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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



June 2024 from Pastor Steve Bond

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Worship
Sunday Morning
9:00 a.m.
In-person and
Facebook Live

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
10:15 a.m.

Pastors Bible Study
Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
June 3

Outreach
June 5

Worship & Music
June 6

Quilt Ministry
June 4 & 18

Church Council
June 11

Book Club
June 18

Christian Education
July 1

Worship Services
Available on the net at
www.commofchrist.org

Father's Day
June 16



Pastor's Letter—June 2024: The Spirit of Jesus

So, here's a confession: sometimes I think we forget that God is still *doing* things among us, in us, and through us. At least I know I fall into that trap still. We church folks are great at telling stories about what God did thousands of years ago, or what Jesus did in this or that Bible story. Whether it is the flannel board story lessons of your childhood Sunday School memories, the weekly readings in Sunday worship, or famous artworks of scenes from the Scriptures on display at the art museum, we do fine at looking backward. We also do a pretty decent job of talking about God doing things "out there" in the universe, like keeping the planets spinning in their orbits or giving farmers the right amount of rain for their fields and crops. But God... still working through us now? That seems a bit dicey. It seems harder to pin God down in places beyond the printed page of a Bible story, a catechism, or a creed in the hymnal. And yet, that is exactly what the Holy Spirit is up to all the time—working *through* us, in the course of our daily lives and weekly routines, in the present moment.

I've heard it said that Lutheran Christians are great at "First-and-Second-Article-of-the-Creed Christianity." You know, when we profess our faith in the words of the ancient statements of faith called the Creeds on Sunday mornings, we are solid on recognizing God as the One who created the world... and we are fantastic at recounting the story of Jesus, the Son. But when it comes to the third article, "I believe in the Holy Spirit..." we get a little squeamish at moving beyond the scripted story of Pentecost with the trotting out of tongues of fire and sounds of wind like props in a well-rehearsed play. We are a little uncertain about declaring that God's Spirit continues to move among us... that God's Spirit continues to speak to us... or <gasp!> that God's Spirit will continue to lead us in new directions. It's easy to say that Jesus came to give us new insights or change things from the practices of his day and culture, but somehow, we often imagine that everything was set in stone once we got to the end of the Gospels or the last of Paul's letters, as though God's Spirit stopped speaking or God's people are merely a historical-appreciation society like a Civil War Re-Enactment club.

But that's just not how it is. In fact, it's not what Jesus tells us, in the Bible (!), about the ongoing presence of the Spirit. "I have much still to tell you," he says to the fearful disciples on his last night with them, "but you cannot bear it now—so I will send the Spirit who will continue to speak what you need to hear." He even goes further to say that the community of his followers will "do even greater works" than they have seen Jesus himself do! That's a little intimidating! But it also sounds like an adventure, too. And that's the good news of this season for us—we are reminded that the Spirit of God continues to move among us, to speak to us, and to work through us. After having come through the great sweep of the Gospel story from Jesus' cross and resurrection in the seasons of Lent and Eastertide, the story isn't over—it's just that we are now characters and figures in the drama! The Spirit keeps speaking to us, and the Spirit keeps leading us in new directions.

from Pastor Steve Bond continued

As we move beyond the official celebration of our fiftieth anniversary as a congregation, this is also a moment to remember that our story is not in the rear-view mirror! We have not simply been gathered to talk about what *used to happen* or about where we've *been*, but for God's Spirit to keep moving among us, leading us forward, and sending us out. We are living now the stories that they'll be telling about at the 75th-anniversary celebration! We're daring now the new possibilities that will be the reason someone else is led to faith in Jesus, or someone else is raised up to serve in ministry someday, or someone else finds a welcome after feeling they were unworthy and unloved, or someone receives a meal they would not have had without the work of this congregation. That means remembering that after the First and Second articles of the Creed, there is the daring promise of the Third: We believe in the Holy Spirit, who has not only spoken through the ancient prophets but keeps speaking among us... who not only send out apostles twenty centuries ago but who sends us out to make Jesus known today. In these days, keep your eyes and ears open for the ongoing movement of the Spirit, who meets us right where we are... but who never leaves us where we were.

Grateful as always to be along with you for that adventure,
Pastor Steve



Crazy Faith Talk Podcast Opens Up the Psalms

Our Pastor Steve continues to offer a weekly podcast with two colleagues in ministry that looks at a variety of topics, subjects, and ideas from faith and church life to pop culture and everything in between. "Crazy Faith Talk" releases new episodes every Tuesday at noon, and you can listen for free, either by finding the link on our Facebook page, finding it at www.blogtalkradio.com/crazyfaithtalk (where you can also subscribe for free to get notifications of new episodes), or even asking your Smart Speaker (like Amazon Echo) to play the podcast "Crazy Faith Talk." This summer, we've just begun a new series explore the book of Psalms in the Bible—how do you read them, why are these ancient prayers and songs in our Bibles, and how can these poems from thousands of years in the past connect with our lives today? We hope you find these conversations insightful, fun, and through-provoking—check it out every week!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum—Returning June 9

After two special events at the end of May and the start of June (our Prairie Meadow dedication and our congregational meeting on June 2), we'll resume offering Adult Forum Sunday School each week, but following our 9:00 a.m. service (so starting at 10:00ish) now that we've shifted to our summer worship schedule with a single 9:00 a.m. service. Since concluding our "Scenes from a Movement" series on the book of Acts in April and May, we'll be starting a new series for conversation and deeper discussion on June 9. Join us for *Word about the Word: How to Read the Bible Wisely and Well*, a series that will introduce some basics for how to engage with the Scriptures, tools for understanding, practices for incorporating Scripture into our daily and weekly discipleship, and guardrails to avoid missing the point or abusing the text. If you've ever attempted to read or study the Bible before and found yourself confused, perplexed, or frustrated—or maybe you didn't even know where to begin—this is a great series to join us for! Come and find us in the library (the long room off the main hallway, opposite the fellowship hall) from about 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Sundays this summer!

Honoring Graduates

This year on June 2, we'll take a moment in our Sunday worship to honor our high school graduates from Community of Christ, to hear from them about the next adventures in their lives coming up after high school, and to ask God's blessing on them in the next chapter of their stories. We'll also be presenting a special gift for each of our graduates, personalized from the congregation. Each of our graduates will receive a study Bible, with verses highlighted and underlined from across the congregation as we have helped emphasize verses that have impacted our lives or been an encouragement to us in our own faith journeys. We hope you can be with us on June 2 for this special milestone in the lives of the Class of 2024, and as we help equip them for the journey ahead!

Congratulations 2024 Graduates!

Ayva Bartley, Mariah Britsch, Joshua Kohntopp, Alivia Moser, Gracee Pitchford, and Anna Rasmusson

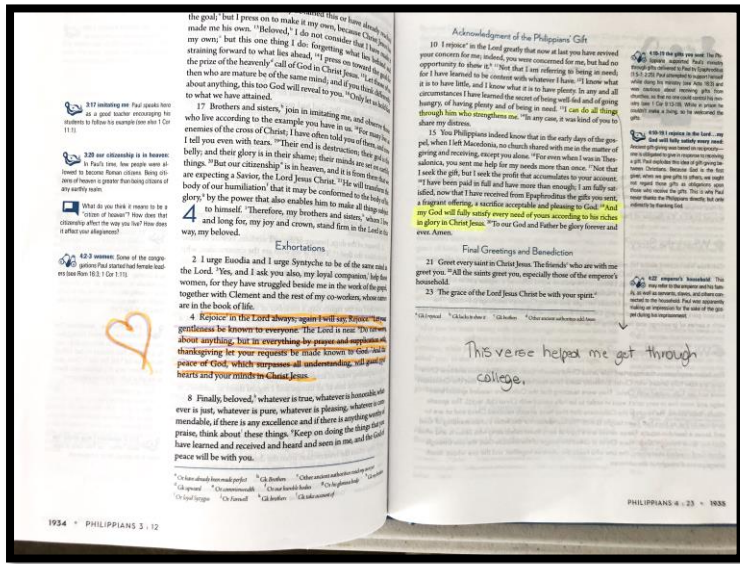
Summer Spirituality Saturdays

Here's another new offering this summer at Community of Christ: we're hosting a series of three unique *Summer Spirituality Saturdays*, each hosted here at Community of Christ on a Saturday morning from 9:00-11:00 a.m., and each offering a special topic to connect our devotional life and the world around us in hands-on ways. These are open to people of any age, and you might have one or two that particularly interest you, and others that don't—that's OK. We'll be offering these on third Saturdays over the summer (June 15, July 20, and August 17), and all we'd ask is for you to sign up so we can be ready for the right-sized group. Here are the topics and plans for this summer series:

God at Ground Level: Spirituality of the Prairie Meadow—You might have only seen the church's prairie meadow as a clump of weedy-looking sprouts in the distance of the churchyard, or you might only think of seeing God's beauty in an organized flower garden. But Jesus invites us to understand the Reign of God in the simple and earthy imagery of a sprout coming up from the soil... or the growth of a tiny seed... or the presence of good plants alongside weeds... or the way the sun and rainfall as gifts of grace on the ground. This session is meant to help us explore all of these ideas—and what they can tell us about the Reign of God—in the actual prairie meadow growing up in our own literal backyard! Come on June 15 with clothes you can be in the grass and dirt with (and maybe a folding camp chair if you'd like) for this first event!

Worlds Within Words: Poetry as a Spiritual Practice—There is often a fine line between poets and saints—both have a way of helping us to see the world through new eyes and to be oriented in light of their insights. This session will be an introduction to a variety of poets and poems, a chance to explore how poetry touches our souls in a way that novels or lectures don't and to experiment with our own poetic engagement with the world. This session will be mostly indoors, but with a bit of inspiration from a walk around our little corner of the world that God loves (so comfortable shoes would be good), and we'll have some great resources to share with all who come. This session will be on July 20, again here at Community of Christ!

The Practice of Creativity: Visual Arts and Faith—If we have been made in God's image, and God is a joyful creator who delights in beauty, design, variety, and playfulness, then there will be connections between visual arts and spirituality, too. This session is an invitation for beginners and advanced art students, and everyone in between, to explore how the *act* of being creative puts us in touch with God, regardless of whether your final product goes on a refrigerator with a magnet or gets framed for a gallery. We'll have some hands-on arts activities to try, but we'll also focus on the joy in the act of creating itself, whether you're doodling in marker or pencil, painting with watercolors, or making abstract patterns with color. This event will be great for kids and adults alike, and it will be held in the fellowship hall on August 17.





Worship Volunteer Schedule, 9:00 a.m. - June 2024

Recently Pastor Steve sent a mailer to those who serve during worship. If you have not already read your copy, please do so as there are changes in volunteer roles that have been made so that consistency in serving is achieved. This will help you to become aware of those changes and the opportunity to ask questions should you have any. Thank you!

Week	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	Jun 30
Acolyte/Crucifer	Joseph Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin	Volunteer Needed	Zach Weber	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler Cheryl Fischer	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Carol Wiemken	Kevin Swagler	Carol Wiemken
Communion Prep/Clean	Susan Raymond	Bea Ludwig	Joseph Perkins	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East	Chris Rilling	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West	Dean Nofzinger	Volunteer Needed	Irene Rang	E & R Hetherwick	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Joseph Perkins	Chris Rilling	Greg Aubell	Volunteer Needed	Joseph Perkins
Worship Asst	Joseph Perkins	Kathryn Whitacre	Volunteer Needed	Dean Nofzinger	Joseph Perkins
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

Effective 5-23.24. Changes can and do occur.

*****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.commofchrist.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 Verger: 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!



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, Troy Bernhard, Shirley Cofer, Virginia Dillon, Susie Donnal, Jim & Sue Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Art Ingmire, Tom Jennings, Tristan Kimmey, Kathy Phillips, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Dick Rison, Iris Rockwell, Peter Schultz, Kevin Stiles, 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 congregation's prayers for two weeks. If you want 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!



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!!!!



Prayer Shawls

Irene Rang and Cheryl Fischer 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.



Altar Flowers

There are still available weekends throughout the rest of this year to sponsor and dedicate Altar Flowers. Tags and envelopes are in the hallway to the left as you enter the front doors.

Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated! Thank you!



Sharing in Ministries



SAVE THE DATE

Hope United Methodist Church
is excited to announce our upcoming
Vacation Bible School: Expedition Egypt.

**Join us from Monday June 10th to
Friday June 14th, from 9:30-11:30 am.**

Kids will enjoy a week of
Godly Play, music, crafts, and games.

We will conclude our week with a

**Family Fun Night on
Friday June 14th from 7:00-8:00 pm.**

This is a great opportunity
for children to learn about God
and have fun with their friends.

Vacation Bible School—Shared With Hope UMC June 10-14

Once again, Community of Christ will be partnering with neighbors at Hope United Methodist Church in Whitehouse for a week of stories, songs, faith, and fun at Vacation Bible School! This year's VBS takes us to Egypt as we experience stories from the Bible that take us to the land of Pharaohs and desert sands, and how God's people have been led to freedom along the way. VBS runs Monday, June 10th through Friday, June 14th, from 9:30am-11:30am, and will be held at Hope United Methodist (10610 Waterville St, Whitehouse, OH, United States, Ohio). You can register online already—see the link on the Community of Christ website (commofchrist.org) or our Facebook page. This will be a great week for kids of all ages—we hope you can join us!



Next Meeting Date
June 3 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 5 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 6 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 11 @ 7:00 p.m.



Summer Worship
Sunday Mornings
9:00 a.m.
In-person and
Facebook Live

Church Office Hours
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

Please note.....

Hours may vary with vacations,
please call ahead ☺



CoC Music News!



“Last Sunday of the Month Hymn Sing!”

Come One! Come All!! This Summer on the last Sunday of each month YOU pick the HYMNS! So come prepared with a few of your favorites and call'em out!
June 30th, July 28th & August 25th!



As a music educator and choir director, one of the things I love about our church is that we are a congregation of singers. No matter where I sit on any random Sunday morning, I hear evidence that the faithful in this church enjoy lifting their voices in song.

Eric Dickey our music director and organist/keyboardist extraordinaire has asked me to assist with directing the vocal choir starting this fall. I am excited to accept this volunteer position. I consider this a great opportunity for me to serve the church because I am a choir director currently without a choir. Directing and teaching of singing is something I dearly miss.

So, although this is the June newsletter, I am nudging you now. If you happen to be a singer without a choir, this fall would be a perfect time to give Community of Christ's choir a try. There will be more specific information at the end of the summer, but I wanted to get you thinking about singing, either again or for the first time, and perhaps planning your fall schedule with Wednesday evening rehearsals in mind.

Choral singing is a wonderful way to express your faith, contribute to your church, and feel the Holy Spirit in your life. Singing with others can also be a lot of fun and a great way to connect with other church members. Whether you are a returning choir member or simply trying this out to see if it's a good fit for you, I'm looking forward to making a joyful noise with you in a few short months.

Yours in Christ,
Lisa Alleman

Lisa has been a member of Community of Christ for over 20 years. She has directed church choirs, community choirs, high school choirs and children's choirs, including The Children's Choir of Northwest Ohio which held Monday night rehearsals at Community of Christ for several years.

CoC News!

Inquiring Interest in Nursery Program for Fall 2024

As we continue to explore ways to be attentive to the needs of our families with young children, our congregational council is exploring whether there is an interest in organizing volunteer-led nursery care for Sunday worship in the fall. We'll be inquiring directly with families in our congregation, but if you have input you would like to offer, please feel free to let Pastor Steve or Michelle in the church office know if you would find this valuable. We'll be looking at several possible ways we could organize nursery care (whether with parents taking turns for one another, youth-led care, other volunteers, etc.) and how frequently there is the need (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly? One or both servicers?), in the hopes of coming up with a plan to start in the fall that will match the needs and interests we hear about from all of you! Look for more news on this as the summer progresses!

****Exciting News! Scan Our New QR Code!****

Community of Christ Church Members

We're thrilled to introduce our new QR code system, making it easier than ever to connect with us and access valuable resources! Simply scan the QR code below using your smartphone camera or QR code scanner app to unlock a world of information and opportunities:



By scanning this code, you'll gain instant access to:

- Church announcements through our Newsletter
- Worship bulletins & recordings, and podcasts
- Church calendar
- Donation portals and volunteering opportunities
- And much more!

This innovative technology allows us to streamline communication and enhance your experience within our community. Whether you're a longtime member or a newcomer, we invite you to scan the QR code and explore all that awaits you.

Thank you for embracing this new initiative as we strive to make your engagement with us as seamless and enriching as possible.



Cindy Myerholtz

What a joy to welcome Cindy Myerholtz into our congregation! We received Cindy as she affirmed her baptism and became a part of our Community of Christ family on Sunday, May 12, 2024! Check out her photo on the New Member bulletin board in the Gathering Space and be sure to extend a friendly welcome to her! We are so glad you are a part of Community of Christ!

CoC News!



Seeking Sunday School Teachers for Fall 2024-2025

We are already planning for next fall's Sunday School year, and our hope is to be able to offer Sunday School classes *every week* for kids of all ages this September! But to make that happen, and to be able to offer great opportunities for faith formation for children and youth here at Community of Christ, we need your help! We are looking for people who are willing to help volunteer in teams to lead and co-teach classes, with a rotating roster of other teams of teachers so that no one shoulders the leadership responsibilities alone. That would mean making a commitment of being able to lead once a month during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00) rather than every week for the whole school year. Does that sound like something you might be able to offer with your time and talent? Would you like to get to accompany our kids on the adventure of growing up in faith, to share their thoughts and questions, to tell them about God and God's story, and to be blessed by their smiles and energy? Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and let either Pastor Steve know or a member of Christian Education (Lainie Davis, Laurie Dewitz, Makayla Stewart, Lorri Britsch, and Kristen Schuchmann). Help us now to prepare for a great new school year growing in grace and following Jesus with our children and young saints!

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CoC Upcoming Events

Coming This Fall: Festival of Talents Weekend!

The summer is just getting started, but we want to get you thinking about something special coming up this fall—a new event for people of all ages that we are calling our Community of Christ *Festival of Talents*! On the weekend of September 28-29, we want to celebrate the many kinds of talents in our church family from people of all ages, from kids to great-great-grandparents, and everybody in between! That will include an evening program on Saturday, Sept. 28, where we can perform and show talents of any kind.

Do you have a musical talent? Bring a song to sing, a piece to play, or share an ensemble with some other folks from Community of Christ! Would you share a piece of artwork you've made or a quilt or afghan you've sewn or knitted? Are there handcrafts or wood projects you've built, or skills you can showcase? We want to share them all—whether performed like in a talent show or displayed in our fellowship hall and gathering space like a gallery—all of it will be a part of this special weekend!

We'll also be using that weekend to let our congregational committees have displays and tables to share more of what they do, and how *you* might want to be a part of their ministry. Want to find out more about what the Toolbox ministry does? Interested in learning more about Social Ministry or Fellowship? This will be a chance to hear, see, and learn more, too.

But wait! There's more! Our Festival of Talents weekend will also be a chance to share stories of what each of us has done with the *dollar* that was given to us back in October when one Sunday morning there were dollar bills stuffed secretly into all of our worship bulletins, and the dare to use them somehow for the Reign of God. (Didn't get your dollar, or weren't in church that day? See Pastor Steve, and we'll get you set!) Maybe you've already used your dollar somehow—maybe you bought stamps and sent a card or letter to someone who needed a note of caring; maybe you bought a flower for someone who could use a pick-me-up. Maybe you bought some sidewalk chalk and drew designs with children or grandchildren on a sunny day. Maybe it bought an item of canned food to be donated to the food pantry. Whatever you did—or whatever you might yet do this summer with it—we'll have a chance to share stories of how we used those dollars for the sake of good in God's world.

All of this will make for a great weekend between our Saturday program and Sunday worship, and we hope you can plan to be with us on Sept. 28-29 to share in the excitement and to celebrate our various talents and gifts from God!



Mark Your Calendars for **Saturday, June 8th**! Calling all walkers! Everyone LOVES a parade, and our community is no exception. The Outreach Committee is organizing a group of spirited members to participate in the annual Whitehouse Cherry Fest parade this year on Saturday, June 8th. Lineup begins around noon and the parade kicks off at 1 pm – candy for tossing to the crowd will be provided. Come help support our community and extend the celebration of Community of Christ's 50 year anniversary. Sign up sheet is on the kiosk.



CoC Upcoming Events



Ladies Lunch June 28, 2024

When: Friday, June 28th @ 11:30 am

Where: Urban Pine Winery 3415 Briarfield BLVD
Maumee

Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. All ladies of the church are welcome and Bring a Friend! Questions or concerns? Call Becky King at 419-349-7319

Future Lunch Dates: July 26, August 23, September 27, & October 25



Honor **the gift of a Father** and our families!
Sunday, June 16.

Food (And Drink) for Thought—Starting June 20



Something new is brewing this summer, and you're invited to join us for it! Starting on the evening of June 20, at 7:00 p.m., we'll have our first "Food for Thought" gathering at Shawn's Irish Tavern in Waterville (105 S. 3rd Street). This kind of gathering is envisioned as a causal gathering over food and drink where the conversation can flow from the friendly and light-hearted to the deep and profound, and everywhere in between. Our older brother in the faith, Martin Luther, was famous for something similar that they used to call "table talk," where friends and guests would gather for conversations that ranged from BIG questions about life, faith, God, and meaning, to small talk and laughter (often over mugs of whatever Katie Luther had been brewing herself), and we're trying to tap into that spirit of playfulness, faithful conversation, and fellowship. It's not a Bible study, but you can bring a question or a thought you want to bounce off of other minds. And it's not a church service, although it's certainly the kind of gathering you are welcome to bring a friend to, just like on Sundays. We'll have a room reserved for us, so plan on joining us for *Food for Thought* on June 20 and see what it's all about!



Social Action News!

From Kathryn Whitacre

Welcome Baskets for Migrant Workers through LIFT in Fremont Ohio

Cathy Defane and I visited Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church on May 8th to help make up some Welcome Baskets. Coordinator, Destinee Chapa and Pastor Paul were very happy for our help. We took a donation of paper bags and Destinee was thrilled!

I will be making the trip again in June to take the current donations to Destinee. Yes, I'd love to have company and an excuse to eat at Tackle Box II. Let me know if you are interested and I will let you know when I plan to make the trip.

Here is the newest list of needed items:

2 cost-free items:

1. Paper bags to put clothing into to be sorted by size etc. I love the Sautters' bags with the handles, but the Kroger bags work just as well!
2. Eggs cartons that hold a dozen eggs. The eggs come from the Food Bank in large flats and need to be moved to egg cartons for distribution.

Other needed items:

Some things you might find as you Spring Clean/move winter to summer clothes or downsize. Please make sure that these are items that are clean and in good enough shape for others to use.

1. Men's jeans
2. Long sleeve T-shirts (They love Carhart shirts)
3. Long sleeve or flannel shirts for those cool mornings.
4. Box fans/electric fans (Their huts are not air-conditioned!)
5. Sun hats for men

Dollar Store or great coupon deals:

1. Laundry Baskets
2. Deodorant
3. Body wash (The ones for men that are shampoo/conditioner/soap are perfect.)
4. Water Jugs
5. Insulated Coffee Cups

LIFT could also use monetary donations, so Destinee can purchase items that are needed if she finds a "deal".





Thank you!



Special thanks to our Cinda Pontsler for planting these BEAUTIFUL flowers at our main entrance! What a lovely splash of color as we walk into the building! And thanks to all who add touches of goodness and grace around Community of Christ!



Special thanks to Jeff Baden for making these BEAUTIFUL Commemorative 50th Anniversary Crosses and Tokens!

If you haven't picked one up yet, some are still available in the gathering space!





Thank you Notes!



TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

I want to express my deep appreciation for the way you celebrated the 50th anniversary of Community of Christ. I think it was tastefully well done. I especially appreciated the designation Pastor Emeritus. That title never crossed my mind.

The gift to the Lutheran immigration and refugee service was wonderful. My grandparents were immigrants. My father did not speak one word of English upon entering the first grade. My grandparents both died at an early age of cancer and I often wondered if the cancer was somehow related to stress.

Your new pastor is very good. Community Of Christ is blessed. I especially appreciate the emphasis of looking outside your selves to your neighbors and the world God so loves. Please keep looking outward. You and your pastor and his family are in my daily prayers. Please don't be afraid to move into the future our Lord Jesus would have for you. Community of Christ will always have a special place in my heart. The blessings of the Risen Christ shine on you always. Ray Gottschling, Pastor Emeritus

Pastor R

May 8 2024

Special thanks to all who made the anniversary party such a wonderful evening. Everything was wonderful even the meal. I had the best time. Remembering the 50 years. It all went so fast & especially seeing those I haven't seen for a long time & missing the ones who were not there. It was a wonderful evening! Shirley Cofer

50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration



50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration



50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration



*Community of Christ
Lutheran Church*





Bill Happel Jr	06/01	Carol Wiemken	06/10	Melissa Colburn	06/18
Carson Ruhe	06/01	Christopher Alleman	06/10	Jordan Brosten	06/19
Fred Ortner	06/01	Jana Dorton	06/12	Dawn Rose Sohnly	06/21
Reid Moser	06/01	Natalie Rilling	06/12	Jake Reid	06/23
Joan Schwartz	06/03	Frederick Doering	06/14	Lisa Alleman	06/23
Ellen Bucher	06/05	Linda Metcalf	06/15	Olivia Sohnly	06/25
Timothy Roth	06/05	Stephen Archer	06/15	Tony Colburn	06/25
Kevin Steinman	06/06	Brenda Carpenter	06/17	Donna Longnecker	06/26
Wendy Gehring	06/06	Donna Wagner	06/17	Richard Pratt	06/26
John Spilker	06/09	Bonnie Smigelski	06/18	Valery Taylor	06/29
Tim Schmidt	06/09	Matt Davis	06/18	Joshua Kohntopp	06/30






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.  **Tithe.ly**

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.

2024 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Mar	\$10,924	\$12,563	(\$1,639)
YTD	\$32,720	\$37,689	(\$4,969)
2024 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Mar	\$43,358	\$33,228	\$10,129
YTD	\$112,677	\$108,803	\$3,873

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

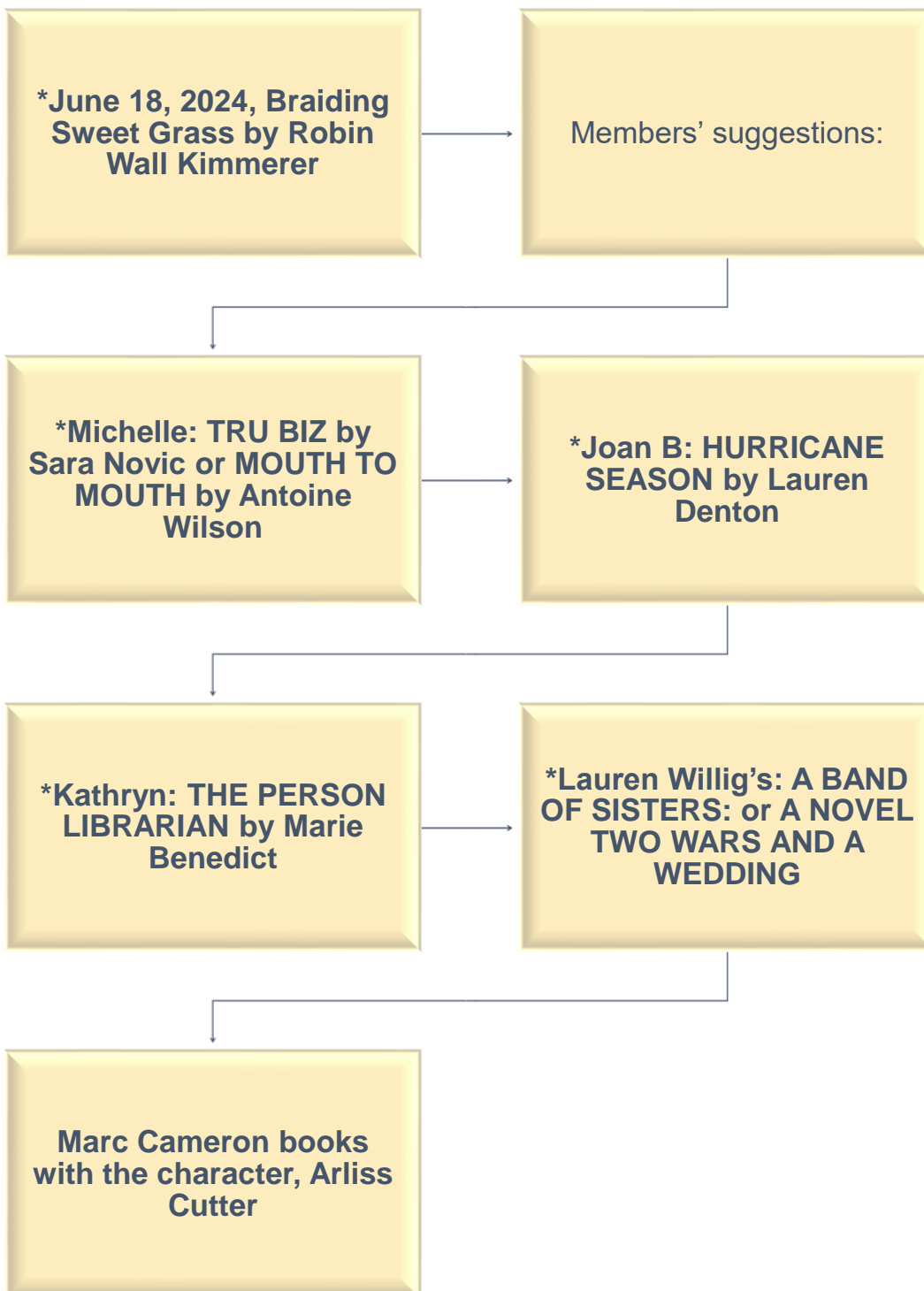
PLEASE REMEMBER ---we also offer an **electronic offering**, (**Simply Giving**) that will withdraw your offering automatically from your bank account. THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD'S WORK AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH!

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!



Book Club 1:00 p.m.



Like us on Facebook
Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Summer Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)
Hours may vary with vacations, please call ahead ☺

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org

www.commofchrist.org

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