

Pastor Steve Bond pastor@commofchrist.org 6517 Finzel Rd Whitehouse, OH 43571

419-877-0607 www.commofchrist.org COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Making Jesus Known



May 2024

from Pastor Steve Bond

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Visitation Ministry May 6

> Outreach May 8

Quilt Ministry May 10 & 21

Christian Education May 13

Church Council May 14

> Book Club May 21

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

Summer Worship Begins Sunday, May 26 9:00 a.m. only



Mother's Day May 12 May 2024 Pastor's Letter: Of Milestones and Monuments

As the old line says it, there's an important difference between a <u>monument</u> and a *milestone*. Monuments give a sense of finality; they say, "Look what we've done!" But a milestone is different—it doesn't pretend the journey is over, but says something more like, "This is where we were before our feet started moving again." I've always liked that distinction because it reminds me that all of this life's events and accomplishments are at most, *milestones*, and never really *monuments*. We are always in the middle of a journey, or even a relay race, carrying on what has been handed to us like a baton, and moving forward until the next generation's hands and feet continue with their leg of the course.

As we mark the fiftieth anniversary of Community of Christ's journey this month, with a big weekend full of special guests and celebrations on May 4-5 in particular, remember, dear ones, that this is a milestone for us, not a monument. We aren't commemorating the end of anything, and we aren't only looking backward at where we've been. We're looking forward, too, and we can rejoice that the same God who has accompanied the first five decades of our congregation's history will keep walking with us into the future.

If you've been watching our hallway-spanning timeline as it's filled with photos and memories over the course of the year so far, you know we've seen a great many twists and turns along our way as a congregation in our first fifty years. And as we get to see familiar faces—or meet in person for the first time some of the people we've only heard stories about before-it will be good to be reminded again of just how many lives have been a part of our congregation's journey in its first fifty years. But then, remember, too, that after the last piece of celebration, cake is served and the final official 50th Anniversary Events are a part of our history, too, that the story will continue. In fact, every Sunday, we keep reminding one another that we are on a journey when we stop to share milestones with one another along with our other congregational announcements. I've always appreciated the choice of that wording in the time I've been here at Community of Christ; it reminds me that we don't just celebrate or acknowledge Big Round Numbers like anniversaries of churches, but the everyday ups and downs of life, too. We bring the stories of answered prayer, the needs for support, the accomplishments and struggles, and all of it, and we ask each other to help lift these things up to God. That's what we'll keep doing, even after this month's festivities are themselves a memory. We'll mark this moment as a milestone, and then our feet will keep moving us to the next bend in the road, the next turn in the path, and the next adventure in faith. We'll keep going where Jesus leads us, as we keep making Jesus known wherever the road takes us.

Thank you, dear ones, for sharing this moment's milestone together.

Christ's Peace, Pastor Steve



Adult Forum in April and May 2024: Scenes from a Movement

All throughout the weeks of Eastertide, our first lessons in worship each Sunday will be stories from the Book of Acts, which chronicles the early church and the spread of the first followers of Jesus into the world. And yet, many of us are not very familiar with this part of the Bible or the meaning it holds for our lives today as the church. So, join us in the Adult Forum for the spring to take a closer look at these stories and the way the Christian community developed from a fearful band of former fishermen and tax collectors to a budding movement across the Roman Empire, and now to the whole world. Join us for "Scenes from a Movement: Stories from Acts" continuing from April into May at 9:00 a.m. in the library for our Sunday morning Adult Forum class! Everybody is welcome!

Summer Worship Begins Memorial Day Weekend!

Starting with Sunday, May 26, we'll return to our summer schedule of having a single worship service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We're looking forward to the chance to get to see one another, as sometimes we can feel disconnected between early service and late service attenders and to worship together throughout the summer until after Labor Day weekend. Join us on May 26 and throughout the summer at 9:00 a.m.!

Rogation Day/Dedication of Prairie Meadow—May 26 After 9:00 a.m. Worship

With our first round of seeds planted for our Prairie Meadow back in the early winter, we are already starting to see some new seedlings and sprouts coming up from the ground, and we are inviting everyone to join us for a special time to dedicate the new prairie meadow and to share in the milestone of its first growth, following our 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 26. This will also be our way of honoring the centuries-long tradition of "days of rogation," when the church would pray especially for God's blessing on the new planting and growing season, for protection and health for farmers, and for God's care on the intricate web of life in creation. If you haven't had a chance to peek out at the Prairie Meadow and see how things are beginning to grow, this is a great chance to see God's creation right in our own backyard, to lift up in prayer all who care for creation and who grow the crops that feed our community, and to dedicate this space for its growth! Join us immediately after worship on **Sunday, May 26**, as we head out from the sanctuary to the churchyard following the service!

Been the start



Worship Volunteer Schedule, May 2024



	May 5 * 9 a.m.	May 12	May 19	May 26* 9 a.m.
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	None	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	None
Acolyte/Crucifer 9:00/10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Nate Yokum	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 8:00	None	Zach Weber	Becky King	None
Bulletin 9:00/ 10:00	Vince Mauro	R and E Hetherwick	Kevin Swagler	Irene Rang
Camera 9:00/ 10:00	Sarah Rockwell	Carol Wiemken	Rick Yokum	Carol Wiemken
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	None	Josef Perkins	Bea Ludwig	None
Communion Prep/Clean 9/10:00	Bev Fischer	Carol Wiemken	Carol Wiemken	Bev Fischer
Greeter 8:00 East	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Irene Rang	None
Greeter 8:00 West	None	Becky King	Volunteer Needed	None
Greeter 9:00/ 10:00 East	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Rob Kohntopp	Carol Wiemken
Greeter 9:00/10:00 West	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	None	Josef Perkins	Becky King	None
Lector 9:00/10:00	Marsha Cochran	Elaine Hetherwick	Nate Yokum	Carol Wiemken
Worship Asst 8:00	None	Josef Perkins	Kathryn Whitacre	None
Worship Asst 9/10:00	Laurie Mauro	Dean Nofzinger	Kara Yokum	Cheryl Fischer
Verger 8:00	None	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer None	
Verger 9:00/10:00	Vince Mauro	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 <u>www.commofchrist.org</u> 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.

<u>The Verger</u>: 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, Susan Dental, Susie Donnal, Jim & Sue Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Art Ingmire, Tom Jennings, Tristan Kimmey, Donna Longnecker, Kim Mockensturm, Dorothy Petrell, Kathy Phillips, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Dick Rison, 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!



We remember in prayer the families of Craig Burdo and Pat Campbell. May our Lord grant them peace and comfort in their hearts in the days ahead.





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.



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!!!!



Welcome New Members!



New Members Received on April 21

What a joy it was to welcome seven new members into our congregation this past month! We received David and Jennifer Braun, Kathy Heckler, Rebecca Jaessing, Judy Mock, and Phil and Sandi Whaley, as they all affirmed their baptism and became a part of our Community of Christ family! Check out the photos on the New Member bulletin board in the Gathering Space and be sure to extend a friendly welcome to these new members of our church family! We are so glad you are a part of Community of Christ!







Kathy Heckler



Rebecca Jaessing

Judy Mock



Phil and Sandi Whaley





Sharing in Ministries



Bibles For our Graduates

This spring as the Class of 2024 graduates, Community of Christ will be recognizing our high school seniors and presenting them with gifts on behalf of the congregation. On June 2, during worship, we'll have a moment to acknowledge, honor, and pray for our graduates, and we'll be presenting them with their own "grown-up" Lutheran Study Bibles, in the hopes that these study Bibles will be a good resource for their faith journeys wherever life is taking them after high school. But this is where we need YOUR help as a congregation. We don't just want to send our grads out with Bibles, but with the wisdom and support of their church family, too. So, throughout the month of May, we will have those Bibles out on a table in the gathering space, and we'll invite YOU to help underline and highlight verses and passages in the Scriptures that have been important to YOU in your own, faith journey. We hope that will mean that our graduates will face the next adventure of their lives knowing they are surrounded by the prayers of their church family and supported by the mentors and friends of our congregation. We would LOVE your help by adding your personal touch to these Bibles in the month of May so that we can present them on June 2!

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!



CoC Upcoming Events



May 17—Kids' Movie Night

We had a great youth and family game night back in April, but we're not going to leave out our younger children in the fun this spring! So, we're inviting kids and families with children from preschool through primary grades to a kids' activity and movie night on Friday, May 17, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., here at Community of Christ! We'll have a few games for all, snacks, and a feature movie geared especially for kids! Hope you can join us!



The May Ladies Lunch

When: Friday, May 24th @ 11:30 am Where: LaBanda Mexican Restaurant 1101 Pray Blvd, Waterville, Oh.

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: June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, and October 25



Mark Your Calendars for **Saturday, June 8**th! 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 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!





It's NOT too LATE to order!! More than an hour of beautiful music and fond memories to reminisce. Envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. Pick one up today and return it to the office or in the offering plate on Sunday!



Honor the gift of Mother and our families! Sunday, May 12.



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

> Please note...... Hours may vary with vacations, please call ahead ©

CHRIST IS RISEN!!! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!!





















Young Disciples Hear The News!















Social Action News!

From Kathryn Whitacre and Becky King

The Social Action Committee had two big activities in April.

- **The Material Girls** led by Rose Ackerman and Joan Bierley with several volunteers, met for full-day sessions of quilting and fellowship working on 26 quilts for the Bed Build. Cinda can now make a quilt from start to finish! The quilts were beautiful, made with love, and were sent out with prayers. We are already planning on making more for next year! The Social Action Committee would love it if Jeff Baden joined us next year to run this successful program once again. Many thanks to everyone who gave their time and talents to this project.
- Welcome Baskets for Migrant Workers through LIFT in Fremont Ohio. Kathryn Whitacre and Wayne and Becky King took a van load of donated items to Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church in Fremont for the Welcome Baskets. We were able to meet the new coordinator for this project, Destinee Chapa, and see the items she has already collected, plus learn a little more about LIFT and their mission to work with the local migrant workers year-round. They take donations year-round since some of the workers remain in the area all year. There is also a food bank housed at the church that receives food from the Lucas County Food Bank for distribution to the migrant workers. Destinee was thrilled by your generosity to this project.

On May 8 from 3-5, there will be an assembly line at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church to make up Welcome Baskets and boxes of food. Kathryn is planning on going and would happily crowd 3 more people into her car to make it a fun field trip. (We can even have dinner at Tackle Box 2, Bea's favorite fish place!) If more people want to come, we will be looking for drivers.

There are three things that Destinee says they could use more of for this project:

One that has a cost:

1. Laundry Detergent—any size is very helpful.

And two cost-free items:

- 1. Paper bags to put clothing into so it can be sorted by size etc. I love the Sautters' bags with the handles, but the Kroger bags work just as well!
- 2. Egg 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.

There will be a box to collect these items (yes, if you have other items from the list to donate you can add them as well). We will have a sign-up sheet for those interested in a working field trip to Fremont on May 8 at the kiosk.







Thank you Notes!!!

A heartfelt, but late, THANK YOU to those who drove me after my hip replacement surgery: Dean Nofzinger, Becky King, Bea Ludwig, Shelly Hayes, Greg Aubell, Claudia Jones, Kathryn Whitacre, and lately, Sarah Rockwell.

Thank you also to Cheryl Fisher for organizing my drivers. And thank you to Wayne King for the use of the walker!

Another HUGE thank you to the ladies of the LWR quilt ministry, The Material Girls who donated 26 quilts to the Let's Build Bed program. If you go to their Facebook page, you will see some of the recipients of our labor of love! Thank you to all the ladies who helped: Joan Bierley, Tracy Brosten, Deanna Cedargren, Becky King, Marlene LaChine, Cinda Pontsler, Irene Pratt, Karole Sigg, Kathryn Whitacre and cousin, Karen Oden, and friends Jackie Sutter and Kay Highfield. Your thoughtfulness and dedication are amazing!

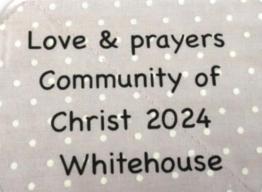
RoseMarie Ackerman

A big big Thank You to the entire congregation for sharing all of our time and talents for the 50th Anniversary Bed Build Project! We exceeded our goal with 50 beds made on a cool Saturday morning. We had tons of blankets, quilts, sheets, pillows, and all the money for the materials. We had a wonderful time building and fellowship celebrating together with a meal afterward. Thank you again to those who participated and helped organize. You can check out Let's Build online for more pics and details of how they help kids in our area, as well as our Facebook page for our pics. Many hands make light work! Thanks, Jeff

> We appreciate all who brought a dish to share for a Lenten Soup Supper, a special gathering, or a funeral luncheon. If you are missing your dish, we ask that you please check the kitchen! If dishes are not picked up by <u>Wednesday, May 15</u>, they will be donated to Goodwill.

> > Thank you, the Kitchen Team

The Let's Build Project was a HUGE SUCCESS



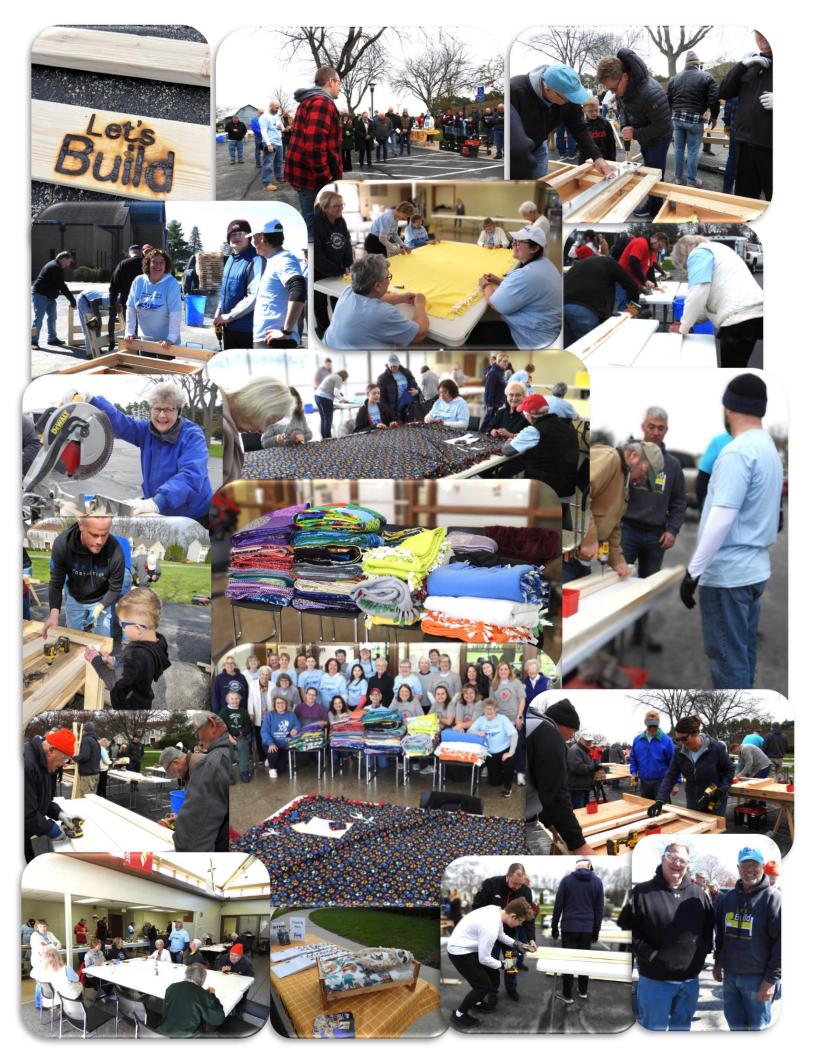












Thanks to everyone who came out to see the glory of God as the eclipse passed over Whitehouse! What a great celebration!



Thanks to all who came out for our Game Night!













Mike Abraham	05/01
Rachel Nutter	05/01
Carole Campbell	05/03
David Swagler II	05/03
Emilee Brenneman	05/03
Fred Shuman	05/04
Bradley Rockwell	05/05
Mark Donnal	05/05
Wesley Taylor	05/05
Ben Malicoate	05/06
Daniel Holliker	05/07
Dick Rison	05/07
Cynthia Hartbarger	05/10
Jenna Patterson	05/10
Timothy Borkowski	05/10
Julie Swartz	05/11
Sara Campbell	05/11
Sidney Raymond	05/11
Adam Colburn	05/12
Andy Pollock	05/12
Hailey Reid	05/12

05/12 **Reese Ruhe** 05/12 Tylor Pitchford Zoe Reid 05/12 **Dick Burdo** 05/13 05/14 Doug Deacon **Richard Ludwig** 05/14 Cayden Ortner 05/15 05/15 Peggy Hartbarger 05/16 **Gregory Myers** 05/16 Isla Dorton 05/17 Lois Wise 05/18 Matthew Dick 05/19 Alexia Ortner Kersten Pitchford 05/19 05/19 **Rex III McKee** 05/20 **Beverly Reifert** 05/20 Dave Ortner 05/20 Joel Reid 05/20 Susan Raymond 05/21 Andrew Yokum 05/21 **Cindy Nutter**

05/21 **Debbie Grimes** 05/21 Linda Patterson 05/22 Layana Fench 05/24 Carol Borkowski 05/24 **David Prueter** 05/24 **Emily Nutter** 05/24 Lisa Malohn 05/24 Rick Yokum 05/25 Jack Colburn 05/25 **Olivia Bucher** 05/26 Cynthia Matthews 05/26 Julie Holliker 05/26 Phyllis Sturgeon 05/28 Alivia Moser 05/28 Amy Cedargren **Cheryl Fischer** 05/28 05/28 Gordon Rhoades Kristen Rockwell 05/28 Suzan Johnson 05/28 **Owen Karg** 05/29 05/31 Marty Kronmann 05/31 **Tom Jennings**



ewardship

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)
- By text: simply text the word <u>give</u> to get started.
 Community Of Christ Lutheran Church: (833) 985-2568
- 4. Download the app and give. **Set Tithe.ly**

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		

Notes:

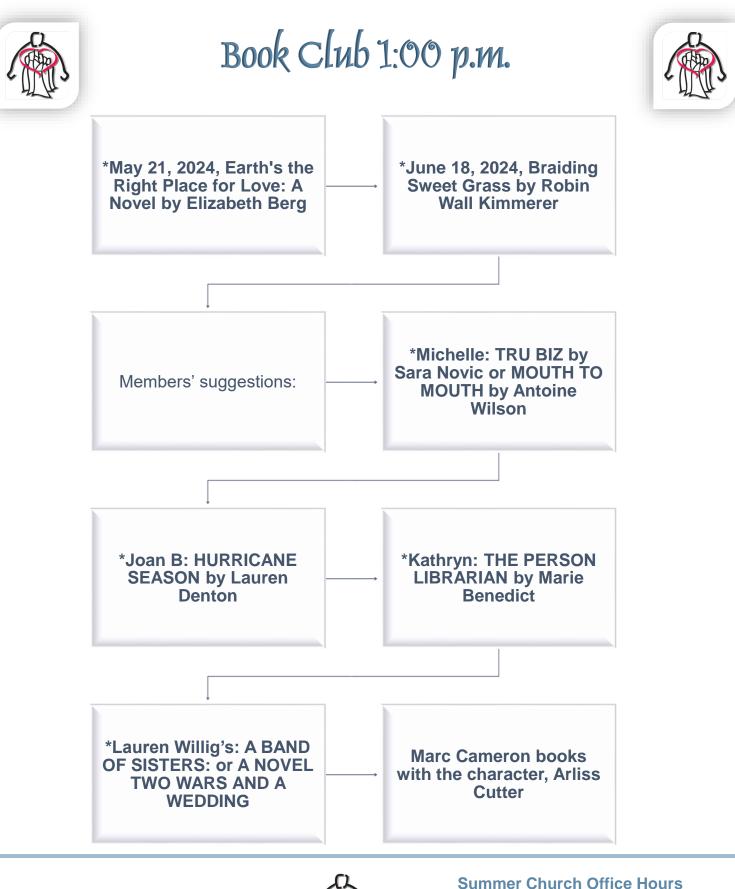
- The app and the web link allow you to input credit/debit card information. The text method will charge through your existing cell phone bill.
- There is a fee for this service for the convenience that it offers:
 - You can choose to cover this fee in addition to your donation, OR if you don't, the 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 <u>electronic offering</u>, (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 <u>Community of Christ:</u> <u>In Focus</u>, 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!





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

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