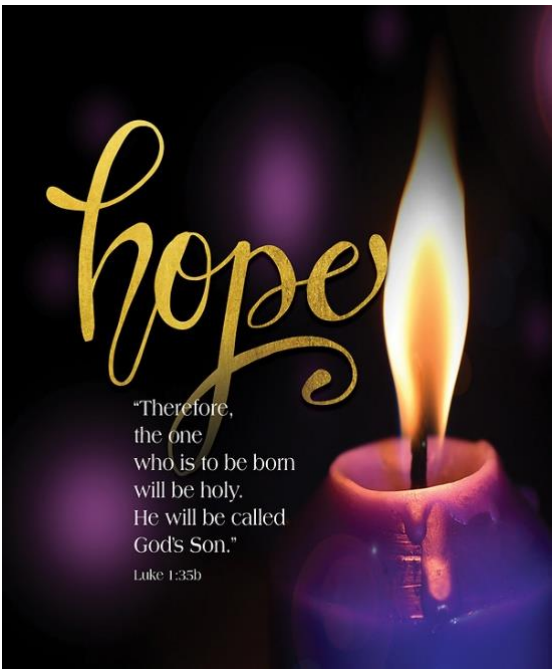
Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



November 29, 2026

The First Sunday of Advent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross
Choir Director: Gary Aubry
Musician: Tristan Eggener
Tech Team: Paul Mayeshiba, Richard Tremarello
Liturgist: Julie Oren

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*

GATHERING MUSIC *Overworld* Kōji Kondō

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Chorale* Anton Bruckner

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: Lift your voices in praise to the Composer of our lives.
All: We sing for hope!
One: Blend your tune in harmony with all people.
All: We sing for hope!
One: Hang your note on the music staff of all creation.
All: We sing for hope!
One: May this light bring hope to those feeling hopeless.
All: We sing for hope!

*WE ALL SING *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **#154**

*OPENING PRAYER

One: Christ of many names, we come to you today needing the hope you promise. Come to us, abide with us, and help us to rejoice even in the midst of uncertainty. We bring all of our misgivings, disappointments, and regrets to you in this silence…

A moment of quiet reflection.

Let the music of hope fill and heal our hearts. Help us free ourselves from the chains of regret. Help our rejoicing lead to action on behalf of the hopeless. We pray this in the name of the Coming Christ, who forgives and uplifts us with melodies of grace.

All: Amen.

*THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

*WE ALL SING *Prepare the Way of the Lord* **#174**

Prepare the way of the Lord,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

GIFT OF MUSIC *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Handbell Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11: 1-5

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.
The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.
He will delight in fearing the Lord.
He won't judge by appearances,
nor decide by hearsay.
He will judge the needy with righteousness,
and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.
He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth;
by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.
Righteousness will be the belt around his hips,
and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11: 6-9

The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.
The cow and the bear will graze.
Their young will lie down together,
and a lion will eat straw like an ox.
A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.
They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.
The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord,
just as the water covers the sea.

SERMON "Hope: Rejoice! Rejoice!" Pastor Bob

*WE ALL SING *All Earth is Hopeful*, vs. 1-3 **#163**

*STATEMENT OF FAITH Steve Garnaas-Holmes

One: Gracious God, Creator of all things, you are still creating.

All: Receive our deepest longings with tenderness, and nourish them, that we may plead for your coming in hope.

One: Gentle Christ, you who have come among us in love, you are still coming.

All: Open our hearts, that we may prepare for you with lives of love.

One: Spirit of Life, you shone in the darkness, and still you shine.

All: Shine in us, that we may proclaim your coming in lives of joy and justice,

One: Incarnate God, you entered into Mary, and she bore you into the world.

All: Bless us, that we may participate in your coming with deep and life-giving peace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

The Local Church Profile Writing Team

The person God is preparing to be our next pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALLING FOR OUR BEST

One: Our offering this season will be in two forms: we will offer our resources as we usually do. The ushers will come down the aisle to receive your offering, you may use the QR code in the bulletin, or go to the church website. We will also offer each other our reflections. We are not only the carolers, we are "living carols" our very selves. We each have messages of "good news" that need to be sung, or at least spoken. This is also our offering: our encouragement to each other and the world.

So, I invite you now to share how you would end this sentence: "I hope for a world where _____" or, if you prefer, simply share what words or phrases or ideas have stood out for you today. It's okay if you'd rather just listen.

OFFERTORY *Sonata #1* Tristan Eggener

*WE ALL SING *Doxology* tune: *Tallis' Canon*

Praise God, who deep within us sings,
a song of hope for unseen things,
'til every creature feels its worth,
and justice reigns in all the earth. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray.

All: We give thanks to you, O God, for your sustaining presence and abundant grace. Receive now these gifts we bring to you out of your generous provision in our lives. May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine, relieve the oppressed in times of trouble, and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*WE ALL SING *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **#180**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Jupiter Chorale* Gustov Holst

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Come to the Party!

Sunday School's Christmas Program
December 13 during service
See you there!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 7pm

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THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Coffee Hour - Cristal Ramirez
Christmas Gift donations DUE
Hanging the Greens after worship service
Sunday School Christmas Program practice

Thursday, Dec 3
Choir, 7pm

Friday, Dec 4
Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner Gathering, 6m

NEXT SUNDAY
Advent Brunch
Endowment Grants DUE
Sunday School Christmas Program practice

Greeters: Nancy Kaye

Counters: Debbie Hansen, Doris Mayeshiba

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ Church Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner Gathering | Fri, Dec 4 at 6pm
Joe's K-Ranch, 4840 S Whitnall Ave, Cudahy, WI | *Everyone is welcome!*
Let's gather as a church family to enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship, and friendship as we celebrate the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons together. We have scheduled this gathering before the busiest days leading up to Christmas, giving everyone an opportunity to relax, reconnect, and enjoy time with those of us that are part of the Christ Church faith community.

The gathering will take place in the lower level of Joe's K-Ranch, which is accessible by stairs only.

Because the restaurant is expecting several large groups that evening, we may have a limited menu of five or six selected dinner entrées. More information about the menu will be shared as it becomes available.

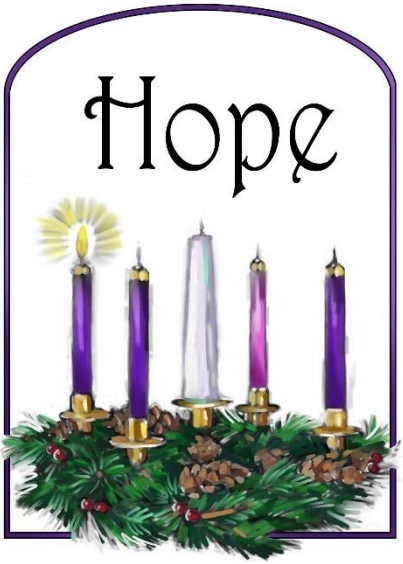
We hope you'll join us for this special opportunity to celebrate the season and strengthen the friendships that make Christ Church such a welcoming community. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Lenox St bulletin board.
Jim Wick

Endowment Grants | Applications are due **by December 6**. Please ask any member of the Endowment committee if you have questions: *Tom D, Joan G, Sarah R, Jackie B, Randene W*

Advent Brunch | Sunday, December 6 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall
Join us for brunch as we pause for reflection during a busy holiday season. There will be time for us to gather and socialize while eating a variety of foods and desserts. Our speaker, Mary Gross, wife of Pastor Bob, will speak on the topic: " Loving Your Neighbor by Being a Catalyst for Change." She will share how churches dream boldly and try new things in partnership with others in local communities. Through a Catalyst Grant which is available from the Wisconsin Conference UCC, there are many ways our congregation can enrich the lives of others in our community.

We look forward to your participation and as always guests are welcome. A sign-up sheet to attend is on the Lenox Street bulletin board and donations toward the meal are welcome. A separate sheet is posted for salad and dessert donations. All are welcome, including trans and non-binary people. Please sign up **by Sunday, November 29**. *Social Concerns Committee: Peggy C, Debbie H, Mary Ann M, Jan N, Sara R, Vicki T, Randene*

Hat and Mitten Collection | We will be collecting hats and mittens to donate to local schools this winter. Handmade or purchased items are greatly appreciated. You can place your donations on the tree in the chapel beginning the end of November. We will be collecting items **until December 27**. Thanks for helping keep the children of our community warm this winter.
Your Social Concerns Committee



Monthly Activity	October	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	$23,349	$166,420
Expenses	$16,496	$181,837
Budgeted Amount	$18,051	$180,516
Last week's offering: $498		



Christ Church UCC
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Instagram: instagram.com/christ_church_uccmke
Livestream: youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI

If you should need pastoral support, please contact **Pastor Bob** at 440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org