



CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH
2026

THE VISITOR

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

You've heard all the hype, you've watched other people attend, but what exactly is camp?

Camp is worship under open skies.

Camp is campfire songs that stick with you for years.

Camp is late-night conversations about faith, questions, and life.

Camp is discovering that God feels close enough to touch in the great outdoors.

And guess what? It's time to register!!!

At camp, faith comes alive through adventure, creativity, and community. Campers have the chance to build confidence, form lasting friendships, and experience God in the beauty of creation in ways that stay with them long after summer ends.

You can explore the full schedule of camps for all ages at the Heartland Conference website (www.heartlanducc.org).

As usual, Christ Church will cover half the cost of camp for anyone who attends. Just use the code LetsCampOrrville2026 when you register.

If you've been thinking about camp, this is your nudge. Want to go to camp but not sure which camp is right for you? Reach out to Kaylene Holderman.

Camp Sunday

Get ready Christ Church, on Sunday, March 15th we're celebrating all things camp!

From 9:00-10:00 AM, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a special all-ages Sunday School experience where we'll explore what a day at camp might actually look like. We'll also walk through the different camp options available this summer and answer any questions you might have.

Then we'll keep the conversation going in worship as we celebrate the ways God meets us in creation, community, and nature.

Whether you're a longtime camp family or just curious what it's all about, this is a great Sunday to come learn more. We hope you'll join us!



Lent

By the time you read this, we will be a week or two into the season/journey/voyage/expedition of Lent, our 40-day time of repentance, introspection and preparation for Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. In my time of ministry, I've used all of the synonyms to describe the extra intention that we are called to each year. To be honest, I'm as tired of them as you probably are if you're the kind of person who pays attention to such things.

Lent and Advent seem to have a lot in common, on the surface; both are times where we prepare ourselves for a heightened spiritual experience. I love Advent and Christmas so much, but they pose challenges in the church because we are competing with holiday parties, concerts, and all the other things Christmas offers. It's too easy for the church to just fade into the background in December. Lent, on the other hand, comes with a little more of your attention. I find that Lenten studies and services are generally better attended with better engagement, with better weather (hopefully!).

Though Lent comes with spiritual practices like giving up something meaningful or starting something new, and for some, fasting and other acts of obedience, at its heart, Lent is a time for growth in our faith. Beyond being a journey or a season, it's a fertile time to go deeper into our faith. I hope you are taking advantage of opportunities to do so, on your own and with your church.

Peace,
Pastor Scott



Holy Week at Christ Church

Palm Sunday Service at 10:15a - 3/29

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30p - 4/2

Good Friday Observation at the Church 12:00p to 3:00p - 4/3

Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00a - 4/5

(followed by continental breakfast)

Easter Traditional Service at 10:15a - 4/5

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

February 2026

Church Council Meeting Summary from February 10, 2026

- *Treasurer's Report is on file. Pastor and staff reports are on file.
- *ICU has met and will meet again. Co-chairs are Linda Combs and Karen Shupp. ICU visitation cards will be updated.
- *Eight beds have been delivered to the Salvation Army. There are now 15 beds on hand. There will be another build in March or early April.
- *Sanctuary carpet and pew cushions were cleaned. Security camera was repaired. There is a significant leak in one of the boilers. It has been temporarily patched, but bids will be sought to make repairs.
- *Changes in employee family leave CUCC HR manual language:
 - Employees may be granted up to 13 weeks leave, with 6 weeks paid.
 - The date the leave begins will be agreed upon by the pastor and person involved.
- *There will be a coffee hour in fellowship hall following worship and the installation of Rev. Schieber on March 8.
- *The preschool director has resigned as of the end of the current school year. The director's search will begin immediately. Christ Church will continue funding the CUCC preschool through the 2026-2027 school year, with a decision to be made in December 2026 whether to continue after May 2027.
- *Mission Project proposed by Seekers Sunday School class to acknowledge the semi quincentennial (250th birthday) of the U.S. There were several suggestions. Christ Church members are encouraged to donate 250 boxes of cereal and 250 bed sheet sets by July 1 for the Salvation Army. The project has been named "Bed and Breakfast".

Members of the ICU team met in early February, and all agreed on one thing—we could provide more intense caring if we had better contact information for our members in need of our care! If you are reading this and would like to hear from one of our team members, please contact the church office and indicate your interest, and make sure we have your latest address and phone number! If members of ICU are reaching out to you and you no longer wish to have them do so, please call the office and indicate that as well!

Linda Combs and Karen Shupp are the new co-chairs for ICU, and we're still in need of more individuals who would be interested in learning more about ICU. Please contact Linda, Karen, or Vicki Nussbaum to learn more!

Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2026

Current Fund	Month of Jan 2026	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 18,624	\$ 18,624	\$ 18,987
Other Income	\$ 1,020	\$ 1,020	\$ 442
Expenses	\$ 29,522	\$ 29,522	\$ 22,510
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (9,878)	\$ (9,878)	\$ (3,081)
Benevolent Fund	\$ 2,384	\$ 2,384	\$ 2,174
Homeward Bound	\$ 420	\$ 420	\$ -
Samaritan Fund	\$ 776	\$ 776	\$ 114

Samaritan Fund Balance is \$2,929.

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

The next Church Potluck will be on Sunday, March 15th. See you there!



YOUTH NEWS

Youth Fellowship Schedule:

3/01: 6-8pm at the church

3/08: 6-8pm Youth Fellowship.

Mission trip parent meeting 6:00pm

3/15: 6-8pm at the church

3/22: No Youth Fellowship due to Spring Break

3/29: 10:15am Confirmation Sunday

6-8pm Youth Fellowship



Kids Club Family Night

Mark your calendars for a special Kids Club Family Night on March 18th! We are excited to invite all Kids Club families to join us for an evening of food, fun, and faith as we celebrate together.

We'll begin the night with dinner provided for everyone, followed by a meaningful and hands-on Easter activity.

This Family Night will also be our final Kids Club gathering until the fall, so we hope you'll make plans to join us as we wrap up a wonderful year together.



Youth Silent Auction Donations Still Needed!

Our Youth Silent Auction (April 12-19) is quickly approaching, and we are still accepting donations!

There's still time to donate new or gently used items, themed gift baskets, baked goods, gift cards, event tickets, or even services and special talents. Every donation helps make the auction more exciting and successful.

All proceeds will go directly to the Youth Mission Fund, supporting our youth as they grow in faith and serve others through mission opportunities.

If you've been meaning to donate, now is the perfect time! See Lisa Yeagley if you have questions or need to schedule a drop off time.



Confirmation Sunday

Join us during worship on Sunday, March 29, as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday and the affirmation of faith for Aidan Heater and Jack Wallace. On this special day, Aidan and Jack will publicly profess their faith and be confirmed as new members of our church family.

Following worship, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for cake and punch as we congratulate Aidan and Jack and celebrate this joyful occasion together.

We are excited for the ways that Aidan and Jack have grown in their faith, and look forward to supporting them in their continued faith journey!



Youth mission trip parent meeting

On Sunday, March 8th, there will be a short meeting for the parents of any youth going on this summer's mission trip. Please meet in the Parlor at 6:00pm. If you are unable to attend, please reach out to Lisa Yeagley to let her know.

The April third-Sunday (April 19th) potluck will be replaced by a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Youth. We will accept a freewill offering to raise funds for our youth mission trip to Michigan in June. If you'll offer what you might pay if you went to a restaurant for lunch, we'll raise a lot of funds!

Come hungry, leave happy!



Bigs and Littles Easter Egg-stravaganza!

Hop on over for a joyful evening just for our youngest friends (Kindergarten and younger) and their grown-ups!

On March 31st from 6-7 PM we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for an Easter celebration filled with a story to about the hope of Easter, crafts, playful activities, and, of course, an egg hunt that's just the right size for our littlest participants.

Bigs & Littles is always a sweet mix of church families and community friends, so feel free to invite a neighbor! This will be the last Bigs and Littles before fall and we can't wait to celebrate with you!

Due to the Daughter's Dinner, we are moving this month's Ladies of Light gathering back a week! Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 14th at 9:00am for fun, fellowship, and Bunco! 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!



Save the date for our April gathering - Coffee and Convos on Saturday, April 11th at 9:00am (moved back a week due to Easter)



*****Notable Church Events in March*****

- Painting through the Psalms - 3/5
- Daughters' Dinner - 3/7
- Installation of Pastor Scott - 3/8
- Painting through the Psalms - 3/12
- Ladies of Light - 3/14
- Camp Sunday - 3/15
- Church Potluck - 3/15
- Painting through the Psalms - 3/19
- Elder Meeting following Worship - 3/22
- Painting through the Psalms - 3/26
- Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday - 3/29
- Bigs & Littles - 3/31

Birthdays

3/01 David Bachman	3/14 Bruce Sigler
3/01 Vicki Anderson	3/14 Rachael LeFever
3/01 Jennifer Brown	3/15 Craig Grimes
3/01 Erin Baer	3/16 Evelyn Lorson
3/02 John Johnson, Jr.	3/17 Mary Schantz
3/04 James Bates	3/17 Gavin Findley
3/04 Kyle Ritchie	3/18 Lisa Yeagley
3/05 Kiley Thompson	3/18 Claudia Landis
3/05 Kyla Christie	3/19 Michael Burkey
3/07 Daniel Flory	3/19 Lauren Hostetler
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
3/11 Hadyn Hostetler	3/26 Cindi Clark
3/11 Jourdyn Lewis	3/26 Anderson Weyrauch
3/12 Ruth Rock	3/27 Scott Musser
3/12 Craig Schmid	3/28 Robert Boss
3/12 David Stoll	3/28 Steve Malcuit
3/12 Alexander Bates	3/28 Emelie Schmid
3/13 Patrice Keirstead	3/28 Ryan Abel
3/13 Avery Louanglath	3/28 Norah Blasingame
3/14 Bonnie Jackson	3/30 Angela Smith
3/14 Barb Stoll	3/31 Geneva Johnson



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 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.

THE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The special offering for March is: One Great Hour of Sharing.

This offering has been transforming lives around the world since 1949. Each year in March, UCC members, through gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, make it possible for the UCC to provide disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more. All UCC churches will receive this offering on 3.15, and we will specifically call attention to it that day.

Help us celebrate America 250 with CUCC's 'Bed & Breakfast'.

Now through July 1 we are collecting 250 sheet sets and 250 boxes of cereal to donate to the Salvation Army - Maiwurm Service Center. Any size sheet set is appreciated, twin size is what fits the Sweet Dreams Beds that our bed build team makes with the Orrville Area United Way. Happy Birthday America!

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Help us celebrate America's birthday!

CUCC's **Bed & Breakfast** AMERICA 250

We are collecting:
250 sheet sets
250 boxes of cereal

...because everyone deserves a warm bed & breakfast.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Orrville Area UNITED WAY

*Sheet sets can be any size
Sweet Dreams beds are twin sized
Donations end July 1.

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