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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Making Jesus Known*



February 2024

from Pastor Steve Bond

**Coming  
Soon**

**Join us on Facebook**

**10:00 a.m.**

or

**Live in person!**

**8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Morning  
Bible Study**

9:15 a.m.

**Ladies Bible Study**

Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.

**Pastors Bible Study**

Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

**Children's Sunday  
School**

February 4, 9:00 a.m.

**Visitation Ministry  
Meeting**

February 5

**Quilt Ministry**

February 6 & 20

**Outreach Meeting**

February 7

**Worship and Music  
Meeting**

February 8

**Youth & Education**

February 12

**Church Council**

February 13

**Book Club**

Tuesday, February 20

**Worship Services**

Available on the net at  
[www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)

## Pastor's Letter—February 2024—"The Cross of Jesus"

On Sunday mornings, when I find myself walking beside our assisting minister and looking up at the beautiful wood and glass of the cross suspended over us in the air at the center of our sanctuary, it hits me again just how astounding it is that a cross, of all things, is the symbol at the heart of our faith. Sometimes I think we forget just how outrageous, how preposterous, a thing it was for those ancient Christians to recognize that the Empire's cruel instrument of death, domination, and torture was in actuality God's upside-down kind of triumph, restoration, and life.

Everybody expects to find the divine up in some distant heaven... or in the peaceful beauty of the starry sky... or the grandeur of sunset over the Grand Canyon. But Christians make the audacious claim that God has met us in the very place a respectable, dignified deity shouldn't be bleeding and dying on a cross between two thieves. That is the glorious scandal of our faith. We've come to recognize God in Jesus, not just at the times when he's performing a miracle, healing the sick, preaching a sermon, or up on a mountaintop dressed in dazzling white, but on a sunless Friday afternoon on a godforsaken lynching tree, most of all. That's why, of all the things that could have been put at the center of our worship space, there hangs a cross—the instrument of torture turned into a sign of hope.

Our older brother in the faith, Martin Luther, once wrote, "The cross alone is our theology." And that's not really an exaggeration. The cross shows us the depth of God's love, the breadth of God's embrace, and the lengths God will go to in order to bring a whole world full of us mess-ups and sinners back to life. If the Gospel were a song, the cross would be the key signature; if our faith were a house, the cross would be the foundation—the starting point on which everything else is built. And in a world like ours that is weary of seemingly unending war and suffering in so many different forms, what we are most aching for is the news that God doesn't stand off, distant and aloof from all the brokenness, but has shared it with us, all the way to death, in order to mend it all. That's why the cross, strange as it might seem, is the center of our faith: it is there, most clearly, that God has come to meet us, to save us, and to bring us to life.

That's why this coming Lent, we are inviting you to share this season of forty days as we meet Jesus *at the cross*. From the Ash Wednesday liturgy, when the cross is traced on our foreheads (reminding us both of our mortality and of God's claim on us through death), through each week until Easter on March 31, we will be exploring the good news of God's love to be found at the cross. We hope you'll be a part of this year's Lenten journey here at Community of Christ, and that through these days, you'll find yourself meeting Jesus more deeply in a whole new way.

Christ's Peace to you as together we make Jesus known,

Pastor Steve



# Meeting Jesus

a year of getting to know the One who has claimed us in love

## **“Meeting Jesus” This Lent (Midweek Wednesday Series)**

This year, the forty-day season of Lent that points us to the cross of Jesus begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, which is also Valentine’s Day. That might seem a strange overlap—after all, red and pink heart-shaped boxes full of chocolates don’t seem to have much in common with a roughly traced cross made of ashes. But maybe this year we can rediscover that the season we observe as Lent each year, really is all about God’s love for us in Jesus—love that was willing to share our own mortality and lay down his life for us at the cross! That’s the invitation we’re making this year as we begin our Lenten journey: to rediscover the depths of God’s love... to deepen our connection with Jesus as we follow him... and to recommit ourselves to walking on Jesus’ way.

As we have in past years, we’ll be offering dinners (hosted and coordinated with the help of some of our youth and other families) on Wednesday evenings in the fellowship hall. On Ash Wednesday, that will start at 5:30 p.m. and will lead into our 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. On the following Wednesdays, we’re trying something new to us after each week’s dinner: a time that will include song, prayer, and worship, but also hands-on creative projects that will help connect us with some of the central stories of our faith along the way to the cross and resurrection. Our Wednesday series this year will be for all ages, including children and adults, and we hope you’ll make the time to join us this year for this special Lenten series.

## **Catching Up on Crazy Faith Talk Podcast**

Pastor Steve does a weekly podcast, “Crazy Faith Talk,” with two other colleagues in ministry (one, a Methodist, and one a fellow ELCA pastor) from other parts of the country, and you can listen in on their weekly conversations about topics at the intersection of Christian faith, church life, pop culture, and everyday living. This January and February, they’ve been doing a series on important books that have shaped our personal faith journeys, and we’ll have a new series for Lent starting in the second half of February, too. You can always find links to the latest episode on our church Facebook page, and you can also listen directly at [www.blogtalkradio.com/crazyfaithtalk](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/crazyfaithtalk), or you can even ask your smart speaker (like Amazon Echo/Alexa) to play the podcast “Crazy Faith Talk,” and catch up that way. It’s always free to listen, and it’s one more resource to explore and deepen your faith life during the course of your weekly routine!



# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Events

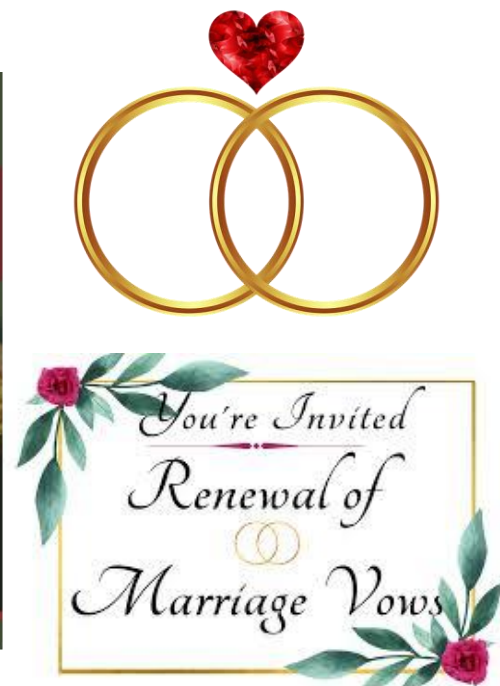


## Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 10

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 10, starting at 6:00 p.m., as both a chance to celebrate and share fellowship together, as well as to help support our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign. Dinners will include spaghetti bake, salad, bread, drinks, and dessert, and we'll have a short program of entertainment shared by our Pastor Steve and Sarah as part of the evening. Tickets are \$10.00 each for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12, and free for kids 5 and under, and are available in the gathering space on Sundays at our table and display where one of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee members will be happily helping with tickets. Get yours soon and help us celebrate!

## Feb. 10 Vow Renewal Celebration

While we've been celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Community of Christ being bound together in love, we thought this would be a great time to celebrate couples in our congregation, too! So, we're hosting a Vow Renewal Service on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 10 at 4:30 p.m. (yep, you can stay for the Spaghetti Dinner afterward, too, to make a whole day of celebration with our church family!) for any couple, no matter how long or short you have been together. Whether you are marking a special anniversary in your own marriage or just want to take the chance to say, "I keep on loving you and I will continue to share life with you!" to your beloved, this is a fun chance to renew your vows with others from our congregation. Our vow renewal is open to all—whether you were married at Community of Christ or not, whether you have been married for many or a few years—and we'll make this a day to remember here with other families from our congregation. There is no cost to be a part of the Vow Renewal Ceremony, but we'd ask you to RSVP by signing up at the kiosk starting in January so we can be prepared for those who will join us. We hope this day can make a special memory for you and your family as a part of our Community of Christ church family!





# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## Events



### **More 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News and Events Coming Soon!**

Every month between now and May we'll be bringing you more special ways to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary as a congregation, and we want you to know you're invited to any, and all of them! Check out these events and special opportunities coming up here at Community of Christ:

Timeline—Feb. 4—Help us construct a giant-sized timeline of our history as a congregation, along with important milestones from your life and family, by joining us after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. We can use any hands, and we'll also share lunch after we've created a giant timeline on our rolling bulletin boards that can be spread out in the gathering space. We'd love your help sharing in the memories and helping us to display the story of our church family visually!

Renewal of Vows and Spaghetti Dinner—Feb. 10—As noted in the previous articles, the afternoon and evening of Feb. 10 bring us two chances to celebrate. If you would like to renew your wedding vows to your spouse, sign up at the kiosk to be a part of our 4:30 p.m. Renewal of Vows ceremony, and if you would like to just enjoy good food and celebration with our congregation, get your tickets for our 6:00 p.m. spaghetti dinner on the same evening. This could be a great early Valentine's celebration, a nice evening out, or just a chance to enjoy fellowship with our church family!

Jazz Band Mar. 10 (tentative) Save-the-Date! We are planning to host a concert featuring the Anthony Wayne High School Jazz Band here at Community of Christ on the afternoon of Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. as one more special musical celebration. Stay tuned for more details! OR should this event change, we will share more news as we know more!

Bed Builds April 6—Part of our commitment as we give thanks for the past fifty years of our congregation's history is our pledge to take on new social ministries to help reach out to neighbors near and far with God's love. And this project is a really exciting way for us to mark that milestone of five decades! More details are included in this Newsletter!

May 4-5 Weekend—The culmination of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration that began back in September 2023, commemorating the first organizational gatherings of what would become Community of Christ will be on the weekend of May 4-5, 2024, when we'll have a big celebration dinner and program, held at Anthony Wayne High School (as an homage to our first gatherings in that cafeteria before our first worship space was built), and then a joyful celebration in worship on Sunday, May 5, with guests and special friends joining us. More details to come on these days as we get closer, but please plan to join us on May 4 and 5 for the climax of our 50-year celebration!



# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Let's Build!

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, we have the awesome opportunity to host a build event and sponsor 50 new beds for those kids in need around our surrounding community. Half of the \$50,000 goal to raise is directed to community projects outside our walls and a portion of that will go to this project.

We are partnering with a local non-profit **Let's Build** that has a mission: *"We believe that every child deserves a bed of their own to sleep in at night. We believe that every child is full of infinite potential. We help children by providing a bed and empowering them to assemble it and be successful."* There is a current waiting list of over 450 kids from ages 3 to 17 years old within approx. 1 hour radius of Waterville. They host events and provide beds, mattresses, and bedding to approx. 100 kids each month. They have "build" events about two times per month, and delivery teams weekly go out to assemble (the kids help) the beds.

We have scheduled Saturday morning April 6th in our church parking lot. We will create a full manufacturing site to turn a few stacks of lumber into wonderful gifts of beds for children. (we do have a backup indoor location if the weather is bad). Everyone is welcome to help during the day of the event working and providing any support. Adults and supervised kids can help operate cutting, sanding, and drilling power hand tools. Anyone is capable and will be taught how to do everything during the event.

The monetary part of the equation is another way to help. Each Bed costs about \$200 to make in materials (our labor is Free 😊). They have networked to great discounts and donations, but still have costs of wood and hardware (~\$100), the mattress (~\$70), and the bedding (~\$30). So, the sponsor of the event has been asked to contribute to the need for the building of the beds, which will be \$10,000. Donations can go to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund that will get split up or to the bed build specifically.

Looking forward to the fun and exciting building and bonding event. Let's pull together our team on our site and work together and give back to those in need. We will have a sign-up sheet closer to the event and need about 50 volunteers to complete the mission. Thanks for your support!

Jeff Baden (Event Coordinator)



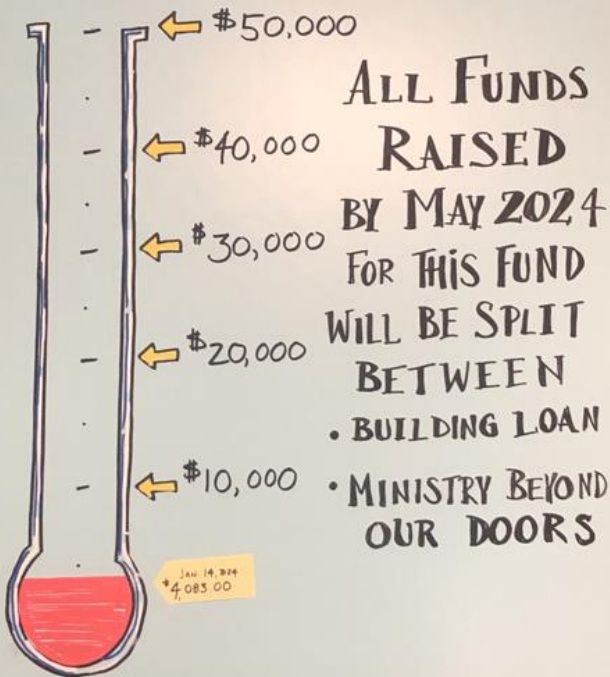


# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## Fiftieth Anniversary Campaign Challenge

### COMMUNITY OF CHRIST 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN



How will we fund our dream of building those fifty beds for kids in the Toledo area? How do we honor the longstanding legacy at Community of Christ of caring for our neighbors near and far? And how can we use this milestone in our congregation to look forward to our future as well as backward to our heritage? All of these are why we are also inviting the whole congregation to support a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collection of special gifts and offerings that will both position us for the future (and our next fifty years!) and reach out to the world that God loves right now. Here's the goal—and it's a big and exciting dream: we want to raise \$50,000.00 this winter and spring, in celebration of our fifty years of history so far, and to split all those funds raised into two directions. Half of all that we receive in our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary collection will go to pay down our building loan so that we can retire that debt and burn that mortgage as soon as possible and open up new channels of ministry for us when that day comes. The other half of all we receive in this special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign will go relief work near and far through agencies and organizations like Lutheran World Relief or the Bed Build Project.

How can you help support the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collection campaign? We've got several ways to be involved: first off, you can simply donate, whether with your regular offering (electronically or in an envelope) by marking that you would like a portion of an offering to go to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary collection, or with special offering envelopes at the thermometer display in the gathering space. You can simply bring additional donations to the church office on any other day you happen to be stopping by or sending it in the mail. Check out the new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign thermometer display in the gathering space, too, to see how we are progressing so far, between now and our May 5 Anniversary Weekend!





# Worship Announcements



## Choirs!!

Join US for Choirs!!

Vocal Choir on Wednesday  
at 7:00 p.m.

and

Bell Choir on Thursday  
at 7:30 p.m.

Come One, Come All!!

We're open to new  
members!



**Altar Flower dedications** for 2024 are available in the church hallway on the bulletin board. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, please sign up today. Simply fill out a blank date tag and envelope, place a check or cash and the tag in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate. Or if you simply wish to donate to our Flower Fund, please use the envelope for "donations only". We are grateful for your blessings.

### New Worship Volunteer Role: Verger

There will be a new volunteer role you can help with on Sundays in 2024, with a particular focus on having someone available and "on call" during the service itself for miscellaneous needs, once the service has started. This role, which we are calling the "verger," (a title that goes back centuries for a person set apart as caretaker or attendant during worship services), is meant to help keep eyes and ears open for any needs that might arise during worship. That could be something as simple as watching for people who arrive late to the service and need a bulletin or help with finding seating, or in case any direction is needed for newcomers or visitors with the flow of communion through our aisle. Or it could involve having your eyes open for anyone who might look like they need a first-aid kit, or knowing where the church's AED is in case of a medical emergency. Once worship has started, the people in "up front" roles may not be able to notice or respond to issues that might arise within the congregation or for those arriving once the service has started. And having someone who is willing to keep an eye open for needs that might arise during worship itself prevents a situation where those needs slip through the cracks or small needs grow into larger problems or could help to save time in a situation of an emergent medical need. You'll be able to sign up on our Sign-Up Genius (through the church website, through the Participation in Ministries option under the "Get Involved" tab on our site, [www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)). Please consider whether you might have the gifts and interest to serve as one of our *vergers* on Sundays here at Community of Christ!



## Worship

### Using Our Faithful Imaginations in Worship...

Starting this February, look for an added feature to our Sunday worship bulletins: a space for "using your faithful imagination" that is open for kids, youth, and adults. We'll have a blank space toward the back of each week's bulletins, and we invite you to run with it creatively! Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ! If you want to take your creation home with you, you can--if you are willing to share it with us by either leaving the bulletin and your pictures/doodles/words, or by taking a picture of it and sharing it to our social media with the tag #faithfulimagination, we'd love to see what you share! Hoping this is one more way to let our prayers, songs, stories, and words in worship percolate into our minds and creativity, not just on Sundays but throughout the week!





# News & Events



“Making Jesus Known”



Thank you for your contributions! Statements are available in the hallway on the table under the bulletin board. If you do not see yours and need a copy or if there are any discrepancies, please kindly notify Michelle via phone or email. Thank you!

Lent IS A TIME TO  
GROW  
CLOSER TO JESUS



## Youth Hosted Self-Defense Clinic

The youth group will be hosting a self-defense class for the congregation on **Sunday, February 25th at 2:30 p.m.** The 90-minute class will be taught by Shelly Blanco with Ohio Martial Arts. **Shelly's classes are designed for everyone.** Kids in 5th grade and older as well as adults are welcome to join. A parent is required to participate with their child. A non-refundable deposit of \$5.00 per person should be made payable to the church and either dropped off or mailed to the church office. Please sign up at the kiosk by **Sunday, February 18th.**

If you have any questions, please contact Cammie Abraham at 419-346-2568.

## Our first Lenten Soup Supper

We will begin our Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and at 6:00 p.m. the subsequent weeks of Lent. Please sign up at the kiosk to bring your favorite soup, salad, or dessert to share!



### Next Meeting Date

February 5 @ 10:30 a.m.



### Next Meeting Date

February 6th @ 6:30 p.m.



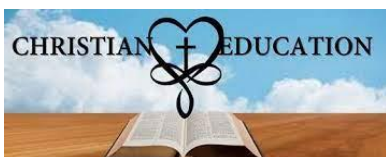
### Next Meeting Date

February 7 @ 7:00 a.m.



### Next Meeting Date

February 8 @ 10:00 a.m.



### Next Meeting Date

February 12 @ 6:30 p.m.



Church Council Meeting

### Next Meeting Date

February 13 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Sunday School is Sunday, February 4! All youth are welcome!



# SCAM ALERT

## Community of Christ Friends and Family

**Please be aware that text and email phishing scams have been circulating again. This time claiming to be Pastor Steve and Joseph Perkins asking, “can you do me a favor?” in hopes of a response. Once a response has been given, they are then asking for monetary gifts or gift cards. This is a scam!**

**Do not respond and report/block** the number or email it came from.

Remember Pastor nor any of the staff would solicit any requests of any kind by text or by email. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office.

Thank you!





# Worship Volunteer Schedule, February 2024



Week	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00</b>	Neil Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Bulletin 8:00</b>	Zach Weber	Rick Metcalf	Becky King	Vince Mauro
<b>Bulletin 10:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	T Baden, S Rockwell
<b>Camera 10:00</b>	Carol Wiemken	Kevin Swagler	Carol Wiemken	Sarah Rockwell
<b>Communion Prep/Clean 8:00</b>	Bea Ludwig	Becky King	Josef Perkins	Bea Ludwig
<b>Communion Prep/Clean 10:00</b>	Neil Raymond	Carol Wiemken	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter 8:00 East</b>	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter 8:00 West</b>	Rick Metcalf	Becky King	Irene Rang	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter 10:00 East</b>	Volunteer Needed	Chris Rilling	Rob Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter 10:00 West</b>	Volunteer Needed	Natalie Rilling	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
<b>Lector 8:00</b>	Kathryn Whitacre	Josef Perkins	Becky King	Kathryn Whitacre
<b>Lector 10:00</b>	Lisa Alleman	Dana Schmidt	Greg Aubell	Tina Baden
<b>Worship Asst 8:00</b>	Josef Perkins	Kathryn Whitacre	Kathryn Whitacre	Laurie Mauro
<b>Worship Asst 10:00</b>	Stephanie Phillips	Volunteer Needed	Dean Nofzinger	<u>Kara Yokum</u>
<b>Vergers 8:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Vince Mauro
<b>Vergers 10:00a</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

**\*\*\*Should you need to cancel your scheduled date, please contact another volunteer to fill your position and time slot. Also, cancel in Sign-Up Genius so the person covering you can sign up.**

**Lectors:** The readings are available for preview on our website at [www.commofofchrist.org](http://www.commofofchrist.org) under "Worship and Bulletins" and then the appropriate bulletin date.

**Bulletin Assistants:** Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

**Door Greeters:** Arrive 15 minutes before service to greet members and visitors at the doors of both entrances of the church.

**The Vergers:** is a caretaker role who keeps their eyes and ears open to lend a hand for any need that arises with congregants or worship providers during the service.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Mauro at (419) 877-5366. Thank you all for your time and attention to helping make our Worship Services run smoothly!

Prayers



# Blessings & Prayers



Praying for God's People

Remember the following in our daily prayers for all who are ill, shut in, recently hospitalized, Military, or in need of prayer:

**Barb Atkinson, Sue Brown, Val Brown, Kay Burdo, Craig Burdo, Troy Bernhard, Mike Carroll, Brianna Chavez, Shirley Cofer, Susan Dental, Brittany Dewitz, Cheryl Fischer, Jim & Sue Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Art Ingmire, Tom Jennings, Tristan Kimmey, Donna Longnecker, Judy Mock, Marita Perkins, Dorothy Petrell, Kathy Phillips, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Dick Rison, Deann Schiavone, Peter Schultz, Phyllis Sturgeon, Lois Wise, Military: Jay Rasmusson, Austin Cunningham**



## Prayers of the Church

For us to keep our prayer requests current and fresh in worship---we update our prayer list every two weeks. The names you provide will be included in the prayers of the congregation for two weeks. If you would like to renew your prayer request, please use the form available in the gathering area or contact the church office. Thank you. Continue to pray for one another!



## Prayer Shawls

Irene Rang and Mary Moats are responsible for the prayer shawls. If you are interested in making a prayer shawl or know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, please contact Irene at 269-832-7714.



**Our Thoughts  
and Prayers  
are With you**

We remember in prayer the families of Bob Schalitz, Bob Schroeder, and Deann Schiavone. May our Lord grant them peace and comfort in their hearts in the days ahead.



## Children's Sermon

Kids of all ages please join Pastor Steve on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m. as he shares the good news of Jesus! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!!




# Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

Exciting news from our church! We are offering you more giving options to support our church's financial needs. Council and Finance Committee (as well as the Synod) have recommended the use of a new online safe and secure tool to be able to give online electronically. The program is through Tithe.ly company used by many other churches and organizations. It has several options to be able to give as noted below:

- Your donations are recorded for your giving records, and confidential to the financial secretary.
- When you donate, you designate the fund you would like your monies to go toward e.g., building loan, general, thank-you, or other.

-There are four methods to give:

1. On the church website - @ <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2746426>
2. Online (through tithe.ly website, search for Community of Christ)
3. By text: simply text the word **give** to get started.  
**Community Of Christ Lutheran Church: (833) 985-2568**
4. Download the app and give. 

2023 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Dec	\$33,035	\$12,563	\$20,472
YTD	\$159,740	\$150,756	\$8,984
2023 General Fund			
Dec	\$62,226	\$35,151	\$27,075
YTD	\$376,845	\$367,005	\$9,840

Notes:

- The app and the web link allow you to input credit/debit card information. The text method will charge through your existing cell phone bill.
- There is a fee for this service for the convenience that it offers:
  - You can choose to cover this fee in addition to your donation, OR if you don't, the fee is deducted from the donation to the church.
  - This fee is a percentage typical of this type of service.

## SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

PLEASE REMEMBER ---we also offer an **electronic offering, (Simply Giving)** that will withdraw your offering automatically from your bank account. THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD'S WORK AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH!

## Community of Christ: In Focus Video Series

Stewardship Committee invites you to check out a new series of short videos, releasing monthly, which highlight different areas of our ministry life here at Community of Christ. We're calling it Community of Christ: In Focus, and each one gives a bit of a deeper dive into the many facets of our congregational life. Our first video, highlighting worship and music, is already available to watch through our website (look under the Worship Bulletin and Recordings section of the "News and Events" tab), on our Facebook page, or YouTube. Future videos will help shine a spotlight on the different kinds of things our gifts of time, talent, and treasure go to support so that you can have a better sense of the MANY things God is up to around here at Community of Christ. Check them out, share them with a friend, and learn more about how our resources, shared for Christ's service in this place, are being used for God's work in the world!



Marc Cameron books with the character, Arliss Cutter

\*February 20, 2024, Someone Else's Shoes by JoJo Moyes



\*March 19, 2024, The Golden Spoon by Jesse Maxwell

\*April 16, 2024, The White Lady by Jacqueline Winspear

**Book Club  
1:00 p.m.**

\*Lauren Willig's: A BAND OF SISTERS: or A NOVEL TWO WARS AND A WEDDING

\*May 21, 2024, Earth's the Right Place for Love: A Novel by Elizabeth Berg

\*Kathryn: THE PERSON LIBRARIAN by Marie Benedict

\*Joan B: HURRICANE SEASON by Lauren Denton

\*June 18, 2024, Braiding Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

\*Michelle: TRU BIZ by Sara Novic or MOUTH TO MOUTH by Antoine Wilson

**Members' suggestions:**





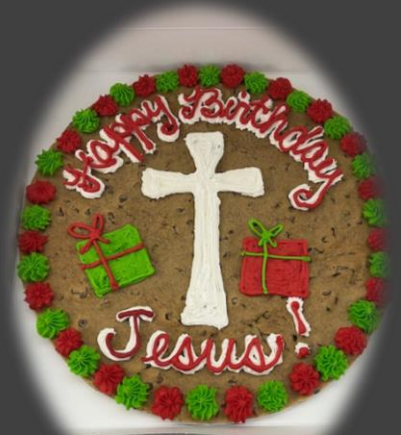
# Youth and Teens!



## **YOUTH and TEENS SERVING OUR CHURCH!**

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

We need servants for all the Lenten soup suppers; February 14, 21 & 28, and March 6, 13, & 20. We need a minimum of 6 teens for each supper. Please sign up in SignUp Genius! Thank you!





12/24/2023

Dear Community of Christ Lutheran Church  
Thanks to all of the wonderful  
volunteers who came to sing Christmas  
Carols with our residents. They  
all enjoyed it so very much.

Also, thank you for all of the  
wonderful gifts given to the  
residents and the staff. They were  
very much appreciated.

It was also so very nice to  
see & hear Pastor Steve play the  
piano. What a wonderful time of  
worship & praise.

Always keep the spirit within  
you hearts throughout the year!!

God Bless You All,  
Blue Creek Health Care  
Amy Bates - Director of Adm.  
Dawn Phoebe - Adm. Ass't

Thank you to our Visitation Ministry  
Team and all who joined in spreading  
cheer to the residents and staff of Blue  
Creek Health Care!

Thank you to Rob Kohntopp for painting  
the hall by the kitchen and coatroom 😊  
The refresher looks GREAT!!!!



# Thank you! Thank you!!

Making Jesus Known in the World that God Loves!





What is “Meal Train”? The Meal Train for Community of Christ was set up to help members of the church who could use meals to support common life events, such as a new baby, illness, surgery, loss and so many more.

Whether you are the person in need or you are aware of someone who could use some extra help, we encourage you to call Michelle at the church office (419-877-0607) or Cinda Pontsler (419-356-9290). We will then contact the family to ask some questions to help set up the “Meal Train”, such as when they would like the meals to start being delivered, how many days a week, how many people the meal should serve, and any likes, dislikes, or allergies that the preparers need to be aware of. That’s all there is!

An email is sent by Michelle explaining that a Meal Train is being organized for this family. Also included in this email is the information as to how to go on the Meal Train website and sign up to take a meal. If you don’t “do the computer”, no problem, just let Cinda know and she will help you sign up. We do ask that you contact the person receiving the meal the day before or the morning of, to finalize a time for the meal to be delivered.

If you need ideas as to what to prepare, go on the Meal Train website and they have wonderful suggestions. I have also used Pinterest to gather ideas.

Recently, we did have a request for gluten-free meals. This is a hard one for those of us who are not familiar with gluten-free cooking at all. The short explanation is that don’t prepare anything that has wheat, rye, or barley in it. We will be compiling a book of recipes that will be in the church office and will also be available to send to you via text/email.

It is hard for people to accept help sometimes. I know that several of the families that we have helped have hesitated because they felt as though they could manage themselves. After being the recipient of the Meal Train, they were so appreciative.

Members of our congregation are so willing to help those who need our help. This is part of being a “church family”. **Church is not something you go to, it’s a family you belong to.**

## **BAKING AND DECORATING COOKIES!**



The Visitation Ministry Team will be baking and decorating cookies on February 7th. We will meet in the kitchen at 9:00 a.m. and plan to be done by noon. If you would like to help, please sign up!



# Prairie Meadow Update



The Prairie Meadow was sowed with 46 species of local Oak Openings phenotype seed on Mon, Jan 22. Sowing native seeds in the winter is necessary because many native species need 60-90 days of cold stratification. Cold stratification basically, means that they require being kept cold and moist to germinate, which in nature occurs on the ground or under a layer of snow. Sowing them overtop of snow helps Sowers readily see where the seed has fallen. The weather on the morning of January 22 was perfect for native seed sowing! We look forward to spring when the native plants will begin to germinate, and we can finally see our prairie meadow starting to grow. Thanks to Toledo Area Metroparks Blue Creek Seed Nursery and other local native plant growers for assisting with the collection of so many varieties of seed for our prairie meadow.



Making Jesus Known in the World that God Loves!



# Community Toolbox

Kudos to our crew from the Toolbox who braved the cold weather to help with a project tearing out old flooring and preparing for laying new flooring in what will be a new office (converted from a house) for Urban Wholistics community gardens! These are just a few of our crew who came out today that we happened to get photos of. Thank you, Pastor Steve, Jeff Baden, Matt Davis, Matt Dewitz, Jerry & Claudia Jones, Dean Nofzinger, Dan Sigg, Don Schroeder, and Kevin Swagler, we appreciate you all!



Community of Christ Making Jesus Known in the World that God Loves!

# Happy Birthday!

Jeff Baden 02/01  
Nancy Shaw 02/01  
Sandra Rice 02/02  
Jane Schmenk-Jahna 02/03  
Emily Pollock 02/04  
Kara Keil 02/06  
Jerry Jones 02/07  
Jonah Dick 02/08  
Mackenzie Barney 02/08  
Johann Wagner 02/10  
James Gill 02/12



Scott Petrell 02/19  
Laurie Mauro 02/20  
Michelle Reid 02/20  
Vince Mauro 02/20  
Wayne King 02/20  
Irene Rang 02/21  
Barbara Thober 02/23  
LuAnn Shuman 02/27  
Emma Abraham 02/28  
Mike Carman 02/28  
Paul Rasmusson 02/28  
Wilbur Wagner 02/28

Pam Karg 02/12  
Jeff Bright 02/13  
Sharon Miller 02/14  
Collin Keil 02/15  
Cameron Happel 02/16  
Cheri Outly 02/16  
Kenneth Kuhlman 02/16  
Kevin Outly 02/16  
Kelsey Verhoff 02/17  
Lou Ann Brettel 02/18  
Mark Petrell 02/18



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church



## Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

419-877-0607

[secretary@commofchrist.org](mailto:secretary@commofchrist.org)

[www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)

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