



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



July 2026

Worship Hours
Sunday,
9 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Bible
Study
 Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Social Action
 July 1, 10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music
 July 2, 10:00 a.m.

Risk Management
 July 9, 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship
 July 16, 6:00 p.m.

Christian Ed.
 July 13, 6:30 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
 August 3, 10:30 a.m.

Concert Committee
 August 11, 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
 August 11, 7:00 p.m.

Worship Services
 Available at
www.commofchrist.org

Church Office
Closed July 3

Summer
Worship Hours
9:00 a.m.
May 24 -
September 13

A Message Worth Sharing—July 2026

It was a beautiful mess.

Back in June, on a Sunday evening at one of our weekly youth group gatherings, young people from middle school through high school were invited to help create a giant sign out of 2-foot-tall foam letters. We got out the bottles of paint. We covered tables in trash bags as makeshift drop cloths. We saw handprints added to stripes and bright colors layered in waving stripes. By the end of the evening, our hands were washed, and the tables were cleaned—and we had the beginnings of a new creation. In a matter of days, those giant letters became a six-foot-wide three-dimensional sign that reads, **“YOU ARE SO LOVED.”** And soon after, we had taken the sign to march in the parade at Cherry Fest in downtown Whitehouse, bringing to neighbors, strangers, and friends that same message: you are so loved. You might have seen the sign hanging around here at the church, too. But I’ll be completely honest: its creation only arose through the making of a beautiful mess along the way.

Before we do something like that, I find myself asking sometimes, “Is this going to be worth all the effort... all the labor... all the resources... and yes, all of the *mess*?” It’s not just for art projects at the youth group, but almost anything we do as church: is it worth the energy and time to offer spiritual practices on Wednesdays, or weekly story hours for kids? Is it worth the sweat and effort to partner with friends in Toledo for weekly meals at Salem, or to build a ramp for someone coming home from rehabilitation through the Toolbox ministry? Is it worth the work and time when we host a meal for a family who is grieving following a funeral, or to make prayer shawls for folks at home from the hospital? Is it worth the *mess* that comes along with being church, in other words, from the hassles of roof repairs to the energy put into a music director search process to whatever new struggles and challenges come up tomorrow that we don’t even know to anticipate yet?

And if I am honest with myself, the reason I can in good conscience keep saying “Yes: it’s worth it” to all of the things we do together as church is because in some way all of those ministries are about sending the same message as the giant foam-lettered sign. They are all different ways of saying to the world around us, near and far, “You are so loved.” That’s the kind of work that is worth going out of business over. It’s the kind of Gospel we find so compelling we can’t NOT pour ourselves into it. It’s the kind of message that is worth sharing. Because as we tell others around us, “You are so loved,” we also can’t help but hear it spoken to us as well. And indeed, dear ones, you *are*. You are so loved. Hear it, read it, own it, and then share it with someone else, in whatever medium you have at hand: the spoken word, the printed page, the frozen meal, the home repair project, the knitted shawl, the arms of a hug, or even giant foam letters coated in a beautiful mess of color. We have been given a message worth sharing... today.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,
 Pastor Steve





GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

On Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: A Faith of Both Testaments

Our weekly podcast, “*Crazy Faith Talk*,” offers conversation and insights looking 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 even asking your Smart Speaker (like Amazon Echo) to play the podcast “Crazy Faith Talk.” Crazy Faith Talk is also now on **Spotify!** If you like to listen to music or podcasts using the Spotify app, you can find Crazy Faith Talk there! *Crazy Faith Talk* features our own Pastor Steve, and three other colleagues in ministry: Sarah Aasheim, an ELCA pastor serving in eastern Pennsylvania, Methodist colleague Erica Wellner, who is serving in central Pennsylvania, and former intern and newly-minted seminary grad **Natalie Downs!** Think of it like being invited around the table to listen in to pastors talking through their own faith, questions, and struggles, and being able to take the conversation with you, listen, and reflect on wherever you go—in the car, from your smart-speaker, or on your phone or tablet.

This summer, our most recently completed series of conversations was “A Faith of Both Testaments,” and took a look at questions about how our faith as Christians holds together both the Hebrew Scriptures (sometimes called the Old Testament) and the Christian New Testament. We’ll look at questions like, “Is God really mean in the Old Testament and then nice in the New Testament?” or “How did the ancient people of Israel think about life after death?” New episodes for a new series will be starting up on June 30 and into July, so check out Crazy Faith Talk weekly all summer long! There’s something for everyone, so listen in and find episodes with our weekly posts on our church Facebook page or Twitter/X (@BeingGraced), by searching for “Crazy Faith Talk” on Spotify, or on your smart speaker!



Thursday Bible Study Opens Up the Book of Acts

Join us for our current series in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study, as we take a deep dive into the New Testament book of Acts to learn the story of the early church and how the band of rag-tag fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee grew into a movement that reached outward to the very heart of the Roman Empire and became a “found family” of Jewish and Gentile people, rich and poor, enslaved and free, women and men, and lived through the growing pains of that outreach to change the world. Join us weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room as we work through the book of Acts and let it spark our own ways of living out our faith and sharing the good news of Jesus in the world around us.

Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page) each week, so that you can know what we’ll be looking at each week in case you miss a week, want to join in, or to share with a friend!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Summer Adult Forum—"Journey through the Old Testament" after Worship

On Sundays after worship throughout July and August, we invite you to join us for our summer Adult Forum series, "Journey through the Old Testament." Over these weeks, we'll have the chance to take an overview of the books and stories of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament, in the hopes of becoming more familiar with these books, understanding how to read them and the times and cultures they were first written in, and how they continue to speak to us as followers of Jesus today. Join us in the Bible study room on Sundays at 10:15 for this series!

The Shaping of Our Hearts A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices

The Shaping of Our Hearts—Spiritual Practice Series for Summer 2026

All are welcome on Wednesday evening this July and into August as we gather weekly once again for a series of ten spiritual practices from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. So far, we have been introduced to "Spiritual MacGyvering," the art of new creation, breath prayer, labyrinth walking, and reverse Visio Divina, and we've got more great opportunities to learn new ways to connect with God in our daily lives and weekly routines. We'd invite you to sign up in advance, either at the kiosk or online through the Sign-Up Genius tab on our website (www.commofochrist.org), but even if you can't sign up ahead of time, we'd be glad to have you join us! Coming up in July, we'll feature archery as a spiritual practice, tangible prayer (like prayer squares, shawls, and other textiles), the daily Examen with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, and sand art in what we'll call "the spirituality of the ephemeral." We hope you can try out some of these new practices this summer!

July 1 The Spirituality of Archery

The Bible frequently uses the language of staying focused on a goal, or of missing the mark, as a metaphor for our spiritual growth and centering on Christ. So, we'll explore how the imagery of aiming at a target might open up our life of discipleship with an actual introduction to archery.
Special presenter Bryce Hinegardner.



July 8 Tangible Prayer

Prayer can take the form of the act of making an object as a gift for another person, while praying for the recipient as it is being made. In our own congregation, our ministries of prayer shawls, prayer squares, and crosses allow people to create these prayerful gifts.
Special presenters Irene Rang and Sandi Whaley



The Shaping of Our Hearts

A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices



July 15

The Spirituality of the Prairie Meadow

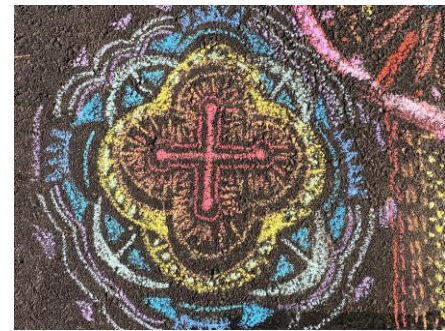
Biblical voices like the psalmists and prophets often take cues about God from their experience in the created world. In this session, we'll explore, pray, and contemplate in our own church, Prairie Meadow.
Special presenter Laurie Mauro



July 22

The Daily Examen

The Prayer of the Examen is a simple spiritual practice of reflection and prayer that helps us become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives.
Special presenter Bishop Daniel Beaudoin



July 29

The Spirituality of the Ephemeral

Voices like Ecclesiastes teach us not to count on permanency in our actions, but to find meaning in what we do in the present moment. We'll create several kinds of visual arts displays that embrace their temporary nature, to help us discover meaning and purpose in work even when we know it will not last forever.

August 5

Taize Style Music and Prayer

The style of worship developed at the community of Taize, France, has become well-known around the world as a contemplative and ecumenical form of song and prayer. With simple, easy-to-learn refrains sung with repetition and variety of instrumentation, Taize-style song invites us to mindful, unhurried, and reflective time with God.



August 12

Contemplative Painting and Visio Divina

Using visual arts to enter into a deeper reflection on a biblical story is one of the gifts of Visio Divina. Reprising two practices we explored in 2025, we'll have the opportunity both to reflect on already-created images for our contemplation and to create new works of art on our own as a means of engaging with the Scriptures.



Kids, Youth, and Teens!



SUMMER Storytime

Summer Reading Club Continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Continuing this July on Wednesdays this summer through August 12, we'll be welcoming kids of all ages to join us from 9:30-10:00 a.m. every week for a time of stories, songs, fun, and friends. Bring a friend or neighbor, and we'll gather in the church library (the long classroom where our youngest Sunday School class meets on Sunday mornings).

But wait—there's more! You will also be able to find our bookshelf in the Gathering Space all summer, with a new collection of kid-friendly books as well as some of our favorites from last year, that you can borrow, read, and return. We're inviting you to read ten books over the course of the summer for a special prize at the end of the summer!

And if you are an adult who might be free on a Wednesday morning this summer and you would like to volunteer to be a guest reader of one of our stories, please reach out to Pastor Steve or Bryce and let us know—we'd be glad to welcome you to be a special guest on one or more of our Wednesday story times! See you this summer around a good book!





Kids, Youth, and Teens!



Rooted

Our collection of youth from three different congregations, and their friends, has continued to thrive throughout the summer. With an additional half hour together each week, we have had more time for games, Bible study, crafts, meaningful conversations, and simply enjoying one another's company.

This year, we have been following the same Scripture readings used in Sunday morning worship, tracing the story of Jesus' life and ministry from Epiphany through Lent and Easter, to Transfiguration and now into Ordinary Time. Along the way, we have been exploring more deeply what Jesus taught and what it means to live as his followers today.

As always, we welcome any teenagers who would like to build friendships, have fun, and learn more about what it means to follow Jesus Christ. During the summer, we meet on Sundays from 6:30–8:30 p.m. A schedule of our July gatherings can be found below.

July 5 - Providence Lutheran Church, July 12 - Community of Christ, July 19 - Providence Lutheran Church
July 26 - Community of Christ

Vacation Bible School

During the first week of June, more than 140 children gathered at Hope United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School. Together, they entered the exciting world of Rainforest Falls and learned about God as our all-knowing Creator who offers us love, safety, and the promise of eternal life.

It was a joy to hear the children enthusiastically singing, laughing, and learning throughout the week. We were also blessed to see volunteers, families, and children from multiple congregations come together to share in this ministry.

We invite you to keep these children in your prayers, that they may remember they are beloved children of God—known, loved, and claimed by their Creator—and that the seeds of faith planted during VBS will continue to grow in their hearts.





Worship Volunteer Schedule



July 2026

Summer Worship Hour 9:00 a.m.

Week	Jul 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Acolyte/Crucifer	Teresa Loga	Joe Perkins Teresa Loga	Volunteer needed	Teresa Loga
Bulletin	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Connie Hudson
Camera	Sarah Rockwell	Neil Raymond	Kevin Swagker	Rick Yokum
Communion Prep/Clean	Volunteer Needed	Susan Raymond	Keri Swagler	Josef Perkins
Greeter East	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Marilyn Pratt	Chris Rilling
Greeter West	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Richard Pratt	Natalie Rilling
Lector	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer	Volunteer Needed	Teresa Loga
Worship Asst	Joe Perkins	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed	Don Schroeder
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 6/08/2026. If you need to cancel your scheduled date, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place and fill your time slot. Remember to cancel your slot on Sign-Up Genius so the person covering for 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 & More

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:

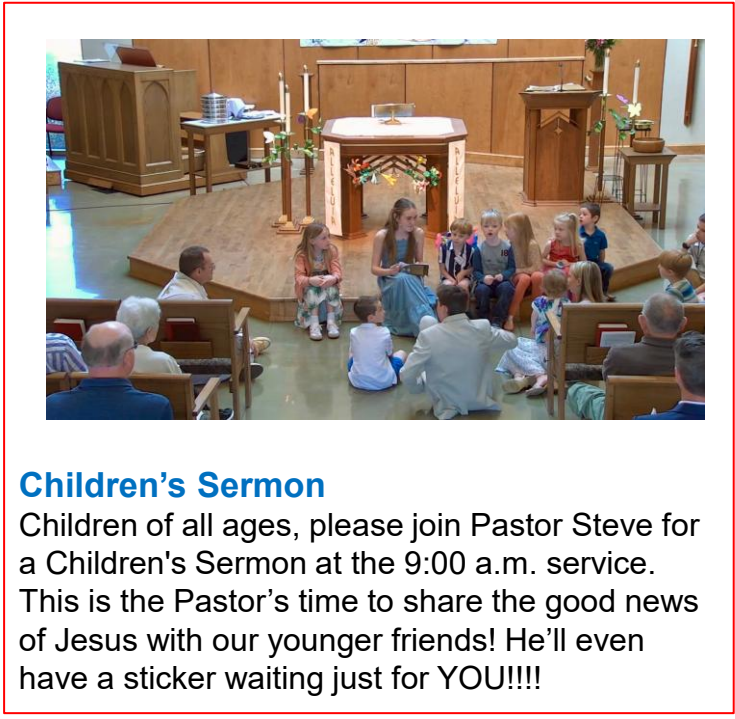
PAUL AYRES, LARRY BATTLES, JEFF BUCHER, CAROL BORKOWSKI, ERIC DICKEY, VIRGINIA DILLON, TOM DRUSCHEL, TODD DUTCHED, JIM & SUE ENK, CHERYL FISCHER, GREG GANELLI, LARRY GEER, PAULA GRUHLER, PASTOR RON HEINZ, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, MATT JURRUS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, GINNY KRUEGER, PAUL LADD, CAROL MASON, MILES MCGINNIS, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, DICK RISON, PHYLLIS STURGEON,
MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE, LANDON CHRISTY, DREW TROTTER, DAVID ATKINSON, RYAN DUNN

Prayer Requests



Prayers of the Church

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

Children of all ages, please join Pastor Steve for a Children's Sermon at the 9:00 a.m. service. This is the Pastor's time to share the good news of Jesus with our younger friends! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!!



IN LOVING Memory

We hold the family of Pastor Ray Gottschling in our prayers, asking our Lord to surround them with peace and comfort in the days ahead.

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 get in touch with Irene Rang at 269-832-7714



CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



Next Meeting Date
July 1 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
July 2 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 15 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
July 9 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
July 16 @ 6:00 p.m.



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



Next Meeting Date
August 11 @ 6:00 p.m.



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



Summer Worship Hours
begin Sunday, May 24 @
9:00 a.m.

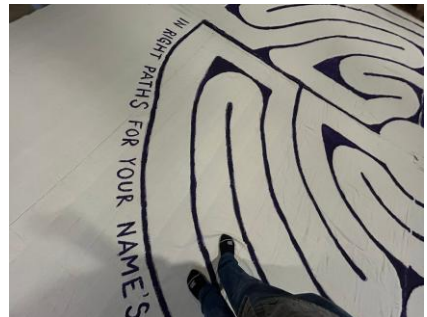
Church Office Hours
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)

Please note.....
Hours may vary during vacations.
Please call ahead ☺

Thanks to all who joined us for our first spiritual practice session of the summer! Your new creations were awesome!



Thanks to those who joined us for our second spiritual practices, despite the rain. We shared in the spiritual practice of breath prayer and walking the labyrinth.





Announcements



Simple Reasons to “Show Up” (A continuation of our ministry using MealTrain – see June newsletter)

People appreciate you more than you may realize—especially when you simply show up.

When someone is going through a difficult time, it’s easy to worry: Will they like the meal I prepared? Is it enough? Will I know the right thing to say? The truth is, those concerns are usually not what matters most. What people remember is that you were there for them when they needed support. They remember the kindness, the thoughtfulness, and the reminder that they are not alone. Studies have shown that while those who give often worry about whether their gift is “good enough,” those who receive are most grateful for the act of caring itself.

Last month, we shared information about MealTrain and why our congregation uses it as a way to care for one another. This month, we want to encourage you to take the next step and participate when an opportunity arises.

Keep It Simple - A great source for ideas and information is MealTrain.com. The website offers helpful tips, answers to common questions, and practical suggestions for organizing meals. One important reminder: keep the meal simple. No one is looking for a five-course dinner! A favorite family casserole, a pot of soup, sandwiches, or another easy comfort meal can be exactly what is needed.

A Small Act Makes a Big Difference - Sometimes the simplest gestures are the most meaningful. A meal delivered, a quick visit, a kind note, or a prayer can remind someone that they are surrounded by a caring church family. Thank you for continuing to “show up” for one another through our MealTrain ministry.

Here are a few easy recipe ideas below. If you need more, call the church office, and Michelle can share the recipes we use for our casseroles!!!

Easy Chicken & Rice Casserole

Ingredients: 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded, 2 cups cooked rice, 1 can of cream of chicken soup, 1 cup sour cream, 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables (optional), 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 teaspoon onion powder, Salt and pepper to taste. **Directions:** Preheat oven to 350°F., In a large bowl, combine chicken, rice, soup, sour cream, cheese, vegetables, and seasonings. Spread mixture into a greased 9x13 baking dish. Bake for 30–35 minutes, until hot and bubbly. Let cool slightly before serving. This casserole is easy to make, reheats well, and is usually a hit with both adults and kids.

Meal In One (serves 4)

Ingredients: 1 pound hamburger, 1-10 oz. pkg. frozen mixed vegetables, 2 cans Cream of Mushroom soup 1/2 pkg. of dry onion soup mix, Tator Tots. **Directions:** Brown the hamburger and drain. Add hamburger to the bottom of a 9” square pan. Cover with vegetables. Sprinkle onion soup over vegetables, then cover with soup. Place Tator Tots on top. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour covered. Then bake another 30 minutes uncovered. **NOTES:** If you are in a hurry, brown the hamburger, drain. Place all of the ingredients in a microwavable, ovenproof pan, excluding the Tator Tots, and mix well. Add Tator Tots to the top. Cook in the microwave for 5 to 10 minutes on high. Remove from microwave and place in oven until mixture is bubbly and tots are browned.

Taco kits & Dessert: Brownies

A taco kit is the perfect Meal Train idea. All you have to do is buy, prepare, and deliver all the favorite fixings for tacos. We suggest making a big pot of either chicken or carnitas taco meat and then bring corn and flour tortillas, a bag of shredded cheese, a small container of sour cream, salsa, guacamole, washed and dried cilantro, and a bag of tortilla chips.



Announcements



WELCOMING BASKETS



Bridge of Hope is preparing welcoming baskets for migrant families coming to work in the fields of Sandusky County every April. We are asking for donations to help make these possible.

Collections for Bridge of Hope for migrant workers will begin again!

Items that are needed are: *empty egg cartons *plastic laundry baskets *detergent *deodorant *new pillows *new or gently used pillowcases *new or gently used towels & washcloths *hats/neck covers *bandanas *socks *thinner long sleeve shirts *work clothes *work gloves *sunglasses *reusable water bottles/jugs *toothbrushes *toothpaste *bath wash/soap *shampoo/conditioner *sunscreen *feminine hygiene products *diapers/wipes*paper towels *toilet paper *small cooler/lunch box

Please place any donations in the wicker basket in the hall off the Gathering space throughout spring, summer, and fall. Thank you! Monetary donations are always appreciated. Those can be made out to Bridge of Hope and sent to Hayes United Methodist Church, 1441 Fangboner Rd., Fremont, OH 43420.

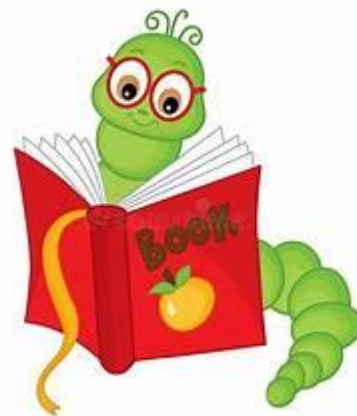
BOOK CLUB NEWS

Recruiting new members! We'd love to have some of the men participate. Fred Shuman joined us in June, and he was a delightful addition to the group.

Save these dates for the 26-27 Book Club. This way, you will have a reminder if something comes up that you have the possibility of other plans. In the September Newsletter, I will give an annotated list of the books for the year—we'll solve some mysteries, read something by favorite authors, read for 250, and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald!

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, from 1:00-2:15ish.

- ❖ September 15
- ❖ October 20
- ❖ November 17
- ❖ December 15
- ❖ January 19
- ❖ February 16
- ❖ March 16
- ❖ April 20
- ❖ May 18
- ❖ June 15



Questions? E-mail or text me! Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444; kathrynwhitacre13@gmail.com



Announcements



Updates from Music Director Search Committee

It was both beautiful and bittersweet to have our farewell for retiring Music Director Eric Dickey back in June, and at the same time, we are also in process to search for the right candidate to continue on in leading the music ministry of Community of Christ. Our Search Committee is chaired by Lisa Alleman, and other members include Chad Ackerman, Jill Kohntopp, Alicia Lipinski, Laurie Mauro, Jonathon Siebenaler, Amanda Worthington, and Pastor Steve. We have already had initial interviews with several candidates and have several more scheduled for July. As we continue to look at possible candidates and discern the right mix of gifts, passion, and skill for leading our music program at Community of Christ, we ask for the congregation to hold this committee's work in prayer, as well as to pray for the right person to be raised up for us in this next chapter of our congregation's story.

Prairie Meadow Update – July 2026



The third summer of the Prairie Meadow demonstrates that a prairie gets better with time. A path through the plot allows the curious to explore the prairie meadow up close. Since ticks are prevalent this year, even in backyards, one should prepare for that and perform a thorough tick search after being immersed in what are now the tall prairie native flowers and grasses. You can also easily enjoy the Prairie Meadow by walking its perimeter. The Ohio spiderwort is blooming gloriously, as well as the Penstemon digitalis, Yarrow, and Lanceleaf coreopsis. Bee balm is very prevalent throughout and will be blooming soon.

The Prairie Meadow addition continues to be treated with herbicide so that the soil is well exposed and the weed seed bank is better expended when seed is distributed next winter. Not surprisingly, the plot was self-seeded by the original prairie plot, mostly with evening primrose, which is a biennial native that very aggressively self-seeds. Those plants are being treated so that our new plot will have more than evening primrose, which is a less favored, aggressive native. If you would like to experience the Prairie Meadow up close and with a group, ***please attend the Spiritual Practice evening on Wednesday, July 15th.***



The Ladies' lunch in July will be at 5th Street Pub, 105 W 5th St, Perrysburg, OH. We will meet on July 24th @ 11:30 a.m. to enjoy food & fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. Question?? Please call Becky King @ 419-349-7319, and as always, ask a friend. See you in July!!



Announcements



Youth Help Create “You Are So Loved” Sign

Earlier in June, youth at our weekly “Rooted” youth group gatherings helped to paint these GIANT foam letters that together spell out the message, “You are so loved.” Once they were assembled, we took this six-foot wide message of God’s love out for a test drive by mounting it to the Jeep we used in the Cherry Fest parade in June as well, and then we shared it in worship on June 14 as part of our children’s sermon. Keep your eyes open for other places this message will show up over the summer! Thanks to the helping hands who created and shared this sign already!



“Better Together” Toledo Pride Sign-Up

Let’s lace up those walking shoes to help love, unity, and inclusion shine brightly in our community. Community of Christ has been asked once again to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support of the Toledo Pride parade on the morning and midday of Saturday, August 15th. Last year, more than 300 people from over 30 different local faith communities joined together, highlighting a message that we all Love Out Loud and we are Better Together. Think of this as a chance to say by our presence and our walking feet, “God’s love is for you!” to people who might just be aching to hear that they are beloved. Even if that’s all our presence can do for someone else, that might just be the starting point for the Spirit to move in amazing and gracious ways. Please consider joining the Outreach Committee and walking to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. A sign-up sheet for the walk and information on how to order this year’s t-shirt will be located on the kiosk and in SignUp Genius on the church’s website, and we’ll share more details about walking times and carpooling for those who sign up as we get closer to the event in August.



Announcements



Break out the Turtle-Wax, the Outreach Committee is organizing the inaugural Community of Christ Average Joe's Car Show! Do you have a sweet ride or maybe it just looks GREAT from 10 feet away – either way, we'd LOVE for you to show it off to the community here in our parking lot on Saturday, August 15th, from 4-7 p.m. Food will be available for a free-will offering to support our youth's trip to the National Youth Gathering next year. Come out and purchase a lucky 50/50 ticket to help support our friends down at Salem. If showing off your car isn't your thing, we'll also have a vendor section where, if you have a talent/passion that you want to share with the community, let us know, and we can set up a table for you to sell your goods. You may be asking yourself how can I get involved in this fun experience? The answer is simple – just reach out to a member of the Outreach Committee or look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk so we can ensure we have enough space, as we are only accepting a limited number of entrants. We look forward to seeing you – and your ride! Thank you – The Outreach Committee – Cammie Abraham, Dave Braun, Tammy & Greg Myers, Cindy Smigelski, Kari Swagler, and Pastor Steve.

Excitement is building for the Car Show at Community of Christ on August 15, 2026!

Word on the street is that John Spilker from Waterville Bodyworks is bringing a gem. OK, guys, now is the time to pull out all the stops and give John some competition.

The Social Action committee will be holding a 50/50 Raffle, and a basket of car goodies donated by John will be up for a silent auction. Husbands, your wife can't get upset because she's going to love the actual basket! How can you go wrong!?! Thanks, John!

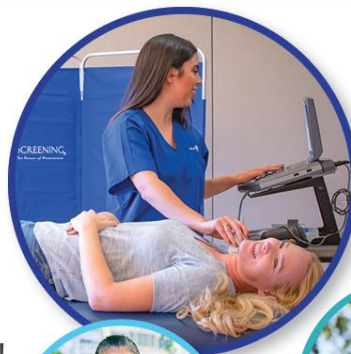
The Social Action committee is attempting to raise \$460 to purchase two industrial kitchen sink faucets for our friends at Salem Lutheran Church. These faucets will replace two faucets that are currently leaking. If further funds are raised, it will go toward a water fountain/water bottle filler in the church basement for all the guests to use.

So please stop by our booth so we can harass you into buying a few tickets or place a bid on our silent auction. Thanks so much!

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!
800-324-9458 and use code: **HABC001**



Loving Our Members & Neighbors!

Our Material Girls Quilters worked on a top-secret special project for Eric!



Thanks to our Community of Christ members who helped make a Tuesday meal at Salem!
What a great Jesus moment!



Thank you to the Toolbox crew for painting the fence around the pool for our friends at Genacross!



Grateful for our voting members, Sarah Rockwell and Laurie Mauro, for attending The Synod Assembly for Northwestern Ohio!



Loving Our Members & Neighbors!

Toolbox News

Our Toolbox Ministry has been busy lately, with a number of projects already this summer for folks in our community and the wider area. Volunteers from our roster have repaired a water leak for a community member, built racks for the AW Neighborhood Bridges Pantry store, installed handrails on stairs to assist someone in rehabilitation after an injury, cleaned roof and gutters for someone in the community, built and installed a home-access ramp for someone, helped with a ramp for Urban Wholistics garden project in downtown Toledo, and replaced a shower fan and light for a local resident as well. Some of this crew has also helped with repainting a chain-link fence around the new swimming pool at the Genacross Lutheran Services youth home in Liberty Center. Many thanks to the folks who volunteer to help with these projects, donating their time, skill, sweat, and passion to help others. And thanks to those in the congregation who help out by donating resources to enable us to do these projects for others!

Community of Christ Helps Salem Laundry Needs

The Social Action Committee was recently asked to help find a way to raise the funds for helping our friends at Salem Lutheran on the North End of Toledo get a washer and dryer for the neighborhood house just down from the church, which they and other mission partners have been rehabilitating and renovating for future use. We were able to direct monies from previous years' "Thank You Fund" donations to help with this need, so that a washer and dryer can be used already by people who will be staying in the house in July. Currently, all new donations to the Thank You Fund and Loose/Noisy Offering are directed to different ministry causes each quarter, allowing us to reach out and support ministries near and far over the course of the year!

Thanks to all who walked in the Cherry Fest parade with us today to give out treats and let people know "You are so loved"! It was great to have so many people on this fun outing!



We Will Miss You, Eric!!!



Thank you from Eric!

Dear Pr. Steve, Staff, Congregation, Singers, Chefs, and Blanket makers: Thank you Soooooo Much from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful cards and well wishes back on Sunday, June 14th. I truly feel all the love coming from our church on a regular basis and am honored to be a part of that. Thank you, and Peace to you and yours.

P S. I'll come back and show you all my new liver when I get One. Love, eric

**Here is Eric's contact information: ericdickey@buckeye-express.com or 419-279-3433. He asks that you email or text, as he will have several doctor appointments or will be resting, and asks for your understanding if he doesn't respond right away.

STEWARDSHIP

A Disciple's Way of Life



Exciting news from our church! We are offering you more 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 the 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 money 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 the 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.



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.

2026 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
May	\$12,842	\$12,563	\$279
YTD	\$68,009	\$65,015	\$2,994
2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
May	\$34,163	\$37,951	(\$3,788)
YTD	\$193,611	\$204,931	(\$11,320)

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!

Stewardship Committee Introduces "Community of Christ: In Focus" Video Series

The Stewardship Committee invites you to explore our new series of short videos, released monthly, that highlight various aspects of our ministry life here at Community of Christ. We're calling it *Community of Christ: In Focus*. Each video provides a deeper look into the many facets of our congregational life.

You can watch the videos on our website by clicking on the "Community of Christ: In Focus" tab on the homepage or find them on our Facebook page and YouTube. Future videos will spotlight how our gifts of time, talent, and treasure support the work we do, giving you a clearer understanding of the many ways God is active in our community. We encourage you to check them out, share them with a friend, and discover how our shared resources are used for God's work in the world!

Thank you, Friends, in Christ

THANK YOU

from
Caleb A. Leonard



June 9, 2026

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
6517 Finzel Rd.
Whitehouse, OH 43571



Thank you!

Dear Community of Christ Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Toledo School for the Arts, thank you for your generous support of \$1,774.50. Your contribution helps us fulfill our mission to provide an innovative, arts-based education for students in grades 6-12, preparing them for success in both college and career.

Because of donors like you, TSA students have access to exceptional opportunities to explore their creativity, develop their talents, and share their work with the community. Your gift makes a tangible difference – supporting classroom instruction, performances, exhibitions, and the resources our students need to thrive.

We are truly grateful for your help in shaping the next generation of artists, innovators, and leaders. Thank you for believing that ARTS + EDUCATION = SUCCESS and investing in the future of the arts in our community.

You will be listed in our publications as Community of Christ Lutheran Church. If you would like to be listed under another name or stay anonymous, please call the Development Office at 419-246-8732 x256 and let us know!

In gratitude,

Dave Gierke
Development Director

Thank you so much! Kin Buehl

Thank you for your kindness and encouragement throughout my journey. Graduating is a milestone I am proud of, and I am honored to take the next step by serving our country in the Army. Your support means a lot to me.

Thank you so much
I will use this
bible through my
military journey
-Caleb L

Dear Community
of Christ,
I am so very
grateful for your
ministry to me.
Cookies, a beautiful
prayer shawl and
delicious little meals
have been so appreciated.
I have also been
able to attend many
events and services
thanks to the pillows!
Thank you so much
for all!
Sincerely,
Nancy Atkins

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards while I was recovering from my shoulder surgery. All were appreciated, and I know the support from the church family helped with the healing. God's blessings, Becky King

Community of Christ Lutheran Church



Donald Schroeder	07/03	Nathanael Yokum	07/08	Mariah Britsch	07/17	Stephen Bond	07/25
Kathryn Meyers	07/03	Tim Owczarzak	07/08	Scott Bahnsen	07/19	Eric Dickey	07/26
Elaine Lammon	07/04	Ursula Winkelman	07/08	Mitchell Stewart	07/20	Troy Baden	07/26
Kathryn Whitacre	07/04	Lorri Britsch	07/09	Thomas Ohns	07/20	Tyler Baden	07/26
Norman Brettel	07/04	Simon Gottwald	07/09	Vera Mae Reid	07/20	Jim Stiles	07/28
Diane Ohns	07/05	Barney Stewart	07/10	Audrey Smucker	07/22	Rick Metcalf	07/28
Jackie Schalitz	07/05	Brea Weber	07/10	Mallory Smucker	07/22	Susan Nofzinger	07/28
Michael Mock	07/06	Jami Williamson	07/12	Jim Shaw	07/23	Kathy Phillips	07/29
Nolan Bucher	07/06	Molly Wachtmann	07/13	Rachel Rardin	07/23	Rob Archer	07/29
Pamela Mead	07/06	Evangeline Boytim	07/15	Gloria Eberly	07/24	Diane Kuhlman	07/30
Bea Ludwig	07/07	Kay Terveen	07/16	Karen Battles	07/24	James Fritz	07/31
Maci Bartley	07/08	Grace Donley	07/17	Marsha Cochran	07/24	Robert Sautter	07/31

Thanks to our youth, who came out to help with the car wash, and to all from our congregation and Community, who let us wash their cars! Thanks to all your efforts and generosity, we raised more than \$350, which will be split between AW Neighborhood Bridges and the 2027 national youth gathering in Minneapolis!



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

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

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org

www.commofchrist.org

6517 Finzel Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43071