



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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?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.



April

2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Choir 7pm	2  Maundy Thursday 7pm @ Grace Presbyterian	3 Good Friday 7pm @ Bay View United Methodist 	4 Take down Lenten Crosses 9am Holy Saturday Zoom with Mary of Magdala 9:30am
5  Liturgist-Jill U Choir Sunday School Sings Coffee Hour 8:30am BVCC Donations	6	7	8 Mitchell Park Domes 10am Lunch Choir 7pm 	9	10	11
12 Liturgist-Randene Rummage Sale Meeting 10:30am	13 Finance Meeting Noon	14 Quilting 9:30am	15 Bible Study 1pm	16 Handbells 9:30am 	17 Conference Annual Meeting	18 Conference Annual Meeting
19 Liturgist-Doris M Choir Sunday School 9:30am Creation Care	20	21	22 Bible Study 1pm	23 Handbells 9:30am	24	25
26 Liturgist-Andy O Handbells	27	28 Quilting 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	29 Bible Study 1pm Choir 7pm 	30		



Pastor's Letter

Spring is in the air, and the big day is almost here—**Easter Sunday, April 5!** This year promises to be a joyful and meaningful celebration at **Christ Church**, and we would love for you to be part of it.

Come and be part of **a festival celebration of the resurrection**, filled with uplifting music from our musicians and a special offering from the **Children's Choir**. Easter is always the most joyful day of the church year, and we are planning a service that reflects the hope and new life at the heart of the Easter story.

This Easter will be especially meaningful as we also **celebrate the 85th anniversary of our church building**. Together we will give thanks for the many people who have been part of Christ Church's story over the years, while renewing our commitment to carry its ministry into the future.

Even if it has been a while since you've been here, please know that **you are warmly remembered and always welcome**. Easter is a day of hope and new beginnings, and it would mean a lot to have you with us if you are able.

We also hope you'll take a moment to notice a few **new additions to our worship space** this Easter. Beautiful **new Easter banners will be hanging in the sanctuary**, and there will also be a **new picture of Jesus in the chapel**—small reminders of the beauty and inspiration that surround our life together in this place.

And don't come alone! There's still time to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member. On **Palm Sunday**, we'll have printed invitations available that you can share. If you use Facebook, you can also help spread the word by liking and sharing the church's Easter invitation. Let's pack the house!

Before worship, you're invited to gather for **coffee and conversation in the chapel beginning at 8:30 a.m.** It will be a relaxed time to reconnect and greet one another before the service.

Easter worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

I hope you will join us for this joyful day of celebration, gratitude, and new life.

Grace and peace,

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

April 5 Jill Unglaub
April 12 Randene Wick
April 19 Doris Mayeshiba
April 26 Andy Oren

Quilting

Tuesdays, **April 14 and 28**, 9:30AM–Noon

Choir & Handbells

CHOIR

Wednesdays, **April 1, 8 and 29** at 7pm
Singing - Sundays, **April 5 and 19**

HANDBELLS

Thursdays, **April 16 and 23** at 9:30am
Playing - Sunday, **April 26**

Sunday Counters

April 5 Sara Rogers / Mark Pfeifer
April 12 Janet Key / Joyce Zieman
April 19 Danette Volz / Renolle Volz
April 26 Sara Rogers / Jill Unglaub

Greeters

April 5
April 12 Jill Unglaub
April 19 Chuck Terlinden
April 26 Jan Naefken

Coffee Hour

April 5 Jim & Randene Wick
April 12
April 19 Membership Committee
April 26

Finance Meeting

Monday, **April 13** at noon

Council Meeting

Tuesday, **April 28** at 6pm



Easter Sunday - April 5

Worship at 9:30am at Christ Church

Coffee Hour in the Chapel at 8:30–9:20am

Come early Easter Sunday for donuts, rolls, and coffee
BEFORE the worship service.

Note: there will not be coffee hour
after church on Easter.



Maundy Thursday

April 2 at 7pm at Grace Presbyterian Church

Good Friday



April 3 at 7pm at Bay View United Methodist

Holy Saturday

ZOOM with Mary of Magdala on April 4 at 9:30am

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.

April Lunch & Mitchell Park Domes



Wednesday, April 8

Meet at 10am at the Domes, 524 S Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215.

ADMISSION

Adults: \$10.00 | \$9.00 residents
Military (active duty & veterans - ID required): \$6.50
Seniors (60+): \$10.00 | \$6.50 residents
Adults with disabilities: \$6.50

Lunch to follow. Restaurant location to be determined. Please mark your calendar for this event and join your fellow Christ Church family members for an enjoyable day at the Domes.

Sunday School



Sunday School class is held the third Sunday of the month for children in grades 1 through 8. They will be singing in church on **Easter Sunday, April 5**. Upcoming Sunday School class dates are: **April 19 and 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*.

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)



Rummage Sale

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



Christ Church is joining the Bay View Neighborhood Association Rummage Sale.

Please continue to bring your donations and put them in the east end of the Music Room.

Donation guidelines:

"If you wouldn't buy it, don't donate it."

Please, NO electronics, TVs, hazardous materials, broken items, oversized furniture, or pianos (nope, no pianos :)



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Bakery - Randene Wick is in charge of the bake sale at the rummage sale. All proceeds from the bake sale will go to the BVCC. If you're a baker, we need you. Please contact Randene.

Plants - Joan Gaeth is in charge of slips, bulbs, and divided plants at the rummage sale. Interested gardeners and green thumbs, please contact Joan.

Crafts - Jan Naefken is in charge of the craft sale at the rummage sale. If you're crafty, please contact Jan.

Clean plastic bags - Please drop off your clean, dry plastic bags from Walgreens, Walmart, Pick N Save, etc. in the music room. Unused bags will be donated to Value Village or recycled at Pick N Save.

Hangers - The rummage sale needs hangers for the clothes racks. All hangers welcome—plastic, dry cleaners, wood, metal—we are open to all.

Promotion - This is a super time to show off and promote our church! We will be listed on the BVNA website, but please grab a flier to post (coming soon) and tell all of your friends and relatives.

Volunteers - people are our most precious asset. If you are interested, please contact one of the committee chairs listed above OR see Michael or Janet Key OR see Andy or Julie Oren. Many hands make light work.

Additional volunteer opportunities:

Sunday, May 10 after church - set up in Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 15 at 1pm - set up and preparation

Saturday, May 16

7am-1pm - all hands on deck. See Michael Key for shift sign up.

1pm-3pm - clean up - all unsold items will be boxed and transported to Value Village on Layton via personal vehicles.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Why does the UCC include a rainbow in its logo?

People often ask, "Doesn't 'All Are Welcome' include everyone?" We would say, "Of course!" The challenge is that many people in the LGBTQIA+ community hoped that to be true. When they enter churches, they often hear hurtful sermons calling them sinners and implying they need to change who they believe God created them to be to be loved by God. Because of this, many stay away from the church, fearing they will be hurt again.

When we extend a specific welcome, we let them know they are safe to be themselves here. We also assure the increasing number of straight people who wouldn't want to join a church that excludes others that they are welcome here, too.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. Jesus tells us not to hide our lamp under a bushel basket. Unchurched persons may not understand the term "open and affirming." Even if they do, when congregations choose not go public about their extravagant welcome is a red flag to the LGBTQIA+ community.

The UCC logo speaks beyond those already in the church. Given the number of rainbow flags flying around Bay View, including the rainbow logo in our communications would be a statement of solidarity with our community and an open-door invitation to all.

Submitted by Sara Rogers and the ONA Committee

Christ Church Creation Care 101

Sunday, April 19 during Coffee Hour

With Earth Day right around the corner (April 22), we will be introduced to the Creation Care ministry of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ. John Helt co-chairs the Conference Creation Care team and will share with us how he became involved with this work, what some congregations are doing to help save the planet, and how Christ Church might join the effort, making Earth Day more than just a day, but a way of life. We will meet after worship in the coffee hour area downstairs on Sunday, April 19.

Sponsored by the Membership Committee



Creation Care Earth Day Challenge 2026!

from the Wisconsin Conference Creation Care Team

Honor our Planet on Earth Day and Every Day!

"And God looked upon all that God had made, and indeed, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

The Creation Care Team is urging every congregation to take a step to honor and care for creation this spring! Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22, but we don't need to limit our activities to just that day. Down here on the planet, every day is Earth Day!

We have a long list of ideas for personal, church, local, and even global activities to consider. Some are as easy as a one-time special offering, others involve community-level participation. [Here's a link](#) to our suggested list, but feel free to come up with your own ideas.

Here's what we'd like you to do!

1. Choose an activity as a congregation or Green Team to do anytime this spring.
2. Carry out your planned activity.
3. Send us a short article about what you did! Photos and videos would be wonderful.

There are some especially great options through Heifer International's "Caring for the Earth" gifts. We can collectively give one of their larger gifts (like a Community Solar Kit) by sending our donations to the Wisconsin Foundation UCC. Wouldn't it be great for Wisconsin UCC churches to join together to power a village this year!

We look forward to hearing what your church did for Earth Day!

COUNCIL CORNER

An Update on Our Pastoral Search: Building for the Future

Has the search for our next pastor started? The short answer is yes and no. The last three years have been tumultuous, but we are beginning to see a brighter spirit among our Sunday morning worshippers. However, we know there is still some internal work to be done.

In response to the “no”: We have not yet formed an official Search Committee. But that does not mean we are idle.

In response to the “yes”: We are currently in a “discernment phase,” which is the essential groundwork for any successful search. We are exploring three critical questions:

- **Who Are We?** Before we can find the right leader, we have to understand our own identity. We are taking this time to figure out who we are as a congregation today, ensuring we have a healthy foundation to build upon.
- **Why Are We Here?** Do we gather simply for ritual and fellowship, or is there a deeper calling? We are examining what makes us unique from other service organizations and what specific difference we are meant to make in the world.
- **Who is God Calling Us to Become?** This is the most vital question for finding a new pastor. It requires us to set aside personal wishes and discern together where the Spirit is leading our community.

Ways to Join the Conversation:

- **Book Study & Potluck:** Join the Church Council in discussing *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church* by Paul Nixon. We'll meet after worship on April 26, May 3, May 17, and May 24. The church will provide books for \$18 (scholarships available—we want everyone included!).
- **Cottage Meetings:** Throughout April and May, Pastor Bob will host small-group discussions in members' homes to listen to your experiences and hopes for our church.
- **Community Discovery:** This summer, we will form a team to look “beyond our walls” to better understand our neighbors and how we can reach them with love.

By the end of the summer, we will hold a leadership retreat to turn everything we've learned into goals for the next 2-3 years. All of this work is necessary to complete our **Local Church Profile**, which is what we use to introduce ourselves to potential pastoral candidates.

We aren't just waiting for a search to start; we are paving the road that will lead the right person to us.



STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Monthly Activity	February	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$ 8,780	\$ 32,853
Expenses	\$ 17,957	\$ 39,213
Budgeted Amount	\$ 18,052	\$ 36,103



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.



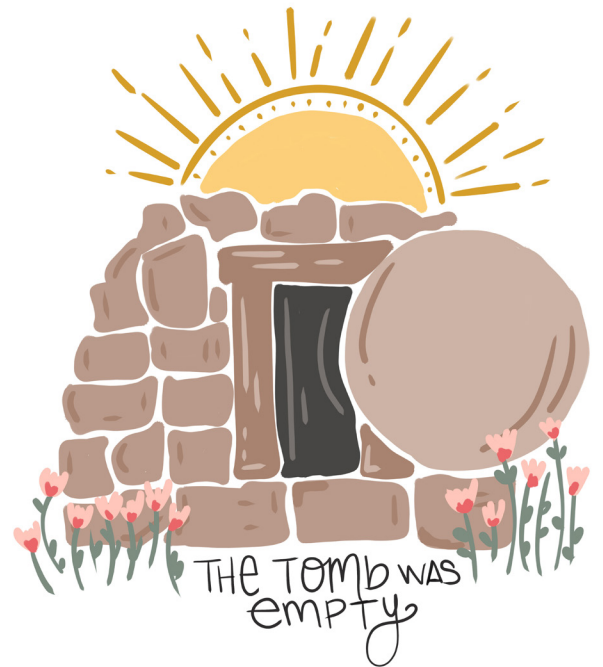


Tree of Life

As you ascend the stairs at the Lenox Street entrance, the “Tree of Life” is visible to all who pass this way. On the leaves you will see messages to honor a church member who has passed away, a baptism, anniversary celebrations, etc.

You will notice that additional leaves are available. The Memorial Committee is offering the option for church members/families to consider honoring a special occasion for \$100 per leaf plus the cost of the engraving at 45 cents per letter. (The cost of the leaf will be used by the Memorial Committee for future projects.) Forms are available in the church office and also on the table near the “Tree of Life.” After returning the completed form to the church office, a member of the Memorial Committee will contact you to review your request.

The Memorial Committee: Julie Oren,
Judy Borkowicz, Kathy Schroeder,
Sue Steinhauer, Randene Wick



Hiding In Plain Sight - Part 3



Each month we'll be looking at one of the nine men from Christ Church who were killed in action during World War II. November 20, 1943 saw the U.S. Marine Corp invasion of Tarawa in the central Pacific Ocean. Over a thousand Marines lost their lives in this struggle and among them was 19-year-old Clarence Bernard Belter. Belter was a Private First Class in Co. A, 2nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. These amphibious tractors, known as Amtracs, carried men and supplies to shore. Belter most likely died on the first day of the battle and like many others, was buried in a mass grave. After the war these graves were disinterred, but Belter's remains were never positively identified. He is remembered on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

There is some confusion regarding Belter's parents. The Milwaukee Country War Memorial Center lists them as George and Gladys, who lived at 367 E. Beecher Street and lived respectively until 1985 and 1980 and are buried at Saint Adalbert Cemetery in Milwaukee. However, the Find-a-Grave website lists them as Edward and Gladys with Edward having passed in 1932 with Gladys living until 1998. They are buried in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery in Milwaukee.

WORD SCRAMBLE

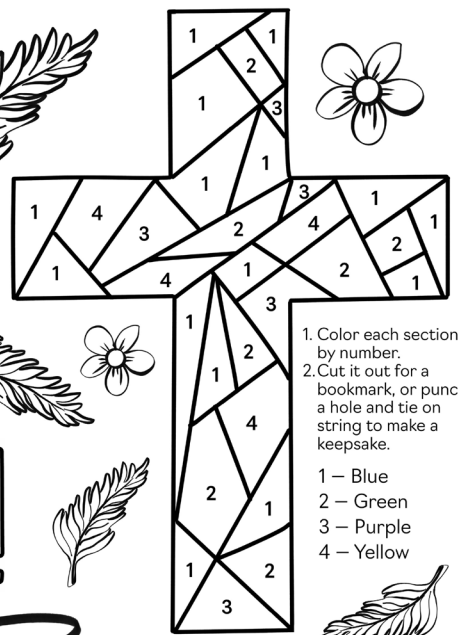
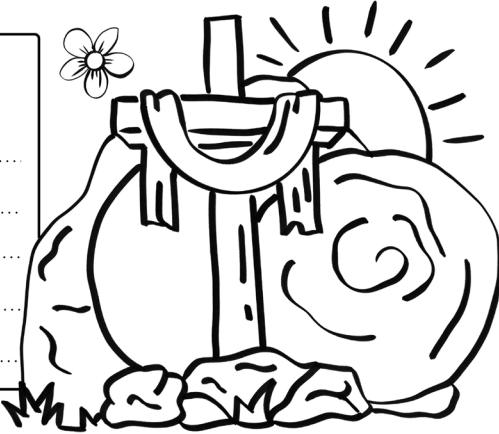
EJSSU

SCOSR

VELO

ATEESR

MOBT

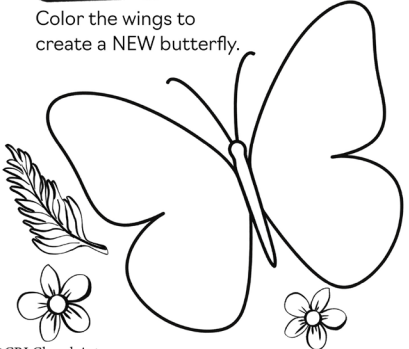


1. Color each section by number.
 2. Cut it out for a bookmark, or punch a hole and tie on string to make a keepsake.
- 1 - Blue
 - 2 - Green
 - 3 - Purple
 - 4 - Yellow

JESUS IS ALIVE!

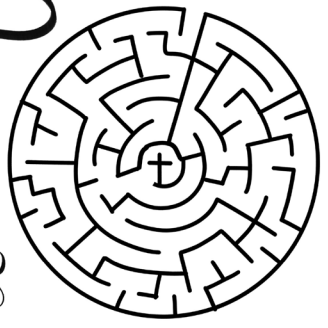
**HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN,
JUST AS HE SAID. MATTHEW 28:6, NIV**

Color the wings to create a NEW butterfly.



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

FIND THE WORDS
EASTER LOVE
JESUS CROSS
RISEN
FORGIVENESS



How many palm leaves can you find?
.....

*Take my life
and let it be
consecrated,
Lord, to Thee*





APRIL *birthdays*

Happy birthday blessings to YOU!

David Porn - 1

Joey Rivas - 3

Chris Whiting - 7

Peggy Carew - 12

Sara Hillmert - 16

Corrigan Wick - 16

Loretta Senderhauf - 22

Sue Steinhauer - 25

Dean Kothrade - 27

Isabella Wick Moreira - 27

CELEBRATE THE EMPTY TOMB.

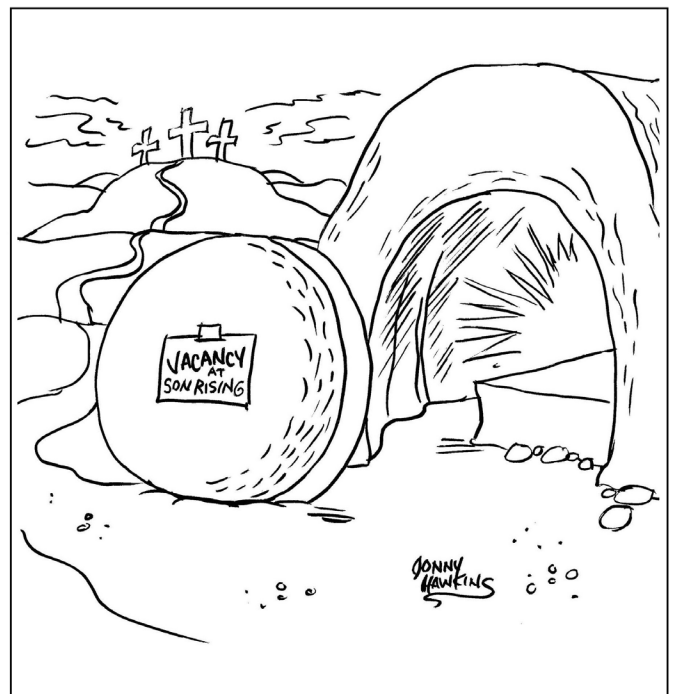
One Great Hour of Sharing A Heartfelt Thank You

Because of your faithfulness to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, our church is able to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable around the world. Thank you for your generous gift of \$452! Your generosity brings hope to the weary and acts as a beacon of light in times of uncertainty. Thank you for making a difference.

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 Borkowicz



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

Place
Stamp
Here

THE CHRONICLES

APRIL 2026



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!