

THE CHRONICLES

SEPTEMBER 2025

Christ Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAYS

9:30AM

CHRIST CHURCH

915 E Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-481-3530
office@uccmke.org
www.uccmke.org

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CALENDAR

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SPECIAL LETTER FROM ???

BIRTHDAYS



Bible Quiz



Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, my _____, and forget not all his benefits"

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| A. people | B. soul |
| C. heart | D. children |



Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)

HELLO september 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1  Happy LABOR DAY	2 CHOSEN Study Group 5:30pm	3 Choir Practice 7pm Raise Your Voice 	4	5	6
7 Worship in the Park 10am 	8	9 Quilting 9:30a Movie & Lunch 11:15am/12:30pm CHOSEN Study Group 5:30pm	10 Finance Meeting 11am Choir Practice 7pm	11	12	13
14 Service @ 9:30am Liturgist-Randene Choir 130th Anniversary Celebration Block Party	15 	16 CHOSEN Study Group 5:30pm	17	18 Handbells 9:30am Fermenting the Faith 5/6pm	19	20
21 Service @ 9:30am Liturgist-Doris M Special Meeting: Chimney 10:30am	22	23 Quilting 9:30am CHOSEN Study Group 5:30pm	24	25 Handbells 9:30am 	26	27
28 Service @ 9:30am Liturgist-Chuck T Handbells Mission Moment: Darlene Collins Christ Church Heritage	29	30 CHOSEN Study Group 5:30pm Council Meeting 7pm	Choir Practice 7pm			

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"How do you help people come to faith in Christ in a culture deeply but imperfectly suffused with Christian themes? How do you nurture genuine faith when everyone thinks they know what Christianity is, but actual knowledge and commitment are lacking? How do you educate people about Christianity when broad but shallow exposure to the faith domesticates it and makes people miss out on its soul transforming power?"

The questions above were raised by Benjamin Crosby in an article published earlier this year in Plough Quarterly. They are questions that nearly every clergy person in America today wrestles with. In today's society where many wrongly assume their Google search carries as much if not more weight than a professional's years of intense and articulated theological study, it can be not just difficult but downright disheartening to attempt to guide a faith community. The secular and the spiritual have become disturbingly blurred in a way that threatens to drown the faithful in nostalgic Americana with a vaguely religious undertone. With one hour a week, where does the pastor focus a congregation's attention?

How can the church differentiate itself from every other civic organization of American society? How can we sift the wheat from the chaff? These questions are not new, for Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Desiderius Erasmus, and other 15th century Reformers made many of the same complaints.

The church is at its best when it lives most deeply into the ability of the faith to transform lives. When we recognize that we are called to worship God and follow in the work of Jesus the Christ; a man who ate with sinners, healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed and restored outcasts to community, condemned the greed of the rich and powerful, and called his followers to go and do likewise.

Some of you may have noticed that I haven't placed an emphasis on many of those "tried and true" secular holidays. This is intentional—because we have much work to do and in the words of Jesus, "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2) and all those popular secular holidays get plenty of coverage by others in society. The church is called to (1) Give glory to God and (2) Be co-workers with God, as disciples of Jesus Christ, for the furtherance of God's reign on earth. Thus the holidays I emphasize are ones that help us to accomplish one or both of those goals. I write these words, having just completed the worship outline for our August 31 service which will lift up the theme of "Labor" on Labor Day weekend. The origins of this holiday came out of organized labor movements in England at the height of the Industrial Revolution as increased attention was being focused on the thousands of people from vulnerable populations who were dying every year from the poor working conditions and long hours they were forced to engage in for survival. Inspired by those movements, labor unions in the United States urged working class people to give up a day's pay to participate in a parade celebrating the contributions of hard working laborers. Within 12 years, the movement created such disruption in the US economic workforce system, that President Grover Cleveland created the federal Labor Day holiday in 1894. But today the goal of those earlier labor unions appears lost as more than 40% of businesses remain open on labor day, with the vast majority of those "on the clock" coming from the working-class.

Our denomination, along with a multitude of other faith traditions and denominations, celebrates Labor in the Pulpit Sunday, issues resolutions of witness regarding fair labor practices and pro-union efforts, participates in demonstrations and more, all as part of the commitment to economic justice. Celebrating Labor Day is a faithful witness to the call of God to care for the vulnerable and to ensure that all may be granted sabbath rest from their labors.

In the midst of our cookouts, travels, leisure or work, may we be reminded of our Christian calling to bring the good news of God's concern for all who labor, that they may find rest, and that all may receive what they need to survive and thrive in this world.

Blessings of peace and rest, 

Pastor Tara

Bible Verses for Labor Day

While the Bible is filled with references to economic justice, here are a few verses that can be especially meaningful at this time:

James 5:4 "Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty."

Exodus 20:10 "but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you"

Proverbs 22:16 "One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty."

Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

2 Timothy 2:6 "The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops."

Deuteronomy 24:14 "You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether citizens or foreigners."

Exodus 23:6 "Don't undermine the justice that your poor deserve in their lawsuits."

Mark 6:31 "Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, 'Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.'"

Ecclesiastes 3:13 "Moreover, this is the gift of God: that all people should eat, drink, and enjoy the results of their hard work."

Proverbs 31:8 "Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable."

Philippians 2:4 "Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others."





LITURGISTS

September 14 Randene Wick
 September 21 Doris Mayeshiba
 September 28 Chuck Terlinden

QUILTING

Tuesdays, September 9 and 23
 9:30AM–Noon

CHOIR & HANDBELLS

CHOIR

Wednesdays, September 3 and 10 at 7pm
 Singing - Sunday, September 14

HANDBELLS

Thursdays, September 18 and 25 at 9:30am
 Playing - Sunday, September 28

SUNDAY COUNTERS

September 7 Mark Pfeifer
 September 14 Nancy Kaye / Janet Key
 September 21 Danette Volz / Renolle Volz
 September 28 Sara Rogers / Jill Unglaub

GREETERS

September 7 Ken Klockow / Julie Oren
 September 14 Lang & Goodman Crew / Sue P
 September 21 Chuck Terlinden
 September 28 Becky Berger & family

COFFEE HOUR

September 21 Joan Gaeth / Peggy Carew
 September 28



FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, September 10 at 11am

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 30 at 7pm



MISSION MOMENT

On Sunday, September 28, Darlene Collins will present a Mission Moment during the worship service about her recent mission trip to the Amazon River in Brazil.

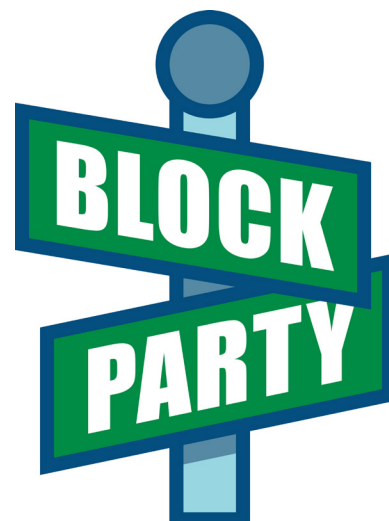
SEPTEMBER STUDY GROUP



CHOSEN? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Utilizing Walter Brueggemann's book, we will spend 5 sessions exploring the long-standing conflict in Israel and Palestine as we seek to better understand the issues and appropriate Christian responses. Additional resources will also be provided during these sessions, including a look at the resolution passed at this year's General Synod and the resolution of witness submitted for consideration at next year's Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting.

The study will be held on the five Tuesday evenings in September beginning at 5:30pm and lasting approximately 75 minutes. Copies of the book are available from the church office or Pastor Tara for \$12.





WORSHIP IN THE PARK

September 7 at 10am

Christ Church will be joining with our other SECA ministry partners in the greater Bay View area to co-host our annual Community Worship in the Park. This service takes the place of our usual 9:30am worship service (please note later time of 10am). We will be gathering in Humboldt Park at Picnic Site #4 for worship at 10am followed by a potluck picnic at 11:15am. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on and your favorite dish to share as well as your own table service (plates, flatware, etc). In the event of rain, the service and potluck will be held here at Christ Church.



SEPTEMBER MOVIE & LUNCH

Date: Tuesday, September 9

Lunch at 11:15am: Water Street. Brewery, 140 West Town Square Way, Oak Creek

Movie at 12:30pm: *The Roses* (rated R) at South Shore Cinema



Sign up sheet is at the Lenox Street entrance. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun filled time! Save the date on your calendar! Looking forward to seeing everyone! The Membership Committee: *Jan Naefken, Joan Gaeth, Mary Ann Mowery, Kate O' Brian, Andy Oren, Sue Pfeifer, Randene Wick*

FERMENTING THE FAITH

Thursday, September 18

Dinner at 5pm

Discussion at 6pm

Place and topic to be determined



130TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE: **September 14**

christ church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A House of Worship for ALL People

915 E Oklahoma Ave
Bay View, WI 53207

Unity of Spirit in the bond of peace

Worship Service	9:30AM
Lenox Street Block Party	
Lunch	11:00AM
Music (Julie Thompson)	12:00PM

Please bring lawn chairs

BLOCK PARTY MUSIC

Julie Anne Lovely Thompson is a professional vocalist who performs a variety of music genres from classic tunes through jazz and modern pop to folk music. She lives in the Milwaukee area but her roots are from New England where she studied voice in high school and college. Her professional career is extensive. See more at Julievoice.com



STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Monthly Activity	JULY	YTD
Contributions	\$6,205	\$63,367
Other Income	\$7,705	\$39,547
Total Income	\$13,910	\$102,914
Expenses	\$12,803	\$114,909
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$104,066

CHRIST CHURCH HERITAGE

The next Evangelical Synod Heritage Class will be held after worship on **Sunday, September 28**. Please let John Helt know if you are planning to join our St Louis heritage tour **October 6-9**. Deadline for reservations will be **September 6**. JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com

As we prepare to celebrate Christ Church's 130th Anniversary, take a look at the display downstairs. This is the property of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC, created by the historical committee in 2019 for the General Synod in Milwaukee. Since the Synod gathering, the display has made the rounds among the churches of our state, helping congregations see how their history fits into the larger timelines for world events, the United Church Christ in general, and the Wisconsin Conference in particular. For questions, see John Helt.



SUBJECT: CALL FOR A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Dear Church Family,

You are hereby invited to a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 21**, 2025, at 10:30am, immediately following our regular worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on a proposal to approve a major capital expenditure.

Our Property Committee has been working to address the necessary rebuilding of the church's chimney. After careful review and consideration, the committee has recommended that the congregation accept the bid from Holton Brothers for this project, at a cost of \$15,970. This proposal has been approved by the Church Council.

According to our bylaws, any expenditure exceeding \$7,500 requires approval from the full congregation before we can move forward. Your participation in this decision is vital to the stewardship of our church's resources. Money from the Endowment Council Designated Fund for Projects will be used to initially pay for this project.

We encourage all members to attend this important meeting to discuss the proposal and cast your vote. This is an opportunity for us to come together as a body to ensure the continued safety and functionality of our church building.

We look forward to seeing you there.

In God's Service,

James Wick, Council President





SINGING IN OUR CHURCH CHOIR AS THERAPY?

"Music therapy, particularly singing, is a remarkable avenue for promoting heart health. The intrinsic understanding that singing uplifts the mind, body, and soul has been embedded in our collective consciousness. Singing within the confines of temples and churches elevates one's spirits. It acts as a conduit for self-actualization and self-expression, offering a cathartic release for pent-up emotional tensions. While the art of singing has been appreciated for centuries, the scientific exploration of singing and its effects on cardiovascular health remains ripe for comprehensive clinical investigation."

Ragavendra R Baliga, Sing for a long and healthy life?, *European Heart Journal*, Volume 45, Issue 20, 21 May 2024, Pages 1774–1775, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehad819>

For more information, here are some links:

[Sing for a long and healthy life? | European Heart Journal | Oxford Academic](#)

[Can Singing have a Beneficial Effect on Lung Function and Breathing for People with Respiratory Illness?](#) Stephen Clift, Oxford Academic Books, 2014

And this, on a local level, from the Medical College of Wisconsin: [Can Singing Improve Cardiovascular Health? A Study Offers New Insights | Featured Stories | Medical College of Wisconsin](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

Rebecca Berger - 3

Ryan Gaeth - 3

Lynn Schmeling - 3

Jon Brodie - 13

Marian Witter - 13

Mark Pfeifer - 15

Jack Tremarello - 17

Jill Unglaub - 19

Patricia Popp - 20

Madeline Norton - 23

Dear Beloved Friends at Christ Church UCC,

I am writing to you today with immense joy and gratitude as you celebrate the remarkable milestone of your 130th anniversary. It is a true testament to the faithfulness of God and the dedication of your community that Christ Church has served in the city of Milwaukee for so long.



My heart is filled with fond memories of the six years that I had the privilege of serving as your pastor. That time was deeply formative for my own ministry, and I will always cherish the lessons learned and the relationships built within your walls. You were more than a congregation; you were a family that helped shape who I am today.

As you reflect on a century and a quarter plus of history, I am reminded of the words found in Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." For 130 years, you have been a living example of this verse, a place where people come together to encourage one another in faith and to do good in the world.

What a blessing it is to see the legacy of Christ Church continuing to thrive. I wish you all the very best as you celebrate this important milestone and look forward to the many years of ministry that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Rev. Daniel James Stark (Pastor Dan)

Wayzata Community Church



Special Times for the Israelites

"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it ..." Exodus 12:14

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events. Below are some of the special days observed by the Israelites.

Use the code to find the name of the special day and the month of the Jewish year in which they are celebrated.

CODE:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJI HGFE DCBA

Season		Holiday	Month
1. End of Summer	ILHS SZHSZMZS	(New Year)	GRHSIR
2. Fall	BLN PRKKFI	(Day of Atonement)	GRHSIR
3. Fall	HFPPLGS	(Festival of Booths)	GRHSIR
4. Winter	SZMFPPZS	(Festival of Rededication)	PRHOVE
5. Winter	KFIRN	(Festival of Lots)	ZWZI
6. Spring	KZHHLEVI	(Feast of Unleavened Bread)	MRHZM
7. Spring	HSZEF'LG	(Feast of Weeks/ Pentecost)	HREZM

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah; Tishri; 2. Yom Kippur; Tishri; 3. Sukkot; Tishri; 4. Hanukkah; Kislev; 5. Purim; Adar; 6. Passover; Nisan; 7. Shavu'ot; Sivan



To GOD
be the
GLORY

CHRIST CHURCH

United Church of Christ

915 East Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53207

Place
Stamp
Here

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

THE CHRONICLES September 2025



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Thank You!