



THE VISITOR

CELEBRATING PASTOR BRIAN BURKE (WITH A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH LUCK ON THE SIDE!)

On Sunday, March 17th, we had the opportunity to celebrate Pastor Brian as he will soon be retiring from almost 20 years of ministry. We are grateful to have had the privilege to work and worship alongside him for the past 2 years! Pastor Brian's last Sunday in the Christ Church pulpit will be Easter.

Thank you, Pastor Brian, for the care and devotion you have shown to each member of Christ Church. You will be deeply missed!



I Wonder as I Wander...

As this final column is being written, we are approaching Holy Week – the most important and busiest week of the Christian calendar.

Huh? Busiest? But what about Christmas and the weeks leading up to that, Pastor Brian? Aren't we super busy with everything that we make happen in December? Isn't that the busiest time for us as Christians?

Well, it's certainly the busiest in terms of the trappings we put around the day we celebrate Jesus' birth. If Jesus wasn't central to our faith as Christians, we would probably see him as just another in the long line of prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Hosea, and others – just another voice seeking to return us to the ways of God and to live in the covenants God made with the Hebrew people. And we have absolutely no clue when or how to celebrate Micah's birthday, do we?

But what is different about Jesus that sets him apart in our faith?

If it were not for the resurrection, Jesus would have been nothing more than a rabble-rousing Jewish rabbi who ran afoul of the Jewish and Roman authorities. His death via crucifixion, while brutal, would have been just another political death – ho, hum.

The empty tomb changed all that. The empty tomb added an exclamation point to the unique place Jesus held among all of the prophets. The empty tomb added an exclamation point to the unique relationship that Jesus had with God. The empty tomb added an exclamation point to a Jewish movement that centered on Jesus and grew to be a major world religion.

The empty tomb symbolizes the power of God that we have come to know most fully through not only the life and ministry of Jesus, but also through the ongoing revelation given to us through the Spirit of Christ in our midst. The empty tomb is what gives meaning to one star-lit night in a Bethlehem stable.

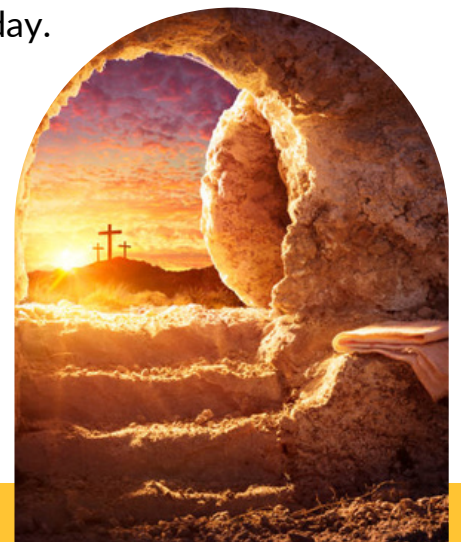
Holy Week begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the first day of the week, with followers throwing cloaks and palm branches on the ground to keep the dust down. After a few days of ministry in Jerusalem that enraged the temple leaders, and after a final supper with disciples, the Passion story began to unfold in the Garden of Gethsemane, in Pilate's court, and on a hill at Golgotha.

We recall the darkness of those hours through our service on Maundy Thursday. It is only by experiencing this darkness that we are able to recognize the true joy of the resurrection that we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

I invite you to experience the fullness of Holy Week through these three services – Palm Sunday (which will include the Confirmation service for Tate Howell, Hannah Legan, and Alaina Yeagley), Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.

Blessings on your journey through Holy Week.

With profound gratitude for my time among you,
Grace and peace,
Pastor Brian



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

March 2024

Church Council Meeting Summary from March 12, 2024

The treasurer's report as well as staff reports are on file. The treasurer's position has been discussed several times over the past year concerning future help, and who is available if needed. Several people have offered to help temporarily. Bryan Troyer will look into possibly outsourcing the job.

The next bed build will take place on May 19. Twelve to fifteen beds will be built. This is a combined effort between the Salvation Army, United Way and Christ Church.

Church policies - Council has copies of everything that has been found in files. Some items are missing. Dwaine Hemphill organized a list of what we have/don't have. Council will begin reading through, rewriting, and organizing a handbook.

Christ Church is in conversation with the association office concerning a bridge pastor to fill the position until a settled pastor is found. Council will be speaking with a proposed candidate and negotiating a contract for ½ time hours. This candidate is available to begin on April 1.

Confirmation Sunday is March 24. Christ Church will welcome three confirmands - Hannah, Alaina, and Tate.

Delivery of the newsletter is, in some cases, too late to react to church events. The church office will mail them earlier and hope the post office responds earlier. Let's help the office administrator by submitting any articles by the suggested deadline. Thank you!

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Marilyn Schantz

Richard Wagner

Raymond Leisy

Jerry Amstutz

Ruth Harrington

Bob & Anne Snyder

William Arnold

Lisa Biddle

In Memory of Suzanne Stocker

William Arnold

In Memory of Bonnie Thompson

Janice Fowkes

Treasurer's Report

February 29, 2024

Current Fund	Month of Feb 2024	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 25,408	\$45,959	\$ 41,205
Other Income	\$ 407	\$ 1,116	\$ 1,101
Expenses	\$23,143	\$ 47,711	\$ 45,955
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,672	\$ (636)	\$ (3,650)
Benevolent Fund	\$ 3,418	\$ 6,159	\$ 5,145
Love Offering - Heifer Int'l	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 475
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$ 253	\$ 863	\$ 501

Pastor Emergency Fund Balance is \$1,038.

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

Youth News

Youth Fellowship (6th -12th grades)

4/1: No YF (Spring Break)

4/10: Youth Auction set-up, 6:30pm

4/14: 6-8pm at the church

4/21: 6-8pm at the church

4/26: Youth Late-In

4/28: No YF



Youth & Mentor Outing:

Our next youth and mentor activity will be Sunday, April 14th at 1:00pm. Meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Please eat lunch before you come, but save room for dessert!



Thank you:

A special thank you to all of our Kids Club volunteers! We could not do this special ministry without you.

Art & Soul:

Please join us on Thursday April 18th at 6:30 PM in the pole room for our LAST Art and Soul until the fall. We'll be creating a craft for the summer and you won't want to miss it! If you know you're coming, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the office.



Bigs & Littles:

Prepare to "Get Wild" as we celebrate God's amazing creation! At this animal themed Bigs and Littles we'll play and learn through stories, games, crafts, and more! This will be the LAST Bigs and Littles until October. All kids age kindergarten and younger are invited to attend from 6-7 PM on April 9th.



Volunteer Recognition

Please join us on Sunday, May 5th in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the work of our Kids Club, Youth Group, and Sunday School ministry volunteers! Everyone is invited to gather at 9:00 AM for a continental breakfast and brief presentation of thanks. We will also be celebrating our acolytes from the past year.

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Summer Camp

There is still time to sign up for Summer Camp! Don't miss your chance to be a part of the fun at Templed Hills this summer! This is the last year that summer camp will be held at Templed Hills, but not the last summer for camp! The church will once again be paying 1/2 the cost of camp for any church members who would like to attend. You will need to use code "letscamp30144667" to get the 50% coverage from the church. If you would like to read more about the camps that will be offered this year, scan the QR code below or log onto the Heartland Conference website. Have questions or need help picking a camp session that is right for you? Contact Kaylene Holderman.



Youth Auction:

The Youth Auction will be back on April 14th! This year's auction will again be a silent auction, and people will have 8 days to bid on any items that they are interested in. Bidding will start on Sunday, April 14th, and end at Noon on April 21st. The winners will be announced at potluck, and notified by phone.

All items will be set-up in the church's parlor and people can stop in before or after worship, throughout the week from 9:00am-1:00pm, during our normal Wednesday night activities, or by appointment.

The winner of each item can either pick up their items on April 28th (before or after worship) or can make arrangements with Lisa Yeagley to pick up at their convenience.

Proceeds from the auction go into the Youth Mission Fund to help offset the cost of the annual youth mission trip, and other local mission work throughout the year. This summer the youth will be traveling to Washington UCC in Cincinnati to help with their children's summer program.

If you have an item you would like to donate for the auction, please see Lisa Yeagley. All donated items need to be at the church by April 7th. Thank you for supporting our youth!

christ church youth group

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

APRIL 14TH - 21ST

BIDDING RULES

- Numbers will be used for bidding.
- Bidding will end at Noon on April 21st. Winners will be announced at potluck and called on the phone.
- If bidders would like an update on where their bid stands throughout the week, they can contact Lisa for updates.
- If there is a bidding issue. The final bidders will all write their best and final bid on a piece of paper. Highest bid wins the item. There will also be a no hovering rule. Once you make a bid, you must move on.

LOCATED IN THE PARLOR

HOURS FOR BIDDING

Sundays during Sunday School and before/after worship.
Monday - Friday 9:00am-1:00pm or by appointment.
Wednesday evening during Chancel Choir.

10% of the profits will be taken on the 2024 youth mission trip as a donation to the organization. The rest of the proceeds will be

Birthdays

4/02 Angela Craft	4/13 Mary Lou Bupp
4/02 Margaret Maupin	4/13 Tanner Hostetler
4/02 Michael Thompson	4/13 Haley Fetzer
4/02 Marc Shupp	4/14 Lindsey Yungen
4/03 Alex Schmid	4/14 Matthew Diehl
4/03 Stephen Null	4/14 Jaren Hershey
4/03 Corbin Tompkins	4/15 John Robart
4/03 William Gardner	4/17 Brad Nussbaum
4/04 Paul Gehres	4/17 Alexis Wilson
4/04 Richard Tompkins	4/18 Loren Burkey
4/04 Thomas Fowkes	4/18 Sarah Grimes
4/04 Jaxson Musser	4/18 Shane Clark
4/04 Cayleb Gehring	4/19 Marguerite Kropf
4/05 Taylor Lehman	4/20 Korie Baughman
4/06 Henry Weyrauch	4/20 Kendra Romanchik
4/06 Leonard Brown	4/21 William Duffy
4/07 Matthew Miller	4/22 Valerie Holderman
4/07 Kailey Kartisek	4/22 Hannah Legan
4/08 Vanessa Smith	4/25 Kristi Perry
4/08 Sarah Cross	4/25 Sarah Finney
4/09 Courtney Curtis	4/25 Andi Musser
4/10 Kim Gochnauer	4/26 Katy Kropf
4/10 Lisa Blackford	4/26 Jason Smith
4/10 Seth Clark	4/26 Robin Stocker
4/10 Sara Bowen	4/27 Kevin Kropf
4/10 Bronson Loera	4/28 Makenzie Bupp
4/11 Mary Helen Meeks	4/29 Paul Bailey
4/11 Pamela Null	4/29 Brooke Wyss
4/12 Lee Nussbaum	4/30 Sherri Thompson
4/12 Angie Seymour	



Anniversaries

4/01 Dennis & Sally Curtis
4/15 Chad & Noelle Findley
4/20 Don & Linda Bilderback
4/23 William & Linda Lacy
4/24 Kyle & Jennifer Brown
4/25 Joshua & Carolyn Crall
4/27 Mark & Sandra Abel



April's Special Offering will be directed to the Orrville Salvation Army - Maiwurm Service Center. This locally based historic operation is a community outreach ministry, started by a local businessman that provides food, hygiene products, bedding, clothing, and beds built by Orrville CUCC Youth/Adults. Orrville Salvation Army works with other area service agencies to provide information about services in our community that can help families who are facing economic challenges. Our local chapter is under new leadership, so please consider supporting this special offering and thank you in advance for your generosity!



Coffee (or Tea) & Conversation

Reminder that all ladies of the church are invited to gather at Sure House Coffee in Orrville on Saturday morning, April 6, from 9:00 to 10:00. If you have any questions or want to let us know you will be joining us, feel free to call or text Cheryl @ 330.201.4978 or Bethany @ 330.201.6796. You are more than welcome to just show up! Hope to see you there!



The next church potluck will be held after worship on Sunday, April 21st. See you there!!



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, Resettlement Refugee Fund - UCC, etc.); 1/3 to Local Missions (i.e. People to People Ministries, Friendship Meals, 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, Bryan Troyer and Jacob Weyrauch. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Looking for someone to mow your yard?

Our names are Corbin and Carson Tompkins and we are two high school students in Orrville. We have been mowing yards for many years. Please call us at 330-704-9452 for a free estimate. We are reliable, hard-working, dependable and will do a good job.

We also offer services of pet sitting, watering of plants, trees and gardens and mowing when people are out of town.

We also have a flyer upon request.

