



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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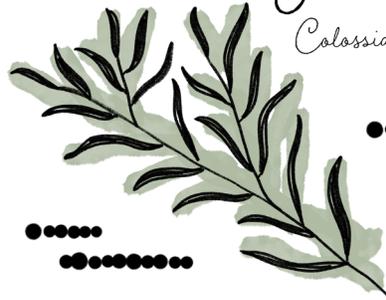
COUNCIL CORNER

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

BIRTHDAYS | THANK YOUS

And Christ
is before
all things, and
in him all things
hold together.

Colossians 1:17



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD?"

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



MARCH 2026

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|-----------|---|
| 1 Liturgist-Andy) Choir O&A for Special Congregational Meeting BVCC Donations | 2 | 3 | 4 Bag Lunch 11:30am Noon Lenten Service Choir 7pm | 5 | 6 | 7  All Church Clean-up Day 9am–noon  |
| 8 Liturgist-Jill U Choir Special Congregational Meeting 10:30am Memorial 10:45am | 9 Finance Meeting Noon | 10 Quilting 9:30am | 11 Bag Lunch 11:30am Noon Lenten Service | 12 Divine Intervention 5:30pm  | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Liturgist-Julie O Sunday School 9:30am One Great Hour of Sharing Offering | 16 | 17  | 18 Bag Lunch 11:30am Noon Lenten Service | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Liturgist-Doris M | 23 | 24 Quilting 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm | 25 Bag Lunch 11:30am Noon Lenten Service Choir 7pm | 26 Handbells 9:30am | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Liturgist-Chuck T Palm Sunday Choir  | 30 | 31 | | | | |



Pastor's Letter

Mark your calendars, **Easter Sunday is April 5!** Since Easter is a moving target, it's important to mark it down, especially when it arrives so early.

From where I stand in worship, I see your shining faces. That brings joy to my heart. I also see a lot of empty seats. That means we have room to grow. If on Easter Sunday, everyone in Bayview woke up and decided to go to worship there wouldn't be enough seats in all the churches to accommodate them. That means we're sitting in a fertile field. One of the things that attracted me to Christ Church is that stained glass window over the Oklahoma Avenue door, "A House of Prayer for All People." That means we must be hospitable, inviting all people into worship. Do you know that approximately 75% of unchurched people say they would attend church if invited by a friend or family member. That means **opportunities abound** to pack the house on Resurrection Sunday.

Here's the hard truth. Our Easter attendance has declined in each of the last two years. We had 100 in 2023, 95 in 2024, and 85 in 2025. While it's not about the number of butts in the pews, it is about the vitality of this congregation. I know that Jesus has made a difference in my life, and I want others to experience that too. That's why I invite.

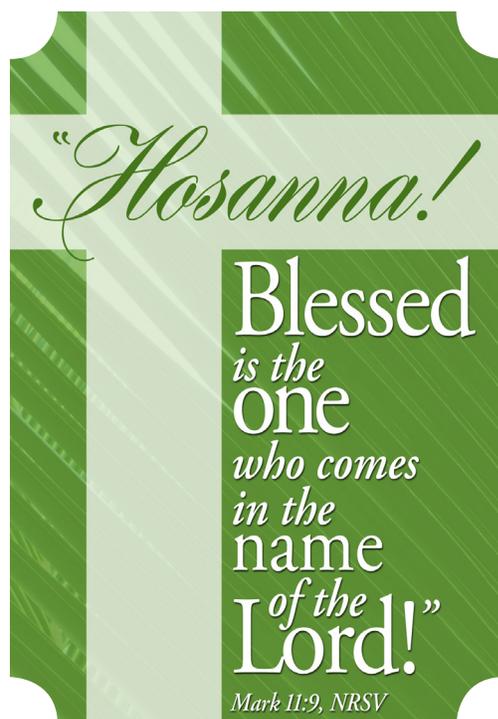
When I was in college, I was president of our chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. At the end of the spring semester there were only three of us left. We made a plan to walk the lines on registration day and distribute invitations to students. (Yes, this was back in the day when you had to register in person.) When we had our first gathering of the fall semester, there were 60 students in a room that could only hold 30. We were spilling out into the hall. Nobody knew that it was nearly everyone else's first time. A faithful few can make a huge difference. Imagine what we can all do together.

I encourage you to take some time to pray about who you might invite to worship with you on Easter. Make a plan and then invite them. If they say, "no," it's okay. Invite someone else. Our February attendance averaged 46.5 people per Sunday. If we each bring one, we would have 93 people in worship. Let's work together to top that 100 we had in 2023. Join the team distributing invitational flyers around the neighborhood, post them in shops, and anywhere you can, and be sure to invite a friend or family member, no matter where they live, to join you at worship on Easter Sunday. **Let's work together to celebrate the resurrection!**

Pastor Bob



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



Liturgists

March 1 Andy O
March 8 Jill U
March 15 Julie O
March 22 Doris M
March 29 Chuck T



Quilting

Tuesdays, **March 10 and 24**, 9:30AM–Noon

Choir & Handbells

CHOIR

Wednesdays, **March 4 & 25 and April 1** at 7pm
Singing - Sundays, **March 1, 8, 29, and April 5**

HANDBELLS

Thursdays, **March 26** at 9:30am
Playing - Sunday, **April 5**

Sunday Counters

First Sunday Janet D / Mark P
Second Sunday Janet Key / Joyce Z
Third Sunday Danette V / Renolle V
Fourth Sunday Sara R / Jill U
Fifth Sunday Debbie H / Doris M

Greeters

March 1 Andy Oren
March 8 Joyce & Bob Zieman
March 15
March 22 Joan Amich
March 29 Ken Klockow

Coffee Hour

March 1 Doris & Paul Mayeshiba
March 8 Peggy Carew
March 15 Chuck Terlinden
March 22 Finance Committee
March 29 Justin Howard & Joe Trapalot

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, **March 8**, 10:30am

Memorial Meeting
Sunday, **March 8** at 10:45am

Finance Meeting
Monday, **March 9** at noon

Council Meeting
Tuesday, **March 24** at 6pm



PaLm Sunday – March 29

Easter Sunday – April 5

WEDNESDAYS DURING
Lent

Lenten Worship Services

will be held on

March 4

March 11

March 18

& March 25

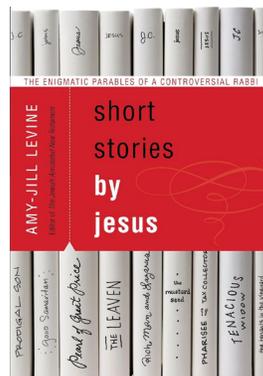
If you wish, bring a bag lunch and we'll eat together at 11:30am

Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study

Sign-up now to join Pastor Bob in a six-week Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus, beginning on **April 15 at 1pm**. Participant Guides will be available.

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives.

Sign-up on the Lenox Street bulletin board.



Greeters



Please help welcome all who come through our doors at Christ Church by being a "Greeter" on Sunday mornings.

Instructions are listed with the sign up sheet at the Lenox Street door. Simply add your name next to the Sunday that works for you. Remember to mark the date on your calendar!

Questions: See *Andy Oren* or *Joan Gaeth*

Thanks for your help!

The Membership Committee

Sunday School

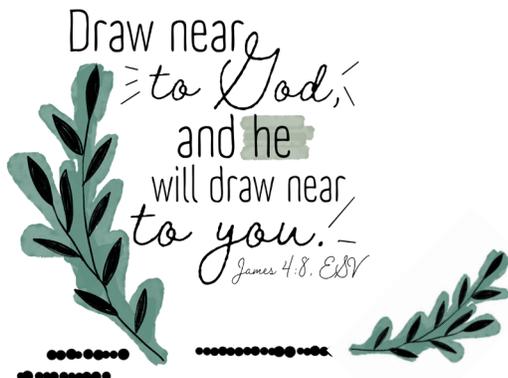


Sunday School for 1st - 8th grade is held on the third Sunday of every month from 9:30am until the service is over. Our next class is Sunday, March 15 and our topic will be Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Students may be participating in the Easter Sunday service on April 5. Questions? Contact *Michael Key*

Easter Baskets



The Social Concerns Committee will be coordinating the delivery of Easter baskets to the 13 people on our share and Care list. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Some suggestions include Easter decorations, candy, word search books, granola bars, mini pies, applesauce, crackers, small note pads or post it notes, small Kleenex packets or anything to brighten someone's day. Please place your donations in the Pine Room by **March 22**. We will also need volunteers to deliver the baskets which will be ready by **March 29**. Please contact a Social Concerns member if you can assist. Thanks, *Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan Naefken, Sara Rogers, Vicki Teal, Randene Wick*



Divine Intervention



Please sign up to help with food items and /or serving our February meal on **Thursday, March 12**. There are typically 25 guests and volunteers for each meal. The theme for this meal is: Burgers (turkey or ground beef) with hamburger buns, salad, dessert, milk. The donation sheet is on the Lenox Street Bulletin Board. Food items must be dropped off at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, 125 W. Saveland Avenue by 6pm. See *Jim* or *Randene* for more information.

ALL Church Clean-up Day



Please pitch in on **Saturday, March 7** for an all church clean-up day from 9am-noon. Lunch will be provided. Thanks in advance for your help!

Rummage Sale Update

The Bay View Neighborhood Association has not set a date for the May Rummage Sale yet...stay tuned! There will be a short meeting on **March 15** in the Pine Room after church for anyone who is interested in being on the Rummage Sale Committee. Logistics and volunteer opportunities will be discussed. The sale may include bakery, crafts, and plants. Donations may be put in the music room. If the door is locked, see a Council member. If you need items picked up or if you need help getting things into the church, call *Michael and Janet Key* at 414-744-0973 (landline).

BVCC Food Donations



We are continuing our monthly donation of food for the BVCC food pantry. Please bring your items to church the **first Sunday of each month**. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart located in the chapel. Thank you for helping provide for those families in our community in need! Any donations are greatly appreciated, or a financial contribution can be made directly to the BVCC. *BVCC thanks you for supporting your neighbors in need!*

Needed items: canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter and jelly/jam, rice and beans, breakfast cereals, oatmeal, shelf-stable milk, canned tuna or chicken, cooking oil, personal hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, shampoo)

Notice of Special Congregation Meeting

Dear Church Family,

Please join us for a special congregational meeting on **March 8, at 10:30am**, as we make important decisions regarding the financial health and future of our congregation.

The purpose of this meeting is to deliberate and vote on the following key items:

- **2026 Budget Amendment:** To adjust the current budget to accurately reflect actual expenditures, specifically regarding salary allocations for our full-time pastor.
- **Endowment Fund Bylaw Revision:** To amend the Bylaws to authorize the use of Endowment Funds to bridge income shortfalls.

Materials to Review:

Revised 2026 Budget

Proposed Endowment Bylaw Amendment

I will be available in the music room after worship on Sunday, March 1, to answer any questions. Your presence is vital. These decisions will shape our financial stewardship and the future direction of our ministry.

James Wick, President, Christ Church Council

Link to proposed 2026 budget changes:

https://1drv.ms/b/c/447f87642ee41c60/IQALhCv0GDW7TlyhKZ8Nh_v8AS-q0xneJmTct90YXtqN_Y8?e=qSZPOH



Christ Church UCC Proposed Endowment Bylaw Amendment

March 1, 2026

Bylaws:

Pg. 1, Para. 1, Sentence 2; "The Endowment Committee will preserve the **original** principal of the gifts so that they may serve into the future."

Pg. 4, Accumulation and Distribution of Funds section. Add item: "4. The Endowment Fund principal may be used to supplement the needs of the church, **including Pastor compensation, up to \$45,000 annually. If the request exceeds \$45,000, a special congregational meeting will be called to approve the additional amount.**"

*Bold/italics wording constitute proposed changes to the current Endowment Bylaws.

There is no fear in love,
but perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18, NASB



Hiding In Plain Sight – Part 2



Each month we'll be looking at one of the nine men from Christ Church who were killed in action during World War II. The first to fall was **John Richard Firch Jr.** and his story is an interesting one. He was born Johannes on May 7, 1912 in Bromberg, Germany, the son of John and Gertrude Firch. He came to the United States with his parents on November 27, 1913 aboard the "President Lincoln." He and his parents lived at 2782 S. Ellen Street and John graduated from Boy's Tech High School and was employed as an inspector at Rex Chain Belt on 16th and Bruce.

John joined the Army shortly after Pearl Harbor and was in 103rd Coast Artillery Battalion and was killed in action in North Africa on June 2, 1943. He is buried in the North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial in Carthage, Tunisia.

Dies in Africa

Mrs. John Firch, 2782 S. Ellen St., whose two sons, Alfred and John, have been in the army more than two years, has received a war department cablegram announcing that Pfc. John Firch was killed in North African action on June 30.

Pfc. Firch, 31, was graduated from Humboldt school and attended Boys' technical high school. He was an inspector for the Chain Belt co. before joining the artillery. He served in northern Ireland, and has been in North Africa since last November.

In addition to the parents and his brother, Pfc. Alfred, serving with the infantry in New Guinea, he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Hertha Sopruski and Mrs. Hildegarde Higgins.



Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

"The LITTLE church that makes a BIG difference in partnership with you!"

Pastor Trish Eckert
125 W Saveland Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-481-4680 tippecanoe@gmail.com
<https://www.tippecanoe.org>

January 22, 2026

Dear Friends at Christ Church UCC,

On behalf of the Members and Session of Tippecanoe's beloved community, our collaborators and volunteers, and those whose lives are personally touched by ministries within and beyond our building, I extend our deep appreciation and say thank you for your generosity!

We are grateful for the support you are providing to our vital Divine Intervention warming room ministry. Your gift of \$750 greatly increases the impact of our mission and enables us to make improvements to our warming "Divine Intervention" space for folks who are experiencing homelessness.

We continue to hold you in prayer, and we appreciate your ongoing prayerful attention regarding the Tippe community. If there are ways our pastor, Trish Eckert, can be supportive, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

In grace and peace,

Jerry Watkins
Clerk of Session

Trish Eckert, Pastor
pastortrish@tippecanoe.org

ASLC Mission Moment

Shaleyna Velez presented a Mission Moment on the Arts & Science Literacy Camp (ASLC). Here is a link to the text of her presentation:

Shaleyna Velez ASLC Speech.doc

<https://1drv.ms/w/c/447f87642ee41c60/IQASbj8iAorsQ4ZbdYVo9p00AdJG-ISCdWzVnqarJ6A81w4?e=9cPasB>



Bay View Community Center of Milwaukee, Inc.
1320 East Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207



Christ Church United
915 E Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207-2406

Dear Joan Gaeth,

On behalf of Bay View Community Center and the families we serve, I want to thank you for your generous donation of **\$1,000.00 on 12/30/2025 for our food pantry**. Our Center provides many programs and services to Bay View and surrounding communities, and your support goes a long way in the Center being able to help people.

Your kindness comes as food insecurity in the Bay View community continues to increase. The most recent survey of residents in the Zip Codes we serve (53207, 53215, 53221, and 53235) show their food insecurity at 14.04% or 19,744 individuals.

With your generous support, we have been able to stock our shelves with enough food to feed 596 households and 2076 individuals in December and January. Your donation means more than just food; it brings hope and stability to households in our community facing tough times.

Besides the Food Pantry, we also provide a playroom for our families' children, and social programs for seniors. During December and January, 47 families utilized the playroom, and 91 seniors enjoyed a variety of activities at our senior center. In addition, we provide the use of our commercial kitchen for local entrepreneurs who are seeking to start a culinary business in the community.

We are deeply grateful for your donation to Bay View Community Center. Together, we are truly making a difference.

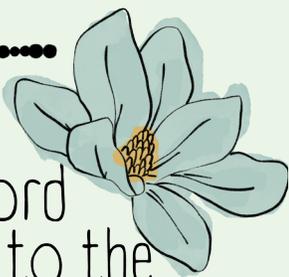
Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Joe Powell
Chair - Board of Directors
Board@BayViewCenter.org

Bay View Community Center, a non-profit organization has not provided any goods or services in consideration for this voluntary contribution.

We bring people together to build community as an inclusive, independent, community-supported, nonprofit organization. We welcome your involvement.



The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:18, ESV



MARCH *birthdays*

Happy birthday blessings to YOU!

Joyce Jakimczyk - 7

Joe Rogge - 4

Neil Feest - 5

Jerry Veit - 5

Ken Klockow - 7

Kay Rollert - 8

Judy Borkowicz - 11

Eli Lang - 11

Benjamin Pfeifer - 14

Sandra Blackwood - 15

Samuel Rondorf - 18

Brooke Goedel - 20

Maria Porn - 24

Isabelle Berger - 25

Janet Key - 25

Dean Mowery - 30



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is March 15

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines. Be the light. Let us share generously and cheerfully as we give to One Great Hour of Sharing on March 15th. *Pam Kothrade, Stewardship*



Oh give
thanks to the Lord,
for he is good,
for his
steadfast
love endures
forever!

Psalm 107:1, ESV





COUNCIL CORNER

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

What It Means (To Me) to Be A Church Member

I grew up in the small Lake Fork United Church of Christ (Congregational Christian Church until it merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Church) in central Illinois. I was christened, baptized and married there. Though it was a small congregation, we had very active Sunday School, Men, Women's and Youth Fellowship groups, children's and adult choirs. I also started as church organist at the age of 16, when two of the current organists needed to retire because of health reasons. (One of them passed away the following summer, and I came home from church camp to be organist for her funeral.) Lake Fork Church pastors and members provided fellowship, support, and a sense of belonging with shared spiritual support.

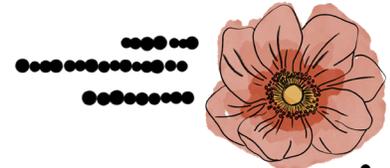
When I entered nursing school (1965) at the Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in Bloomington, Illinois, we shared worship services daily before classes and one evening per week we sang hymns to the patients in the hospital. That was especially meaningful when patients would sing along, especially some who hadn't "spoken" in ages. I attended Sunday worship services, at a local UCC, but didn't join or become involved there. It was after marriage and the arrival of two children that I again found a Christian home and joined the Lake Villa United Methodist Church in 1979. (It was located near our home, as opposed to a 30 minute drive to a UCC.) I was an active member there from 1979 until I moved to Milwaukee in 2023. Church membership included shared teaching, fellowship, prayers, and guidance. It also included funerals: 1992 for my son and 2022 for my husband, Jay.

I am so happy to now be a member of Christ Church UCC. I have a strong sense of belonging thanks to the members. It is the busiest church I have ever belonged to! There are so many ways that members provide and share support, fellowship, and a sense of belonging. And that is what being a church member means to me.

PS: Shortly after I moved to Milwaukee, my next door neighbor asked if I would be looking for a church. I replied that I was hoping to find a UCC church. Her reply, "I've got just the church for you!!" Thank you Madeline N.! You did it!!

Sue Cribb

| Monthly Activity | January | YTD |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Contributions & Other Income | \$ 23,809 | \$ 23,809 |
| Expenses | \$ 21,008 | \$ 21,008 |
| Budgeted Amount | \$ 15,142 | \$ 15,142 |



For [God]
has said,
 "I will never
 LEAVE YOU nor
 FORSAKE YOU."

Hebrews 13:5 ESV

Our 130th Anniversary celebration last September made the news in the Bay View Historian:



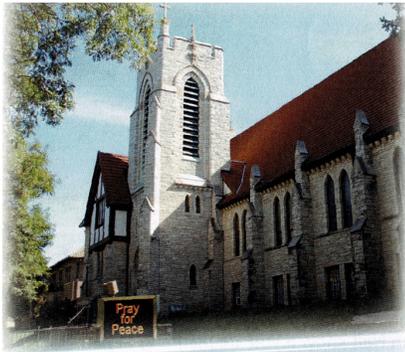
BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2026 NO. 1

www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

WINTER 2026



**130TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

September 14, 2025

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

Invitation to Christ Church's 130th Anniversary.

St. Ann Center Services Presentation

Sunday • April 26 • 6:30pm

Beulah Brinton House

Karen Ziemenske will give a presentation with Sr. Edna on the many services that St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care has to offer for a variety of adults and children. Adult services – like their daycare program, specialized dementia care, personal hygiene care, and temporary overnight respite care — give older adults and people with disabilities a chance to remain healthier and live longer in their own homes. Adults in the St. Ann Center day program receive compassionate and cost-effective care, nutritious meals, and activities to keep them moving.



Original Christ Church built in 1896 at 2644 S. Pine Avenue. The house at right was the parsonage; both still stand. Image circa 1898.

Christ Church Celebrates 130 Years

BY RON WINKLER

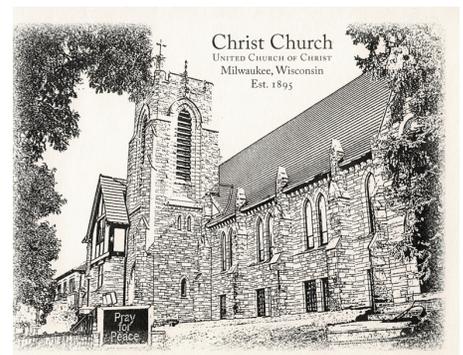
Christ Church, 915 E. Oklahoma Avenue, the Bay View Historical Society's 2024 Landmark, celebrated its 130th anniversary on Sunday, September 14th. Its 125th anniversary in 2020 was not held due to COVID pandemic restrictions.

The 130th Anniversary Celebration featured a special worship service followed by a block party on Lenox Street. Before the 9:30 am service, Marina Dimitrijevic, 14th District Alderwoman, read a proclamation from the Milwaukee Common Council.

Rev. Tara Tetzlaff, pastor of Christ Church, presided. Rev. Jane Anderson offered greetings from the Wisconsin Conference of United Church of Christ. Other participants included former pastor Dale Stohre and Pastor Char Guiliani from Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit.

There was special music that was presented throughout the service by the Sanctuary Singers, directed by Terry Dietert. Several numbers and hymns featured musicians Kevin Wood, trumpet and Paul Mayeshiba, guitar.

We then moved outdoors to the block party on Lenox Street where we were met with cloudless blue skies and 75 degrees. It was the perfect setting for lunch at 11:00 am, followed by music at noon. Professional vocalist Julie Thompson performed music from a variety of genres such as classic tunes, jazz, folk and modern pop.



Sketch of Christ Church today at 915 East Oklahoma Avenue.

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

Place
Stamp
Here

THE CHRONICLES

MARCH 2025



GET CONNECTED

If you want to know more about the happenings at Christ Church, visit our website at www.uccmke.org

Like us on facebook at www.facebook.com/christchurchbayview

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and watch the weekly worship services: 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



Thank You!