



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**MARCH**  
**2025**

# THE VISITOR

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## SUMMER CAMP 2025

Summer camp is more than just a getaway—it's a transformative experience where faith and nature come together in powerful ways. Away from the distractions of daily life, campers have the chance to feel God's presence in the beauty of creation, whether it's through worship under the stars, quiet reflection by a lake, or the laughter shared around a campfire. Camp is a place to grow in faith, build lifelong friendships, and discover new ways to connect with God through adventure, community, and service.

A complete list of camps can be found on the Heartland Conference website ([www.heartlanducc.org](http://www.heartlanducc.org)), offering a variety of options for all ages. As a special gift, Christ Church will cover half of the cost for everyone attending. Simply use the code LetsCampOrrville2025 at registration.

Don't miss this chance to deepen your faith and experience the wonder of God's creation—start planning your summer adventure today!



**THE  
STORY  
CONTINUES**

**JOIN US  
IN OUR NEXT CHAPTER!**

**HEARTLAND CONFERENCE  
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES 2025!**



## ***Pastor's Reflections***

One of the founding principles of our beloved United Church of Christ is how committed our denomination has always been to supporting an educated clergy.

I grew up in Ohio and I remember taking high school courses in Ohio history. My hometown of New Bremen was established along the Miami-Erie Canal. My great grandfather came from Germany to help build the canal system. He was one of the earliest settlers in the village. The village history states that once the town was founded a church was established, and alongside it a public school for educating children. Education was a high priority! These early pioneers had a spirit of power, love and a sound mind but they needed hope in a time of great change. Historically, our denomination was instrumental in supporting seminaries to train clergy to serve in the many new churches that were popping up as our country was settled.

Recently we remembered this priority of supporting an educated clergy on Seminary Sunday. Every year we have a special offering that supports CUE, (Chicago, United and Eden) Seminaries in the Midwest. It is quite possible that your next pastor may be a graduate of one of these fine institutions.

In clergy call agreements, provisions are usually included that provide for continuing education opportunities. This week I attended several different continuing education seminars. I learned so much. Being a pastor is a highly demanding vocation and a very sacred one as well. A pastor is expected to know a little bit about everything from steeple masonry work, to navigating children and youth development, to working with mental addictions, to hospice care, to creation justice, to music appreciation, to...you get the idea. Where to begin?

Well, it's been 29 years since I graduated, and three years retired before coming to serve as Bridge Pastor. The church is changing so fast, the world is changing too, not always for the good. Sometimes it's like the words to Carole King's song, "the earth is shaking under my feet and the sky is trembling down" but then I am reassured by Psalm 62:2, "Only God is my rock and my salvation — my stronghold! — I won't be shaken anymore."

In one of the continuing education webinars I participated in, we were reminded to hold on to hope. This is what our early ancestors did.

It may be hard these days; we may feel sadness or be overwhelmed with all the change that is happening, but God relates to our uncertainty. In the last week of Jesus' life everything was looking pretty bleak and on that day we now call Good Friday, the disciples were scattered and scared, they watched as Jesus was hung on a cross and lifted up, left to die. But...we know the rest of the story... on the third day Jesus rose. God has given us hope. We have a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. Holding on to hope is a responsibility of a resurrection people.

Blessings,  
Rev. Joyce Schroer



# CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

## February 2025

### Church Council Meeting Summary from February 11, 2025

**Adjustments were made to the final 2024 figures of the treasurer's report due to receipts and a donation received after the report was filed.** The current report reflects all changes. The full report is on file.

**Pastor and staff reports are on file.** Pastor Schroer will be away while on the intergenerational mission trip to Arizona. Rev. Richard Beck (March 9) and Rev. Sprite Johnson (March 16) will be guest speakers.

**Ash Wednesday plans are being developed.** There will be dinner at 6, service at 7. Lisa Biddle is recruiting folks to help with the Maundy Thursday service.

**May 7 has been designated as Orrville's Day of Caring.** A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the church office.

**All church exterior locks, as well as the church office, will be re-keyed.** Caitlin will have a master list (per church policy) of who will receive a key.

**Please pick up and return an information sheet so that the directory can be updated.** There is a checkbox if you do not wish your information to be shared.

**Annual reports are due.**

**The family of Maryalice Roush** requested a donation to place her name on her parents' gravestone. Council voted to donate \$500 from the memorial fund toward the engraving.

**Please note: Next council meeting is March 18, 7 PM.**

#### *In Memory of Eleanor Roth*

Michael & Mary Roth  
James & Janet Palm  
Pearly Cormany  
Lisa Biddle  
Mary Lou Bupp  
Linda McHenry  
John Weyrauch  
Emily Curie

#### *In Memory of Lee Wade*

Lisa Biddle  
Jean Lyon  
Linda McHenry  
Mary Lou Bupp  
John Weyrauch

### Memorial Gifts

#### *In Memory of Lee Nussbaum*

Maxine Shelley  
Lisa Biddle  
Jean Lyon  
Don Bilderback  
Linda McHenry  
Mary Lou Bupp  
William Arnold  
Linda Combs  
John Weyrauch

#### *In Memory of Martha Edwards*

Jean Lyon  
Mary Lou Bupp  
Linda Combs  
Linda McHenry  
John Weyrauch

### Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2025

Current Fund	Month of Jan. 2025	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 18,987	\$ 18,987	\$ 20,551
Other Income	\$ 442	\$ 442	\$ 708
Expenses	\$ 22,510	\$ 22,510	\$ 24,568
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (3,081)	\$ (3,081)	\$ (3,308)
Benevolent Fund	\$ 2,174	\$ 2,174	\$ 2,741
Samaritan Fund (Formerly PEF)	\$ 114	\$ 114	\$ 610
UCC California Fires Relief	\$ 100	\$ 100	

Samaritan (Formerly Pastor Emergency) Fund Balance is \$2.088.

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer



# YOUTH NEWS

## Kids Club (K-5th grades):

### Ash Wednesday at Kids Club

Due to the pancake dinner and Ash Wednesday service on March 5th, our Kids Club schedule will be altered so that everyone can participate in this special evening.

Kids Club will start at 5:30pm like normal. However, we will be doing our lesson first from 5:30-6:15pm. After our lesson the kids can join their parents at the pancake supper.

### Kids Club Family Night

Wednesday, March 19th is our last Kids Club until the fall. The whole family is invited to join us for dinner, followed by a fun, family friendly activity. Please let Lisa know how many people in your family can attend. This helps us plan our meal.

## Youth Fellowship (6th -12th grades):

**3/2:** Youth & Mentor activity after worship.  
Youth Fellowship from 6:00-8:00pm at the church

**3/9:** 6:00-8:00pm at the church

**3/16:** 6:00-8:00pm at the church

**3/23:** No YF. Spring Break

**3/30:** 6:00-8:00pm at the church



## Art & Soul

Join us for our final Art and Soul gathering before summer break! On March 20 at 6:30 PM in the Pole Room, we'll come together for a time of creativity and reflection as we make a special Easter craft.

This monthly event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, enjoy a devotional, and express your creativity in a relaxed and welcoming environment. No sign-up required—just come as you are and enjoy a meaningful evening of faith and fellowship. We look forward to creating with you one last time before summer!



## Bigs & Littles

Join us for this month's Bigs and Littles event, a special time for young children (Kindergarten and younger) and their favorite grown-ups! On March 11 from 6-7 PM, we'll be exploring the theme "Under Construction" with a fun-filled evening of faith and fellowship.

Kids will enjoy an engaging Bible lesson, an interactive story, exciting games, creative crafts, delicious snacks, and hands-on sensory bins—all designed to help them grow in faith while having a blast!

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and play together. We can't wait to see you there!

## Volunteer Thank You

Thank you to our Kids Club volunteers this year: Connie Duffy, Margaret Maupin, Nick Yeagley, Madalyn Yeagley, Terri Brest, Ella Wallace, Josh Curie, and Alaina Yeagley. These wonderful people are so dedicated to our program and the children's ministry here at Christ Church. They are true examples of what it means to "Be the Light" and we are so thankful for each one of them!



## Child Protection Policy

Did you know that CUCC has a policy filled with guidelines for the protection of the children and youth of the congregation? The Child Protection Policy is a seventeen-page detailed outline of the ways that we keep youth of all ages safe during our programming. It's vital that the entire congregation is familiar with this policy, as the safety of our youth is the upmost importance. To read the entire policy, please visit our website and click on the children and youth link.



## Wildfire Relief & Recovery

On January 7, 2025, wildfire activity began in Los Angeles County, California. The Global Hope Disaster Ministries Team and other staff at the United Church of Christ continue to be in communication with the Southern California and Nevada Conference to monitor the situation and determine how best to support communities at this time. The devastation caused by the California wildfires has left countless families without homes, communities in mourning, and landscapes forever changed. Like tens of thousands of other structures, the Altadena Community UCC Church was completely destroyed. With an estimated \$150 billion in losses, the wildfires rank among the costliest in U.S. history. As the smoke clears, the work of recovery begins—and it's a long road ahead.

During the month of March, we encourage a congregational response to this disaster. No donation is too small. Please use your giving envelope or the special offering envelopes in the pews. Make your checks payable to CUCC, and on the memo line of your checks write "Wildfire Relief." Your contribution will then be noted on your church tax-exempt giving. The church treasurer will forward the total amount collected to the national UCC wildfire relief and recovery fund for immediate distribution to the disaster areas.

While there are many worthy charities and organizations responding to the relief effort, the UCC disaster relief program is unique. Most reputable charities have to spend 5 to 15% of their donations on administrative overhead, expenses, and fundraising. The UCC fund spends 100% of donations directly on relief and recovery initiatives. This is possible because the UCC structure, network and expenses are already covered by funds from "Our Church's Wider Mission" offerings.

Please donate generously to the Wildfire Relief and Recovery fund. And keep the victims and responders in your prayers.

It is time to order your Easter flowers! Below are the flowers available and their prices. Please place your order in the offering plate or drop it off in the office by **March 10th**.

	# of plants
Daffodil \$12.00	_____
Tulip \$12.00	_____
Easter Lily \$12.00	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_



## Birthdays

3/01 David Bachman	3/14 Rachael LeFever
3/01 Vicki Anderson	3/15 Craig Grimes
3/01 Jennifer Brown	3/16 Evelyn Lorson
3/01 Erin Baer	3/17 Mary Schantz
3/02 John Johnson, Jr.	3/17 Gavin Findley
3/04 James Bates	3/18 Lisa Yeagley
3/04 Kyle Ritchie	3/18 Claudia Landis
3/05 Kiley Thompson	3/19 Michael Burkey
3/05 Kyla Christie	3/19 Lauren Hostetler
3/07 Daniel Flory	3/19 Connor Bupp
3/07 Shirley Weyrauch	3/20 Janice Wisniewski
3/07 Connie Duffy	3/20 Hank Bowen
3/07 Denise Berkey	3/20 Carter Orosz
3/07 Felicia Luangraj	3/20 Greyson Savchuk
3/07 Beckett Kropf	3/21 Logan Lehman
3/08 Bruce Weeman	3/22 Laura Scott
3/08 Landon Wellert	3/22 Melanie Wellert
3/09 Roger Williams	3/24 Bruce Smucker
3/09 Michael Holderman	3/25 Elizabeth Wallace
3/10 Kent Smith	3/25 Nick Yeagley
3/10 Douglas Huffman	3/25 Jeremy Hofstetter
3/10 Brandon Bupp	3/26 Cindi Clark
3/11 Hadyn Hostetler	3/26 Anderson Weyrauch
3/11 Jourdyn Lewis	3/27 Scott Musser
3/12 Ruth Rock	3/28 Robert Boss
3/12 Craig Schmid	3/28 Steve Malcuit
3/12 David Stoll	3/28 Emelie Schmid
3/12 Alexander Bates	3/28 Ryan Abel
3/13 Patrice Keirstead	3/28 Norah Blasingame
3/13 Avery Louanglath	3/30 Angela Smith
3/14 Bonnie Jackson	3/31 Geneva Johnson
3/14 Barb Stoll	
3/14 Bruce Sigler	



## Anniversaries

3/05 Nate & Melanie Wellert  
3/05 William & Connie Duffy  
3/08 Erik & Sheri McGrew  
3/10 James & Linda Madigan  
3/16 Bruce & Linda Smucker  
3/18 Charles & Marian Craft  
3/18 Bruce & Rebecca Sigler  
3/19 Steven & Carole Hahn  
3/22 Russell & Anna Davidson  
3/27 Michael & Karen Donley  
3/30 Gary & Jodi Cassidy



The next **Church Potluck** will be on Sunday, March 16th. See you then!

## Mission Trip:

We ask for your prayers as members of our congregation travel to Arizona the week of March 9 to serve on a mission trip to the Border. This team will be working to share God's love through service, compassion, and outreach to those in need.

Please pray for safe travels, good health, and strength as they embark on this important work. Pray also for the individuals and communities they will be serving, that they may feel the love and hope of Christ through these efforts.

Thank you for lifting up our mission team in prayer!



Don't forget! **Daylight Savings Time** begins on March 9th!

## Orrville Area United Way's Annual Day of Caring

Though United Way's annual Day of Caring is a little ways away, we want to get our team of volunteers for the day signed up ASAP! There is a sign-up sheet outside of the office & we need our group in place by the end of March. Reach out to the Missions team if you have any questions. Day of Caring is May 7th this year.



## Sunday School Offering:

Curious about where our 2024/2025 Sunday School offering is going? Open Arms Hispanic Ministry has been welcoming, accompanying, and partnering with Latino immigrants in Wayne Co., Ohio and surrounding areas for over twenty years. Open Arms started when a group of folks, including Raul Tadeo, noticed the growing number of Latino immigrants in the Wayne County area and felt called to minister to them. Today, Open Arms employs Pablo Delgado to do the work of welcoming the immigrants to our community. Open Arms staff provide transportation and translation for work, doctor's appointment, court hearings, dentist appointments and more. Another significant focus of energy is aiding individuals to locate housing and work. Open Arms representatives have also partnered with local employers to develop better workplace environments for immigrants. Pablo views his overarching goal throughout all these services as communicating the love of Christ to people from all walks of life.

## FACILITY USE GUIDELINES

Christ Church has many rooms that are available for use for special events. In addition to weddings and funerals, our building can host birthday parties, graduation celebrations, anniversary parties and other events. There is a small fee associated with the use of the building. All events hosted at Christ Church are to be alcohol free. Any food served at your event should be taken with you at the end of the party, unless you have planned to leave the extras with a CUCC Staff member. Foods remaining after an event should be dated and labeled before being stored in the refrigerator. To use Christ Church for your next celebration, please check with Caitlyn and complete the Facility Use Form so that your event gets on the calendar and any special requests are noted.



The Ladies of Light will gather on March 8th at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall for a morning of fellowship, fun and Bunko! Whether you're a seasoned player or trying it for the first time, this simple and exciting game is a great way to connect and share laughter. No experience needed - just come ready to roll the dice! If interested in providing a breakfast item to nibble on as we play, please let Bethany Williams know.

Save the date for our April coffee and convos gathering! - Saturday, April 5th at 9:00am, location to be determined.



## March Special Offering

Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities. We receive this offering with joy, believing that, with everything else going on in the world, that love remains. You may make a donation throughout the month of March. Thank you for your generosity.

