



CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST
2026

THE VISITOR

LET'S GET TOGETHER
AUGUST 23



It's time to gear up for our fall programming! After the summer break, let's come together to regroup, reenergize, and reconnect. More August activities are listed in this newsletter--don't miss out!

Rally Day

Let's get together! All kids ages 3-High School are invited to kick off the Sunday School year on August 23rd. Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9-10 AM as we take a look at the importance of being together in community.

Not quite 18 anymore, but still looking for community? We'll have coffee and conversation in the gathering area beginning at 9:00 AM.

Outdoor Worship

Our annual outdoor worship and picnic will be held on Sunday, August 23rd! We will pop up the tent and haul out the chairs for worship outside in the green space next to the playground just outside the church. This relaxed service is full of fun with a gourmet picnic to follow! Christ Church Worship committee will be grilling Brats and Hot Dogs and scooping ice cream. Bring your lawn chair and a side to share if you're able, there is always enough food to go around.

Dog Days

The “dog days” of summer is an old-timey phrase that I’ve never fully understood the meaning of. Certainly, every dog I’ve owned is not a fan of that time of year anymore than they are fans of the dead of winter—bear in mind, none of the dogs I’ve ever owned will be confused with being particularly hearty. The term actually has nothing to do with dogs, it’s an ancient astronomical term for when Sirius, the “Dog Star” is in alignment with the sun. Those days technically start in early July and run through mid-August, but I’ve always thought of them as being the latter third of summer, when we’re ready for the change of the season and, for parents at least, school to start again.

Once VBS is past, I think it’s fair to say that Christ Church will be in the dog days of summer for sure. Trust that the staff will be busy preparing for the coming academic year and the return of our programming.

As you may know, we are undergoing some transitions with our staff. Necessary leaves from work have been taken, and we have been a bit understaffed for most of the summer. The staff is really looking forward to everyone being back and things taking off again in the fall. In the meantime, allow



me to express my appreciation for those of you who have been faithfully attending worship this summer, and to the many who have been volunteering to pick up some of the administrative duties in the church, including Dwaine Hemphill, Nancy Hranko, Elizabeth Wallace, Mollie Curie, Vicki Nussbaum, and others—thank you for helping us get through the dog days!

-Scott

Blessing of the Back Packs

Headed back to school? Whether it’s pre-k through high school, college, teaching, or for any other reason, be sure to bring your backpack to worship on **August 9th**. We’ll bless your backpack and pray over the upcoming school year during the service.

Sunday School 26-27

The Sunday School season will begin on **August 30th**. A scheduled “skip week” is set for September 6th (Labor Day weekend). Classes are available for every age 3 and up.

Classes for youth:

Preschool, Kindergarten-2nd Grade, 3rd-5th Grade, Middle/Senior High

Adult:

Seekers, Adventures in Faith, ReGroup, Verse by Verse

Treasurer's Report

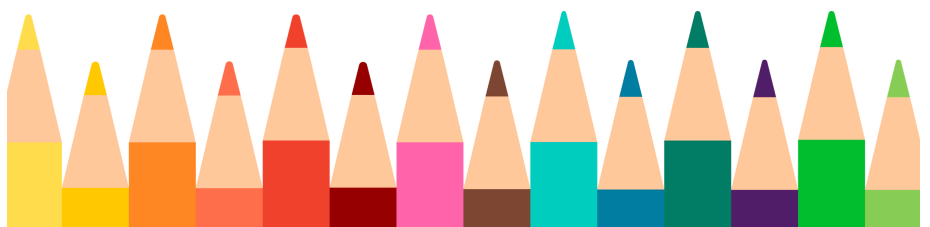
June 30, 2026

Current Fund	Month of June 2026	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 16,876	\$126,915	\$130,589
Other Income	\$ 5,527	\$ 13,314	\$ 6,250
Expenses	\$ 19,712	\$154,185	\$120,319
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,692	\$ (13,956)	\$ 16,520
Benevolent Fund Donations	\$ 2,316	\$ 22,627	\$18,366
Samaritan Fund Donations	\$ 357	\$ 2,434	\$ 3,813
Neighbors In Need	\$ 810	\$ 810	\$ 345

The Samaritan Fund Balance is \$2,646.

Brian Amstuz, Treasurer

Pastor Schieber will be on vacation August 10-16. Pastor Joyce Schoerer will fill the pulpit on August 16th.



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Church Council Meeting Summary from July 14, 2026

Spiritual Reflection by Rev. Schieber: Prayer. What is it? Anytime. Anywhere. God meets us where we are.

Previous meeting minutes were approved - Motion by Les, second by Vicki.

Treasurer's Report is on file. Motion to approve, subject to audit, by Julie, second by Jason.

Pastor and staff reports are on file.

- Youth will be reporting to the congregation with stories from the mission trip on August 2.
- Dwaine and Nancy have been filling in at the church desk. Mollie volunteered for July 27-30. Elizabeth put together the July newsletter and will also work on the August edition. Kaylene has returned from maternity leave.
- Worship and Faith: Twenty-one children are registered for nursery school. The teachers are sorting through the items in storage.
- Care and Community: Merry Cooks offered dinner to one family. It was declined. ICU has a schedule. June blood pressure – 11 people took part. CPR/AED training will be advertised. People can choose to be certified or just attend class.
- Mission and Outreach: To date 191 sheet sets and 194 boxes of cereal have been delivered to the Salvation Army. Bed build – Salvation Army has 21 beds on-hand. The church has 17 beds built and kits for 15 more. The crew will stand-down until needed.
- Administration and Resources: Sensory Sanctuary is nearly complete. Some items need to be finished, but it is ready for use.
- Capital Campaign: What will it entail? A list will be composed of what has been spent so far, beginning with the parking lot. What needs to be repaired/replaced?
- Human Resources The Office Manager Working Group met. Two policy updates – Money Counter Responsibilities and Keyer Responsibilities. These are on file. Motion to approve - Julie. Second - Terri
- Garage sale in Orrville August 6, 7, 8

Next meeting August 19, 7 PM.

Adjourn 8:20 PM Motion by Jason, second Terri



All-Church Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13th at 1:00 for an all-church golf outing. All levels of players are welcome for this 9-hole event. Once we know who is interested, we will put together teams. Please let Nancy Hranko know by September 6th if you are interested in playing.



AED/CPR Training

Christ Church is planning to offer a session where people would be trained to administer CPR or operate an AED, so we are ready in the case of emergency. The training would either be a certified class costing \$35 through the Red Cross or uncertified for no cost. The class would be 1.5 hours. Interested parties should let Vicki Nussbaum (330.347.2080/vicnu@aol.com) know as soon as possible.

August Special Offering

Special Offering for August is our very own CUCC Preschool! Christ Church Preschool has been nurturing and caring for the hearts and minds of little ones in Orrville, Ohio for over 35 years. With care and dedication, our goal is to provide a program of successive experiences whereby each child will have the opportunity to grow and develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and creatively at their own pace.



Salvation Army Back-to-School Donation Drive

Christ Church is happy to again partner with the Salvation Army, this time on their back-to-school drive. We specifically have been asked to supply highlighters (100) and post-it notes (50). Donations must be received at the church by August 5 so we can deliver them in time to be given out to local students.

Orrville City Schools Comfy Closet

The Orrville City Schools gladly accepts donations year-round for their Comfy Closet, which supports students in need. They are currently seeking clean, gently used clothing, as well as NEW bras, underwear, socks, cleaning supplies, and toiletries. Donations may be dropped off at the OHS office during regular school hours.

Disaster Buckets & Kits

As of mid-July, Ohio has recorded 16 confirmed tornadoes this year, maintaining a steady pace that reflects annual state averages. Nationally there have been 1,009 tornado reports, with June marking the most active severe weather events for that month since 2010.

The UCC Heartland Conference Disaster Response Team has set a goal of collecting and delivering 3,000 clean-up buckets and disaster kits in 2026. As of June 26th, 49% of the goal has been reached. The buckets and kits are stored at our depot at Camp Christian, outside of Delaware, Ohio. Through this ministry our church provides a rapid and important response to natural disasters. The on-site inventory fluctuates, and the extra buckets/kits are sent to the national Church World Service warehouse for wider distribution. CWS disaster assistance in the first half of this year was shared with 93,187 of our neighbors who were facing disasters, displacement and hardship.

Christ UCC has actively supported disaster ministries for several decades. Each bucket challenge requires multiple hands: shopping for the bucket and kit contents; filling the buckets/kits according to CWS guidelines, and getting the materials to our Delaware depot. We have the funds available to finance this project – we just need the workers (additional donations gladly accepted). Every bucket shared and every gift made help remind disaster victims they are not alone.

Christ Church Preschool Fundraiser

Christ Church Preschool is participating in this year's Orrville City-Wide Garage Sale (August 6th - 8th) to help raise funds for the school. The preschool has been busy cleaning out their storage room and has plenty of treasures to offload. However, if anyone would like to donate items to help support our preschool please bring items already priced to the church during office hours. Any items not sold during the three-day sale will be donated.

8/02 Luella Arnold	8/18 Andrew Johnson	8/01 Jeff & Terri Brest
8/02 Amy Landaw	8/19 Nikki Jones	8/02 Tim & Amy Hostetler
8/03 Mark Abel	8/20 Judy Kropf	8/08 Ron & Jayne McGrew
8/03 Dawn Gowins	8/20 Kerry Pickett	8/12 Brad & Judy Nussbaum
8/05 Tammy Moser	8/23 Bill Arnold	8/12 Tyler & Megan Mowrer
8/07 Jeff Brest	8/23 Marian Craft	8/14 Tom & Erin Baer
8/07 Jean Lyon	8/26 Lisa Broome	8/20 Jon & Deb Gresser
8/08 Caitlin Lewis	8/27 Theodore Holderman	8/24 Jon & Sue Ritchie
8/09 Pat Saurer	8/30 Richelle Romanchik	8/24 Michael & Kaylene Holderman
8/09 Betty Steiner		8/26 Randy & Grace Gehres
8/11 Chad Findley		8/27 Doug & Cheryl Diehl
8/16 Craig Hostetler		8/29 John & Shirley Weyrauch
8/17 Amy Duxbury		

August
Birthdays &
Anniversaries

Hospice Fundraiser featuring John Finney at Christ Church

A benefit concert featuring organist John Finney will be held in Orrville, Ohio, as part of **Ohio's Hospice's 2026 Benefit Concert**.
Event details

- **Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Venue:** Christ United Church of Christ, 301 N. Main St., Orrville, OH 44667 [Ohio's Hospice](#)
- **Cost:** Free admission; a free-will offering will be accepted to support Ohio's Hospice patient care and services [Ohio's Hospice](#)

Featured performer

- **John Finney** – Retired music director/organist of Wellesley Hills Congregational Church; retired director/conductor of Boston College Chorale and Symphony Orchestra [Ohio's Hospice](#).
- **Annie Gerig** – English horn player and retired long-term care nurse, member of the Wooster Music Club [Ohio's Hospice](#).

About the concert

This event is a fundraiser for **Ohio's Hospice**, which provides compassionate care to patients in the Wooster area. The concert will feature John Finney's organ works, offering a chance to enjoy his celebrated performances while supporting a vital community service organization.

How to attend

- No tickets are required; simply arrive at the church at the listed time.
- For questions, contact **Mona Sayre** at MSayre@OhiosHospice.org or call **330-663-6490** [Ohio's Hospice](#).

If you're in the Orrville area and enjoy organ music, this is a free opportunity to hear John Finney's artistry while contributing to a meaningful cause.

Thank you

VBS Thank You--

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make VBS such a wonderful week! To all of our volunteers—thank you for giving your time, energy, and love to serve our children. Your willingness to step in wherever needed made all the difference. To all of our kids and families, thank you for joining us and making VBS so much fun! We loved learning, laughing, singing, playing, and growing in God's Word together.

Thank you to everyone who prayed, donated, helped behind the scenes, and supported VBS in any way. We are so blessed to have such an amazing church family.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to take maternity leave and spend those first precious weeks at home with our sweet daughter, Blaire, who was born on April 17th. I am so grateful to everyone who helped cover for me while I was gone.

Having that time to bond with Blaire and enjoy this season with Tucker and Teddy meant more to our family than I can put into words. Thank you for your prayers, cards, messages, meals, and every expression of love shown to our family. We have felt so cared for and surrounded by God's love through each of you.

Thank you for loving our family so well and for allowing me the time away. I'm glad to be back and look forward to serving alongside all of you again!

With gratitude,
Kaylene Holderman

Dear Christ Church-

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, visits (and bowties from Michael's Bakery), during my recuperation. God was with me through all of this healing after my accident, as well as good neighbors and friends.

May God Bless You,
Bill Arnold

A Very Happy Birthday goes to Luella Arnold who will turn 103 on August 2!

