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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Making Jesus Known*



*from Pastor Steve Bond August 2024*

**COMING  
 SOON**

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

**Sunday Morning**  
**Bible Study**  
**10:15 a.m.**

**Pastor's Bible Study**  
 Thursdays 1:00 p.m.  
**NO BIBLE STUDY**  
**August 1**

**Visitation Ministry**  
 August 5

**Outreach**  
 August 6

**Quilt Ministry**  
 August 6 & 20

**Worship & Music**  
 August 8

**Council Meeting**  
**August 13**

**Youth and Education**  
 August 19

**Stewardship**  
 August 20

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

**Church Office Closed**  
**September 2**



## The Table of Jesus

The night before a wedding, the bridal party often gathers with family and friends for a rehearsal dinner. After they've had a walk-through of how the ceremony will go, and before the busy-ness of the wedding day itself, they get a chance to sit around at a table, to laugh and tell stories, to enjoy being with one another, and to share a good meal. And they all know that even then, the best is yet to come. The rehearsal dinner helps get everyone in the bridal party ready for the FULL celebration the next day, when even more people will be gathered to witness their vows, to pray God's blessing on the marriage, and probably to do the Funky Chicken or the Electric Slide at the wedding reception before cake is served. I think that's what I like the most about the tradition of a rehearsal dinner: it is a celebration ahead of time that gets everyone ready for an even grander celebration with an even bigger table yet to come.

And if you have ever found yourself smiling and raising a glass at a rehearsal dinner for a wedding, then you already have a glimpse of what is really happening every Sunday when we gather in worship around the Table of Jesus. For all of our joyous music, all the splendor of liturgy, all the hoopla of banners and processions and candles, and all of the breaking of bread and sharing of cups, we are here on Sunday mornings for a weekly rehearsal dinner—getting us ready for the resurrection banquet at God's table, where the party never ends, and there are places set enough for everyone. We come to share, as the old line of the liturgy goes, “a foretaste of the feast to come,” every time we break the bread and drink the cup of Jesus. And much like happens between a rehearsal dinner and a wedding ceremony and reception, our Sunday gathering gets us ready for an even bigger celebration with even more people. That's how the Table of Jesus works.

As we continue this year's focus in our worship and devotional life on *Meeting Jesus*, this August, we'll focus on what it means to be welcomed to **the table of Jesus**. Because over and over again in the gospels, we find Jesus welcoming people to share a meal, to break bread, and to celebrate with him. He's at dinner parties with those outcast “tax collectors and sinners,” letting them know that they are welcome at God's table. He's feeding thousands on a hillside by the lake with just a few loaves of bread and two measly fish, then offering himself to them as “the bread of life.” He's breaking the loaf on the night of his betrayal and laying down his life for his friends. And all of it points to the way God promises to throw a feast for “all peoples” one day where tears are wiped away, the best food is shared, and death is destroyed forever (see Isaiah 25:6-9).

Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, at the Table of Jesus, we are not only remembering those past meals Jesus shared and the past event of the cross and resurrection, but we are having a rehearsal dinner for the big celebration at which all peoples will find a welcome. We practice welcome and hospitality here as a church family to get us ready for the even

## from Pastor Steve Bond continued

grander welcome Jesus will make for all creation. We make a place for the outcast and the stranger because we know that's who Jesus kept opening his tables to—and because he did the same for us, too.

I want to ask you this August, as we gather around the Table of Jesus in worship, as well as around the campfire during our campout weekend, or any of the other meals we share together, to see our Sunday celebrations as a rehearsal dinner for the Reign of God: a chance to celebrate now, because of the even grander celebration yet to come, where all will find a place, and where there is abundance enough to share.

Looking forward to sharing those tables with you all in these days,  
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 by finding the link on our Facebook page, or finding it at [www.blogtalkradio.com/crazyfaithtalk](http://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.” And new for this month, **Crazy Faith Talk is now on Spotify, too!** If you like to listen to music or podcasts using the Spotify app, you can find Crazy Faith Talk there, too! Continuing through this August, we’re looking at the relationship between church and state, and why it’s actually a really good thing, especially *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” continuing in August with new episodes!

### Sunday Morning Adult Forum In August Explores Women’s Leadership in the New Testament

Join us after worship each Sunday in August for a four-part series on women’s leadership in the New Testament. Learn some of the lesser-known hidden figures and unsung heroes from the time of the first generation of disciples and into the early church and get to know some of their rarely-told stories. And find out how we might make sense of some of the biblical passages that have been used before to prohibit women’s leadership in the church, and what might actually have been going on in those passages. As we prepare as a congregation to welcome another woman to a ministry leadership role with our new intern Natalie, this could be a great time to be informed about the long history of women’s leadership in the church, going back to the time of Jesus and the apostles! Join us for these topics at 9:00 a.m. in the library!

August 4: Jesus and Women

August 11: Women as Leaders in the New Testament Era

August 18: Notable Women in the Early Church

August 25: “But What About...?” (Bible Passages That Seem To Forbid Women’s Leadership)



# Grow in Faith Together

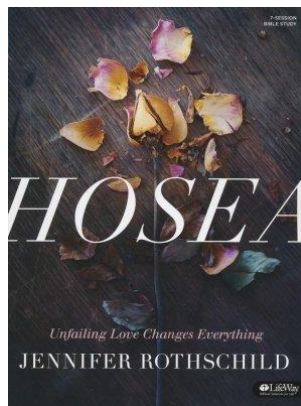


## August Spirituality Saturday: Visual Arts and Faith

This August we've got the last in our series of *Summer Spirituality Saturdays*, hosted here at Community of Christ on the morning of Saturday, August 17 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Sign up at the kiosk so we can be ready for the right-sized group. After our June session on the prairie meadow and the July event looking at poetry and faith, join us this August for a hands-on morning we're calling 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**.

## Welcoming A New Saint Among Us—August 11

Join us in worship on Sunday, August 11 as we celebrate the baptism of Clara Bucher, daughter of returning members Kyle and Janessa, who are transferring their membership back to Community of Christ where they already have family roots and connections in our congregation. Plan to be with us for this special event as God's love claims a new sister in Christ to belong in the family of Jesus through the power of the Spirit, the promises of God, and the sign of water!



## The Tuesday Morning Ladies bible study

**This new study** begins Sept. 17th @ 8:30 am. This fall we will learn about the prophet Hosea and his prostitute wife who leave, and Gomer continues under God's direction to buy back and bring home. This study shows how God kept loving the Jewish nation even when they had turned from him, he kept loving them just as Gomer loved his wife. We have much to learn about so great a love. You will need to purchase your study guide entitled 'Hosea'. Please sign up on the kiosk if you will be attending. Questions? call Becky King @ 419-349-7319.

## 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 August) 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!



# Worship Volunteer Schedule, 9:00 a.m. August 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                        | Aug 4            | Aug 11               | Aug 18           | Aug 25           | Sep 1              |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>     | Volunteer Needed | Laurie Mauro         | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed   |
| <b>Bulletin</b>             | Volunteer Needed | Zach Weber & V Mauro | Volunteer Needed | Kari Swagler     | Dana & Tim Schmidt |
| <b>Camera</b>               | Carol Wiemken    | Neil Raymond         | Carol Wiemken    | Kevin Swagler    | Carol Wiemken      |
| <b>Communion Prep/Clean</b> | Bea Ludwig       | Joseph Perkins       | Carol Wiemken    | Kari Swagler     | Bea Ludwig         |
| <b>Greeter East</b>         | Volunteer Needed | Carol Wiemken        | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed   |
| <b>Greeter West</b>         | Irene Rang       | Volunteer Needed     | N & C Rilling    | Carol Wiemken    | Volunteer Needed   |
| <b>Lector</b>               | Cheryl Fischer   | Carol Wiemken        | Kathryn Whitacre | Volunteer Needed | Dana Schmidt       |
| <b>Worship Asst</b>         | Josef Perkins    | Laurie Mauro         | Kathryn Whitacre | Dean Nofzinger   | Don Schroeder      |
| <b>Verger</b>               | Volunteer Needed | Vince Mauro          | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed   |

## **\*\*Volunteer list as of 07/19/2024\*\***

**\*\*\*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](http://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, TROY BERNHARD, SHIRLEY COFER, VIRGINIA DILLON, SUSIE DONNAL, JIM & SUE ENK, RON HETHERWICK, ART INGMIRE, TOM JENNINGS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, JACK MILLER, KATHY PHILLIPS, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, DICK RISON, IRIS ROCKWELL, PETER SCHULTZ, 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!



### 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!!!!



### 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.



We remember in prayer the families of Marie Panning, Gary Paulsen, and Margeruite Meyer. May our Lord grant them peace and comfort in their hearts in the days ahead.



# CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



VISITATION MINISTRY

**Next Meeting Date**  
August 5 @ 11:30 a.m.



Outreach

**Next Meeting Date**  
August 6 @ 7:00 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
August 8 @ 10:00 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
August 13 @ 6:30 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
August 19 @ 6:30 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
August 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

## Community of Christ Is Getting Ready to Welcome Our Intern!

Plans are underway for us to welcome our new seminary intern, Natalie Downs, starting at the end of August and leading into September! Our internship committee will be chaired by our own Pam Davis, and we are assembling members of that committee who will be a sounding board and support for our intern as she gets to know us and grows in her own pastoral identity during the eighteen months, she is with us. Vicar Natalie will be with us in worship for the first time, just to get to see the feel of a normal Sunday, on August 25<sup>th</sup>, and then her first day in the office will be the following Monday, Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, with her first formal Sunday in worship at our Blue Jeans Sunday event on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great chance to meet her as we share a meal together and other activities after the service on that day. Look for an article in September here in the newsletter from Vicar Natalie herself as she gets a chance to introduce herself and her family to us! And thanks again in advance for your commitment as a congregation to care for and support Vicar Natalie in her time of learning, growing, and serving among us!



# CoC Music News!



## Saying Yes

So, you enjoy singing, and you have considered joining the choir, but perhaps you are up against some obstacles. You work late, you don't have a babysitter, your kids are in sports, you travel. All potential roadblocks. My roadblock is travel. As your new volunteer choir director, I am going to be gone for several weeks during the 2024-2025 season. I get it. We want to be involved, but we have to pick and choose and sometimes we feel squeezed for time.

When Eric asked me to help out with the choir, I was excited to say yes, but also hesitant because, like I said, there are times I won't be in town. He said, "How about you conduct when you are home?" He made it easy for me to say yes.

I want it to be easy for you to give this a try too. Whether it be a solid commitment from September to May or for a 4-6 week period when it works to have choir in your life, I want to give you the flexibility to say yes to singing!

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 7-8 starting on September 4. Our schedule for now until Christmas will be as follows:

### **Session 1:** 9.4.24 - 9.22.24

We will rehearse for 3 Wednesdays, culminating in our first anthem Sunday on 9.22.24.

### **Session 2:** 9.25-10.27

We will rehearse for 5 Wednesdays and will sing on Sunday, 10.13 and 10.25, (Reformation Sunday). We will also record a song for an Advent/Christmas recording the church will be producing.

### **Session 3:** 10.30-11.24

We will rehearse for 4 Wednesdays and sing on Sunday, 11.24, (Christ the King Sunday.)

### **Session 4:** 12.4-12.24

We will rehearse the 3 Wednesdays in December from 7:45-8:45 after the Advent service and sing on Sunday 12.8, Sunday 12.22, and at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Please consider saying YES to choir for 1,2,3 or all 4 sessions. There will be a sign-up sheet at the kiosk. I am so excited to make beautiful music with you!

Kind Regards,  
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.*

## Let's Get This Party Started!

The choir will be kicking off our new season with a party at Doug and Rose Ackerman's home, 9454 Rockingham Dr., Whitehouse on August 28 at 6:00-? The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert. BYOB if you want something other than water or pop. Please sign up at the kiosk. New members or potential members are welcome!



# CoC Property News!



**The Property Committee** would like you to be aware that after 50 years of service, our air conditioning unit for the Fellowship Hall has been replaced.

So out with the old and in with the NEW! We would appreciate the consideration of your offerings to the Capital Improvement Fund to replenish this expenditure. Thank you!





# 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 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 upon request for those who prefer not to access it online.

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

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

1. **If you already have online access to the directory-** Thank you! - Please review your information now and update it yourself. **And complete a hardcopy survey (available at church and by email).** You may also update your information by working with a Stewardship Committee member after service on Aug 4.
2. **If you do not currently have online directory access and would like access**, please request it by completing the hardcopy survey or asking a Stewardship Committee member to enter your request for you.

Once you have access to the online Church Directory, you may update your own family photo by using a photo taken at church. Many of our currently posted directory photos are very out of date. If you would like assistance with updating your photo, Rose Ackerman will be at church on Aug 4<sup>th</sup> to take your picture, or you may arrange a time to meet with her to update your picture. She can be contacted at: 419-308-6808.

***If you have already requested access to the Online Directory, please be patient as access will be provided at the end of the survey process via email to all who have requested it.***

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*.



# Coming to COC this August!



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

On Weds, **Aug 7 (rain date Aug 8)** the Prairie Meadow will be a featured stop on the Sacred Grounds Toledo Prairie Tour! The Tour will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m. 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 <sup>TM</sup> 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. The tour will begin at the Blue Creek Seed Nursery Cultivation Fields, meeting in the soccer field parking lot on Stiles Rd. across from the fields at 5:30 then proceed to Community of Christ. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Mauro at 419-351-0006, or [Imauro5366@gmail.com](mailto:Imauro5366@gmail.com)



Join us for our 4th Annual Campout on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.! Please go to the link below for details and to sign up. Remember, it is not mandatory for you to camp overnight to join the festivities. You may still come to enjoy a potluck dinner, s'mores, games, and fellowship. All ages are WELCOME! Questions may be directed to Lainie Davis @

[lainiedavis22@gmail.com](mailto:lainiedavis22@gmail.com)

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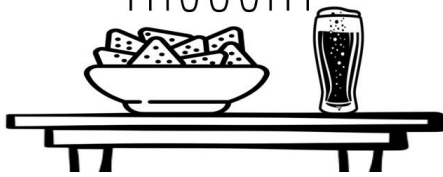


# Coming to COC this August!

## FOOD

(and drink)

for  
THOUGHT



### Food (And Drink) for Thought—Next Gathering on August 22

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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) coming up on **Thursday, August 22**, 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 **August 22** and see what it's all about!



LADIES  
LUNCH

The Ladies lunch will be going to Chowder N Moor on August 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:30 a.m. 312 South St. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. Questions?? Call Becky King @ 49-349-7319 and as always bring a friend.

Together



*we are strong*

### "Better Together" Faith Group Walking At Toledo Pride

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 24<sup>th</sup>. Folks from Community of Christ will join up with people from more than twenty-five other area congregations under the shared banner "Better Together." 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. Sign up at the kiosk in the gathering space if you would like to join, and we'll share more details about the time and place for meeting up as we get closer!





# COC Upcoming August Events

## Notre Dame de Paris...What Was... What Is... What Will Be

All the world will be focused on Paris for the Summer Olympics. What was once a small remote outpost of the Roman Empire grew into the center of the French Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. At its heart is the cathedral of Notre Dame. Since 1182, it has stood as the quintessential example of a Gothic Cathedral. Others may be larger, but none has such a storied history. The great fire of 2019 was far from the first time it came close to demolition. Join us to trace its past, present, and future. A presentation by Chris Rilling on Saturday, August 24, 2004 @ 10 a.m. St. Richard's Parish Life Center Swanton, Ohio

### "Our Last Sunday Hymn Sing!"

Come One! Come All! YOU pick the HYMNS!  
Come prepared with a few of your favorites and call'em out!  
August 25<sup>th</sup>!

## FRIENDS AND FAITH FALL KICK-OFF

AUGUST 25, 2024  
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6517 FINZEL RD, WHITEHOUSE, OH 43571  
6:00 - 7:30 PM

CORNHOLE  
TOURNAMENT

OUTDOOR  
GAMES

FELLOWSHIP

FOOD TRUCK

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



### Friends and Faith Fall Kick-Off

Community of Christ parents, grandparents, and friends would you like an opportunity for the youth in your life from grades 7-12 to make memories, start new friendships, and get energized for what's ahead this school year? If so, the Anthony Wayne Area Friends and Faith Fall Kick-off invites you to have a fantastic time by joining us on Sunday, August 25, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. here at Community of Christ Lutheran Church!

Scan the QR code to the left to register!!

As always be sure to invite a FRIEND!!!



# Social Action News!

*Save a Life*



## **Blood Drive**

### **Community of Christ Lutheran Church**

Community Center  
6517 Finzel  
Whitehouse, OH 43571

**Friday, September 6, 2024**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



**American  
Red Cross**



# Social Action News!



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

## School Kits

It's that time of year again! We are collecting school supplies for **"Project Promise - Build Kits of Care"** through Lutheran World Relief. These kits allow students of all ages in third-world countries to attend school. Donations will be collected through September.

With Back-To-School Sales getting started now is a great time to pick up the items needed to fill our backpacks.

We would like to fill 50-60 backpacks again this year. Each backpack requires the following items: *(New Items Only Please)*

**(4) 70 sheet notebooks - (Wide or College Ruled) No loose-leaf paper.**

**(1) 30-centimeter ruler or one with both centimeters and inches on it.**

**(1) pencil sharpener**

**(1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors)**

**(5) unsharpened pencils**

**(5) black or blue ballpoint pens (No gel ink please)**

**(1) box of 16 or 24 count box of crayons**

**(1) Eraser (approx. 2.5" in size)**



**Please do not donate anything with the American Flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage**





# COC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

## School Supplies needed for Salem's TPS Students – Needed by Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

As we approach our 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Jean Sunday, we would once again like to help our sister church Salem Lutheran in Toledo with their School Supply program. Salem Lutheran children require school supplies as they head off to class on August 21, 2024. This collection is different from the Lutheran World Relief collection in that it includes some different items, and they are needed sooner (August 11<sup>th</sup> vs September 29<sup>th</sup>). We are collecting the following items and will transport them to Salem so they can be dispersed in time. Here is the list of requested items:

Monetary Donations to bulk purchase book bags (Cash or checks payable to **Community of Christ**, **mark on the envelope or in the memo "Salem-book bags"**, and place in the collection plate)

- Folders (Please choose basic colors no theme styles)
- 24 pack Crayola Crayons
- Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Markers- colored
- Highlighter- Yellow
- Pens
- Red pens
- Dry erase markers - black
- Pencil bag or box
- Blunt tip scissors
- Wide-ruled notebook paper
- Composition book (Please choose basic colors no theme styles)
- Spiral notebooks (Please choose basic colors no theme styles)
- Loose leaf notebook (Please choose basic colors no theme styles)
- Stapler and staples
- Ruler
- 1-inch binders with inside pockets
- Subject dividers
- 3 x 5 Index cards
- Headphones or earbuds
- Clorox wet wipes
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Quart storage bags



Thanks to everyone who helped with this last year! It was so appreciated!

# COC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



## Blue Jeans Sunday—September 8

As the culmination of our year-long fiftieth-anniversary celebration, we're once again having a special outdoor worship service, with a picnic, games, and activities following, on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. for the last time this summer (beginning on Sept. 15, we'll be back to our usual rhythm of an 8:00 a.m. and a 10:00 a.m. service with Sunday School in between), outside in the churchyard on the back side of the building. After worship, we'll have activities and games, a potluck picnic lunch and grilled burgers and hot dogs, and more! This will also be the first official Sunday with our intern, Vicar Natalie, joining us, and we'll also be dedicating a **time capsule** of memories and memorabilia from this milestone in our congregation's history to be opened in 25 years when we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Look for more details in the September newsletter, too, but for now, mark your calendars, sign up for what you can bring to the picnic, and get ready to help us celebrate the conclusion of our golden anniversary!

These have been some of our year's worth of special events over the course of our 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration—which ones were favorites for you?

September 2023—Blue Jeans Sunday with Pastor Ray as guest speaker

Special concerts by Eric Dickey, Sarah Magoun, and Amanda Worthington

Community of Christ Christmas ornaments

Renewal of Vows for Couples

Spaghetti Dinner

Anthony Wayne Jazz Band Concert

Bed Build—constructing 50 beds for kids in our area in need of a place to sleep

Anniversary Dinner at AWHS; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service on May 5



## Starting in September!

### Welcome Table Wednesdays—Coming this Fall!

This fall, we're inviting children, families, and adults to a weekly gathering on Wednesday evenings with food, fellowship, and faith activities for all ages. Our Welcome Table Wednesdays will kick off on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> with a dinner open to all from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and then at 7:00 p.m., we'll have activities that are especially geared for kids and families, but that are open to everyone, too! (Of course, if you are planning to be in the choir this fall but want to bring your kids along to church, this is a great chance for kids to get to do fun and faithful activities with music, art, stories, and games while you join the choir! All will wrap up by 8:00 p.m. so you can get to the rest of your evenings after that! More details are coming soon, but we do hope you'll join us this September on Wednesday evenings!



# COC Upcoming September Events

## Coming This Fall: Festival of Talents Weekend!

We're still enjoying the heart of the summer, 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! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know about what you'd like to share as YOUR talent!

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 celebrate our various talents and gifts from God!

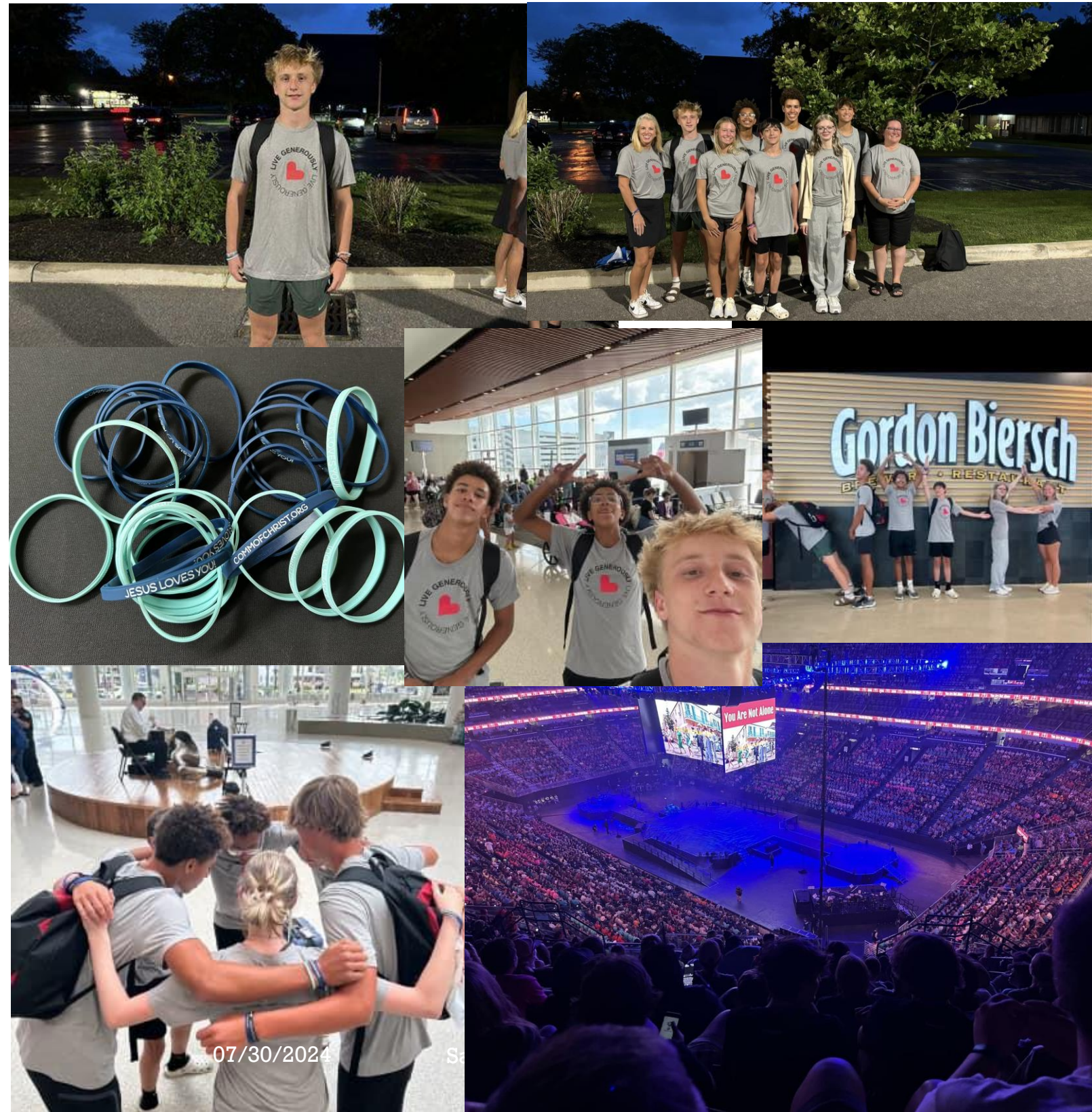
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# National Youth Gathering



The joint Providence-Community of Christ group at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans having a great time! Please enjoy the pictures Nate Yokum has shared of his time there!





# National Youth Gathering

Looks like Day 2 of the National Youth Gathering was a blast too—here are a few moments sent from our inside contact down in New Orleans!



Nate having a great time at the National Youth Gathering—he got to meet up with our Bishop Beaudoin, and he's collected an impressive array of bracelets from other churches and given away all the ones he brought from Community of Christ!







Elaine Hetherwick 08/03  
 Melinda Peters 08/04  
 Mark Winkelman 08/05  
 Stephanie Phillips 08/05  
 Ava Davis 08/07  
 Linda Nichols 08/07  
 Carrie Tuohy 08/08  
 Shelby Myers 08/08  
 Lauren Swartz 08/10  
 Wilfried Schubert 08/11  
 Dave Greenhagen 08/12  
 Dave Myerholtz 08/12  
 Delaney Boltz 08/13  
 Makayla Stewart 08/13  
 Pat Rison 08/13

Saundi Ludwig 08/13  
 Steve Smigelski 08/13  
 Cassidy Taylor 08/14  
 Graci Pollock 08/14  
 David Malohn 08/15  
 Joel Schuchmann 08/15  
 Marcia Curtis 08/15  
 Max Weber 08/15  
 Jim Merritt 08/17  
 Katie Ray 08/17  
 Kathy Chamberlain 08/17  
 Mark Kuhlman 08/17  
 Mark Bond 08/18  
 Morgan Taylor 08/18  
 Sandy Korb 08/18  
 Ann Reisner 08/20

Steven Dick 08/21  
 Ken Sheetz 08/22  
 Sarah Rockwell 08/22  
 Bill Reisner 08/23  
 Tim Holliker 08/24  
 Kelly Reid 08/25  
 Lora Keil 08/26  
 Rosalie Stewart 08/27  
 Brian Jones 08/28  
 Josie Hartbarger 08/28  
 Kerrienne Powers 08/29  
 Benjamin Kuhlman 08/30  
 Catherine Malohn 08/30  
 Karen Jennings 08/31  
 Sandy Boehly 08/31






# 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!



# COC Notes



## **\*\*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.



Are you TRAVELING this summer or fall? Here's a reminder to take with you that Jesus goes with us wherever we go! You are invited to take one of these pictures with you, and to take a photo with Jesus in it (sort of like "Flat Stanley" if you know that character) and share it with us here at Community of Christ on social media! As always, remember that Jesus is on the loose and among us!



**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**

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