

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Teryl Dietert

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Andy 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*

For your Reflection

"To share your weakness is to make yourself vulnerable; to make yourself vulnerable is to show your strength." ~ Criss Jami

Prelude

The Banquet - Franck

Welcome & Announcements

Solo

There's a Path

Introduction

Solo Reprise

There's a Path

There's a path (**there's a path**)...though it winds its way through darkness
We would choose (**we would choose**)...to avoid it if we could
We awake (**we awake**)...to an unexpected calling
God says, "Come (**God says, "Come**)...there are gifts in the Dark Wood"

Unison Prayer

Trusted Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives. Help us to empty ourselves with every breath. Make room in us so that you might take up residence in the very marrow of our bones. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

*Opening Hymn

O Love, How Deep, How Broad

Hymn #244

*Litany of Confession and Assurance

One: For filling up our lives with little room for You,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: For worry that outlasts trust,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: For choosing being right over being in relationship,

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

Silent prayers...

One: Hear these words of assurance: God chooses relationship over perfection. Who you are is "loved by God." God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

*The Peace of Christ

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Please pass the peace of Christ with one another in whatever way you are most comfortable.

*Response

God Welcomes All

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

A Message for The Young and The Young at Heart

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2: 5-11 (NRSVUE)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gift of Music *Lay Up your Treasures in Heaven* - Choplin Sanctuary Choir

Contemporary Reading:

Parker Palmer

from A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life

“Like a wild animal, soul is tough, resilient, resourceful, savvy, and self-sufficient: it knows how to survive in hard places. I learned about these qualities during my bouts with depression. In that deadly darkness, the faculties I had always depended on collapsed. My intellect was useless; my emotions were dead; my will was impotent; my ego was shattered. But from time to time, deep in the thickets of my inner wilderness, I could sense the presence of something that knew how to stay alive even when the rest of me wanted to die. That something was my tough and tenacious soul.”

Sermon

“The Gift of Emptiness”

Pastor Bob

Time for Reflection

*Statement of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism

One: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ. Because I belong to him, Christ by the Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now to live for God.

Prayers of the People

Come and rest (**echo: come and rest**)

Come and listen (**echo: come and listen**)

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

(echo: Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker) Repeat

One: There are many people who are walking through the Dark Woods for various reasons. I invite you to call out names of those who need our prayers...

Joan G, Darlene C, Joan A's grandson Blair; Families of Gloria H and Joann S

One: There are many places in this world where uncertainty reigns. I invite you to lift up names of places in this world that need our prayers...

Come and rest (**echo: come and rest**)

Come and listen (**echo: come and listen**)

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

(echo: Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker) Repeat

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

One Great Hour of Sharing Video

Invitation to Generosity

God has come to us in Jesus as the way of our salvation. Let us then give generously, as God has given to us.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

O Jesus, May Grateful Hymns - Evans

*Doxology

(Tune: Old Hundredth)

**Praise God the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us one humanity
to love and set each other free! Amen.**

*Holy Communion

*Invitation to the Table

I want Jesus to walk with me

tune: #506

I want Jesus to walk with me

All along my pilgrim journey,

I want Jesus to walk with me.

*Great Thanksgiving

One: The Holy Living God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to God!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: God of the journey . . . And so, together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory along with all the saints:

Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

tune: #506

Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blest are they who come in your name!

Blest are they who come in your name!

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Holy are you . . . We claim renewed strength for the journey.

All: Christ has died, yet Christ is risen;

tune: #506

Christ has died, yet Christ is risen;

Christ will come a-gain in glory

Hosanna in the highest!

One: I invite you to raise your hands . . . in the power of your amazing grace!

All: When I'm lovin', Lord walk with me

tune: #506

When I'm lovin', Lord walk with me

When I'm caring for all God's children

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Breaking and Pouring

Distribution

Prayer of Dedication | **Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself of all but love; now we aim to do the same. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what shall be through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.**

*Hymn

Open My Eyes That I May See

Hymn #480

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

There's a Path

There's a path (**there's a path**)...and it leads us out together
To the wood (**to the wood**)...where the darkness hovers still
We are sent (**we are sent**)...and the Spirit goes before us
God says, "Go (**God says, "Go**)...be my presence in the world."

Postlude

You Are the Way - arr. Johnson

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour

BVCC Food Donations

Q&A for Special Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, March 4

Bag Lunch, 11:30am

Noon Lenten Service

NEXT SUNDAY

Special Congregational Meeting, 10:30am

Memorial Meeting, 10:45am

Greeters: Andy Oren

Counters: Janet Dietert, Mark Pfeifer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice of Special Congregation Meeting

Dear Church Family,

Please join us for a special congregational meeting on **March 8, at 10:30am**, as we make important decisions regarding the financial health and future of our congregation. The purpose of this meeting is to deliberate and vote on the following key items:

- **2026 Budget Amendment:** To adjust the current budget to accurately reflect actual expenditures, specifically regarding salary allocations for our full-time pastor.
- **Endowment Fund Bylaw Revision:** To amend the Bylaws to authorize the use of Endowment Funds to bridge income shortfalls.

I will be available in the music room after worship on Sunday, March 1, to answer any questions. Your presence is vital. These decisions will shape our financial stewardship and the future direction of our ministry.

James Wick, President, Christ Church Council

Noon Lenten Services will be held on **March 4, 11, 18, and 25**. If you wish, bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at 11:30am.

Easter Baskets | The Social Concerns Committee will be coordinating the delivery of Easter baskets to the 13 people on our share and Care list. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Some suggestions include Easter decorations, candy, word search books, granola bars, mini pies, applesauce, crackers, small note pads or post it notes, small Kleenex packets, or anything to brighten someone's day. Please place your donations in the Pine Room by **March 22**. We will also need volunteers to deliver the baskets which will be ready by **March 29**. Please contact a Social Concerns member if you can assist. Thanks, *Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan Naefken, Sara Rogers, Vicki Teal, Randene Wick*

All Church Clean-up Day | Please pitch in on **Saturday, March 7** for an all church clean-up day from 9am–noon. Lunch will be provided. Thanks in advance for your help!

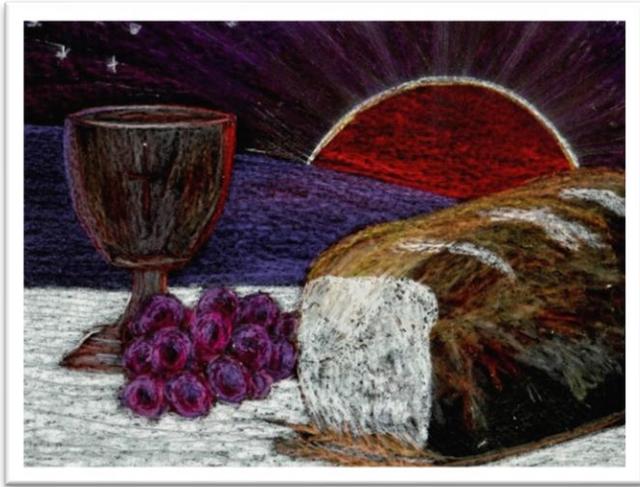
Divine Intervention | Please sign up to help with food items and /or serving our February meal on **Thursday, March 12**. There are typically 25 guests and volunteers for each meal. The theme for this meal is: Burgers (turkey or ground beef) with hamburger buns, salad, dessert, milk. The donation sheet 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.

Greeters | Please help welcome all who come through our doors at Christ Church by being a "Greeter" on Sunday mornings. Instructions are listed with the sign up sheet at the Lenox Street door. Simply add your name next to the Sunday that works for you. If you are able, fill the Lenox Street Entrance first. Remember to mark the date on your calendar! Thanks for your help! Questions: See *Andy Oren or Joan Gaeth, The Membership Committee*

Sunday School | First through eighth grade students are invited to participate in Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month. We will meet in the corner room on first floor, near the stairway. Sunday School will start at 9:30 and students will be released when church ends, to meet their parents in the Narthex. All are invited to join the fun! Questions? Contact *Michael Key*.

Rummage Sale | The Bay View Neighborhood Association has not set a date for the May Rummage Sale yet...stay tuned! There will be a short meeting on **March 15** in the Pine Room after church for anyone who is interested in being on the Rummage Sale Committee. Logistics and volunteer opportunities will be discussed. The sale may include bakery, crafts, and plants. Donations may be put in the music room. If the door is locked, see a Council member. If you need items picked up or if you need help getting things into the church, call *Michael and Janet Key* at 414-744-0973 (landline).

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. Sign-up on the Lenox Street bulletin board.



Monthly Activity	January	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$23,809	\$23,809
Expenses	\$21,008	\$21,008
Budgeted Amount	\$15,142	\$15,142
<i>Last week's offering: \$910</i>		

Christ Church UCC

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Livestream: youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI

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

