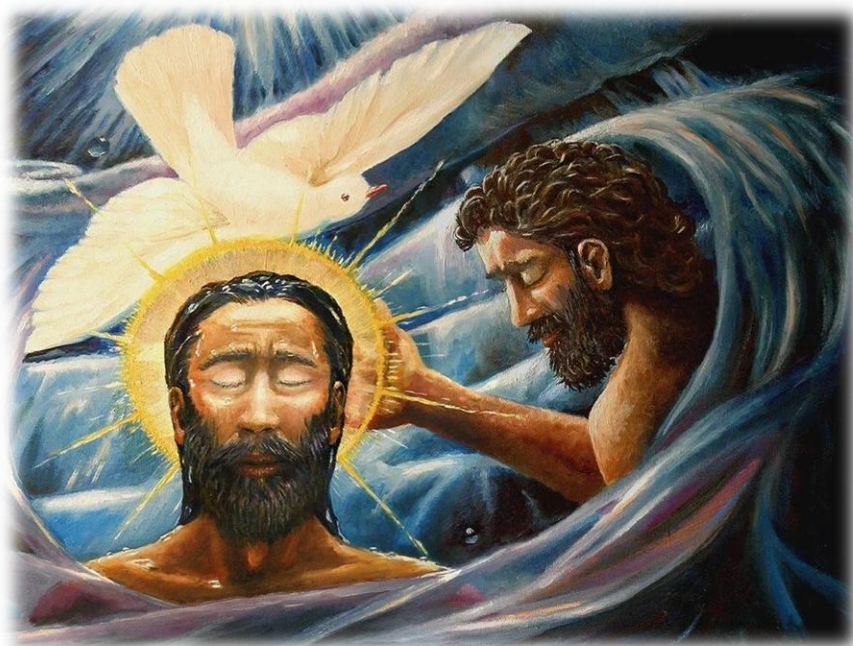


Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



January 11, 2025 *Baptism of Christ Sunday*

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar/ Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Doris Mayeshiba

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*

For your Reflection

"Millennials aren't looking for a hipper Christianity. We're looking for a truer Christianity, a more authentic Christianity. Like every generation before ours and every generation after, we're looking for Jesus—the same Jesus who can be found in the strange places..." ~Rachel Held Evans

*"I want every day to be a fresh start on expanding what is possible."
~Oprah Winfrey*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* - arr. Cherwien

Call to Worship

One: God of love, your grace flows about us like a mighty river.

Many: It is gentle, and it is strong.

One: We are here to be immersed in your presence.

Many: You give us life, and we thank you.

One: We plunge into your grace, and we are made new.

Many: We rise, newborn and gleaming.

All: In praise and thanksgiving, we worship you. Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn *Gather Us In* **Hymn #649**

*Opening Prayer

Gracious God, John the Baptist called people to a baptism of repentance, and Jesus came to be baptized. Jesus comes with us now, to turn our hearts toward you, to hear your Word, to be immersed in your light, and to be drawn into service in the power of your Spirit. Give us life, God: give us your Word. Amen.

*Words of Grace

One: God's arms are open wide to welcome you home; God's grace pours freely upon you to renew you, and through you to bring healing to a hurting world. In Christ you are a new creation.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

*Response *Glory to God* **Hymn #240**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gift of Music *Be Present, Spirit of the Lord* - Beall Sanctuary Singers

First Scripture Reading: **Acts 10: 34-43** (NRSVUE)

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Second Scripture Reading: **Matthew 3: 13-17** (NRSVUE)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

A Message for The Young and The Young at Heart

Sermon "Connect with Your Belovedness" Pastor Bob

Hymn *Sing a New Church (vs. 1, 3, 4)* **Hymn #577**

Liturgy of the Water

Greeting

Blessing of the Water

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

One: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Many: I do.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the source of life and love.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem, the man who taught, fed, and healed, and in the Christ who rose from the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, God's abiding presence.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Procession to the Font

The congregation is invited to come forward, place their hands over the font, palm side up, and receive a token in remembrance of their baptism.

Prayer

One: Eternal God, you have come to us in Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

Many: Keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

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

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Invitation to Generosity

God gives us not only biological life but also the new life born of repentance, forgiveness, and resurrection. Therefore, with generous hearts, let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us in our baptismal covenant with God and each other.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

Sweet, Sweet Spirit - Smith

*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, Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Great saving God, you have gathered us into one baptism,
regardless of our backgrounds and conditions. Therefore, we
praise you with our tithes and offerings. May they join with others
to become a mighty river, bringing your peace and healing to the
world. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

Go to the World!

Hymn #553

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

Now it's Time to Say Goodbye

**Now it's time to say goodbye
To go on out from here
To live the visions and the dreams
To scatter hate and fear
So may the Peace be with you now
A peace that's filled with Grace
May it surround all your struggles
And everything you face.
And may you find your own way
To sing out love's own song
With courage, tears and laughter
And then to pass it on.
Yes the time has come to say goodbye
May peace be with you now**

Postlude

In Christ there Is no East or West - Wood

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Taking Down the Greens

Monday, Jan 12

Finance Meeting, Noon

Tuesday, Jan 12

Quilting, 9:30am

Membership Meeting, Pine Room, 1pm

Wednesday, Jan 14

Choir, 7pm

Thursday, Jan 15

Handbells, 9:30am

Divine Intervention, 6pm

NEXT SUNDAY

Endowment Meeting after church

Counters: Janet Key, Joyce Zieman

Greeters: Joan Gaeth, Sara Rogers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT
from the table in the chapel. Thank you!**

Taking Down the Greens | Please stay to help us take down the greens after church **TODAY**. Your helpful hands are appreciated!

Divine Intervention | Please sign up to help with food items and/or serving our January meal on **Jan 15**. There are typically 25 guests and volunteers for each meal. The theme for this meal is: Beef Stew with rolls, biscuits, 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.

Communion | We will celebrate communion on **Jan 18** during our worship service.

Christ Church Paper Drive | The Divine Intervention warming room is in need of paper products, specifically paper towels and toilet paper. A collection box for donations is located outside the office near the Lenox Street entrance. We will be collecting these items throughout January and February.

End-of-the-Year Stewardship-Campaign | I have good news....we did it! We met our goal of \$11,000 by December 31st! We only had 2½ short weeks and we did it. We pulled together and made it happen. We are a generous church, a church who works together for a common goal and for the common good of all. Thank you for your generosity and for all you do for our church family. With sincerest thanks, *Pam Kothrade, Stewardship Chair*

MANY THANKS | A HUGE thanks to everyone who contributed to our hat and mitten collection. We had so many items we are able to donate to Trowbridge, Bruce Guadalupe, and Humboldt Park Schools. We collected 400 hats, 60 scarves and 12 hat and mitten sets. A special thanks to Ken Klockow's group from Wilson Commons for their generous donation. Thanks, *Your Social Concerns Committee*

Paws for the Season THANK YOU! | Thank you to all those who participated in our first holiday pet blessing event. We had seven dogs and owners stop by for pictures and pet blessings. Two dogs and their families had driven from neighboring parts of the city to attend our event. The membership committee will be reviewing the event and discussing additional opportunities for pet blessings in the future.

Prayer Shawls | A number of folks in our congregation have been making beautiful prayer shawls for those who are in need of being surrounded in healing love and prayer. If you know of someone who is in need of a prayer shawl to remind them that God and this community is surrounding them with love and care, please take one to them. If you are in need of this reminder of healing love, take one for yourself. These are wonderful gifts for those who are undergoing treatments for cancer or heart disease or some other difficult ailment. They are also great spiritual reminders for those who are grieving or feeling particularly alone. Prayer Shawls are a way of our saying, "our church is with you and we surrounding you with our healing care. May you feel the presence of the Sacred every time you place this around you." You will find a basket of prayer shawls in the chapel. Please feel free to pick one up for yourself, or for someone who may need one.

You Are God's Beloved

Monthly Activity	December	YTD
Contributions	\$23,473	\$161,315
Other Income	\$7	\$42,904
Total Income	\$23,480	\$204,219
Expenses	\$12,593	\$216,578
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$178,400

Christ Church UCC

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Livestream: youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI

If you should need pastoral support, please contact

Pastor Bob at 440-943-6321 or pastor@uccmke.org

