



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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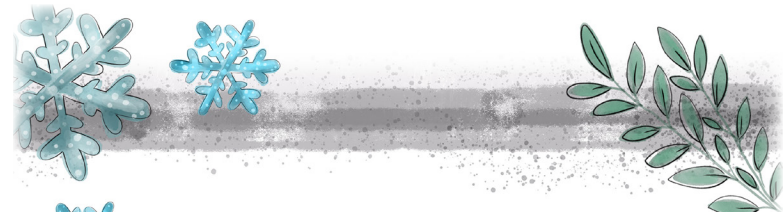
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS

COUNCIL CORNER

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

THANK YOUS

BIRTHDAYS



"COME NOW,
LET US SETTLE
THE MATTER."

says the Lord.

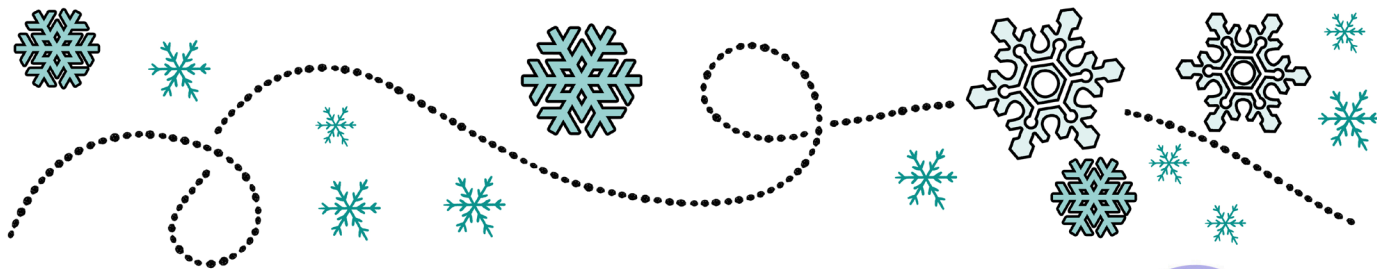
"THOUGH YOUR SINS ARE
LIKE SCARLET, THEY SHALL
BE AS WHITE AS SNOW;
THOUGH THEY ARE RED
AS CRIMSON, THEY SHALL
BE LIKE WOOL."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV



JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Rev John Helt Liturgist-Chuck T BVCC Donations	5  Pastor Bob Gross starts!	6	7 Hunger Task Force, 9am-noon Choir 7pm	8	9	10
11 Rev. Bob Gross Liturgist-Doris M Choir Taking Down the Greens 	12 Finance Meeting Noon	13 Quilting 9:30am Membership Meeting 1pm 	14 Choir 7pm	15 Handbells 9:30am Divine Intervention 6pm	16	17
18 Liturgist-Jill U Choir Endowment Meeting	19	20	21	22 Handbells 9:30am 	23	24
25 Liturgist-Julie O Handbells	26	27 Quilting 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	28 Choir 7pm 	29	30	31



Liturgists

Jan 4 Chuck T
Jan 11 Doris M
Jan 18 Jill U
Jan 25 Julie O



Quilting

Tuesdays, **Jan 13 and 27**, 9:30AM–Noon

Choir & Handbells

CHOIR

Wednesdays, **Jan 7, 14, and 28** at 7pm
Singing - Sundays, **Jan 11 and 18**

HANDBELLS

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

Sunday Counters

First Sunday Debbie H, Mark P
Second Sunday Janet K, Joyce Z
Third Sunday Danette V / Renolle V
Fourth Sunday Sara R / Jill U
Fifth Sunday Debbie H, Doris M

Greeters

Jan 4 Sara R / Madeline N
Jan 11 _____
Jan 18 Ola Zyskiewicz & grandkids
Jan 25 Julie O

Coffee Hour

Jan 4 Michael & Janet K
Jan 11 _____
Jan 18 _____
Jan 25 _____

Finance Meeting

Monday, **Jan 12** at noon

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, **Jan 13** at 1pm

Endowment Meeting

Sunday, **Jan 18** after church

Council Meeting

Tuesday, **Jan 27** at 6pm



Taking Down the Greens

Please come help us take down the greens after church on **Jan 11**. We appreciate your helpful hands!



Starting on January 5th we will have a new Interim Minister here at Christ Church. We are very happy that Pastor Bob will be among us. Here you'll find a brief biography and following that is Pastor Bob's responses to some questions that we asked him. Enjoy getting to know our new interim pastor!

Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, is a member of St. John's UCC, in Merton and has recently completed 16 months as an Intentional Interim Minister at First Congregational UCC in Janesville. He has served in five consecutive interims in the last 5 years and as a settled pastor in congregations in WI, OH, and NY, where he has served in various UCC Association, Conference, National capacities along with community leadership roles. Bob currently serves as the Chair of the Regional Support Team, for the Southern Region, of the Conference Committee on Ministry. He has served three terms on the Conference Board of Directors as Assistant Secretary and a member of the Governance Committee. Bob is a member and former Abbot of the Order of Corpus Christi, (OCC), a community of clergy and laity committed to prayer, study and the Eucharist. Bob and his wife Mary have two adult children who live with them. He enjoys time with his family, walks in the community, and sewing quilt tops for charity.

What have you learned from being an interim minister?

I've learned that I'm very comfortable with change and process, that congregations are often far more resilient than they think they are, that Interim Ministry is the work of bridge building, and you don't have the comfort of sitting on either shore, you must stand in the current.

What is a word that best describes you? Adaptable

What brings you joy?

Seeing the life changing work of God in the lives of my kids, people, and congregations, seeing youth get excited about God and church.

What kind of music do you like?

I appreciate a wide range of musical genres from Broadway (my current favorites are *Les Miserables*, *Wicked*, and *Hadestown*), to some '60's folk/country/rock, groups like The Grateful Dead, The Band, CSNY, and church music, hymns (*All Are Welcome*, *Forward Through the Ages*, *God of Grace and God of Glory*), choruses (John

Bell and those from Iona like *Take O Take Me As I Am* are some favorites), and some not so contemporary Christian music (Steven Curtis Chapman, Amy Grant, and Sandy Patty).

Any hobbies? Favorite books? Movies?

My hobby is sewing quilt tops. I have sewn for more than 20 charity.

I enjoy reading. Most often that means listening to an audiobook as I commute to and from the church. I have enjoyed murder mysteries. I am currently reading through William Kent Krueger's *Cork O'Connor* series. I also enjoy historical fiction like Ken Follett's *Kingsbridge* and *Century* series. Among the memoirs I've read in the last year are *Educated* by Tara Westover, *Between Two Kingdoms* by Suleika Jouad, and *Lovely One* by Katanji Brown Jackson. I slip a few Young Adult titles in there for something different, *Fourth Wing*, *Percy Jackson*, and others. That's probably more than you were looking for. If I were to list all time favorites, I would say, in no particular order, Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* (because it was a real page turner), *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kreuger (because it took me on a journey), and Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass* (listening to the author tell her stories, connecting the natural world and science, and articulating a strong argument for increased earth care).

My all-time favorite is *Star Wars* (Episode 4, the first released).

What are your favorite shoes? Merrell Jungle Mocs.

Pineapple on Pizza? Absolutely not!

Coffee or Tea? Decaf

Favorite Food Group? Ice Cream

Car? 2021 Nissan Rogue, purchased in 2025 after I hit a deer with my 2017 Ford Escape.

Sports fan? Green Bay Packers



Calling all Crafters

If you enjoy creating baby blankets and/or prayer shawls, we have an opportunity for you. We would like to have a container filled with various types of blankets and shawls to give to any babies, children, or adults who are baptized. Any questions please ask *Joan Gaeth*



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.



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."

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)



COUNCIL CORNER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During 2025, there were several opportunities for Christian Education. Pastor Tara led Bible studies on interpreting the Bible and the Lord's prayer. During Lent, there were midweek ecumenical lunches and services, and we were invited to attend several Amazing Faiths Dialogues. Jim Wick has led the monthly Fermenting the Faith get-togethers. For Advent, we provided a daily devotional booklet, *A Season of Peace*. We are looking forward to working with our new interim minister in 2026!

Is there a book or study that has meant a lot to you? We would like to be supportive of each other on our faith journeys.

I have heard that it takes 30 days to start a new habit. If you have used the daily Christmas devotions, you are already at 28 days. Will you continue?

I leave you with a hymn for the new year.
Doris Mayeshiba, Christian Education

Another Year is Dawning

Author: Frances Ridley Havergal 1836-1879
To be sung to the tune *Aurelia*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest. | 2. Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days. |
| 3. Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be,
On Earth or else in Heaven,
Another year for Thee! | |



STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

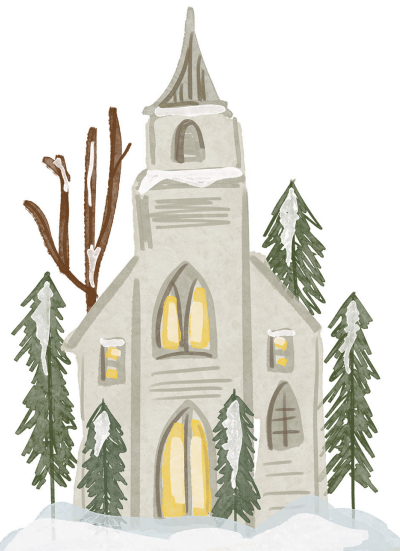
Monthly Activity	November	YTD
Contributions	\$11,820	\$97,501
Other Income	\$299	\$80,484
Total Income	\$12,119	\$177,985
Expenses	\$30,845	\$199,435
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$163,533

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



Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him
with joyful songs.

Psalms 100:2, NIV



Endowment Grants Funded

The Endowment Committee met and reviewed all the grant requests. With over \$8000 available for grants it was heartwarming to be able to provide support for so many community and church related mission projects. Grants were provided for:

- United Church Camps Inc.
- Arts and Science Literacy Camp located at Tippecanoe Presbyterian
- Divine Intervention homeless program at Tippecanoe Presbyterian
- Hope House homeless shelter for women and children
- Bay View Community Center,
- Advent Brunch at Christ Church,
- DIVO utilities at Christ Church
- Social Concerns Committee and Membership Committee for ongoing projects to support our congregation and the community
- A speaker for our continued education on Open and Affirming
- Bay View Gallery Night in May to support the Arts and Science Literacy Camp
- Stewardship Campaign donation

In the coming months there will be an opportunity to learn more about some of these organizations when a representative from selected organizations will speak during a Mission Moment in the worship service.

Submitted by the Endowment Committee:
Mary Ann Mowery, Tom Dohoney, Jill Unglaub, Joan Gaeth, Randene Wick



JANUARY

birthdays

Happy birthday blessings to YOU!

Kim O'Brien - 10

John Whiting - 14

Katelyn Beiley - 22

Michael Key - 22

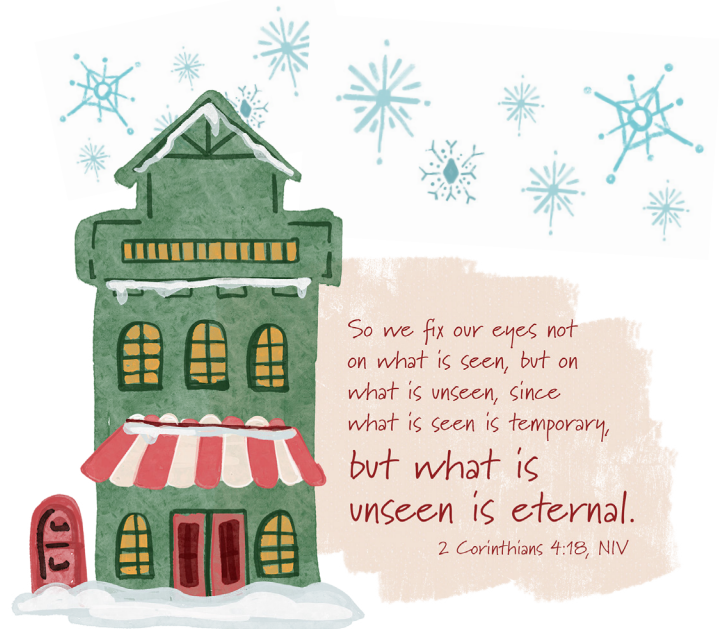
Evangeline Tremarello -22

Bo Blazavier - 24

James Wick - 24

Kenneth Miller - 25

Dennis Boretsky - 27



So we fix our eyes not
on what is seen, but on
what is unseen, since
what is seen is temporary,
but what is
unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18, NIV

Dear
Christ Church,
Thank you for always
remembering our mom
throughout the year and on those
special holidays.

Leone Krueger's Family

And thank you to Leone's Family
for the special donation to
Christ Church!

THANK
you!

To
be on your Share
and Care list is a real
honor, and we appreciate all of
the thoughts that went into putting
the Thanksgiving Bag together. The
best part was sharing a visit with old
friends. It is a wonderful mission of
Christ Church people.

Thank you,
Gloria Konkel

Dear
Christ Church,
I wish to thank the
church for the beautiful
Thanksgiving bag of "goodies"
that I received. I also had a very
delightful visit with Joan. A
blessed Holiday Season,

Gloria Henke

A big THANKS to all who contributed to our
Christmas present donations for the Milwaukee
Rescue Mission. The gifts have been delivered,
and the staff was so thankful for our donation. We
donated 13 board games, 9 Lego sets, 10 craft kits, 2
puzzles, 2 playdough kits, 8 card games, 6 cosmetic
kits, 10 bath sponges, 1 football, 2 soccer balls, 3
coloring books, 3 packs of crayon/markers, 4 action
figures, 1 baby doll, 2 truck sets, 4 blankets, 7
pajamas, 8 Amazon gift cards, and 2 hat and mitten
sets. Your generosity will make the holidays brighter
for others in our community.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,
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.

*Loretta
Senderhauf* called
to say, "Thank you so much
for the lovely gift bag. I really
liked the apple pie and all the other
goodies. I also want to thank everyone
for the beautiful Christmas Card. Thank
you for thinking of me. It is so nice to
be remembered when you can't be at
church. Merry Christmas, everyone!
I'm wishing you health and
happiness and a whole lot
of laughs!"



We wanted to thank everyone who helped with
planning, contributed food, and assisted the day
of the Advent Brunch. Special thanks to our
kitchen staff of Dean Kothrade, Mark Pfeifer, and
Bob Polachowski. It was a lovely time of fellowship
with our guest speaker highlighting the meaning
of Advent, and a lovely song provided by Nancy
Charles, accompanied by Pam Kothrade. We offer
our heartfelt thanks to everyone for making this
event possible!

Your Social Concerns Committee



Hi,
I received
my wonderful gift
bag of goodies, and what a
surprise! Thanks to all of you.
What a large supply of treats
and everything I like. Might be
enough to last till Christmas.

Thank you,
Marian Witter



?? ?

Bible Quiz

? ??

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?

- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre



Answer: A (See Ezra 1:1-4.)



"He's today's greeter."

"Who Am I?"

Some Old Testament books are named after prophets. Discover the names of the prophets below. Use the clues to write the names on the lines. Arrange the circled letters on the bottom blanks to describe what a prophet is.

1. I was called to preach to the people of Ninevah, but I ran from God instead. *My book is number 32 in the Bible.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. *My book is number 37.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. *My book is number 28.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. *It is book 23.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

5. I had dreams and visions. *My book is 27.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

6. I was often in danger because of my predictions. I angered officials. *My book is 24.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

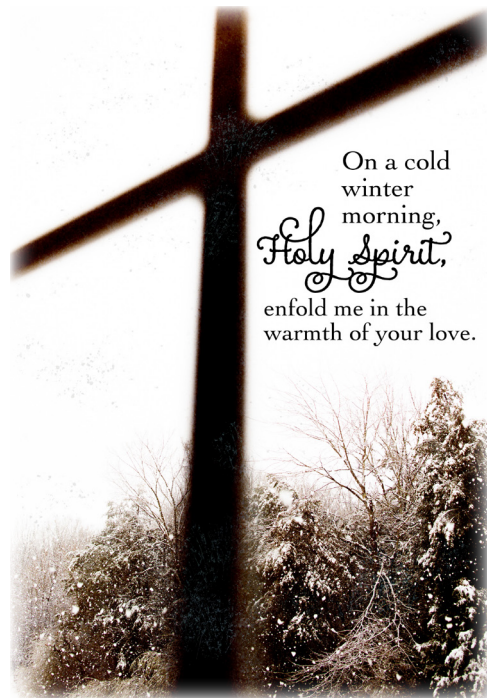
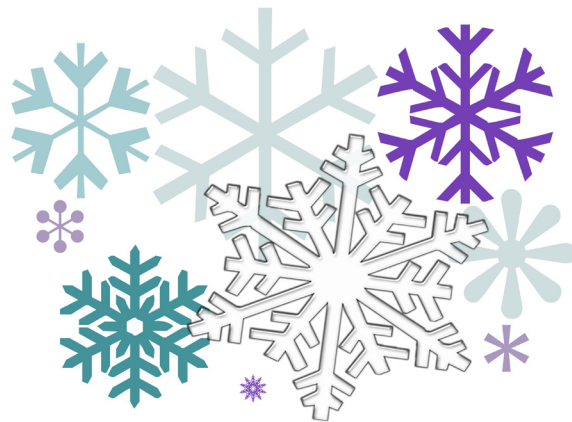
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. *My book is 30.*

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

8. *My book is 26* and contains descriptions of strange visions.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

Prophets are _ _ _ _ _ .



On a cold
winter
morning,
Holy Spirit,
enfold me in the
warmth of your love.

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel.
Messengers.

CHRIST CHURCH

United Church of Christ

915 East Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53207

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THE CHRONICLES January 2025



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