenberg, Marcia & David Hosea, Jeff K., Richard Lloyd, Katie Leftin, Barb Stinnett, Amber, Amirah, Tim, Suzanne Jones, Kelsey Morgan, Michael

(Underlining indicates anonymity)

Photos from Our Chili Fest



We Need a New Sign

From Linda Gracey

When Jim passed away in March 2023, our family thought it would be a lovely memorial in his name to replace the present church sign with an electronic one. Our church offers so many amazing programs (Lunch & Learn, Survivors of Suicide, AA, etc.), but because of the difficulty of putting the individual letters in the current sign, no one would know.

We didn't want anything flashy, just something like the city building has, an information sign that provides different church news quickly. Communication had been going on for a year and a half with the planning and zoning commissioners under the Parochial Ordinance for which we qualified.*

Our case/cause was presented October 22, 2024, to the Zoning Commission, proposing terms in which the sign would be used. The city manager, Matt Kremer, did not want to discuss a resolution and wanted the Court to make the decision. We then filed an APPEAL, on behalf of the church, to the Campbell County Courthouse. Our church's motion asked Judge Zalla to determine the city's interpretation of the Ordinance was incorrect. The city then



issued a memorandum in opposition. Our church filed a report and now the city asked for an extension for their reply. Once completed there is no timeframe on how long the Judge has to make his decision.

One thing left for us is a letter or email writing campaign to the Mayor and City Council Members which I may request of our members who are willing to do so. Their emails can be found at <https://fortthomasky.org/government/mayorcouncil/>

Just for your information, our family has incurred all legal expenses and would pay for the sign and its installation.

*Interestingly enough, by December 2024, the Zoning Commission changed the Parochial Ordinance. St. Thomas has recently installed its second electronic sign replacing the original one that has been up for many years.



Berlekamp History Room

Slowly but surely the History Room is coming together. The most recent accomplishment is two pieces of glass on top of the beautiful table covering various laminated articles about the history of our church through the years.

Prior to the Web, emailing, and texting, people relied on the newspaper to find out information. Our church was very, active with not only religious activities but also theater productions, construction projects, etc.

Mike Randall is graciously helping with the identification of unknown confirmands and new members through the years who are in 3-ring notebooks for all to peruse when completed. Michele is helping with creating 8x10" head shots of all of the church's pastors for the "Wall of Ministers." The room is definitely a work in progress but getting closer to completion.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jack Gise
Melissa Cox
Krista Hack
Shannon Thomas
Andrew Borah
Karen Robinson
Kyle Huelsman
Alex Petracco
Jim Korpik
Janice Morris

Joy Storm
Gary Hunter
Stephanie Laake
Dorothy Lyman
Shelley Kappesser
David Jager
Ken Honchell
Carolyn Cook

Julie & Daniel Mai

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 10 am - Bloom Homeschool	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
9 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship	10 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 7 pm - Survivors of Suicide 7 pm - Finance Meeting	11 10 am-Coffee with Pastor Diane 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 7 pm- Doll Group	14	15 8:30 am-Prepare Affair
16 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Church Café and Lunch	17 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 4 pm - FT Mom's Trunk or Treat	18 10 am-Coffee with Pastor Diane 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	21	22
23 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Hanging of the Greens	24 10 am - Bloom Homeschool 6 pm - Church Council	25 10 am-Coffee with Pastor Diane 11:30 am - Lunch and Learn 1:30 pm- Art Group 7 pm- Overeaters Anonymous	26 9:30 am- Mom's Group 3 pm-Small Group Zoom Link is: bit.ly/ccwednesday 7 pm- AA Group	27 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving	28	29
30 8:30 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Children's Christian Education 10:30 am-Worship						