



And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV) -

Speakers: Dean Kothrade, Mark Pfeifer, Janet Key

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Randene Wick

October 19, 2025

Laity Sunday

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a “first-timer,” a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God’s Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

Here I Am, Lord - Schutte

Words of Welcome

***Song of Welcome** *As the Deer* (verse1 & refrain)

Hymn #471

Call to Worship (from Psalm 66)

One: God of Life,

All: you are as near to us as our breath.

One: Touch our eyes,

All: that we may see you in one another.

One: Open our ears,

All: that we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.

One: Enter our hearts,

All: that we may be filled with your love toward all people.

One: Come, O God of life and breath and wholeness.

All: Be with us now. Show us the way to new life and grant us the courage to be people of your Way.

Opening Prayer

God of life and love, we are eager to hear the good news of new life. Enter our lives and cast our fears aside. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are ready to celebrate and give thanks for your transforming love. We are eager to rejoice in the glory of this day! Give us transformed spirits and open hearts. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *This Is a Day Of New Beginnings*

Hymn #355

New Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:27-34 (CEB)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will plant seeds in Israel and Judah, and both people and animals will spring up. Just as I watched over them to dig up and pull down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and plant, declares the Lord. In those days, people will no longer say:

Sour grapes eaten by parents
leave a bitter taste in the mouths of their children.
Because everyone will die for their own sins:
whoever eats sour grapes
will have a bitter taste in their own mouths.

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the

covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Gospel Reading: Psalm 119:97-104 (NRSVA)

Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.

I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore, I hate every false way.

Gift of Music

Blessed Are You, O Lord – Leavitt

Sanctuary Singers

Sermon

Dean Kothrade

1 John 1 (NIV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Mark Pfeifer

John 8:1-11 (NLT) Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Luke 6:31 (The Way, The Living Bible) Treat others as you want them to treat you.

Janet Key

Hebrews 10: 24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns: **Jerry G, Bonnie & Jeff J, Gloria H, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Dulce, Laurel, Bill, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie**

Prayer of the Faithful

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Reflection

Thy Word

Hymn #664

Invitation to Generosity

God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God—we share out time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we say “yes” to God’s invitation to join in building work here on earth.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

Change My Heart - Espinosa

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

Bountiful God, all that we can offer you stems from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Hymn #574

Announcements

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

Find Us Faithful

Hymn #497

Postlude

Voluntary in G - Heron

Sources: The Revised Common Lectionary, <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour

Thursday, Oct 23

Handbells, 9:30am

NEXT SUNDAY: Special Coffee Hour with Glen Prasser

Counters: Danette Volz, Renolle Volz

Greeters: Vicki Teal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ Church members

Rev. Sandy Graham (414-943-6321 or RevDrGraham@gmail.com) and

Rev. John Helt (262-262-3165 or JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com)

are available for pastoral care and will be providing Sunday morning worship leadership over the next two months.

THANK YOU!

The *Volz sisters* purchased a new Christmas tree for our Chapel. We thank you very much for this wonderful gift to the church!

Thank you to *Ken Redlin* for his very generous donation to Christ Church. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness!

Special Coffee Hour | On **Sunday, October 26**, Glen Prasser will be with us to share his experiences on 9-11. Glen was flying back from London when his plane was grounded in Gander, Newfoundland where he stayed for the next five days. Glen is an old high school classmate of Andy Oren and his great-grandfather founded what is now Prasser-Klecza Funeral Home way back in 1868. Glen will join us for worship and then share his story during an extended coffee hour.

Memorial Sunday | On **November 2nd**, we will be holding our Memorial Sunday worship service. During the service we will recognize members of the church and our loved ones who have died in the past year. Please submit to the office **by Monday, October 27**, the names of those individuals who have died in the past year that you would like included in the service.

Endowment Grants | The Endowment Committee is again receiving service outreach grant requests for 2025. Please fill out a Grant Request form. The forms have been placed in the holders between the chapel and lounge, near the handicap restroom, and in the church office. **The application deadline is December 7, 2025.** Please ask any member of the Endowment Committee if you have questions: *Tom Dohoney, Joan Gaeth, Mary Ann Mowery, Jill Unglaub, Randene Wick*

Thanksgiving Bags | We will be collecting items for Thanksgiving Bags to be delivered to the 11 people on our Share and Care list. Please place your donations in the Pine Room **by November 9th**. Some suggestions include fall decorations, granola bars, candy, word search books, fruit or applesauce cups, cookies, small Kleenex, or anything that might brighten someone's day. The bags will be ready for delivery after church **on November 16th**. If you can help with delivering the bags, please contact a Social Concerns member.

The Social Concerns Committee, *Debbie Hansen, Mallorie Lang, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan Naefken, Sara Rogers, Randene Wick*

Holiday Craft Fair at Wilson Commons | **November 1** from 9am to 3pm
Please see *Ken Klockow* for more information.

Hat and Mitten Collection | We will again be collecting hats and mittens to donate to our local schools. Any handmade or purchased items would be welcomed. You may place your donations on the tree in the chapel, once church has been decorated for Christmas. Thanks for helping to keep our local children warm this winter. Thanks, *The Social Concerns Committee*

Calling all Crafters | If you enjoy creating baby blankets and/or prayer shawls, we have an opportunity for you. We would like to have a container filled with various types of blankets and shawls to give to any babies, children, or adults who are baptized. Any questions please ask *Joan Gaeth*.



MISSION MINUTES | Ask Boldly | Luke 18:1-8 | Robert Frost once said that the “best way out is always through.” Vermont’s poet was, of course, talking about tackling a problem head on with great persistence.

Persistence can be a good thing for the one who persists. It can also be annoying to the person on the receiving end of the incessant pleas. Just ask any parent with a yet-to-be housebroken puppy on their hands all because it was easier to give in to their child’s requests for the bundle of fur. In the case of puppies, persistence can be seen as a negative trait. But in the case of God, persistence is a beautiful virtue. One that we all need to embrace, especially in our prayer lives.

That is exactly what Jesus tells his friends here in Luke’s Gospel. Jesus wants them to understand the amazing power there is in bringing all their cares and worries to God in prayer. “Don’t lose heart. Keep on praying,” he says.

Jesus then gives them an example of what persistence in God’s kingdom looks like. There was a widow, he tells them, who was seeking justice. The judge, though, wouldn’t give it to her. She didn’t give up. Rather, she went to the judge daily with her request for justice. It finally got to the point where the judge would cringe when he heard who was at his door wanting to see him—yet again! Not wanting the widow to wear him out, the judge finally grants her the justice she sought.

Persistence paid off for the widow, and it can pay off for us in our prayer lives as well. But know this: Unlike the judge who finally gives in to the widow, God “gives in” to us not because we wore God out. God “gives in” out of His great love for us. God only wants the best for us and will answer our prayer according to God’s will.

When I was young, I fell in love with a Barbie wedding dress that I saw on the shelf in the toy store. My mom said it was too expensive. I kept asking for it though. My persistence didn’t pay off. Rather than getting the flimsy, mass manufactured Barbie dress, my mother gave me a piece of cream satin fabric, scissors, sewing needles and thread. She told me to create my own Barbie wedding dress. I did. And not only was it prettier than I could ever had imagined it to be, but my mom, in her wisdom, ignited my passion for fashion design.

Jesus was right. We must never lose hope. We must always be persistent, for we just don’t know where our God answered prayers will lead. *God, we thank you that your door is always opened to us. There is never a time when you will not listen to our pleas and problems. May we become persistent prayer warriors who never lose heart and never give up, for we know you answer us in your time and in your loving way. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

Monthly Activity	September	YTD
Contributions	\$10,169	\$80,263
Other Income	\$15,003	\$56,735
Total Income	\$25,172	\$136,998
Expenses	\$12,894	\$147,488
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$133,800

Christ Church UCC

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Livestream: youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI

If you should need pastoral support, please contact
Rev. Sandy Graham at 414-943-6321 or RevDrGraham@gmail.com
or **Rev. John Helt** at 262-262-3165 or JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com

