

# Christ Church



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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## Isaiah 40:31

But those who  
hope in the Lord  
will **RENEW** their strength.

They will soar on wings  
like eagles; they will run and not  
grow weary, they will walk and  
not be faint.

# JULY

2026

| SUN  | MON | TUES | WED   | THUR  | FRI                               | SAT  |
|--|-----|------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
|    |     |      | 1   | 2   | 3                                 | 4<br> |
| 5<br>Liturgist-Randee<br>BVCC Donations<br><br><b>FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED</b>  | 6   | 7    | 8   | 9<br><br>Welcome to Our Church<br>Membership Meeting 9:30am | 10                                | 11   |
| 12<br>Liturgist-Chuck T<br>Assemble bag lunches for laundromat outreach<br> | 13  | 14   | 15<br>Hunger Task Force 9-11am<br> | 16  | 17                                | 18   |
| 19<br>Liturgist-Andy O<br>Christmas in July Coffee Hour<br>                 | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23  | 24                                | 25   |
| 26<br>Guest Pastor<br>Liturgist-Dean K   | 27  | 28   | 29  | 30  | 31<br>Last YouthWorks Team leaves |  |

# Pastor's Letter



A Grateful, Honest Salute

July 4, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence. It is a milestone worthy of gratitude, remembrance, and prayer. I am deeply thankful to this country—for the freedoms we cherish, for the people who have sacrificed on behalf of others, and for the many ways this nation has offered hope and opportunity. As a veteran of the United States Navy, I carry a particular sense of gratitude for those who serve and have served, and for the ideals that call us to something larger than ourselves.

At the same time, my salute to the nation is not blind allegiance. Love of country, at its best, is not the refusal to see clearly. The Declaration of Independence gave voice to a powerful and enduring claim: that all are created equal and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights. Yet we know that, throughout our history, we have not always lived up to that ideal. We have too often failed our neighbors within our own borders, and we have not always been our best selves in our dealings with other nations.

For me, patriotism and repentance are not enemies. In fact, honest love requires both gratitude and truth-telling. I can celebrate the courage, generosity, creativity, and resilience that have marked the American story, while also lamenting the suffering caused when we have excluded, exploited, ignored, or harmed others. I can give thanks for the blessings I have received, while confessing that I have benefited from systems and choices that have not blessed everyone equally.

As a Christian, I hear Jesus calling us beyond self-congratulation and toward faithful service. In Matthew 25, Jesus identifies himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the imprisoned, and those most easily overlooked. The measure of our faithfulness is not how loudly we praise ourselves, but how faithfully we care for “the least of these.” That call reaches into our personal lives, our congregations, our communities, and even the way our nation relates to the wider world.

So, this July, I will celebrate—but not with my eyes closed. I will give thanks for a nation that has aspired to liberty and justice, and I will pray that we become more fully what we have claimed to be. I will honor those who have served, while remembering that true strength is shown not only in power, but in mercy. I will rejoice whenever we welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, defend the vulnerable, and seek peace. When we are a blessing to other nations, I have much to celebrate.



And when we fall short, I have much to lament. I have much to confess. Not as one standing outside the nation in judgment, but as one who belongs to it, has served it, and shares responsibility for its future. My prayer for America at 250 is that gratitude would make us humble, humility would make us honest, and honesty would lead us toward justice, compassion, and peace.

May God bless our nation—not with pride that blinds us, but with grace that reforms us. May God bless us so that we may be a blessing to others.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Bob*

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



Membership Meeting Thurs, July 9 at 9:30am

No Finance Meeting in July

No Quilting in July

No Choir & Handbells in July and August

## Liturgists

|         |                 |
|---------|-----------------|
| July 5  | Randene Wick    |
| July 12 | Chuck Terlinden |
| July 19 | Andy Oren       |
| July 26 | Doris Mayshiba  |

## Sunday Counters

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | Sarah R / Mark P      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday | Janet K / Joyce Z     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | Danette V / Renolle V |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | Peggy C / Jill U      |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | Debbie H / Doris M    |

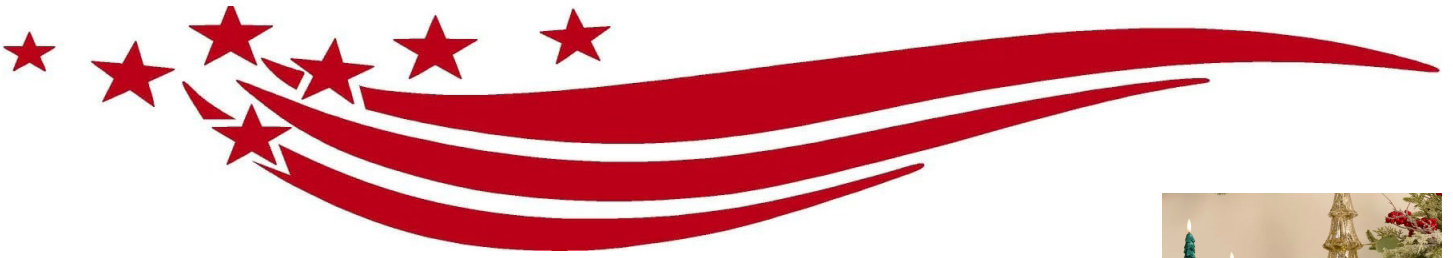
## Greeters

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| July 5  | Karen Nack        |
| July 12 | Dick & Joan Gaeth |
| July 19 | _____             |
| July 26 | Jill Unglaub      |

## Coffee Hour

|         |                      |
|---------|----------------------|
| July 5  | _____                |
| July 12 | _____                |
| July 19 | Membership Committee |
| July 26 | Chuck Terlinden      |





## Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School classes in July or August. Watch for information about Rally Day in September. For more information, contact *Michael Key* or *Pastor Bob*.



## School Supplies

We will once again be collecting school supplies beginning in August to donate to local grade schools. There will be a bin in the chapel to place your donations. Please have your donations in **by August 30th**. Needed items include **loose leaf paper, Kleenex, rulers, pink erasers, scissors, black or blue pens, glue sticks or 8oz bottles of glue, backpacks, #2 pencils, pocket folders in assorted colors, colored pencils, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, plastic pencil box, 70-page spiral notebooks, 8 count washable markers, and 24 count crayons.** We appreciate you considering donating to assist children in our community. If you have any questions, contact a member of the Social Concerns Committee.

Thanks,  
*Peggy Carew, Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan Nafken, Sara Rogers, Vicki Teal, Randene Wick*



## Christmas in July

Christmas doesn't have to be only once a year. Join us for worship on July 19, and we'll be celebrating Christmas in July! We will sing familiar carols and hear the story of Jesus' birth. Invite a friend to come along as well. The more the merrier!

## 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 individually wrapped single serving snacks, hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, shampoo), laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



# Christmas in



## COUNCIL CORNER

I distinctly remember feeling something special the first time I walked in the doors of Christ Church back in 1984. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but it was a good feeling. It was warm and welcoming. Everyone seemed to give so freely of their time and talent. They gathered together to seek spiritual growth through prayer and faith. They worshiped together. They smiled, laughed, cried and, dare I say, they even seemed to be having fun together. They had a spirit of generosity that was extraordinary. I wanted to be a part of that contagious Christian spirit!

Do you also feel that spirit of Christian love and generosity? It's kind of like the spirit of Christmas—a time of celebration and generosity. So, let's celebrate "Christmas in July!"

Pastor Bob is planning a "Christmas in July" service on **July 19th** so please plan on attending this special service. One lucky person will receive a Christmas gift that Sunday, and it just might be YOU.

We will celebrate the season of gift-giving the entire month of July by your special gift to Christ Church. I challenge every one of us to make a special "Christmas in July offering" by July 31st to help offset our upcoming capital expenditures. Our goal is \$5,000!

Any size gift you offer will be appreciated, but gifts of \$250 will especially be appreciated since we are also celebrating America's 250th anniversary. Look for the Christmas tree in the chapel as it tracks our progress toward our \$5,000 goal!

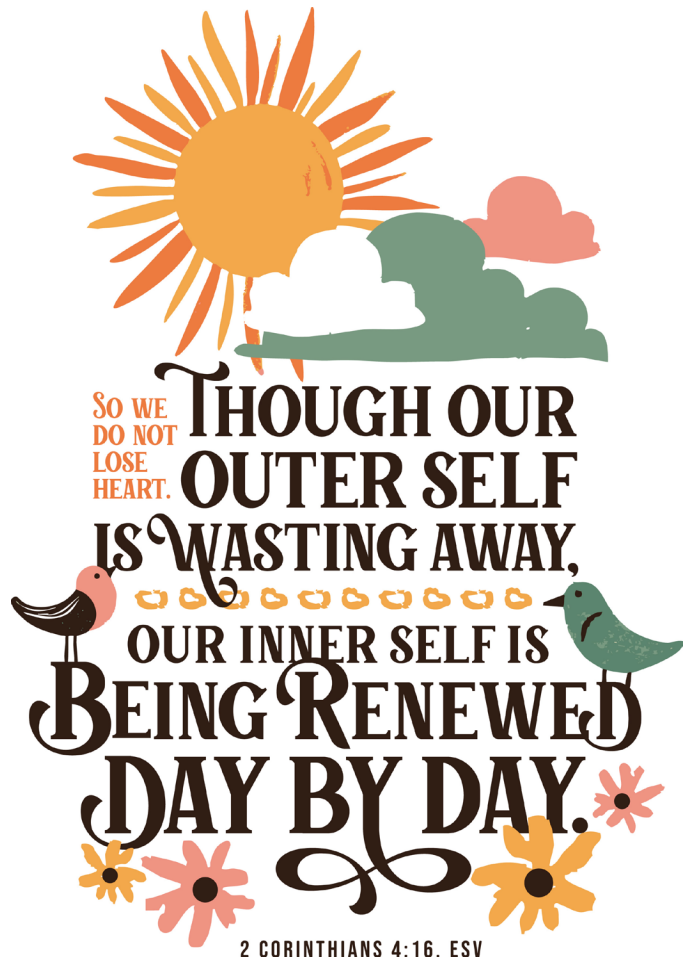
Please note: When offering your Christmas gift, please place it in its own envelope, marked "My Christmas In July Offering", separate from your weekly offering envelope.

May the spirit of Christmas inspire generous hearts and joyful giving.

Merry Christmas!  
Pam Kothrade

## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

| Monthly Activity             | May       | YTD       |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Contributions & Other Income | \$ 34,528 | \$ 90,623 |
| Expenses                     | \$ 18,697 | \$ 99,920 |
| Budgeted Amount              | \$ 18,051 | \$ 90,258 |



2 CORINTHIANS 4:16, ESV

## “Let’s Get Started!”

Genesis 2:15 says, “The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it.” That verse reminds us that as people of faith one of our primary responsibilities is to care for our planet. Recently church member John Helt met with our Property Committee to brainstorm ideas of how we as the church can be more diligent in accepting those responsibilities. John serves on our Conference Care Creation committee and in the past, he has set up displays at church highlighting their work.



We all know that ancient Chinese proverb which states, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Well, one simple step we can take is to move away from using Styrofoam drink cups during Coffee Hour and instead begin using our regular porcelain coffee cups. This will mean more work for whoever signs up for Coffee Hour as we’ll need to wash those cups by hand. Maybe one more person can help out on Sunday morning by doing just that?

We think this is a good place to begin our journey of being more mindful of how we can make a difference and do a better job caring for this beautiful planet we call home.

*The Property Committee*



## Creation Care Corner

Hello,

My name is Blue Bell Trek. I come from a large family named Trek. I am blue, and I have a bell that helps me to alert people on the Oak Leaf trail that I am coming up behind them and hope to pass them on the left. Recently, I found a nice parking space at Christ Church. You will find me parked there every now and then. It is a nice, secure, out of the way place, right by the door off Lenox street. I get locked to the rack there so that I will be there and ready to go when my rider comes out of that door and wants to go home after an hour or two of inspiration, celebration and fellowship on the other side of that door. I used to get parked inside that door, but I kind of blocked the elevator, and I couldn’t really get a good look at much of what goes on in the building anyway. It was awkward. I also used to get tied up to the gas pipes by the meters or the handrailings on the other side of the building, which was awkward in a different way. Anyhow, I am pleased to be so neatly parked where I am now. There are two more spaces where I am locked up, and if you pulled the rack away from the wall there could be three more spaces for bikes. That’s six bikes, if my limited math is right. My hope is that someday I won’t be the only bike at this nice, new rack at Christ Church. When you pass by, stop and say hello.



Your friend,  
Blue Bell



Dear Christ Church,

On behalf of Bay View Community Center and the families we serve, thank you for your generous donation of \$409.00 received on 05/19/2026. Your support helps us continue providing vital programs and services to Bay View and surrounding communities.

Food insecurity remains a significant challenge for many households in the area. Recent surveys of residents in the zip codes we serve (53207, 53215, 53221, and 53235) indicate that approximately 14.04% of residents — nearly 19,744 individuals — experience food insecurity.

Because of generous supporters like you, our Food Pantry is able to provide groceries to hundreds of households and individuals in our community. Your contribution helps ensure families have reliable access to nutritious food and needed resources. Your donation means more than just food; it brings hope and stability to households in our community facing tough times.

Beyond the Food Pantry, Bay View Community Center offers additional programs that support community well-being. Our playroom provides a welcoming space for children while families access services, and our senior programs offer activities and connections for older adults in the neighborhood. We also provide access to our commercial kitchen for local entrepreneurs working to launch culinary businesses in the community.

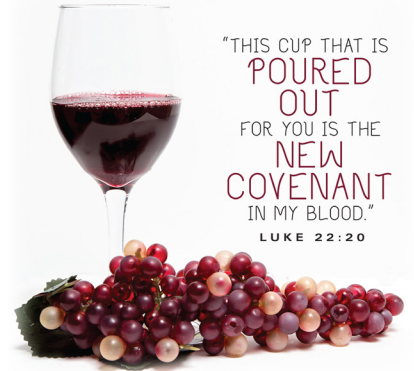
We are deeply grateful for your donation to Bay View Community Center. Together, we are truly making a difference.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

*Thank you so much!*

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



"THIS CUP THAT IS  
POURED  
OUT  
FOR YOU IS THE  
NEW  
COVENANT  
IN MY BLOOD."  
LUKE 22:20

Thanks to the  
extravagant generosity  
of Renolle Volz,  
the church has  
purchased a brand new  
lawn mower to keep our  
lawn in good shape.  
Thank you  
from the bottom  
of our hearts.

**Love  
One  
Another**



Happy birthday blessings to YOU!

- Rachelle Volz - 5
- Debbie Zasada - 11
- Aidan Vail - 13
- Bob Polachowski - 19
- Renolle Volz - 22
- Mallorie Lang - 25



**Birth  
Announcement**

Congratulations & Welcome!  
Terryl and Janet Dietert's new granddaughter,  
Blythe Hawkins Dietert-Munoz,  
was born on June 18th.  
She is 7lbs 14oz and 20.5".  
May God bless this new little one!



## Hiding in Plain Sight Part 6

Each month we're focusing on one of the nine men from Christ Church who were killed in action during World War II. This month we recognize Charles Michaels Jr. who died in Distroff, France on November 14, 1944. Michaels was a private first class of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division and had worked at Nordberg Manufacturing before enlisting in the army. He had lived at 3244 S. Austin Street and was 24 years old at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife, Bernice, and a 2-year-old daughter, Judith Ann. He is buried in Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint-Avold, France.

*Bible Reading Plan*

# THE GOSPEL IN 45 DAYS

**WEEK 1**  
**Introduction and Early Ministry**  
 Day 1: Matthew 1-2      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 2: Luke 1-2      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 3: Matthew 3; Mark 1      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 4: John 1      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 5: Matthew 4; Luke 3      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 6: John 2-3      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 7: Matthew 5      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 2**  
**Jesus' Early Ministry Continues**  
 Day 8: Matthew 6      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 9: Matthew 7      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 10: John 4      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 11: Mark 2; Luke 4      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 12: John 5      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 13: Matthew 8; Mark 3      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 14: Luke 5      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

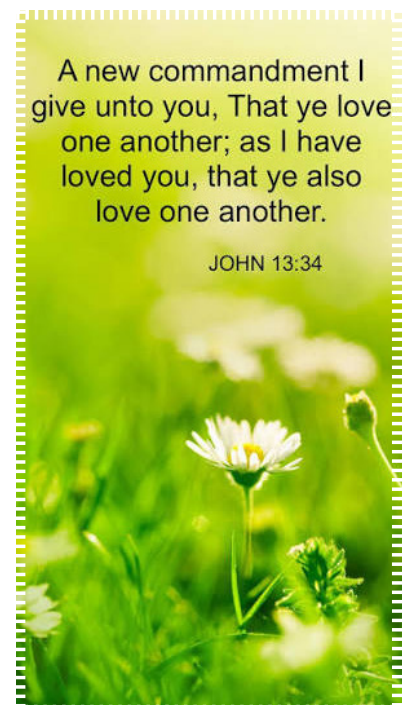
**WEEK 3**  
**Teachings and Miracles**  
 Day 15: Matthew 9; Mark 4      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 16: Luke 6      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 17: Matthew 10      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 18: Mark 5; Luke 7      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 19: Matthew 11; John 6      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 20: Matthew 12; Mark 6      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 21: Luke 8      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 4**  
**Further Teachings and Challenges**  
 Day 22: Matthew 13; John 7      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 23: Matthew 14; Mark 7      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 24: Luke 9; John 8      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 25: Matthew 15; Mark 8      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 26: John 9-10      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 27: Luke 10-11      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 28: Matthew 16; Mark 9      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 5**  
**Toward the Passion**  
 Day 29: Matthew 17; Luke 12      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 30: Matthew 18; John 11      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 31: Luke 13-14      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 32: Matthew 19; Mark 10      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 33: Luke 15      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 34: John 12; Matthew 20      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 35: Mark 11; Luke 16      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 6**  
**Path to the Cross**  
 Day 36: Luke 17-18; John 13      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 37: Matthew 21; Mark 12      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 38: Luke 19; John 14      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 39: Matthew 22; Mark 13      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 40: Luke 20; John 15-16      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 41: Matthew 23; Mark 14      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 42: Luke 21-22; John 17      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 7**  
**The Passion and Resurrection**  
 Day 43: Matthew 24-25; John 18      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 44: Matthew 26; Mark 15; John 19      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day 45: Matthew 27-28; Mark 16; Luke 23-24; John 20-21      Date: \_\_\_\_\_





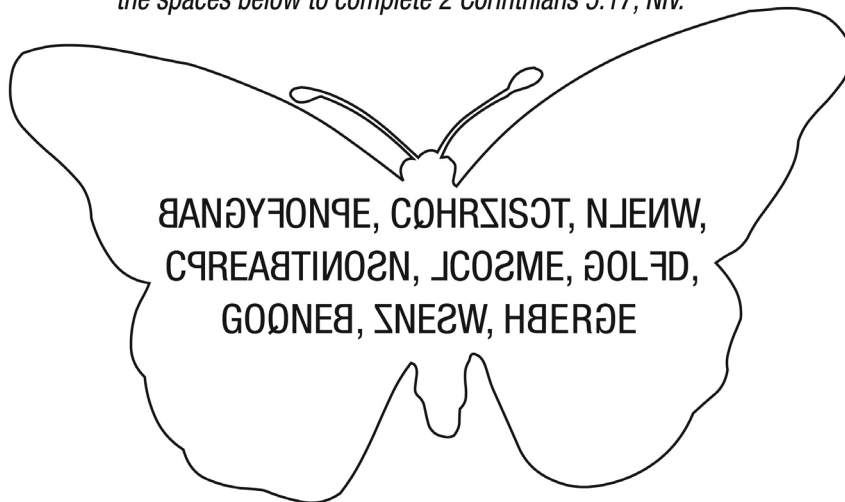
# Transformation**POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,  
God transforms us from old to new.



*Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*



Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_,

the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_,

the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

# CHRIST CHURCH

United Church of Christ

915 East Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53207

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## THE CHRONICLES JULY 2026



### GET CONNECTED

Visit our website [www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)

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Like us on facebook [www.facebook.com/christchurchbayview](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbayview)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and watch our worship services [www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI/streams](https://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](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)

**DONATE NOW**

**Thank You!**