



CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY
2026

THE VISITOR



February 28–March 1 | Camp Wanake

You're invited to a joyful, meaningful overnight women's retreat February 28–March 1 at Camp Wanake. This retreat is all about connection—across ages, stories, and life stages. We'll laugh together, share meaningful moments, enjoy cozy winter camp vibes, and spend time reflecting on the women who have influenced us and the grace we carry forward into the lives of others.

Expect a weekend that balances fun and depth: a lively, laughter-filled start, time for conversation and storytelling, space to rest and recharge, and a warm sense of community that reminds us we don't walk this journey alone. Whether you come with friends or on your own, you'll find welcome here. The retreat is open to women of all ages (college age and up) and is designed to be relaxed and accessible—no pressure, no expectations, just a chance to step away and be present.

Cost: \$60 per person

Arrival: 10:00 AM Saturday

Departure: 11:00 AM Sunday

Registration: Registration can be done by scanning the QR code or by logging on to the church website (christucc.com).

Deadline to register is February 8th.

Come for the laughter. Stay for the stories. Leave refreshed, connected, and reminded of the grace that holds us all.

For questions or registration assistance, please contact
Kaylene Holderman.



Snow Days

We got a snow day on Sunday, December 14, whether we wanted it or not. I know that children have superstitions they act out to conjure up a snow day; my kids wore their pajamas inside out and flushed ice cubes down the toilet the night before. Things might work differently in Wayne County. Suffice to say that I was neither hoping nor praying for a big snowfall to cancel our worship on the third Sunday of Advent this year.

December 14, in addition to being the third Sunday of Advent, also happened to be my birthday. My birthday tends to bring some bad luck with it, unfortunately; historically, some things are humorous, like when my family took me out for dinner and the chef at the restaurant got mad and quit mid-shift, literally throwing his apron to the floor and walking out. Other things have happened historically that have been tragic, but that can wait for a year or two.

The Sunday before, I preached about peace and talked about the Longest Night service I held and no one came, which became a time of surpassing peace for me. Once I had done what I could do to decide and communicate that CUCC would be cancelled (more on that further into the newsletter), Beth and I drank coffee, appreciated the beauty of the new-fallen snow, and watched my favorite movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. It was a time to recharge in the middle of a very busy season, at church and in our lives. It became a gift of peace that I didn't really want but recognized and accepted. As I said on December 7 to close my message, I wish you a moment or two of unexpected, awesome peace. My wish came true for myself, and hopefully, it did for you, too.

Peace,
Scott



In the event of adverse weather on a Sunday morning, here is our policy:

If Wayne County is in a Level 2 snow emergency at 7 am, we will be closed for the morning. We may also close if a storm is imminent and may affect worshipper's ability to safely drive home; this will be decided by the moderator and pastor, based on local weather reports.

If we are closed, members will be notified in the following ways: an email CHAT will be sent, notification will be posted on our social media channels (currently Facebook and Instagram), and our voice mail message will be changed to reflect our closing. If you are unsure, please call the church line; if the message is our normal greeting, we are open, if we are closed, that will be the temporary greeting.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

December 2025

Church Council Meeting Summary from December 9, 2025

- *Treasurer's Report is on file. A committee will oversee the church investments. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.
- *Staff reports are on file. Rev. Schieber will attend the youth mentor retreat in January. Communion will be moved to January 11.
- *Parish health will conduct blood pressure readings on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Records will not be kept at the church.
- *Two new elders, Jackie G., and Katherine B. have accepted positions.
- *The Heartland Conference set a goal of 2500 disaster kits being made and sent out to various agencies for 2025. The conference reports that 2800 kits were processed. Christ Church was a major contributor.
- *Thank you to everyone who helped clean the sanctuary in November.
- *Cross installation has taken place but is not complete. The cross will be turned. New lights will be installed.
- *Church directory update – please contact the church office if there is a discrepancy in the information that is on site. You may also provide a photo. Email it to the office. In January there will be an opportunity to have your photo taken following worship.
- *Please recycle only paper in blue containers.
- *Joe has submitted a written resignation as janitor, effective May 31, or sooner if a replacement is found.
- *Thanks and gratitude to Dwaine Hemphill for serving on council and staying an extra year to complete an unexpired term.
- ***Annual reports are due January 15.**

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Dennis Shafer

Linda Shafer

William Arnold



Treasurer's Report

November 30, 2025

Current Fund	Month of Nov 2025	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 20,552	\$234,201	\$225,109
Other Income	\$ 339	\$ 10,640	\$ 9,885
Expenses	\$ 24,199	\$227,422	\$199,466
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (3,308)	\$ 17,420	\$ 35,528
Benevolent Fund	\$ 3,346	\$ 32,165	\$ 32,130
Samaritan Fund	\$ 930	\$ 6,848	\$ 5,110
Salvation Army	\$ 730	\$ 730	\$ 425

Samaritan (Formerly Pastor Emergency) Fund Balance is \$2,206.

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

**We will resume the third-
Sunday potlucks on January
18th. See you then!**



YOUTH NEWS

Youth Fellowship Schedule:

1/3-1/4: Youth & Mentor Retreat at Camp Y-Noah.
No Youth Fellowship on 1/4.

1/11: 6-8:00 pm at the church

1/18: 6-8:00 pm at the church

1/25: Family Game Night. No Youth Fellowship.



Our Kids Club program will resume on January 7th after winter break and will continue to meet every Wednesday through March.

Thank you to the members of our youth group and the adult volunteers who recently came together to pack food boxes for the Salvation Army.

Through their time, energy, and generous hearts, 150+ food boxes were prepared and will be distributed to families in need this Christmas season. Thank you to everyone who helped make this meaningful outreach possible!



Bigs & Littles

Bundle up—Bigs & Littles is having a Snow Party!

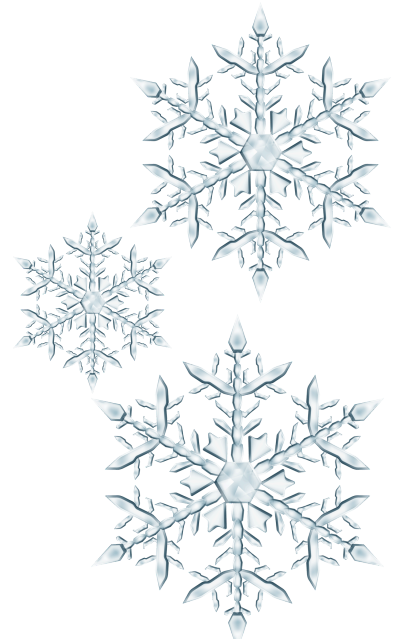
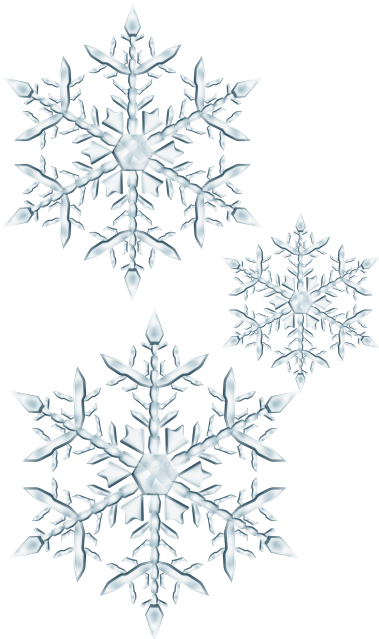
On Tuesday, January 13, from 6:00–7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, families with children

Kindergarten and younger are invited to join us for a cozy, joy-filled evening of winter fun. And yes—

nobody is too small. Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are all welcome with an adult.

We'll begin our time together with a short, child-friendly story and lesson, shared in a way little ones can listen, wonder, and enjoy. Afterward, families will rotate through snowy-themed games, simple crafts, and sweet treats—the kind that are fun without being complicated.

This is a relaxed, come-as-you-are evening designed for littles and their grown-ups to laugh, play, and make a few winter memories together.





Art & Soul – January Gathering

You're invited to Art & Soul on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 PM in the Pole Room. Art & Soul is a relaxed, welcoming space to slow down, connect, and explore creativity as a spiritual practice.

Each gathering offers a simple prompt, time to create, and space for reflection and conversation—no artistic experience required. Whether you love art or feel a little unsure about it, this is a place to show up just as you are and let the process speak.

All supplies are provided. Come for the creativity, stay for the community.



Just a Reminder that on Sunday January 11, Parish Health Team will be checking blood pressure following the worship service!



Notable Church Events in January

Happy New Year! (Church Office Closed) - 1/1

Church Office Reopens - 1/2

Youth & Mentor Retreat - 1/3 & 1/4

Kids Club Returns - 1/7

Blood Pressure Checks (Parish Health Team) - 1/11

Bigs & Littles - 1/13

Art & Soul - 1/15

Annual Reports Due - 1/15

Church Potluck - 1/18

Family Game Night - 1/25

The Ladies of Light are taking a break in **January, we will take a break from gathering** to rest from the holiday season. See everyone again in February!



Annual Game Night

All are invited to our Annual Game Night on Sunday, January 25, from 5:00–7:00 PM at the Orrville Boys & Girls Club!

January can feel long and a little gray—so come run off those winter blues with an evening of games, movement, laughter, and fellowship. There's no need to sign up—just bring a snack to share and a favorite game, and come ready to have fun together.

We'll have access to the gym, so be sure to dress comfortably if you're planning to jump into any sports or active games. This is a relaxed, all-ages gathering and a perfect way to shake off the January blahs and reconnect.

We hope you'll join us!



Birthdays

1/01 Ron McGrew	1/13 Lori Hilton
1/01 Daniel Malcuit	1/13 Colton Fetzer
1/01 John Yungen	1/14 Bill Lytle
1/03 Christine Malcuit	1/15 Mary Fowkes
1/03 Shellie Weeman	1/15 Emma Fletcher
1/03 Staci Williams	1/16 Judith Arnold
1/05 David Bupp	1/16 Stacey Haley
1/05 Todd Wallace	1/16 Severin Pouly
1/05 Elizabeth Boggs	1/18 Mark Holderman
1/05 Mitchell Cassidy	1/18 Jana Kohler
1/07 Haddie Jo Kirtley	1/19 Miriam Lorson
1/08 John Hofstetter	1/23 John LeFever
1/08 Mollie Curie	1/24 Don Bilderback
1/08 Danny Luangraj Wallo	1/24 Scott Musser
1/08 Matthew Maher	1/25 Diana Bailey
1/09 Kelsey Feltner	1/25 Zach Luangraj Wallo
1/10 Megan Mowrer	1/27 Gary Singer
1/10 Deanna Domer	1/27 Jaxon Thistlethwaite
1/10 Jacklyn Gresser	1/28 Brent Nussbaum
1/10 Craig Smith	1/30 Linda Lacy
1/10 Ross Robart	1/30 Julie Yates
1/11 Kung Wallo	1/31 David Hahn
1/11 Cindy Ferich	



Anniversaries

1/06 Mark & Stefanie McHenry
1/12 James & Suzanne Jelinek
1/23 Hank & Connie Bowen



The special offering for January is Homeward Bound,
the Day Center/Severe Weather Shelter located at 981 Grosjean Rd. in Wooster.

They're a low-barrier, trauma-informed shelter committed to dignity, empowerment and community resilience. From warm meals to strategic support, they walk alongside guests on their journey home - no judgment, no red tape, just care.



Christ Church Congregational Meeting November 16, 2025

The congregational meeting was called for the purpose of approving the church budget for 2026 and the election of council officers.

Motion by John Kropf, second by Sarah Finney to accept the 2026 budget as presented. The 2026 budget was accepted unanimously.

Council officers and members: Suzanne Jelinek - moderator, Julie Finney, vice-moderator, Vikki Nussbaum for a one-year position in the ministry area of Care and Community and Terri Brest to a second three-year term in the ministry area of Worship and Faith Formation. There was a motion by Joi Hemphill, second by Sarah Finney to accept the slate as presented. Council representatives were elected unanimously.

Motion to adjourn Julie Finney, second by Terri Brest.

The congregational meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

