

Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Jill Unglaub

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

When have you been particularly aware of God's presence?

Prelude

Christ Be My Leader - Besemer

Welcome & Announcements

Solo

There's a Path

Introduction

Solo Reprise

There's a Path

There's a path (**there's a path**)...though it winds its way through darkness
We would choose (**we would choose**)...to avoid it if we could
We awake (**we awake**)...to an unexpected calling
God says, "Come (**God says, "Come**)...there are gifts in the Dark Wood"

Unison Prayer

Awe-some Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives. Form us as expectant people, watching for your presence among us that comes through quiet intuition or thunderous "a-ha's." In your many names, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Hymn #656

*Litany of Confession and Assurance

One:For being too busy to be wonder-struck by Your works,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One:For filling the holes in our spirit with things that cannot truly feed us,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One:For denying the world our best selves,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

Silent prayers...

One: Hear these words of assurance: God is already making a wonder of you. You are a part of this awesome creation. God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

*The Peace of Christ

One:Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One:Please pass the peace of Christ with one another in whatever way you are most comfortable.

*Response

God Welcomes All

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

A Message for The Young and The Young at Heart

Scripture Reading: Job 37: 1-5 (NRSVUE)

At this also my heart trembles, and leaps out of its place.

Listen, listen to the thunder of God's voice
and the rumbling that comes from God's mouth.

Under the whole heaven God lets it loose,
and God's lightning to the corners of the earth.

After it God's voice roars;

God thunders with a majestic voice

and God does not restrain the lightnings when God's voice is heard.

God thunders wondrously with God's voice;

and does great things that we cannot comprehend.

Gift of Music

You Are My All in All- Jernigan

Sanctuary Choir

Contemporary Reading:

Susan Orlean, *The Orchid Thief* (69-70)

"There's a certain orchid that looks exactly like a certain insect so the insect is drawn to this flower—its double, its soul mate—and wants nothing more than to make love to it. After the insect flies off, it spots another soul-mate flower and makes love to it, thus pollinating it. And neither flower nor the insect will ever understand the significance of their lovemaking. I mean, how could they know that because of their little dance the world lives, but it does. By simply doing what they're designed to do, something large and magnificent happens. In this sense they show us how to live, how the only barometer you have is your heart; how when you spot your flower you can't let anything get in your way."

Sermon

"The Gift of Being Thunderstruck"

Pastor Bob

Time for Reflection

*Statement of Faith

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**We love a God who reigns over us not with force and manipulation
but with the power of love, to lift us up and set us free.**

**We follow Jesus, God's Anointed, who shared the power of
healing and forgiveness. He was crucified by the powers of
domination, but he was raised by the power of love.**

**We live by the grace of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to
serve humbly, to bless and not to threaten, to create and not**

destroy. By that Spirit we seek to serve, to forgive, to heal, and to lift up those who are oppressed. By that Spirit alone, and not by any power of this world, we receive life that is eternal and joy that sustains us always. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Come and rest **(come and rest)**

Come and listen **(come and listen)**

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

(Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker) Repeat

One: There are many people who are walking through the Dark Woods for various reasons. I invite you to call out names of those who need our prayers...

*Joan G, Darlene C, Joan A's grandson Blair, Glori & Ron K;
Families of Gloria H and Joann S*

One: There are many places in this world where uncertainty reigns. I invite you to lift up names of places in this world that need our prayers...

Come and rest **(come and rest)**

Come and listen **(come and listen)**

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

(Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker) Repeat

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Video

Invitation to Generosity

God is ever faithful and has blessed us with so much. With grateful hearts we offer back to God what we have with love and thanksgiving.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

Lamb of God - Van

*Doxology

(Tune: Old Hundredth)

**Praise God the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us one humanity
to love and set each other free! Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we offer you these gifts. Multiply them so that they
might help build your kingdom on earth and be of service to the
body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

Hymn #401

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

There's a Path

There's a path (**there's a path**)...and it leads us out together
To the wood (**to the wood**)...where the darkness hovers still
We are sent (**we are sent**)...and the Spirit goes before us
God says, "Go (**God says, "Go**)...be my presence in the world."

Postlude

Andante - Martinia

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour

Special Congregational Meeting, 10:30am

Memorial Meeting, 10:45am

Monday, March 9

Finance Meeting, noon

Tuesday, March 10

Quilting, 9:30am

Greeters: Joyce & Bob Zieman

Wednesday, March 11

Bag Lunch, 11:30am

Noon Lenten Service

Thursday, March 12

Divine Intervention, 6pm

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday School, 9:30am

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Counters: Janet Key, Joyce Zieman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You! | Dear Christ Church, Thank you for all your loving prayers, get well calls, and cards. I can't wait until I can be back with all of you at church. Love & God bless all of you, *Judy B*

Noon Lenten Services | Wednesdays, March 11, 18, and 25. If you wish, bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at 11:30am.

TODAY - Special Congregation Meeting | Please join us for a special congregational meeting **TODAY 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.

Your presence is vital. These decisions will shape our financial stewardship and the future direction of our ministry. *James Wick, President, Christ Church Council*

Boiler Repair | Many thanks to **Dick Gaeth and Dean Kothrade** for monitoring our boiler. They come into church every day to make sure the boiler continues to heat the building. We have experienced boiler issues for the past several months, so they have made many stops to oversee that we have continuing heat in the building. Dean has also contacted numerous companies about our situation. They have found someone who seems quite knowledgeable, but is not available until April. Hopefully, we won't have any more severe cold spells, but if it is exceptionally cold on a Sunday, please bring an extra sweater for comfort during worship. The Property Committee wants to ensure we spend money wisely on needed boiler repairs in April. Thanks for understanding.

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.

Sunday School | First through eighth grade students are invited to participate in Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month. We will meet in the corner room on first floor, near the stairway. Sunday School will start at 9:30 and students will be released when church ends, to meet their parents in the Narthex. All are invited to join the fun! Questions? Contact *Michael Key*

Rummage Sale | 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).

One Great Hour of Sharing 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. **Be the light.** Let us share generously and cheerfully as we give to One Great Hour of Sharing on March 15.

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*

March Church Lunch Outing | Tuesday, March 24 at 11:30am | at Pita Palace, 789 W. Layton Avenue, Milwaukee, 414-988-8100. This restaurant has a Mediterranean cuisine. *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 *Jan Naefken* or anyone on the Membership Committee. Looking forward to seeing you there!

April Lunch and Mitchell Park Domes | Wed, April 8, meet at 10am at the Domes

Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study | beginning on **Wed, April 15** at 1pm.



God thunders marvelously with his voice.
 He does great things, which we can't
 comprehend.
 -Job 37:5 WEB

Monthly Activity	January	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$23,809	\$23,809
Expenses	\$21,008	\$21,008
Budgeted Amount	\$15,142	\$15,142
<i>Last week's offering: \$2,086</i>		

Christ Church UCC

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If you should need pastoral support, please contact

Pastor Bob at 440-440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org

