



Pastor Steve Bond
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July 2024

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



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.
NO BIBLE STUDY
July 4

Youth and Education
July 8

Visitation Ministry
July 8

Quilt Ministry
July 2 & 16

Stewardship
July 16

****No Council Meeting
in July****

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

**Church Office
Closed
July 4 and 5**



July 2024: The People of Jesus

Jesus never shows up alone in our lives, that's for sure.

As one of my favorite faithful cartoons of the late Daniel Erlander asks the question, "Why is it that whenever I ask Jesus to come into my life, he always brings his friends?" And that's just it: there's no authentic version of the Christian faith that just Me-and-Jesus. Following Jesus always brings us to the people of Jesus—not just "the church" but the whole wide, messy fellowship of people Jesus surrounds himself with. They are the misfits and overlooked, the deeply faithful and the deeply doubtful, the old and the young, women and

men, rich and poor, educated and unschooled, and they come from every corner of the world.

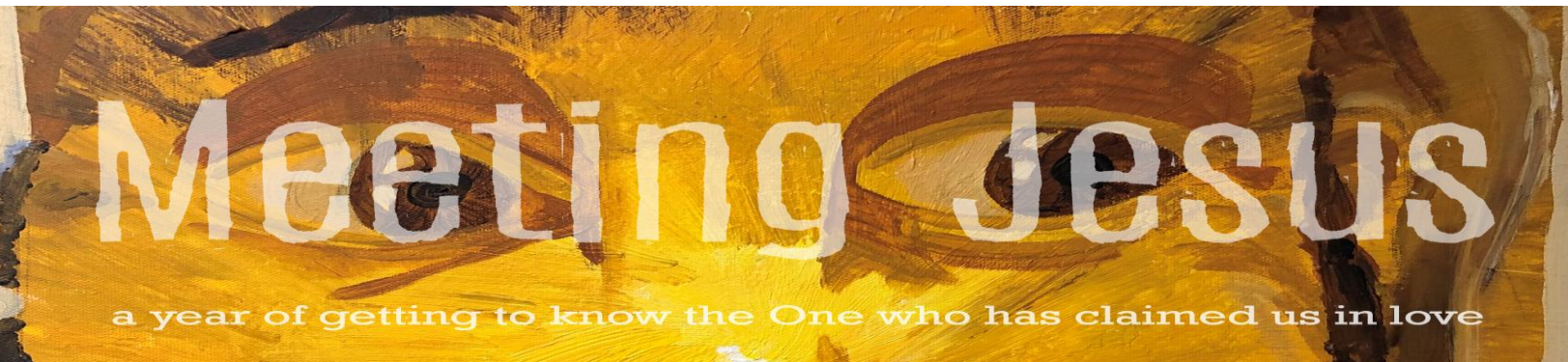
As one of my favorite songwriters, Jon Foreman, once put it, "We are a beautiful letdown, painfully uncool—the church of the dropouts, the losers, the sinners, the failures, and the fools." And if you think I'm making it up, just read the stories of Jesus in the gospels and look at the sorts of folks Jesus chooses to surround himself with: illiterate fishermen like Peter and Andrew, outcast tax collectors like Matthew and Zacchaeus, traveling women like Mary and Joanna, ex-Zealots like Simon, fiery prophets of the wilderness like John, and bashful religious leaders like Nicodemus. It's a strange and beautiful mix of humanity—but then again, that's Jesus for you: he loves the whole messy mix of us.

That's why this July, our focus in our year of "Meeting Jesus" is on *the people of Jesus*. You'll hear stories of these people as Jesus gathers them, loves them, helps them, and sends them to worship on Sundays. We'll explore more of these fascinating faces in daily devotions throughout July, too. And I would invite you to see our gatherings throughout the summer as chances to be among *the people of Jesus*. Whether we're singing beside one another in worship, learning together in a Bible study or Sunday School class or other special workshops, getting ready for a late-summer campout weekend, or working side by side making meals or tending a community garden at Urban Wholistics, we will have some really great opportunities to be immersed in the people of Jesus—or, as we also call ourselves, the *community of Christ*.

from Pastor Steve Bond continued

Whatever else it means to be a follower of Jesus, it certainly means getting to know the people Jesus brings along with him. Get to know a new face this summer; learn someone's story at a gathering like Food for Thought. Be the face of welcome for someone who is waiting to hear that there is a place for them here among God's people. After all, whenever Jesus comes into our lives, he always brings his friends.

Grateful as always to be among you in the beloved community of Jesus,
Pastor Steve



Crazy Faith Talk Podcast Looks at Church-State Relationship

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 finding the link on our Facebook page, or 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 July, we’ll be starting a new series that looks at the relationship between church and state, and why it’s actually a really good thing, *from a Christian perspective*, for those two not to be confused, merged, or blurred into one thing. Our older brother in the faith, Martin Luther, famously wrote an important treatise on the separation and distinction between church and state five hundred years ago, and of course still today Christians wrestle with how our faith affects our individual choices as well as our life together in a society that includes people of many different faiths, or no faith tradition at all. So, if this conversation seems like something you would like to learn more about, check out our weekly episodes of “Crazy Faith Talk” starting this July!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum in July

Our Adult Forum Sunday School Class has been digging into some basics for being better readers of the Bible this June, in our series, “Words about the Word: How to Read the Bible Wisely and Well.” Over the course of this series, we’ve looked at important ideas like reading in *context*, understanding *genre*, the difference between *literal* and *figurative* language, and understanding the difference between *translations* of the Bible—as well as the work that goes into translation. All of those can offer some basic helpful guidelines for being responsible readers of Scripture. Now, as we head into July, we’ll have a short spin-off series in two parts, that will give us an overview of the Old and New Testaments. Join us on July 14 for an introduction to the Hebrew Bible (what we sometimes also call the Old Testament) and then on July 21 for an overview of the New Testament writings as well. Everybody is welcome to join us as you are able and as your schedule and interest allows—find us in the Library on Sunday mornings around 10:15 a.m.!

Summer Spirituality Saturdays

Continuing this July we're hosting a series of *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 (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. After our first session in June on the spirituality of the prairie meadow, here are the topics and plans for the rest of this summer series:

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 art 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**.



Thanks to our Kathryn Whitacre and Barb Thober
for being our voting members of the
Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly!

On June 1, 2024, the Northwestern Ohio Synod gathered for its bi-annual synod assembly at St. Mark's in Bowling Green!

They would like to thank all those who participated in the day. The Holy Spirit was moving among everyone!

The day was spent worshipping, learning, and engaging in the business of the synod. All were inspired, blessed, and challenged to be living stones in their daily lives.



Worship Volunteer Schedule, 9:00 a.m. - July 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	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Acolyte/Crucifer	Joe Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Irene Rang	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Neil Raymond	Carol Wiemken
Communion Prep/Clean	Bea Ludwig	Kari Swagler	Josef Perkins	Carol Wiemken
Greeter East	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West	Elaine Hetherwick	Volunteer Needed	E&R Hetherwick	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Volunteer Needed	Dana Schmidt	Kathryn Whitacre	Greg Aubell
Worship Asst	Kathryn Whitacre	Dean Nofzinger	Don Schroeder	Cheryl Fischer
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 06/19/2024****

*****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 RASMUSSEN, 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!



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 reach out to Irene at 269-832-7714.

Children's Sermon

Kids of all ages please join Pastor Steve on Sundays at 9 a.m. as he shares the good news of Jesus! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!!



CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



VISITATION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date
July 8 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
July 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP
Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

Next Meeting Date
July 16 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
****NO MEETING FOR JULY**
August 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Does your committee have something to share? If so, the deadline for the August Newsletter is....

Wednesday, July 24, 2024



Sunday at 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!
July 28th & August 25th!

Save the Date!

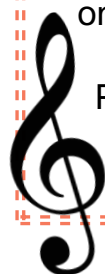
To all who would like to be in choir this year, we're having a party to start the new season with our new Choir Director! Doug and Rose Ackerman have offered to host at their house on **Wednesday, August 28 @ 6:00 p.m.**

9454 Rockingham Dr. in Whitehouse.

Please bring a dish or a drink to share!

Sign up at the kiosk!

See you there!



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 Stewardship Committee News!



Church Directory Update – Your Help is Needed

Did you know that our church directory has been online? To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we are updating the church directory. You may not have requested access to the Online Church Directory, or maybe not everyone in your family who would like to be listed has all of their contact information included. The online church directory allows members to list contact information for all family members. It also **allows you to update your own information**, including your family picture (taken at the church).

The Stewardship Committee is facilitating the update of the directory so that members' time and talents can be best utilized to achieve our mission of "Making Jesus Known" through the efficient communication needed for committees and groups to function well. The goal is to promote **all members** being listed and everyone having online access. A hardcopy listing of the information included in the directory will be available for those who prefer not to access it online, upon request.

Each individual member should update their directory information as well as provide *some additional information* through an online and hard copy survey.

You may provide the requested information by one of the below means.

1. For members who already have online access to the directory- Thank you! - Please review your information now and update it yourself. **PLUS complete the survey**

at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8ZLPGM2> to provide the other information. You may also provide the requested information by a hardcopy of the survey which is available at church, or in person at church on one of the first Sundays of the month throughout the summer.

2. For members that do not currently have online directory access and would like access, please request it through the below survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8ZLPGM2> Once you have access you may update your own entry directly. **OR** through the hardcopy survey available at church or you can ask a Stewardship Committee member to enter it for you.

It is advantageous for you to have access to the directory online. The Church Directory's ability to let you *update your own information* is the most efficient means of providing a *continually updated directory*.

***** A member of the committee will be available after the 9:00 a.m. church service on July 7 and August 4 to assist with online directory updates. Rose Ackerman will also be available to take an updated picture for you before or after service as well!*****



CoC News!

Community of Christ Votes to Host a Seminary Intern!

At our June 2 congregational meeting, the gathered voices of Community of Christ voted to say YES to the request from the Northwestern Ohio Synod to be a host for a seminary intern in need of a local placement starting this fall, and we are beginning preparations for that intern to begin this September! Seminarian Natalie Downs will be our intern (also sometimes called a vicar) for eighteen months in a part-time capacity, and we're excited to have her as a part of our Community of Christ church family! Some may have had the chance to meet Natalie at our first *Food (and Drink) for Thought* event in June, but we'll look forward to hearing more from her in various ways later on this August and having the chance for her to introduce herself to the whole congregation once she begins in the fall as well. Meanwhile, our council is moving forward with creating an Internship Committee, selecting a group of members from across the congregation who can be a sounding board for the intern separate from the pastor, as well as to help her to become acclimated here at Community of Christ. We're thankful for our Pam Davis who has agreed to serve as our chairperson for the Internship Committee! Stay tuned for more exciting details!

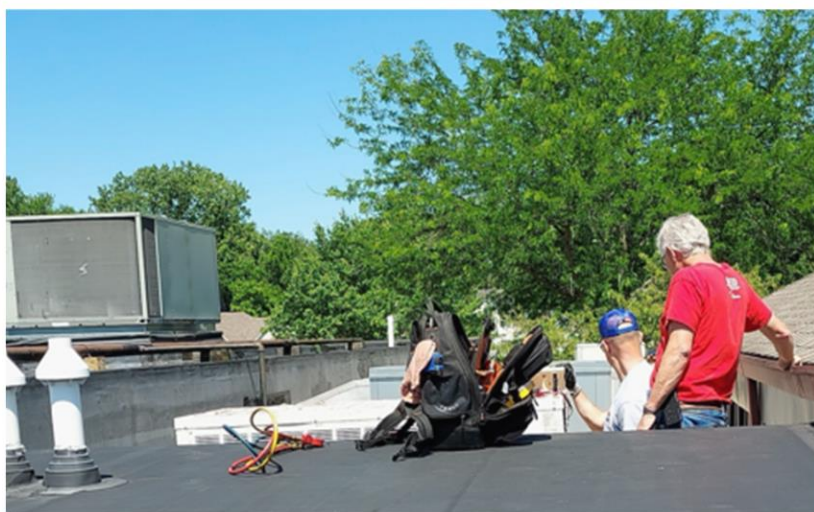
The Property Committee would like you to be aware after 50 years of service that our air conditioning unit for the Fellowship Hall needs replacement.

This unit was initially our heat pump for the original worship space. When natural gas became available in the area it was converted to work as an air conditioner for the building. It has kept us comfortable for many years. However, the compressor has failed, and the entire unit needs to be replaced due to age.

We are currently seeking an acceptable proposal from 3 HVAC contractors. The church council authorized the use of our available capital improvement funds at its June meeting. However, we are looking at bids ranging up to \$16,000.00 for the work.

We would appreciate the consideration of your offerings to the Capital Improvement Fund to replenish this expenditure.

Thank You,
Don Schroeder
Property Committee Liaison





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!



SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH !!

Get your walking shoes back on, Community of Christ has been asked to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support at the Toledo Pride parade on Saturday, August 24th. By joining other local faith communities, we will be highlighting a message bigger than we can possibly do individually – we all Love Out Loud and we are Better

Together. Please consider joining the **Outreach Committee** and walk to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. A sign-up sheet will go up on the kiosk closer to the event.



The Ladies' Lunch will be going to Miss Lily's, 24174 Front St, Grand Rapids Oh on Friday, July 26th @ 11:30 am. Those who wish to then stay and shop in Grand Rapids are welcome to do so. Please sign up on the kiosk so reservations can be made.

Question??

call Becky King @ 419-349-7319.



CoC Upcoming Events

Food (And Drink) for Thought—Next Gathering on July 18



Something new is brewing this summer, and you're invited to join us for it! After our first "Food (and Drink) for Thought" gathering in June, we're preparing for a second gathering at Shawn's Irish Tavern in Waterville (105 S. 3rd Street) coming up on **Thursday, July 18**, once again from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** 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 sign up at the kiosk and plan on joining us for *Food for Thought* on July 18 and see what it's all about!



Come for some fun and help a community at the same time!

Are you a gardener? Do you like to socialize while helping others? Want to spend some time with kids learning about gardening and eating healthy?

Join us for a few hours on a Saturday with a non-profit, Urban Wholistics, working in an urban garden. It's light work, some easy weeding and harvesting when the vegetables are ripe.

Dates are still to be determined. We will meet in the church parking lot for anyone who wants to carpool. We leave around 10:30 and stay until we're done, usually just a couple of hours. You can also drive yourself and depart at a time of your choosing. Bring the kids and/or grandkids. All are welcome. Once we have dates firmed up, there will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

For more info contact Sarah Rockwell at 419.261.2843 or sarahrockwell0822@gmail.com (new email address for Sarah) To find information on this organization, visit <https://www.urbanwholistics.org/>



CoC Upcoming Events



Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Join us for fellowship and baseball!

Cheer on our Toledo Mudhens as they take on the Saint Paul Saints.

- **Sunday, July 21st at 4:05 p.m.**
- Tickets \$11 paid via online link
- **Add on food options for \$10 per ticket CASH ONLY** (hotdog and chips, or pizza, and soft drink) **Cash for the food option needs to be turned into the office NO LATER than July 14th no cash will be accepted after this date**

****Sign up by July 14th using the link sent to your email on June 21st****

Questions or help with tickets call or text Chad Ackerman at 419-350-4879

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

4th Annual Campout

Friday, August 9 at 6pm

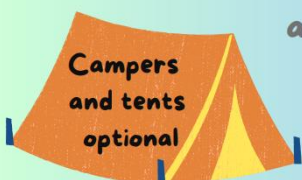
Potluck Dinner

Cornhole Tournament & Games

Kids Movie

Campfire & S'mores

Fun and
fellowship for
all ages!

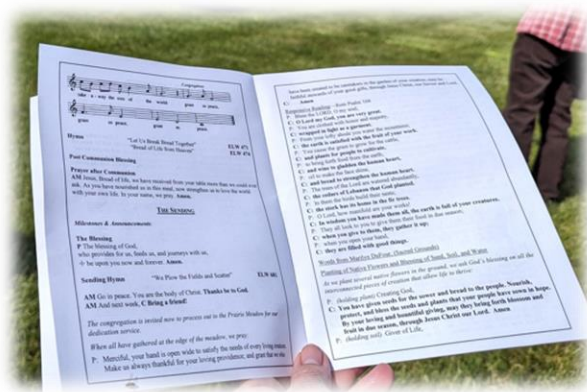


Spiritual Gifts Workshop—Coming September 14

Coming up this fall, we are inviting people of all ages—including youth and young adults!—to be a part of a one-day event to discover your spiritual gifts, tap into your God-given abilities, and explore more of what God might be calling you to do in the world! Join people from across the congregation for this event on Saturday, September 14 (sign-up coming later this summer) for a chance for you to learn about your unique gifts, to see what strengths and challenges might come with your own unique mix of gifts and preferences, and how your spiritual gifts connect you with others, not just in church but in every part of your life! Save the date and plan to join us for this special event here at Community of Christ!



CoC Prairie Meadow Dedication



On Sunday, May 26, the people of God at Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse dedicated their new prairie meadow. Gathered around the corner of their property planted with native plants beloved by pollinators, Marilyn Dufour from the Sacred Grounds project of the National Wildlife Federation recognized Community of Christ as a Sacred Grounds certified community! Laurie Mauro and other members of Community of Christ have worked closely with other congregations and knowledgeable folks in the community to pursue Sacred Grounds status. This certification entails that the congregation is at work to:

- Show connections between faith and the environment
- Educate members of their faith community on ecological matters
- Reach beyond their faith community, into the community at large, encouraging all to participate in these best practices

Community of Christ is just one of over 30 diverse faith communities across the region who are working towards or have achieved Sacred Grounds certification. Other participating NWOS Lutheran congregations include Hope Lutheran, Ottawa Hills, Toledo Campus Ministry at the University of Toledo, Salem Lutheran, North Toledo, St. Stephen, Sylvania, Holy Trinity, Toledo, Faith Lutheran, Swanton and Olivet, Sylvania.



Prairie Meadow Update



Spring and summer have arrived bringing immense activity in the Prairie Meadow. Thanks to God's gracious gift of rain an extravaganza of plants have begun to grow in the prairie meadow! This includes not only the seeds that were sown in winter but those lying dormant in the seed bank for many years, many of which are non-native invasive species. This is all normal for a first-year prairie. Some of the non-native annual species may prevent our native seeds from growing optimally, so the typical challenge in a prairie during its first two years is to keep the non-native annuals down to allow the native species to grow. The major non-natives in our meadow are common knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and Speedwell (*Veronica*). Several thistle species have also found the prairie meadow to be a conducive home. Toledo Metroparks is providing us with guidance on which species to remove and or mow to ensure that our native species have a good opportunity to establish themselves. The primary management in the first year is mowing at heights appropriate to allow the natives to grow yet take down the non-natives before they go to seed. This means that we will have less opportunity to see our newly sown plants bloom this year but is necessary to allow them to develop deep root systems to be healthy in subsequent years and outcompete the non-native annuals. Please stop by the Prairie Meadow and enjoy the activity and buzzing about God's creation!



Polygonum aviculare or common knotgrass is a plant related to buckwheat and dock. It is also called prostrate knotweed, birdweed, pigweed, and lowgrass. It is an annual found in fields and wasteland, with white flowers from June to October.



Veronica is the largest genus in the flowering plant family Plantaginaceae, with about 500 species. It was formerly classified in the family Scrophulariaceae. Common names include speedwell, bird's eye, and gypsyweed.

Community of Christ Prairie Meadow – A Stop on the 2024 Sacred Grounds Prairie Tour

On Weds, Aug 7 the Prairie Meadow will be a featured stop on the Sacred Grounds Toledo Prairie Tour! The Tour will be from 5:00-8:00 PM and will include a stop at the Blue Creek Nursery Cultivation fields (Schadel Rd, Whitehouse) and Faith Lutheran Church, Swanton. Members of Sacred Grounds faith communities will participate in the tour which is hoped to encourage Toledo area faith communities to add prairie plots to their properties. Sacred Grounds™ is a Garden for Wildlife program of the National Wildlife Federation which encourages faith communities to create wildlife habitats on their properties and educate themselves and their communities about the ecological good that landscaping with native plants can provide.



Our first blooms in our Prairie Meadow!



CoC Visitation Ministry

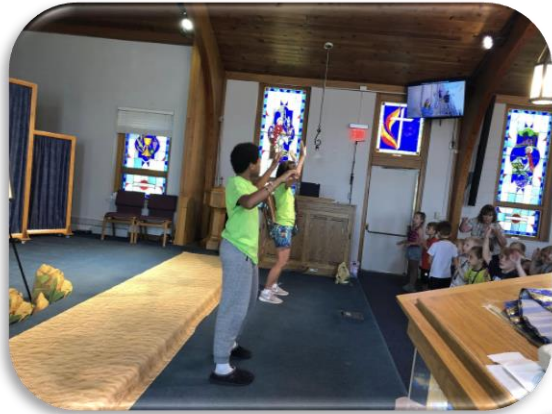
Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

The Visitation Ministry Committee would like to thank all who donated food items, a monetary donation, and time for preparing casseroles. We were able to make 97 individual casseroles to share with our members and nonmembers alike who need a hot meal without worry!



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

This past June, Community of Christ was able to partner with neighboring congregation Hope United Methodist Church as they hosted Vacation Bible School on June 10-14. This week had more than 100 kids, and the folks from Community of Christ who were a part of the week had a blast! Special thanks to our Marsha Cochran, Susan Nofzinger, Ellen Bucher, and Mark Bond, who along with Pastor Steve, got to be leaders and volunteers for the week's fun!



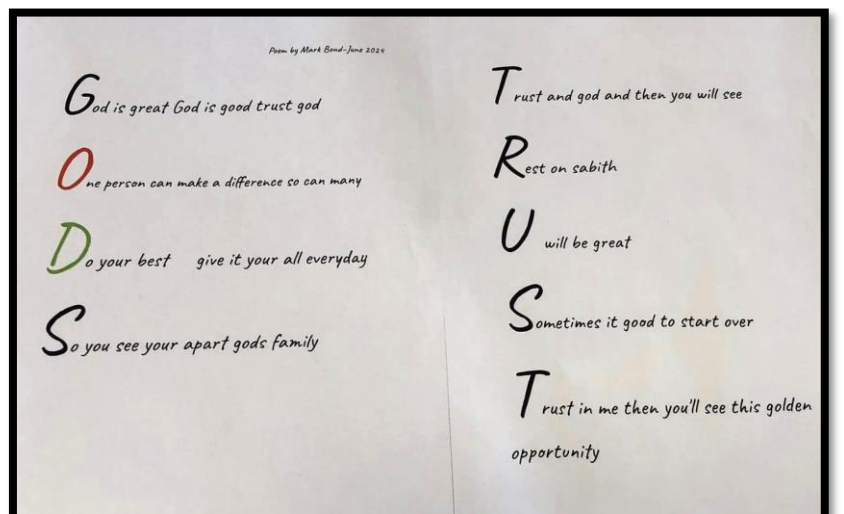
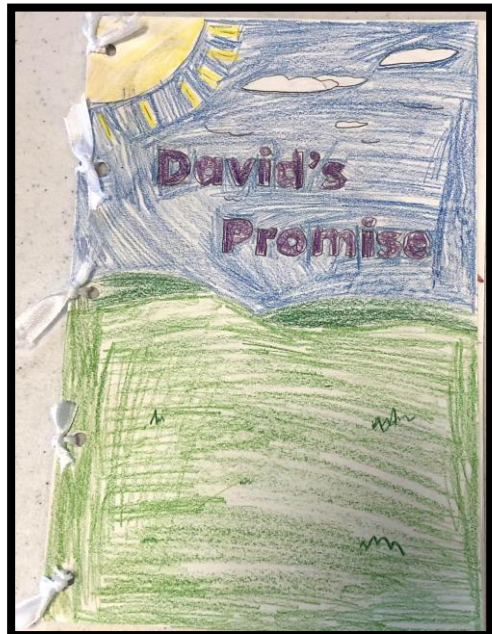
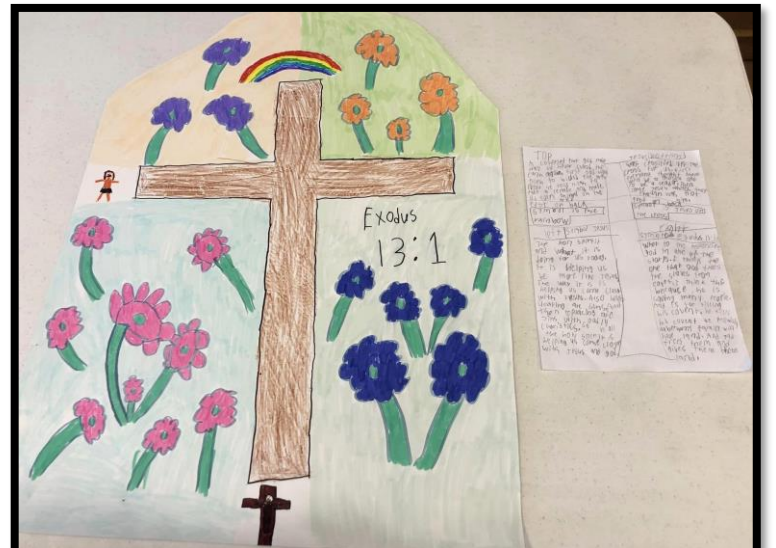
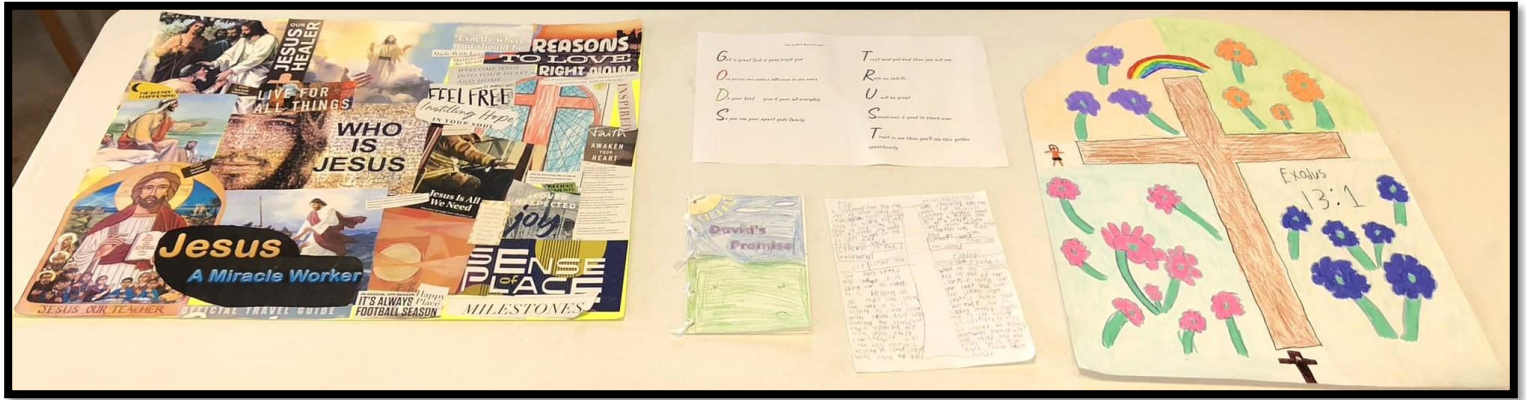


COC Joins Cherry Fest Parade!

Earlier this June, Community of Christ had great representation at the Cherry Fest parade, where about a dozen people from the church got to join the procession, giving out candy and new bracelets for Community of Christ with the message "Jesus loves you!" on them! Thanks so much to the friendly faces and energetic walkers who helped us to *make Jesus known* along with the other groups in our local Cherry Fest parade!



We are really proud of our confirmation class who shared their final projects last night in our last class for the school year!





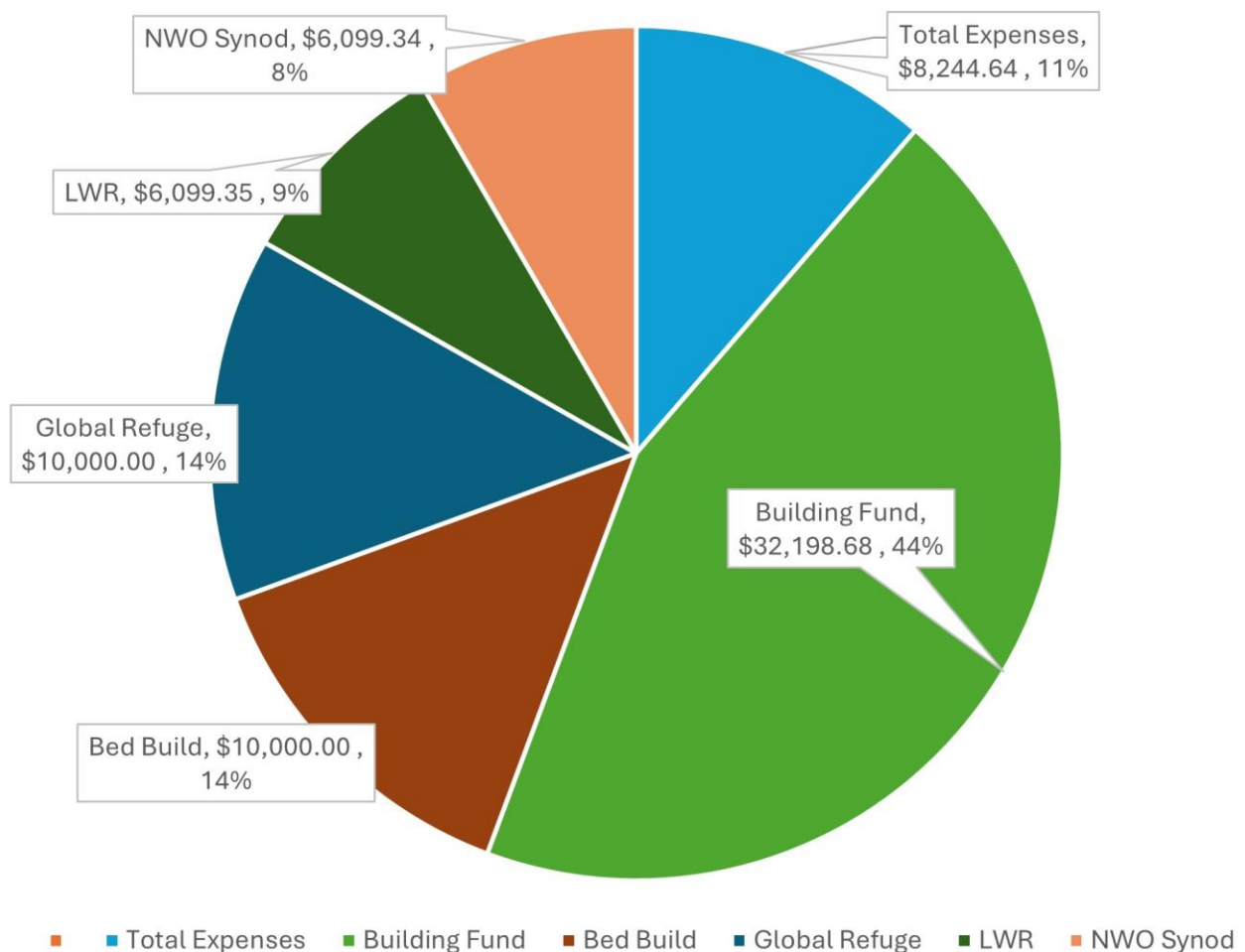
50th Anniversary We have WONDERFUL NEWS!



Congratulations to our congregation on surpassing our fundraising goal for the 50th Anniversary celebration! This event was a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of everyone involved. The fact that we exceeded our target by such a significant amount is truly remarkable and speaks volumes about the support and dedication of our members.

We have provided a pie chart to show where the funds have been allocated so you can see the impact of everyone's contributions. It's heartwarming to see our Community of Christ family coming together with such giving spirits to make a positive difference both locally and globally. Here's to many more successful milestones and celebrations in the future!

50th Anniversary Fund Distribution \$72,642.01





Baptismal Blessings



O God, like a mother, like a father, you tend to your children with care. With awe and thanksgiving, we praise you for the birth of Oaklyn Jane Franklin this child to *Brittany & Dakota Franklin*. Watch over and bless their family in this new life. Hold us all in the arms of your compassion and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen



A special Thank you to Cheryl Fischer for making the baptismal blanket, Joan Bierley for making the baptismal napkin, and Rose Ackerman for taking pictures as Oaklyn was Baptized on Sunday, June 23!

Thank You, CoC!



Dear Community of Christ,

Thank you for the Bible. It was fun to look through it at the verses from the church community I grew up with. I am sorry I was unable to make it to senior Sunday.

Thanks, Ali



May 28, 2024

Dear friends at Community of Christ Lutheran Church,

It is because of the gracious support of donors like you, that Bethany House is thrilled to be celebrating 40 years of operation in 2024! We couldn't have made it this far, and reached so many families, without you. THANK YOU!

A donation, whether financial or material, is more than just a gift. It is possibility, hope, and connection. Your support of \$622 allows us to meet the needs of those fleeing intimate partner violence when they need it most.

Thank you for your faith and investment in our mission,

Thank you
for your amazing
support!

Deidra Lashley MPH, LSW
Executive Director



Jerry Reed 07/01
 Donald Schroeder 07/03
 Kathryn Meyers 07/03
 Stanley Patterson 07/03
 Elaine Lammon 07/04
 Kathryn Whitacre 07/04
 Norman Brettel 07/04
 Diane Ohns 07/05
 Jackie Schalit 07/05
 Michael Mock 07/06
 Bea Ludwig 07/07
 Julie Dick 07/08
 Maci Bartley 07/08
 Nathanael Yokum 07/08
 Tim Owczarzak 07/08
 Ursula Winkelman 07/08

Lorri Britsch 07/09
 Simon Gottwald 07/09
 Barney Stewart 07/10
 Brea Weber 07/10
 Molly Wachtmann 07/13
 Sara Archambeau 07/15
 Kay Terveen 07/16
 Ginny Fahrer 07/17
 Grace Donley 07/17
 Mariah Britsch 07/17
 Susanne Donnal 07/18
 Mitchell Stewart 07/20
 Thomas Ohns 07/20
 Vera Mae Reid 07/20
 Audrey Smucker 07/22
 Mallory Smucker 07/22

Jim Shaw 07/23
 Rachel Rardin 07/23
 Gloria Eberly 07/24
 Karen Battles 07/24
 Marsha Cochran 07/24
 Stephen Bond 07/25
 Eric Dickey 07/26
 Troy Baden 07/26
 Tyler Baden 07/26
 Jim Stiles 07/28
 Rick Metcalf 07/28
 Susan Nofzinger 07/28
 Kathy Phillips 07/29
 Rob Archer 07/29
 Diane Kuhlman 07/30
 Amy Brenneman 07/31
 James Fritz 07/31
 Robert Sautter 07/31






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.
May	\$11,765	\$12,563	(\$798)
YTD	\$55,603	\$62,815	(\$7,212)
2024 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
May	\$32,384	\$38,988	(\$6,605)
YTD	\$170,405	\$179,265	(\$8,861)

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!



****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.



Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July!
The church off will be closed the 4th and 5th



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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