



CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY
2026

THE VISITOR

It's that time of year!
The Daughters' Event is right around the corner!

The Fellowship Committee invites you to join us for the 2026 Daughters' Event on March 7th at 5:30. Our theme this year, Growing Together, will hopefully fill your spirits with the hope of spring and new growth. As always, come as you are, but if you are so inclined, wear your floral patterns or your gardening gear. The evening will include good food, fun activities, and of course, fellowship. So come "get your bloom on" and join us! Tickets will be available for sale after service in the gathering area, February 15, 22, and March 1. Adult tickets are \$10, children ages 4-12 are \$6.



Since the Daughter's Dinner is almost here, we're preparing to bundle up the love!

We are once again putting together Baby Bundles and would love your help filling them with a few tiny must-haves:

- **Newborn t-shirts
- **Combs & brushes
- **Baby blankets (not crocheted or knitted)
- **Baby wash & lotion (any size)

We do not need cloth diapers or diaper pins this year.

A basket will be in the Gathering Area for donations.

Little things mean so much—thank you for helping us share the love with care and kindness!



Resolutions

Are you the type to make a New Year resolution? According to AI, less than 50% of Americans make a resolution. If you are a young adult or have children, you are more likely to do so. That's laudable! The most common resolutions are to exercise more, be happier, eat healthier, save more money, and generally improve physical health. A whopping 4% of respondents say they want to show up on time more frequently. 6% set a goal to move in 2026.

If you made a resolution and are sticking with it, great job! You are in the minority as more than 65% of people have given up or moved on. As for me, I didn't know that moving could be a resolution, so I'm going to claim that and definitely be able to say that I met my goal for the year.

Reality is that any day is a good day for a resolution to improve ourselves. I'd love to tell you that our Lenten disciplines have a more lasting effect than our New Year resolutions, but I doubt that is true. Maybe you'd be interested in naming something to give up, start up or otherwise commit to, something that will bring about a positive change either for yourself or those around you. Ask for God's help and think and pray on what you'd like to see happen with yourself. If you decide on something, let me know and we can swap stories!

Peace,
Pastor Scott



****Let's Make It Official!****

Please join us in worship on Sunday, March 8 to witness the Living Water Association install Pastor Scott as the new Pastor at Christ Church!

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

January 2026

Church Council Meeting Summary from January 13, 2026

- *Treasurer's Report is on file. Surplus funds from 2025 were placed in the Facility Reserve Fund.
- *Staff Reports are on file. Installation of new elders and council members planned for January 25. Living Water Association will install Pastor Scott during worship service on March 8.
- *Mission and Outreach distributed the list of special offerings for 2026.
- *Pastor Scott to organize a meeting with the ICU. Please contact the office if you wish to receive Home Communion.
- *Administration – Council approved estimate from Denny's Dyna-Kleen for cleaning of carpet and upholstered pews in the sanctuary. Cleaning to take place during the week. The office workroom has been cleaned in preparation for additional remodeling and freshening up, thanks to Jason and Mollie.
- *Jason was hired as custodian to work with Joe through the end of January and then take over beginning February 1.
- *Revised weather policy was approved by council.
- *Reception for new members planned.
- *Lisa presented a proposal for creation of a Sensory Sanctuary in the current Chapel space. She is submitting a grant application for assistance in funding. Council approved.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Pearl & Bruce Weaver
and Marge & Kenny Gerber
Joan Fiscus

In memory of Bob Markley
William Arnold



**The next third-Sunday potluck
will be on February 15th.
Come hungry, see you there!**



Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2025

Current Fund	Month of Dec 2025	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 24,232	\$258,433	\$252,966
Other Income	\$ 995	\$ 11,635	\$ 12,811
Expenses	\$ 26,715	\$254,137	\$219,087
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,488)	\$ 15,931	\$ 46,690
Benevolent Fund	\$ 3,250	\$ 35,415	\$ 35,388
Christmas Fund/ Vets of the Cross	\$ 2,047	\$ 2,047	\$ 1,746
CWS- Last Year Salvation Army	\$ 350	\$ 550	\$ 425
Samaritan Fund	\$ 440	\$ 7,288	\$ 5,674

Samaritan Fund Balance is \$2,410.

THANK YOU for your faithful and generous donations throughout the year for current expenses, benevolent and special offerings!

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Fellowship Schedule:

2/01: 6-8pm at the church

2/08: 11:30am: Youth & mentor activity,
6-8pm: Youth Fellowship

2/15: 6-8pm at the church

2/22: Movie night. Time TBD depending
on movie showings



On February 18th (Ash Wednesday) Kids Club will only have a Bible study from 5:30-6:15pm. After class, the kids are invited to join their families for the annual pancake supper followed by the Ash Wednesday service.

Youth Silent Auction Donations Needed!

It's time to start gathering items for our upcoming Youth Auction, taking place April 12-19! This annual event is a wonderful way for our congregation to support the youth of our church while also having fun bidding on great items.

We are currently seeking donations of new or gently used items, services, or experiences that can be included in the auction. Popular donations in the past have included gift baskets, homemade items, baked goods, gift cards, event tickets, or unique skills and talents to share.

All proceeds from the silent auction will go directly to the Youth Mission Fund, helping our youth participate in mission opportunities throughout the year.

If you have an item you'd like to donate or would like more information, please see Lisa Yeagley. Thank you for your continued support of our youth ministry!



Bigs & Littles

Bigs & Littles Valentine's Day Party

Join us on Tuesday, February 10, from 6-7 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a sweet Bigs & Littles Valentine's Day celebration! We'll share a short Bible lesson, enjoy simple crafts and activities, and end the evening with a snack. This event is open to children Kindergarten and younger, attending with an adult. Come celebrate love, faith, and fun together!





Painting Through the Psalms

You're invited to join us for Painting Through the Psalms, a contemplative Lenten experience that blends Psalms, reflection, and expressive painting as prayer. This adults-only gathering is open to people of all experience levels and offers a chance to slow down and engage the Psalms in a new way.

We'll meet Thursday evenings from 7-8 PM in the chapel, February 19-March 26. All supplies will be provided; no art background is needed.

Registration is required and can be completed by scanning the QR code. Deadline to register is February 15th.

Lent Sunday School

From February 22-March 29, Pastor Scott will lead our high school and adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall. Each week will be an exploration of one of Jesus' words from the cross (with a combined class on March 29). Adam Hamilton's "Final Words" will be the basis for the study. For class purposes, it will be video and discussion based, so all you need to do is come to class ready to learn and share. Hamilton has written a book by the same name, and if you want to be the star of the class, you could read the book ahead of the study and stand out! Class will meet from 9:00-10:00 am, understanding that some will need to leave early for rehearsals.



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service, complete with ashing, on February 18 at 7 pm in the sanctuary. The service will be led by Pastor Scott and the confirmation class.

Join the Ladies of Light for a cozy time of coffee, connection, and uplifting conversation on Saturday, February 7 at 9:00am at Sure House in Orrville!



Notable Church Events in February

Youth & Mentor Activity following worship - 1/8

Bigs & Littles - 1/10

Art & Soul - 1/15

Church Potluck - 2/15

Church Office closed for Presidents' Day - 2/16

Painting with the Psalms - 2/19

Painting with the Psalms - 2/26

Women's Retreat - 2/28-3/1

Birthdays

2/01 Mark Clark	2/12 Logan Boggs
2/01 Saylor Ballentine	2/12 Maverick Curtis
2/02 Linda Smucker	2/12 Fiona Curie
2/02 Greg Bumgardner	2/13 Russ Davidson
2/02 Tom Baer	2/13 Cindy Zimmerman
2/03 Jim Nelson	2/14 Judy Miller
2/03 Richard Blondeaux	2/14 Laura Allard
2/03 Scott Swinehart	2/14 Lillian Louanglath
2/04 Dorothy Hahn	2/15 Kurtis Sprowls
2/05 Jameson Gardner	2/16 Kimberly Hopsecger
2/05 Andy Stocker	2/17 Gordon Maupin
2/06 Sandy Amstutz	2/17 Sue Ritchie
2/06 Brian Orosz	2/17 Josh Smith
2/06 Elliot Brown	2/19 Krista Musser
2/07 James Hahn	2/19 Grant Curtis
2/08 Randy Gehres	2/21 Audra Simmavanh
2/09 Paula Kohler	2/22 Ruth Harrington
2/10 Corey Midura	2/22 Robert Weeman
2/11 Ellen Clark	2/23 Zola Craver
2/12 Richard Jones	2/25 Carol Jones
2/12 Traci Williams	2/26 Colin Abel
2/12 Jaron Browne	2/27 Mark Gehres
2/12 Antonio Mangano	2/27 Katelyn Malcuit



Anniversaries

2/01 Bruce & Rhonda Weeman
2/12 Al & Carol Yeagley
2/13 Bob & Linda Ballentine
2/14 Robert & Karen Markley
2/19 David & Judy Browne
2/28 Jeremy & Chelsey Fry



The Endowment Team is preparing to meet in a few weeks to discuss disbursement of the annual allocation of the endowment fund income earned through United Church Funds. As in past years, the funds are disbursed with 1/3 to Wider Missions (i.e. Disaster Relief -UCC, Back Bay Mission, S.A.R.A., etc.); 1/3 to Local Missions (i.e. People to People Ministries, Memory Cafe, Augsburg Lutheran Church Brown Bag Lunch, etc.); and the balance to local CUCC for Church Council to disburse.

Please provide your suggestions of agencies/programs that the Endowment Team should consider when distributing the funds. Forms to provide suggestions are available on the table in the Gathering Area. Please complete the form and leave it in the church office or Caitlin's mailbox.

The Endowment Team consists of Julie Finney, Ruth Harrington, Joi Hemphill, and Jacob Weyrauch. Please contact one of us if you have any questions.

Your Input Needed

February Special Offering: DAY OF CARING

Day of Caring, May 6, 2026, is a collaboration between Orrville Area United Way and the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce. It brings together businesses, individuals and students for a morning of meaningful volunteer work. This annual event unites our community as we support local organizations, complete community improvement projects and strengthen the bonds that make our community thrive.

Last year we donated enough to be a sponsor of the day and our church logo appeared on 500+ shirts for the event!

We would love a repeat for 2026!



A note from the Missions Team:

As special offering goes throughout the year, please know that if there is an offering or mission you feel called to donate to that is not listed, you may mark your offering with where you would like to see it go. It will be taken care of and sent to where it is directed. This includes 5 for 5 offerings that may not appear as a monthly special offering in 2026. Your giving to such funds still allows us to keep our designation with UCC. Please reach out to Mollie with questions or concerns.