



# 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

## IN THIS ISSUE

CALENDAR

PASTOR'S LETTER

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MAY LUNCH OUTING

THANK YOU, QUILTERS

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

CREATION CARE CORNER

BIRTHDAYS | THANK YOUS



# HELLO *may* 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Liturgist-Julie O BVCC Donations Revitalizing Church	4	5 	6 Bible Study 1pm Choir 7pm	7	8 	9
10 Liturgist-Chuck T Choir Congregational Meeting 9:25am Rummage Set-up	11 Finance Meeting Noon	12 Quilting 9:30am	13 Bible Study 1pm Choir 7pm	14 	15 Rummage Set-up 1pm	16 Rummage Sale 8am-1pm Set-up 7am Clean-up 1-4pm
17 Liturgist-Jill U Baptism Sunday School Revitalizing Church	18 	19 May Lunch Outing Lulu's Cafe 11:30am	20 Bible Study 1pm	21 Handbells 9:30am	22	23 
24 Liturgist-Randene Choir STC Offering Planks for HFH Revitalizing Church	25	26 Quilting 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	27 	28 Handbells 9:30am	29	30
31 Liturgist-Doris M Handbells Planks for HFH Offering Counters' Meeting	Pastor Bob gone					

# Pastor's Letter

Friends,

Christ Church, United Church of Christ is a vital community of faith that loves God and is working to make a difference in the world. I am enjoying getting to know each one of you. The nametags are helping; please keep wearing them. They're also a great way to extend hospitality to our guests. I've sat in meetings, had conversations with several of you, and had the pleasure to meet some of you off campus. Keep the invites coming!

I'd like to issue you a challenge, but first some background. A significant part of my task, during this interim time, is to help you examine the congregation's history and identity. To that end, I'm organizing a series of cottage meetings with groups of about 6 of you at a time, plus myself, and a note taker. (We're recording what is said, not who is saying it.) Our agenda will be simple: we will share some informal "getting to know you" time, perhaps including some food, and then I would lead a guided conversation where I would ask five or six questions as prompts for discussion.

My hope is for every member of the congregation to participate. The congregation is only as strong as every participating member. So, here's where the challenge comes in. Would you be willing to attend a cottage meeting? Further, would you be willing to host such a gathering in your home, at the church, in the private room of a coffee house, restaurant or pub?

Do you have friends in the congregation with whom you regularly visit? Bring them together for a cottage meeting. Would you like to get to know new people? Offer to host and we can help pull together a group for a cottage meeting or sign up to attend one. These gatherings are "one-time" events. Of course, you may find that you like each other so much that you'll want to get together again.

During May, the first Cottage Meeting will be held with the Church Council. I will then invite members of the Council to serve as note takers for subsequent Cottage Meetings.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Lenox Street door, or you may also call or email the office to register your desire to participate. Please let us know what days and times work best for you so that we can plan a cottage meeting around your availability.

If you have any questions, or concerns, I'd be happy to chat with you about it. More importantly, if you'd be willing to host a cottage meeting, let me know.

I look forward to chatting with you as, together, we explore our congregational identity.

In Christ,

*Pastor Bob*



If you should need pastoral support, please contact  
**Pastor Bob Gross**  
at 440-506-3258 or  
[pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org)  
**Pastor Office Hour:** Tues and Wed, 10am–Noon and 1–3pm  
or by appointment



Christ Church members at Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting

## Liturgists

<b>May 3</b>	Julie O
<b>May 10</b>	Chuck T
<b>May 17</b>	Jill U
<b>May 24</b>	Randene W
<b>May 31</b>	Doris M

## Quilting

Tuesdays, **May 12 and 26**, 9:30AM–Noon

## Choir & Handbells

### CHOIR

Wednesdays, **May 6 and 13** at 7pm  
Singing - Sundays, **May 10 and 24**

### HANDBELLS

Thursdays, **May 21 and 28** at 9:30am  
Playing - Sunday, **May 31**

## Sunday Counters

<b>May 3</b>	Janet D / Mark P
<b>May 10</b>	Janet K / Joyce Z
<b>May 17</b>	Danette V / Renolle V
<b>May 24</b>	Sara R / Jill U
<b>May 31</b>	Debbie H / Doris M

## Greeters

<b>May 3</b>	Fred P
<b>May 10</b>	Dean & Pam K / Bob P
<b>May 17</b>	Chuck T / Vicki T
<b>May 24</b>	Jill U / Janet D
<b>May 31</b>	Mark P / Joan A & Michelle V

## Coffee Hour

<b>May 3</b>	Community Meal
<b>May 10</b>	Janet D
<b>May 17</b>	Community Meal
<b>May 24</b>	Community Meal
<b>May 31</b>	Janet & Michael K

## Finance Meeting

Monday, **May 11** at noon

## Council Meeting

Tuesday, **May 26** at 6pm



Please Welcome

## Jacob Olson as Our New Custodian!

It has been a joy to have Jacob and his family in worship with us these past few months. Jacob recently accepted the role of custodian at Christ Church, and we couldn't be more pleased. He brings a depth of knowledge and experience along with a great work ethic which has already made an impact in the day-to-day maintenance of our building. Per our Bylaws the custodian reports to the Property Committee which is currently chaired by Julie Oren. As this is a paid position, we need to be mindful that we stay not only within our budget but also be respectful of Jacob's time. If you have specific custodial requests, please fill out one of the forms found outside the custodial room which is next to the Lenox stairs. You can also contact Julie Oren with your custodial requests.

*The Property Committee*



## Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 10 at 9:25am**

for the approval of capital expenses.



## Offering Counters' Meeting

**Sunday, May 31**, immediately following church, there will be a meeting to cover changes to the counting & review procedures. Thanks, *Sue Cribb*

## May Lunch Outing

**Tuesday, May 19 at 11:30am**  
at **Lulu Cafe and Bar**  
2265 S. Howell Avenue  
Milwaukee WI 53207  
Phone: 414-294-5858  
This restaurant is a casual dining experience.



All are **WELCOME!**

Please join us for lunch with your fellow Christ Church family members. Conversation and company are always fun! If you are interested, please sign up at the Lenox Street door. Questions: feel free to ask anyone on the Membership Committee. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Sunday School

Sunday School class is held the third Sunday of the month for children in grades 1 through 8. The next Sunday School class will be **May 17**. The end-of-the-year Sunday School celebration will be **June 7** and will be held in the game room. There will be no Sunday School class in July or August. Watch for information about Rally Day in September. For more information, contact *Michael Key* or *Pastor Bob*.



## Habitat for Humanity Planks

**May 24 and May 31**

Get involved! Decorate a plank for one of the 40 homes under construction this year and share a message with the new owners. The planks will be on the main level and in the fellowship hall. Consider a short prayer, favorite Bible verse, artwork. There will be examples for you as well.



Social Concerns Committee,  
*Mary Ann Mowery, Sara Rogers, Jan Naefken, Debbie Hansen, Peggy Carew, Randene Wick*



## Rummage Sale

**Saturday, May 16, 2026**  
**from 8am-1pm**



Wow! Parishioners, friends, and community members have donated incredible items to the Christ Church Rummage Sale! The Music Room is almost full—but there is still room for more treasure. Please bring your items to church on Sunday morning or call *Michael and Janet Key* at 414-744-0973 for a pick up, if needed.

*Randene* is organizing the bake sale, so please sign up or see her for delectable details. *Joan* is organizing the plant sale, so call her for some leafy specifics. *Jan* is crafting the homemade items table, and will be happy to share artsy particulars.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the Lenox Street door. Set up will start on Sunday, May 10 after church, and will continue all week from 1-3pm. We will need many hands as the sunny Saturday dawns, so please sign up to join this fun event.

## Bakers Needed for the Rummage Sale

Got a favorite recipe for brownies or bars? We're looking for bakers to help us raise money for the Bay View Community Center! Recent funding shifts means the BVCC needs our help more than ever to keep their food pantry and local projects running. Sign up today and drop off your goodies at the church on **Friday, May 15 between 1-3pm.**

Let's bake for a cause!  
*Randene Wick*



# COUNCIL CORNER

## Church Revitalization Book Study

Join Our Church Revitalization Book Study! Are you passionate about the future of our congregation? We invite you to join us for a powerful book study on ***I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*** by Paul Nixon. This is a vital step in our church revitalization process, and your voice is needed.

**When:** We will gather for 90-minute sessions immediately following worship on:

- May 3** – Pages 19-43, Choosing Life & Community
- May 17** – Pages 45-68, Choosing Fun & Bold
- May 24** – Pages 69-82, Choosing Frontier
- June 28** – Pages 83-100

**Choosing NowWho Should Attend?** While this is a crucial event for church leaders—including committee chairs, liaisons, and committee members—we strongly encourage every member of the congregation to participate. Whether you have held a leadership role for years or are brand new to our community, your perspective is invaluable.

**No Homework Required:** Even if you don't have time to read the book, you are still welcome! Come for the fellowship and forward-looking conversation.

We hope to see a full room as we dream and plan for our shared future! *Jim Wick*

*(The books cost the church \$18 each. If you would like to reimburse the church, please place your payment in an envelope marked "Dying Church Book" and include it in the offering plate.)*



# STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Monthly Activity	March	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$ 13,498	\$ 46,725
Expenses	\$ 22,100	\$ 60,570
Budgeted Amount	\$ 18,051	\$ 54,155



## Strengthen the Church Offering May 24

The UCC Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering is a special annual donation, typically collected on Pentecost Sunday, that supports the growth of United Church of Christ congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults and provide training and resources for pastors and church leaders.

The STC Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the UCC cooperatively. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

How can we follow the Spirit to bless emerging ministries in the United Church of Christ? Your generous gift to this offering will do just that.

Thank you for your gifts!



# Annual Meeting Report



## Hiding In Plain Sight Part 4

Each month we're focusing one of the nine men from Christ Church who were killed in action during World War II. Most people know that D-Day (June 6, 1944) marked the invasion of Europe as depicted in films like "The Longest Day." Allied troops landed in Normandy and the fighting in that region continued for several months. It was here that **Pfc. Warren Raymond Goetz** was killed on July 11. Goetz was a member of the 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. Warren was a graduate of Boy's Technical High School and lived with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Goetz, at 2363A S. 16th Street and was engaged to June Rossow. Goetz is buried in Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. This is the cemetery featured so prominently in "Saving Private Ryan." Sadly, just a month later on August 20th his cousin, Pvt. James C. Hubert, was also killed in action in France.

### Son, Brother Dead in War

#### Milwaukee Woman Told of Double Loss Within One Month

Within a month, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Goetz, 2363-A S. 16th st., was killed and the brother of Mrs. Goetz suffered fatal wounds in France.

Pvt. James C. Hubert, 24, the brother, was wounded on Aug. 10 and died on Aug. 20. The son, Pfc. Warren R. Goetz, 23, was killed on July 11 when his group of infantrymen, spearheading an attack, met 20 German tanks. The men had been chums in Milwaukee, swimming and golfing together, and were stationed three miles apart in Normandy. But they had not met and did not know that each was participating in the American drive.

Pvt. Hubert entered service on Oct. 25, 1941, and was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone for two years before being transferred to the European theater in May. He attended Dover Street and vocational schools and was employed by Gimbel Brothers. Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Anna Hubert, 224 E. Montana st.; three sisters, Mrs. Dennis Doherty, Chicago; Mrs. Goetz and Ruth Hubert, Milwaukee; his brother, Jack, and his fiancée, Miss Mary Pasiko, Cudahy.

Pvt. Goetz, besides his parents, is survived by his fiancée, Miss June Rossow, 2870 S. Mabbett av. Pvt. Goetz was graduated from Boys' Tech and attended Milwaukee State Teachers college. He was employed by the Retailer's Commercial Agency before entering service in September, 1942.

The Wisconsin Conference UCC held its annual meeting on April 10–11, 2026 at Green Lake Conference Center. The theme was Cultivating Community based on the scripture from John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. The keynote address on Friday showed us the different steps needed to grow and harvest: preparing the soil, planting in the right terrain, planting deep roots, growing a strong trunk, pruning, ripening to sweetness, fermentation, savoring the fruit, and celebrating the sabbath. Repeat. These steps are also needed to be rooted in Christ and bearing fruit.

The second keynote address was on Saturday by Dr. Edith Guffey, former Associate General Minister. She addressed building community by building bridges and her racial justice experiences.

During the business sessions, we heard about the Wisconsin Foundation combining church assets for investments. The conference camps are growing again and the deficit has been greatly reduced. Since the annual meeting time was moved from June to April, the budget and other business will be held later this year.

We did vote to re-elect Rev. Franz Rigert to another 4 year term as conference minister.

We attended workshops on Dinner Church, Ministering to Anxious Kids, A Game Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches, Cultivating an Aging Community in Grace (which turned out to focus on dementia), Bible's Kit Lit, and a talk back with Dr. Edith Guffey.

We would like to thank you for sending us as delegates. It is good to join together with our other churches. We are reminded that there are Catalyst grants available for initiatives and support for programs and ideas. Please speak to Rev. Bob Gross, Sandy Graham, John Helt, or Doris or Paul Mayeshiba if you would like to learn more.



## A Special Thank You to Our Quilters

After last Sunday, April 12th's quilt blessing, I posted two photos of our sanctuary with all the quilts displayed on the Bay View Town Hall Facebook Page. I shared that these quilts would be going to hospice patients at Froedtert Hospital. To date this post has received 134 "likes" but none so meaningful as the following:

"My husband received one when he was in the cardiac ICU at Froedtert. It brought our family so much comfort at the time and is still one of my favorite possessions. It means a lot to know he was covered in love and care in his last moments.

Thank you for what you do." – Heidi Bilgo

Submitted by Andy Oren

## Creation Care Corner

I am thankful to all those who stayed after worship on Sunday, April 19, for an Earth Day conversation about creation care ministry. All the free copies of Bill McKibben's very hopeful book on offer, *Here Comes the Sun*, were taken home. When you have read your copy, consider bringing it back for someone else to read. (We will leave the displays in the chapel and fellowship Hall up for a few weeks.)

McKibben says the first thing we need to do about the climate crisis is "stop being an individual." Katherine Hayhoe (whose equally good book is called *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*) says the first thing for us to do is to talk about it. By coming together as a church, we are doing both: acting as a community rather than individuals and talking about what we can do as creation caregivers.

To continue and deepen our conversation together, we are starting this Creation Care Corner in the monthly newsletter. What I would like to do is share positive stories from you each month. Thank you to my colleague, *Sandy Graham*, for getting this started:

I am  
the  
vine;  
you are  
the  
branches.  
John 15:5

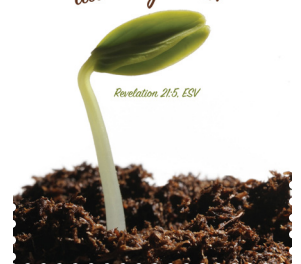
I have been trying several small things to help me be more "green." Quite a few years ago I signed up for Compost Crusader; a group that gives me a separate composting cart for my kitchen compost and my yard waste. (compostcrusader.com). Two years ago, I found out about the MMSD project for starting rain gardens. I took them up on their offer for a free rain barrel. I have two rain barrels in my yard, and I use them to water my gardens and potted plants, as well as a bird bath or two. I am also a member of "Friends of Sheridan Park," the county park that is in my neighborhood. (Humbolt Park has one of these, too.) We have planted trees, had trash pick-ups, weed outs, and other events to help sustain our beautiful park.

Thanks, Sandy, for setting this fine example. In this way, all of us together will extend "Earth Day" beyond a token once a year thing to a year-round thing. Let me know if you have a story to share, whether it is about the beauty of God's creation or about your involvement as a creation caregiver. You can write it yourself or tell me about it, and I will write it for you. Reach me at [JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com](mailto:JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com)

Grace and Peace!  
John Helt

AND HE WHO WAS SEATED  
ON THE THRONE SAID,

"Behold, I am making  
all things new."





Happy birthday blessings to YOU!

Joan Gaeth - 1

William Kroening - 9

Leone Krueger - 9

Michelle Vail - 11

Dan Vail - 14

Andrea Blankenberg - 21

Scott Schmeling - 21

Debbie Wells - 21

Ben Clark - 24

Pam Kothrade - 28

Rylan Wick - 31



A BIG thank you to all those who contributed to and volunteered to deliver the Share and Care Easter gift bags to our church members. Your thoughtfulness and time spent with our church members is greatly appreciated!  
The Social Concerns Committee

Dear Christ Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who played a part in the creation of the lovely Easter bag with so many yummy treats and items to help pass the time.

Your prayers, cards, emails, phone calls, texts and visits over the past three months surely helped brighten the days of healing. Thank you!

What a wonderful church family!!

Blessings, Joan Gaeth



My thanks to all the people from church who helped make my Easter a happy one by donating all the goodies in my Easter bag. There's so many treats that I'll have snacks for a long time, and I love them all, plus some extra items that are fun and useful. You people sure know how to please us older kids.

I'm no longer driving, and I miss that a lot, especially for grocery shopping. But I get some rides from Z-Trips run by my Milwaukee County which keeps me connected.

Marian Witter



Dear Friends, What a nice surprise! We enjoyed all the nice treats and best of all, the visit with a newer member who I hadn't met yet. We found we had a lot in common and even had friends we shared. The Easter service was wonderful, and it was easy to see how much thought and love went into preparation.

Thanks to Everyone and Love in Jesus' Name,  
Gloria and Ronald Konkel

## From the Wisconsin Conference Newsletter:

### Annual Meeting videos now online

If you didn't make it to Annual Meeting 2026 but want to see some of the high points, you can now watch Conference Minister Franz Rigert's [State of the Conference Address](#) and [Edith Guffey's keynote](#) online. In his speech, Franz highlighted ways in which local congregations are reorganizing for maximum impact. Edith, who is president of the board of PFLAG and former conference minister for Kansas and Oklahoma, challenged attendees to grapple with why the UCC remains an overwhelmingly white denomination.

### Summer program to explore connection of faith, freshwater

The Wisconsin and Minnesota conferences have teamed up to offer a new two-part intergenerational care-of-creation experience this summer called Freshwater Faithworks, which will explore the intersection of freshwater ecology and faith. The first part is a three-night family camp scheduled for June 28-July 1 at Daycholah Center. A four-night service and learning trip to Minnesota designed for middle schoolers will take place from July 29 to Aug. 2.

[Register now for family camp](#)

[Register now for the middle-school trip](#)

[Download the flyer](#)

### Signup open for 2026 Great Lakes Collaborative gathering

Among all the great opportunities available in the Conference in coming months, don't overlook the 2026 Great Lakes Collaborative Retreat, scheduled for Aug. 23-25 at Five Oaks Retreat Center in Paris, Ontario. The event is expected to draw participants from the United Church of Canada and from UCC conferences in the Great Lakes Region. Theme of the retreat is At Waters' Edge: Sacred Relations. Attendees will hear from Adrian Jacobs, senior leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation with the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Questions? Email Kathy Douglas of the United Church of Canada or Lisa Hart, associate conference minister for faith formation and justice ministries.

[Learn more and register](#)

### Reminders

The Conference-wide virtual book study of *Nice Racism*, Robin DiAngelo's book about the ways in which well-meaning white people perpetuate racial harm, will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays May 5, 12 and 19.

[Register for the book study](#)

The Wisconsin Conference Racial Justice Ministry Team will host Unlearning Othering: Building Community and Breaking Barriers, a training event open to everyone in the Conference, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, June 12, at Daycholah Center. Participation will qualify as required antiracism training for authorized ministers.

[Learn more and register](#)



# "A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ . There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

- |                    |             |                |                |           |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| myrrh              | aloes       | cassia         | mint           | dill      |
| lentil             | apple trees | crocus         | barley         | cucumbers |
| balsam trees       | melons      | leeks          | onions         | garlic    |
| oak trees          | wheat       | figs           | mustard        | grain     |
| pomegranates       | olive trees | beans          | millet         | cane      |
| almonds            | cinnamon    | pistachio nuts | rose of Sharon |           |
| lily of the valley |             |                |                |           |

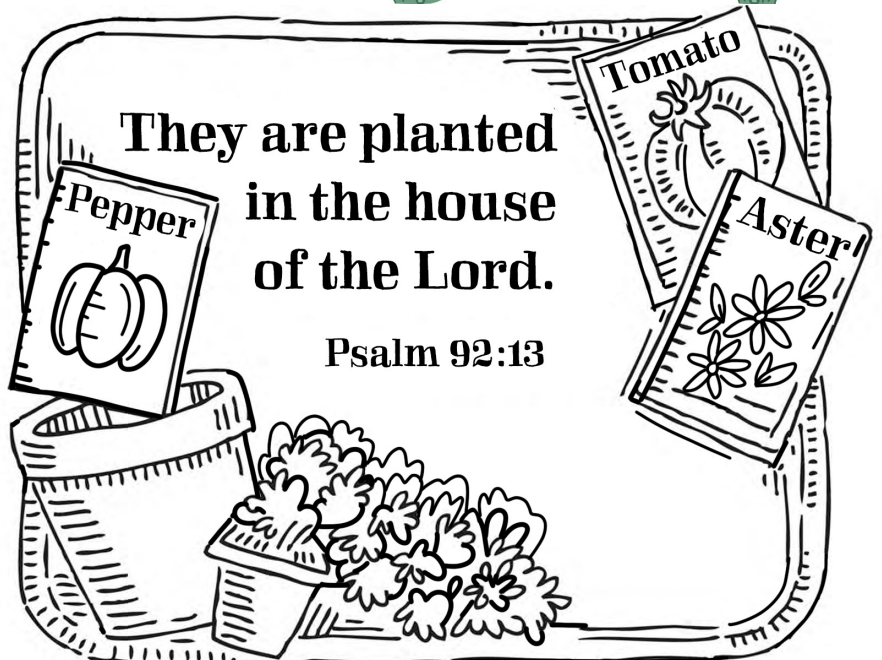
P L E N T I L M C C J E B S U  
 I O G R A I N I I U B E A N S  
 S A M I N T E L N C D A L S U  
 T P Y E S B N L N U R L S S C  
 A P R M G A A E A M A M A E O  
 C L R E A R C T M B T O M E R  
 H E H L R L A L O E S N T R C  
 I T S O L E S N N R U D R T O  
 O R N N I Y S N A S M S E E F  
 N E O S C D I L L T O F E V I  
 U E I W H E A T L E E K S I G  
 T S N G O A K T R E E S O L S  
 S R O S E O F S H A R O N O D  
 L I L Y O F T H E V A L L E Y

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

-----, -----



Jesus, Son of God



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
915 East Oklahoma Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Place  
Stamp  
Here

# THE CHRONICLES

## MAY 2026



### GET CONNECTED

If you want to know more about the happenings at Christ Church, visit our website at [www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)

Like us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbayview](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbayview)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and watch the weekly worship services: [www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI/streams)

### Donate Now

It's as easy as clicking the donate button here!

Or, go to the church website and click on the donate button at [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)



**Thank You!**