THE CHRONICLES

OCTOBER 2026

Christ Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAYS

9:30AM

CHRIST CHURCH
915 E Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53187
414-481-3530
office@uccmke.org
www.uccmke.org

IN THIS ISSUE

CALENDAR
PASTOR'S LETTER
A COMMUNITY SING
TERRYL DIETERT
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TRICK OR TREATING
COUNCIL CORNER
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THANK YOUS

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

JOHN 8:12



Bible Quiz

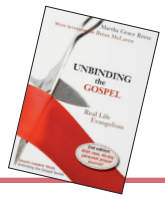
James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
D. The one who rewards those who are generous



Answer: C (See James 1:17)

HELLO october 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			30 Choir 7pm	1	2	3
4 Liturgist-Chuck T Choir Neighbors in Need BVCC Donations	5 Book Study 1pm	6	7 Choir 7pm 	8	9 "A Community Sing" 7pm 	10
11 Liturgist-Unity D Choir Town Hall Meeting 	12 Book Study 1pm	13 Quilting 9:30am 	14	15 Handbells 9:30am Finance Meeting 11am	16	17
18 Liturgist-Julie O Singular They Workshop	19 Book Study 1pm Council Meeting 6pm	20	21	22 Handbells 9:30am 	23	24
25 Liturgist-Jill U Handbells	26 Book Study 1pm 	27 Quilting 9:30am	28	29	30	31 Trick or Treating 5–8pm 

LITURGISTS

Oct 4	Chuck Terlinden
Oct 11	Unity DuMez
Oct 18	Julie Oren
Oct 25	Jill Unglaub

CHOIR & HANDBELLS

CHOIR

Wednesdays, **Sept 30, Oct 7** at 7pm
Singing - Sundays, **Oct 4 and 11**

HANDBELLS

Thursdays, **Oct 15 and 22** at 9:30am
Playing - Sunday, **Oct 25**

SUNDAY COUNTERS

1st Sunday	Mark Pfeifer
2nd Sunday	Janet Key / Joyce Zieman
3rd Sunday	Danette Volz / Renolle Volz
4th Sunday	Peggy Carew / Jill Unglaub
5th Sunday	Debbie Hansen / Doris Mayeshiba

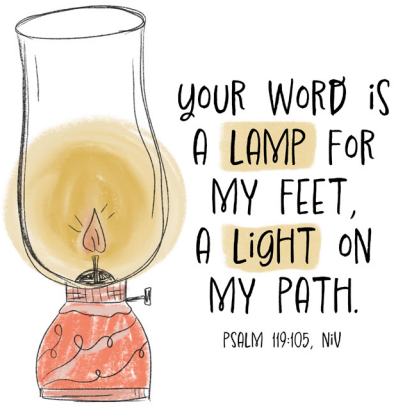
GREETERS

Oct 4	Peggy Carew
Oct 11	Dick & Joan Gaeth
Oct 18	_____
Oct 25	Jill Unglaub

COFFEE HOUR

Oct 4	Janet & Michael Key
Oct 11	Vicki Teal
Oct 18	ONA Committee
Oct 25	Bob & Mary Gross



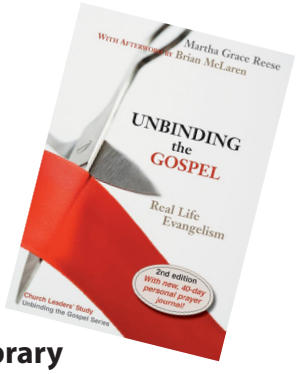


FINANCE MEETING

Thurs, Oct 15 at 11am

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, Oct 19 at 6pm



BOOK STUDY

Mondays at 1pm in the parlor/library

"A COMMUNITY SING!"

Friday, Oct 9 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

QUILTING

Tuesday, Oct 13 & 27, 9:30am–noon



Please make sure to attend the

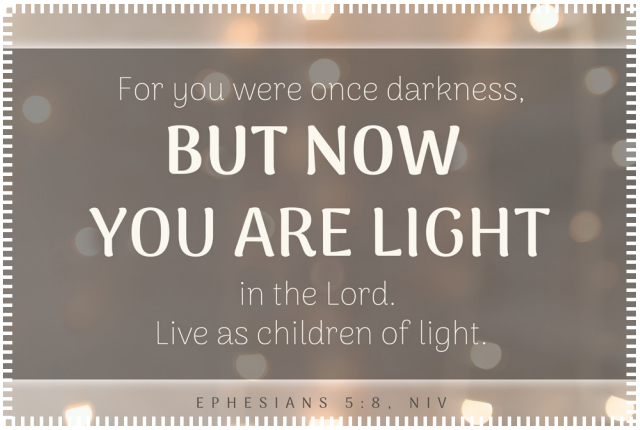
TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, Oct 11 after worship

&

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, Nov 1 after worship



BVCC 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





BE THE LIGHT

LAUNDRY MINISTRY

There has been an amazing response to the laundry ministry. There are bins of hygiene products that have been donated as well as quarters and laundry supplies. Through the project, it is apparent there is a continuing need for the laundry ministry. (The bagged lunches will not be continued at this time.)

Sept 1–Nov 22 (every other Sunday) there will be a need for two Soap Hosts. Please sign up to volunteer for one or more Sundays using the SignUp Genius link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAEAB2CA2FAC25-45588418-dilaundry#/

DIVINE INTERVENTION UPDATE

Based on data from November to March, it confirmed that DI just doesn't have the capacity for overnight warming any longer, and yet the Divine Intervention mission of supporting and serving those experiencing homelessness is still at the center of DI's ministry. In the coming months, there will be a continued focus on the needs of the homeless and exploring other ways to support these individuals. More information will be shared as the new focus evolves.



WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN?

One of the most fun events our church participated in last year was joining our neighborhood in distributing candy during the annual Halloween trick or treating. It was so much fun seeing all the kids in their costumes. We will be doing this again in conjunction with the neighborhood trick or treat on **Saturday, October 31 from 5–8pm**. We're looking for folks to help distribute candy and if we have enough people, we can take turns going inside to warm up. It was rather cool last year!

So, please see the sign-up sheet on the Lenox bulletin board and let us know if you can help…and of course you being in costume would be all the better!

Last year we decided to do this almost at the last minute, but you all responded to our call for candy in overwhelming fashion! We had so much candy left over, it was part of our Sunday coffee hour for weeks to come. This year, while we're still asking for your help with donating candy, we're stressing moderation! One bag from each person who wants to donate will be more than enough. This is another great opportunity to be visible to our neighbors outside of our building. Any questions, see Julie Oren. Hope you can join us!

THANKSGIVING BAGS

We will be delivering Thanksgiving bags to the 9 members on our Share and Care list. Donations would be appreciated and can be placed in the Pine Room **by November 8**. Suggestions include *Thanksgiving decorations, kitchen towels, candy, notepads, crackers, cookies, seasonal napkins or anything that might brighten someone's day*. We are also looking for volunteers to deliver the bags. Please contact a Social Concerns member if you can assist. The bags will be available November 15 for you to deliver prior to the holiday.
Thanks, *Social Concerns Committee: Peggy Carew, Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan Naefken, Sara Rogers, Vicki Teal, Randene Wick*



HAT AND MITTEN COLLECTION

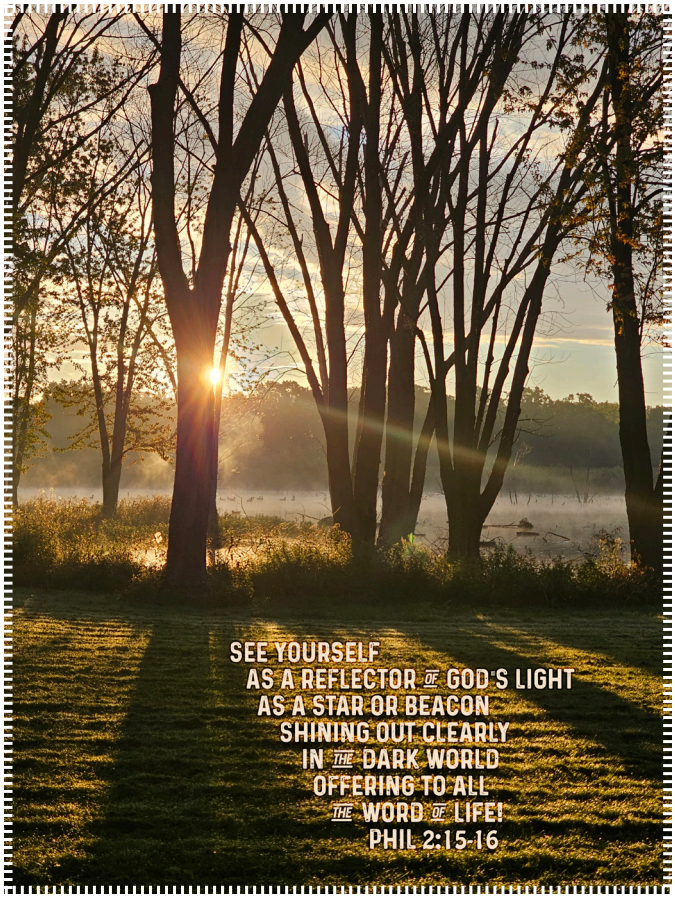


We will be collecting hats, scarves and mittens to donate to Milwaukee Public schools in December. We wanted to give our knitters and crocheters ample time. For those of us not as crafty, feel free to purchase items. Further details will be available in the December Chronicles. Thanks,
Social Concerns Committee

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for **December 6** as we host our Ladies' Brunch after church. Look for more information and sign-up sheets in November.
Social Concerns Committee





Pastor's Letter

Friends,

I'm writing to encourage you to participate in a workshop sponsored by our ONA Team.

Please join us on **Sunday, October 18**, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

What follows is a description of the workshop, "The Singular They," and reviews from other congregations.

"THE SINGULAR THEY"

An INTRODUCTION

to Understanding Gender & Gender Identity in Today's World

Designed to help adults better understand the rapidly evolving spectrum of GENDER, this workshop uses the UCC-commissioned Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education Curriculum for Adults, as well as interviews with members of the Trans community, to explore biological sex, orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pronouns. The program explains terms such as cis / trans / non-binary; introduces participants to the history of the fluidity of sexuality; explores identity and Pride Flags; and so much more! The workshop offers a casual, safe space for adults to ask tough questions, and provides tools and information to better understand, and advocate, for all of God's people.

Jeff Rabe, Director of Christian Education at First Congregational UCC in Madison, WI, shares his 30+ years of Children & Youth Ministry in small town/rural and large city churches, along with two decades as an OWL Facilitator, to lead a workshop focused on a topic laying heavily on many hearts today. *What can the Church do to support those most vulnerable? How can the Church respond to Christ's call to serve?*

"Jeff's workshop on understanding gender identity was a great next step for us as we continue to learn how to better welcome everyone into our space. We had a very diverse group in attendance and Jeff's easy humor and approachability provided the relaxed atmosphere we needed to discuss some challenging topics. The information we learned has sparked new and deepening conversation toward our understanding of gender identity and the LGBTQIA+ community." ~Sarah Pundt - Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry, Salem UCC, Verona

"The Singular They" was a blessing to many in our community. Jeff presented relevant, timely, and vital information to keep our community connected. In a time of hate and division, we need this now more than ever so that we can prioritize relationships and people in our lives. We shared this workshop with the greater community, not just within the walls of our church. We gained tools such as vocabulary to help us relate better to all people in our lives." ~Rev. Cathy Christman - First UMC, Baraboo, WI

Recognizing God's love for all creation and respecting the dignity of every human being, it is important to understand respectful use of pronouns. We covered the history, science, and language of human sexuality. There were opportunities to discuss in small groups and opportunities to ask questions. Attendees were pleased with Jeff's presentation and thankful for his outreach to our area. I would encourage other churches and organizations to offer this workshop to aid in understanding and respect for one another. ~Rev. Diane L. Cayemberg - Bethel United Church of Christ, Elkhart Lake WI

I hope you can join us,

Pastor Bob



COUNCIL CORNER

There are so many things in life that everyone assumes that everyone knows how to do, but nobody does them because nobody actually knows how to do them. Ya know what I mean?

One of those things is greeting new people at church. It sounds easy enough—there is a person in the hall or in the pew that doesn't look familiar, and you want to say something, but you suddenly feel uncertain. We want to grow Christ Church, we want to get more people into the building, and we want to keep people coming. I am developing the skills to greet people graciously, and to be truly welcoming, instead of sticking with my friends on Sunday morning. Read on…there might be a strategy or two that you might want to try.

"Every new person walking through the doors on Sunday morning is stewardship from God. They are image bearers in need of grace, coming to hear the gospel. They are our responsibility, so we must labor to be kind, wise, and Jesus-focused every Sunday."*

1. Walk up to them, look them in the eye, shake their hand, and introduce yourself with a smile. Had it not been for someone taking a risk and introducing themselves to you, you might never have returned to Christ Church. Be that someone for someone new.

2. Learn to make purposeful small talk. We all hate small talk, but it is necessary. Ask some questions, such as, "How did you hear about our church?" "Are you from this area?" if not, then "Where did you move from?" If you can't muster the courage, take someone with you. Twice the introductions are twice as good!

3. Tell them briefly about yourself and the church. Be honest and precise, but don't linger on your story—your goal is to hear their story.

4. Invite them to something such as coffee hour, the community sing, trick or treating. Explain what it is, what to expect, and why you attend. Then take responsibility for shepherding—walk them down, meet them, introduce them to someone if you think there is a connection to be made. Everyone wants to be cared for. Care enough to invite them in.

5. Help them find what they need, and give them time to get settled. Five minutes might be enough—we don't want them to feel like hostages. As you near the end of the conversation, find a natural break and shake hands again, and welcome them to the church.

All of us have room to grow in this department (except maybe Carol and Tom Dohoney, who did all of these things so well when we first came to Christ Church in 1997). Be a "there you are person" rather than a "here I am person". What we say to new people will either give credence to our message about Jesus or take it away. If it makes us a little uncomfortable, well, that's okay. Jesus endured the cross, we can endure an introduction.

Janet Key

*taken from Jason K. Allen, blog "Things of the Sort". Midwestern Baptist Seminary, 2015.

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	$ 7,124	$ 127,013
Expenses	$ 17,859	$ 158,874
Budgeted Amount	$ 18,051	$ 144,413

NEIGHBORS IN NEED



supports justice and compassion ministries. This offering is tasked to help the church advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. When you give to Neighbors in Need, you make sure the United Church of Christ continues to be a leader for justice. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice projects across the church, and one-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries.

This offering is transformative because it calls us to collective justice—not isolated programs and pitches, but a genuine ecosystem of people who work collaboratively across issues and geographies to bring about social change. Our gifts also represent our faith in God's ability to multiply what we have. Jesus' ministry was full of abundance, but not because he started with overwhelming resources. Rather, what was offered in community became enough to meet the needs of the day.

October 4 is this year's Neighbors In Need Sunday. We hope you will give to this worthy mission. *Pam Kothrade, Stewardship*



NEW CARPET

The day has finally arrived! The new carpet installation is scheduled for the **week of October 19**. Access to the second floor of the church will be limited so please plan accordingly. The basement will still be available for weekday meetings. See Julie Oren if you have questions.

BAY VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDRAISER

The event on September 3rd was well attended by members of the community. Through the generosity of those who attended, $53,500 was raised to support the Emergency Food Pantry, family resource center, and community programming for individuals in the neighborhood.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT PART 9

Each month we'll be looking at one of the nine men from Christ Church who were killed in action during World War II. This month we focus on **Richard MacPhetridge.** Richard was the son of Robert and Martha MacPhetridge. He worked at Gronik Brothers Company before enlisting. MacPhetridge was a private in the 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on February 4, 1945 near Foy, Bastogne, France and was interred in U.S. National Cemetery in Ft. Snelling, Minnesota on April 11, 1949.



CREATION CARE CORNER



Dear Christ Church Creation Caregivers & Chroniclers,

As you may remember, a few months ago, I shared with you the lonely photo of me tied up alone at the Christ Church bicycle corral. To my spoked surprise and two-wheeled joy, I came to worship on a summer Sunday morning and found a mate, already tied up and waiting for me! This new friend was red, and since this was around the time of Independence Day celebrations, I thought, "How very nearly patriotic! Now all we need is a white bike to join us for a red, white and blue bike rack display!"

I was also reminded that when you start out with one, and one more joins in, the numbers are doubled and it is cause for great rejoicing. I know that one or two bicycles on the road instead of one or gas-burning vehicles will not solve the planetary climate crisis, just as using glass communion cups again instead of single-use plastic ones won't threaten the fossil fuel industry. But even a big journey begins with the smallest of steps. Or, in my case, a few revolutions of our wheels.

Blue Bell, the Bike

p.s. I am still waiting to learn the name of our "Red Rider" rackmate.

THANK YOU!

Dear Christ Church,
Thank you so much for your generous support & partnership in our summer DI Laundry ministry! The lunches you provided and the quarters collected helped us care for our neighbors in a meaningful and practical way. Thank you for being a part of this ministry and helping make it possible!
With appreciation,
Pastor Trish and Nicole

COMMUNION SERVERS

Helping Pastor Bob serve communion is a meaningful way to share in the ministry of our church and help create a meaningful worship experience for our congregation. Thank you to **Sue Cribb, Andy Oren, Julie Oren, Dick and Joan Gaeth** for offering to serve Communion. If anyone else is interested in being on our Communion Team, please see Pam Kothrade.

THANK YOU!

Fall is here! The colors of the Season are evident in our sanctuary. Thank you to **Julie, Joyce, Randene, and Joan** for enhancing the beauty of our Sunday morning worship service!!!





OCTOBER *birthdays*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

Nancy Jonokuchi - 2

Sara Rogers - 6

Richard Tremarello - 9

Gilbert Gwinn - 12

Andrew Vail - 13

Todd Hansen - 15

Brian O'Brien - 16

Brooke O'Brien - 16

Marilyn Rasch - 16

Susan Brewer - 19

Debbie Hansen - 19

Paul Mayeshiba - 20

Dick Gaeth - 26

Mary Ann Mowery - 30

Mary Veit -30

Nancy Kaye -31





THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our school supply collection. We also received donations from the community in our outdoor collection box. We collected a total of 44 backpacks, 11 glue sticks, 9 packs of pens, 19 packs of pencils, 28 packs of colored markers, 29 packs of crayons, 55 spiral notebooks, 19 bottles of glue, 11 packs of colored pencils, 18 erasers, 5 scissors, 5 rulers, 1 highlighter, 9 pencil sharpeners, 11 pencil boxes, 4 packs of loose-leaf paper, 43 folders, 4 binders, and 4 boxes of Kleenex. These will be donated to a Milwaukee Public School in great need of school supplies. We are blessed to have such a caring congregation helping children in our community.

With grateful hearts,
The Social Concerns Committee

thank you

Dear Christ Church Congregation,

On behalf of everyone at Benjamin Franklin School, I want to extend our sincere gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of school supplies. The backpacks, tissues, notebooks, pencil pouches, and other items you provided have already begun making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.

Your kindness ensures that many of our children come to school prepared, confident, and ready to learn. For some of our students, having access to brand new supplies is not something they take for granted, and your donation helps remove barriers so they can focus on what matters most, their education and growth.

Beyond the supplies themselves, your support sends a powerful message to our students and families that their community cares about them and is invested in their success.

We are so grateful for your generosity. Thank you for helping us create a positive and supportive learning environment for all of our students :)

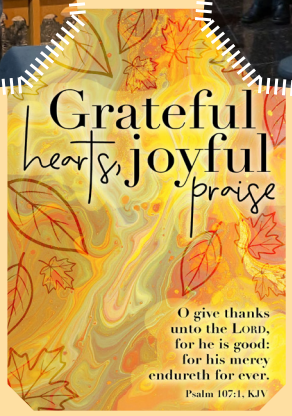
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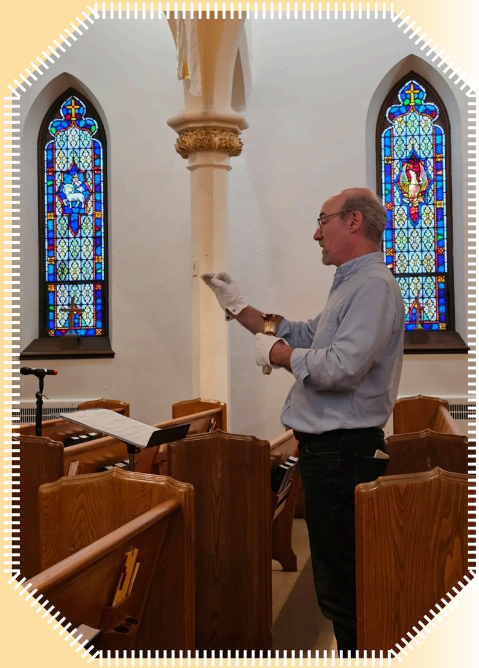
Benjamin Franklin School











On behalf of
our entire congregation,
we would like to thank

our Music Director/Pianist/Organist

Terryl Dietert,

for providing beautiful and inspirational music for the past 4 years. We are extremely grateful for his time and talent and for sharing his incredible gift of music with our church family. Terryl's gift beautifully transformed our quiet prayers into a joyful song, and for that, we are eternally thankful. He is looking forward to spending more time with his new grandchildren in both Florida and Colorado. His last day is October 4th.

Thank you, Terryl!
We will miss you!



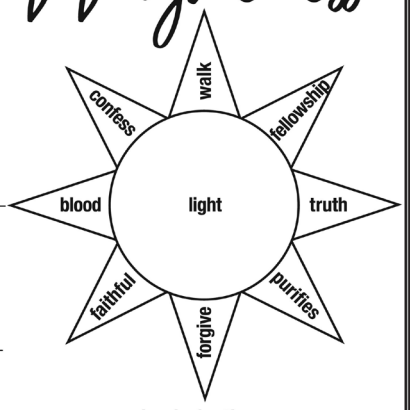


The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

_____

Directions:
Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.



But if we _____ in the _____ , as he is in the _____,

we have _____ with one another, and the _____

of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be

without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.

If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will

_____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

HOPE HOUSE

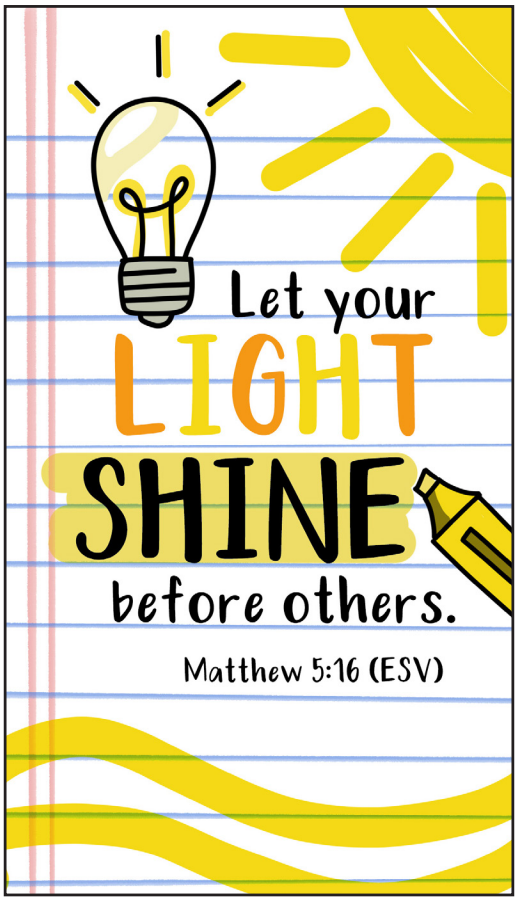
The tour of Hope House was informative. From the location on Orchard Street, they provide a network of services. They provide services for transitional shelter, rental assistance, long-term supportive housing, and education and health programming. During 2025, they served 8,874 people, which included 218 families experiencing or on the brink of homelessness with 94% of families retaining their housing at the end of the programming support.

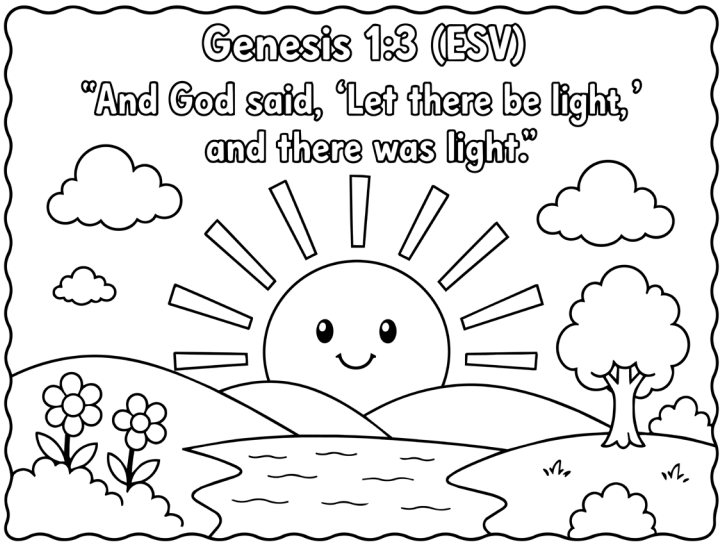
Hope House networks with other agencies and non-profit organizations in the community provide these services:

- Angel of Hope Clinic (Ascension) located in Hope House provides health care on a sliding scale
- Nourish MKE: food pantry located in Hope House provides food three days per week
- MATC: this partnership offers tutoring and GED preparation to help individuals gain sills and credentials needed for a more secure future.
- Orchard Street location provides space for 10 families who are homeless
- Wisconsin Preservation Housing Corporation, Mercy Housing, Ogden Housing Projects, Rent First Protective Program, and Supportive Housing Case Management Program all support housing for low-income Milwaukeeans.
- St. Catherine's of Hope Residence provides housing for women and families
- Youth Education - support the youth at the shelter and nearby community with enrichment activities all year long. School supplies are available to youth at the shelter so they are prepared when they go to school.

Funding for Hope House comes from many sources: 60% government funding and the remaining 40% is provided by United Way, corporations, and individuals. For the coming year, they will need $650,000 (half their budget) to continue the services they provide.

The best way to access assistance for someone facing homelessness is to call 211.





CHRIST CHURCH
United Church of Christ
915 East Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53187

Place Stamp Here

THE CHRONICLES
OCTOBER 2026



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Or, go to the church website and click on the donate button at www.uccmke.org/donate

DONATE NOW

Thank You!