

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In”

ELW 532

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C And also with you.**

The congregation will sing the refrain only

The words *Kyrie eleison* are Greek for "Lord, Have Mercy"

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

The Pastor will sing the verses

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, ... for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according....**C Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

“Ain't No Party Like God's”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“As We Gather At Your Table”

ELW 522

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

AM Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering. *We pray especially for; Maurice Atkinson, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Michael Ellerbrock, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Larry Greer, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Hannah McCord, Megan Morris, Frank O'Konski, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Rich Rison, Amanda Roth, Logan Rupp, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jackie Sutter, Vince Tavitian, Evan Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, LeeAnn...* and all others whom we remember in silence. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

We practice open communion, which means all baptized believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament. However, if you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate by crossing your arms. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it and gluten-free wafers if needed.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C** And also with you!

Share an expression of peace with your neighbor please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offertory

Offering Prayer

AM God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

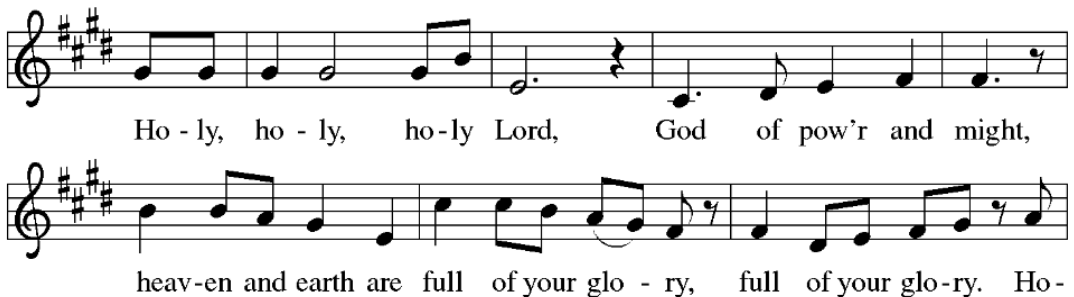
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

****Eucharistic Prayer Continues**





The Words of Institution

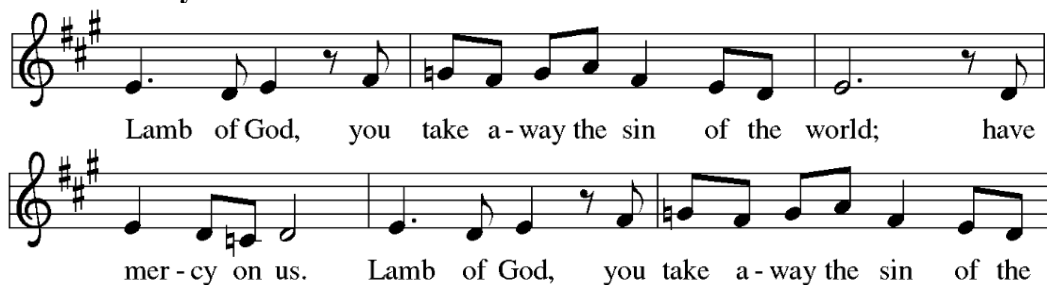
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

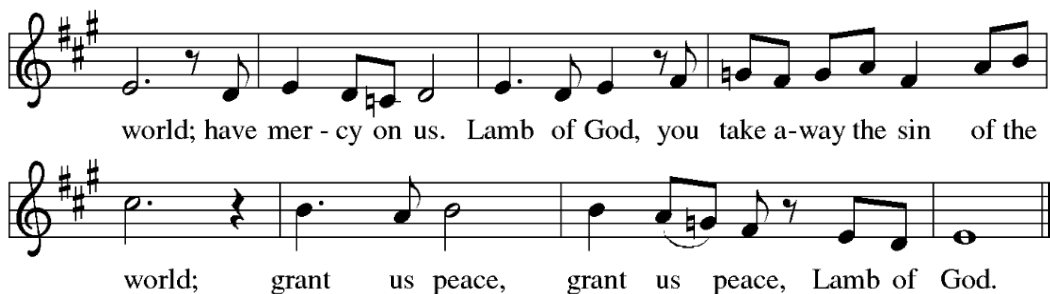
The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymns

"Lamb of God"





“Come, Let Us Eat ”

ELW 491

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements

The Blessing

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

Dismissal

AM Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

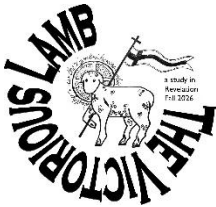
AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

“Making Jesus Known”

You're Invited! Join us for worship each Sunday at our two services, one at 8:00am and one at 10:00—either in person or via Facebook Live at 10:00am. We'd love to see you there, and don't forget to bring a friend! Interested in becoming a member? Just fill out your information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We'd be honored to welcome you into our church family!



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Confirmation Class @ CoC	Today, Sunday, October 11, 12:30 p.m.
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.
Church Office Closed	Monday, October 12 for Columbus Day
Christian Ed	Monday, October 12, 6:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.
Concert Committee	Tuesday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.
Stewardship	Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.
Casserole Making	Thursday, October 15, 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, October 15, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.
Festival of Talents	Saturday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.



The Victorious Lamb: Thursday Bible Study Explores the Book of Revelation The last book of the Bible can feel like it should come with a warning. What we know as “Revelation” is a complicated, multi-layered, highly symbolic, and sometimes encoded book that defies our modern categories and sensibilities. It’s part resistance literature, part call to faithful discipleship, part hopeful vision, and part musical (really!). For many people, the book of Revelation seems daunting to try to read, because it can be hard to understand. Others find themselves compelled to explore because its imagery is so startling and outlandish. And still others throw their

hands up after getting just a little way into the book, because it is unlike anything they've read before, including the rest of the Bible! But despite all the challenges, Revelation really is a powerful and beautiful book to read, and it really does speak a clear word of hope in God's accomplished victory over evil and death through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. But to see how this book works, and to understand how that message is being communicated, it can help to read together with others. So, we invite you to a new series in our Thursday Bible Study, opening the Book of Revelation. We'll gather at 1:00pm every week in the Bible Study/Council room to explore this book, discuss your questions, and uncover the mysteries waiting to be revealed in the book of Revelation. Remember, too, that we'll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page or YouTube links) 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! See you this September!

Adult Forum Series - Asks “What Is Salvation?” Every Sunday, we name Jesus as “Savior and Lord” in worship. Bumper stickers and billboards declare that “Jesus saves!” And we teach our confirmation students in catechism classes that we are “saved by grace through faith, apart from works of the law.” All those sounds pretty familiar—maybe we just assume everybody already knows what all of it means. But what exactly is this thing we call salvation? How do different voices throughout the Bible use the language of “saving,” and how does that picture get filled in with different images, perspectives, and meanings over the whole story of Scripture? What does it mean to be “saved”—or at least, what do we as (Lutheran) Christians think we are saying when we talk about being saved? What does the Bible say about how to be saved and who is saved? Once we start asking those kinds of questions, we realize that there is a lot more to the idea of “salvation”—and the Gospel's Good News that Jesus is the savior—than we first realized. It's something that seems fundamental to the Christian faith, but it's clearly a much deeper and richer notion that can fit on a bumper sticker or a billboard. Join us between services at about 9:00am for our Adult Forum, meeting in the Bible Study/Council room, as we explore all of this. In the course of these weeks, we'll get a better understanding of the Bible, a solid grounding in our hope in Christ, and maybe even a clearer sense of what we are called to share with other people as Good News! There's a place for you around the table—join us this fall!

Offering Our Time, Talent, and Treasure for 2027 Once again, this October, we are inviting everyone at Community of Christ to prayerfully consider how YOU will use your time, *talent*, and treasure—all gifts from God—in the year ahead, with our Time and Talent forms, and our invitations to Financial Commitment for the year

2027! You've already been given incredible gifts by God: the hours in each day, the abilities and interests that make us unique, and the resources we live on. Those are already in your hands, like a present waiting to be unwrapped and taken out of the box. This September, your household should have received new Time and Talent forms and Invitation to Financial Commitment forms for 2026-2027—if you need a new one, we've got extras in the gathering space at church! We ask you to complete those and return them to the church by **October 18**, so that we can get new volunteers connected with the ways they are being led to serve, and so that we can make our proposed 2027 budget grounded in realistic expectations of our planned giving. This year you'll see that we are inviting all in our congregation to consider prayerfully supporting our general operating fund (*which pays for things like the light bill, office staff, and resources for ministry programming*) and our building fund (*which helps pay down the building loan for our most recent addition that includes the sanctuary, gathering space, and offices*), and also our organ maintenance fund, which will help us prepare for some significant repairs and maintenance that our organ will need in the near future. Now, maybe you're wondering, "How do my gifts and talents fit in our church family, and where do we need volunteers for here at Community of Christ?" well, good news there, too! At our October 17-18 Festival of Talents weekend, we'll have displays representing each of the areas of ministry in our congregation so you can learn more about what we do and how you can be a part of it. Think of it like a career fair or college expo but for serving God and God's people—check out the displays for each ministry at Community of Christ and let that help guide where you might serve in the year ahead! It's all about opening up the gifts God has already given us! And on Sunday, October 18, we'll gather up our commitments of time, talent, and treasure and dedicate them to God for the year ahead in worship. As a special element of worship that day, our shared Youth Group, *Rooted*, will take the lead in many worship roles on that Sunday at the 10:00am service! We hope you'll consider how you can be a part of God's work in this place in the year ahead.

Festival of Talents! We need YOU—or better yet, we want to celebrate and honor *your* talents and abilities together with our whole church family! As part of our Third Annual Festival of Talents, we are once again inviting YOU to share your talents and celebrate the talents of others! On the weekend of **October 17-18**, 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, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.** where we can perform, display, 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! Are you a poet? Would you share a poem you have written? Are you exploring drama as a hobby or class at school? You could share a performance of a monologue, poem, or scene! 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. All of this will make for a great weekend between our Saturday program on October 17 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday worship on October 18, and we hope you can plan to be with us for all of it to share in the excitement and to celebrate our various talents and gifts from God!

Trick or treat, smell the sweets, let's pass out candy for kids to eat! Do you enjoy bringing a smile to the cute little ghouls, goblins, princesses and Bluey characters? Come help the Outreach committee pass out Halloween treats this year! We have 2 local opportunities this month – Thursday, October 29th from 5-7 p.m. in downtown Waterville for Boo-To-Do and then on Saturday, October 31st from 5-6:30 p.m. in downtown Whitehouse. We'll provide the candy; you just need to bring your smile and hands for passing out the treats. Costumes are optional but highly encouraged! The location of our table will be announced closer to the event.

Rescheduled for October: “Having Hard Conversations” (Oct. 24 at 9:30 a.m.)

Whether it's tackling topics you have been avoiding with family members, striking up a discussion with someone you know you disagree with politically, or working up the courage to reconcile with someone from whom you have been estranged, we all have situations in our lives when we have to have hard conversations. Emotions can run high, we can get nervous, and sometimes we don't know what to say--so we don't say anything. As part of its fall educational focus, the Visitation Ministry invites you to a one-day workshop here at Community of Christ on **Saturday, October 24 from 9:30-11:30a.m.** for an introduction on how we face these situations rather than avoiding or aggravating them. Sign up at the kiosk to let us know if you would like to join us for an important and valuable workshop led by Pastor Steve.

Ladies Lunch! Friday, October 23 • 11:30 a.m. Beer Barrel Pizza & Grill – Fallen Timbers. All ladies of the church are welcome! Bring a friend and enjoy some good food and fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk so we can make reservations. Questions? Contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

Cookie Sunday TODAY, October 11! 🍪 🍪 🍪

As we have done in the past, there will be bags of 6 cookies each to hand out to those who would like to brighten someone's day, whether it be a friend, teacher, co-worker, grandparent, etc. These bags will be handed out after both the 8:00 and 10:00 services! Please grab a bag to share!



All Saints Day---November 1: We will remember in prayer our family and friends who rest with the Lord. Please include the name of your loved one on the list posted at the kiosk. The deadline for names is Sunday, October 25. Thank you.

Casseroles! We will be preparing casseroles on **Thursday, October 15, from 9:00 to noon.** If you can come the entire time, great! If you only have an hour to give, that is welcome too! There will be cards for donations of ingredients in the pocket chart located on the side of the refrigerator in the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who has donated either the ingredients for the casseroles, money to buy the ingredients, or their time to prepare the casseroles. We appreciate your help! Sign up at the kiosk for the 15th.

Winter Coats Needed As the colder months approach, Salem is collecting **machine-washable adult winter coats** to help keep our neighbors warm. If you have a gently used coat you no longer need, please consider donating it. Adult sizes of all kinds are welcome! Thank you for helping us share warmth and care with those in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Heckler at 270-763-7224.

🌿 **Oak Openings Nature Walk** 🌿 On October 17th, Fellowship invites everyone out to Oak Openings for a Saturday morning nature walk led by Laurie Mauro. Enjoy fellowship, picturesque scenery, an easy stroll, and some knowledge on nature! Meet at Oak Openings Buehner Center at 9:50am. 5240 Wilkins Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571. Sign up at the kiosk. See you there!



Church Office: Please note that the church office will be **closed on Monday, October 12**, in observance of Columbus Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, October 13, and look forward to assisting you then.



Altar Flowers given by Kathryn Whiticare, Blessings on Olive's 1st Birthday! and by Tim & Julie Holliker in Celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary! 🎉 † ❤️ 🙏



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle

your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!