



# THE VISITOR

## Introducing... Ladies of Light!



**5/4 Plant a Spring Pot**

Join us in May for a short devotion and plant your own spring flower pot!

When: Saturday, May 4th  
Time: 10:00am  
Where: Emma Fletcher's house  
5579 Chippewa Road, Orrville  
Cost: \$10.00  
RSVP: By 4/28. Encouraged, but not required! Please let us know if you plan to attend to help prepare the proper amount of materials.

Bring an 8"-12" pot to create your arrangement. Carpooling encouraged!

**What are the Ladies of Light?**  
Ladies of Light is a warm and welcoming women's group at Christ Church.

**What do we do?**  
All women are invited and encouraged to bring a friend as we gather for activities and fellowship, embracing the beauty of community and sisterhood. Lots of laughter is guaranteed!

**When are the gatherings?**  
We typically gather on the first Saturday of each month to deepen our faith, unwind, and cherish each other's company in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Gatherings will vary from month to month.

Join us as we illuminate our lives with faith, friendship, and fun!

Questions or to RSVP: Please contact Cheryl Diehl, Emma Fletcher, or Bethany Williams

Save the date for upcoming gatherings!

**6/1 Paint Pottery**  
10:30am at Lincway Art Studio, Dalton  
Pick out your own pottery piece to paint!

**8/9 Pool Party**  
1:00pm at Nancy H's house  
Bring a snack to share!

**7/6 Coffee & Convos**  
9:00am at Sure House, Orrville



Friends:

First, I must say how pleased I am to be with the Orrville Church of Christ United Church of Christ as your new bridge pastor. I look forward to getting to know you in the ministry we will share over the next few months.

I try to know names, but one of the first ways that I know people in a church building is by where they sit. Do you have a favorite place to sit in the sanctuary? You know, your seat? We all do. I'm not completely sure I understand the psychology behind that, but I do it too. Even when I'm a visitor to churches, I almost always head for the same area in the room. I do it when I arrive at meetings. I'll admit it; I'm uncomfortable anywhere else. Must be some kind of primal, territorial thing. Or just a deeply held, unexplainable OCD-type habit.

If you have been with the church for a while, many years possibly, you might recall someone who sat in "your" seat before you did. When we try to identify each other, we might say, "You know, the one who sits on the left side, third row from the back, toward the window."

Maybe it's in our church DNA. In the old New England congregations I've served, long ago, it was easy to find out who sat in what seat, present and past. There was a seating chart! Church members paid yearly rent for their pews. Maybe you've seen them: pews with doors and/or numbers. The center seats were the most expensive; the first and last rows were free (anybody could sit there; gee, I wonder why!). If you rented a pew for the year, it was literally your family's seat (in the oldest churches, you actually owned your pew with a deed, permanently). This was one way the church raised support, along with donations of corn, firewood, etc., to the pastor. Toward the end of the 1800's, churches began to experiment with confidential giving and pledging, so you could sit anywhere, but hey, don't forget - that's my seat!

I like to imagine Jesus as a visitor. When he walks into the room, where does he sit? He is risen, so he can sit anywhere he wants, right? If he keeps visiting, he probably moves around the room, trying out different seats. At some point, he will likely sit next to you. How do you feel about that? Anything you'd like to talk about? What do you think he would ask about you, about our church?

Sometimes, when I'm thinking (maybe a little too critically!) about church traditions, I wonder, this seating habit of ours, is it really what Jesus, the head of the church, had in mind? But more than that... I remember seeing a poster - a picture of Jesus. He was sitting in a church pew much like one of ours. You know him - long brown hair, white toga-type outfit, sandals. He was leaning to one side, fast asleep, his head on the shoulder of the person next to him. That sends a particular message to me, of course.

Final thoughts.... The work of the church is mainly outside our walls. Inside, we are preparing for the people who sit in these seats when we are gone. Remember, we are creating a legacy of faith and mission for those who follow us.

See you soon,

Pastor Chris, Bridge Pastor



# CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

April 2024

## Church Council Meeting Summary from April 9, 2024

Pastor Nichols offered a spiritual reflection based on the Jonah story. Our prayer: "When the winds blow and the waves roll, may I find myself in a community that cares enough, and is mature enough, to help me deal with my baggage. Amen."

Treasurer's Report - Currently the church has a \$2074 surplus. Report is on file.  
Council was in agreement to abstain from purchasing hanging baskets that are seen around Orrville streets. Council voted to sponsor OrrViews and Rotary Field of Flags.  
Staff reports are on file. March was a busy month with Holy Week, Confirmation activities, and Kid's Club.

Thirty baby bundles will be donated to CAMO. 3rd Sunday potlucks are planned for April (regular potluck), May (a potluck picnic with meat provided), and a special dinner on June 2nd provided by Seo Conrad.

Salvation Army and United Way are involved with Christ Church on the Bed Build Project. Lisa and the youth fellowship have also been very involved in this mission work. Council members are looking into purchasing items for CWS clean-up kits.

Council had a long discussion concerning job descriptions (not task lists) of current Christ Church personnel. Julie Finney, Terri Brest, Dwaine Hemphill, and Margaret Maupin have met with staff in their various positions. Bryan Troyer and Brian Amstutz will develop a task list for the treasurer's position.

Nancy Hranko was added to the church checking account as a signer.

Katherine Blasingame is compiling a list of committees and leaders.

Nancy Hranko has given notice that she is stepping back as bell choir director, effective May 1. Sarah Finney has offered to direct the choir.

## Treasurer's Report

March 31, 2024

Current Fund	Month of Mar 2024	Year-to-Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	\$ 24,815	\$70,774	\$ 59,621
Other Income	\$ 1,112	\$ 2,227	\$ 1,561
Expenses	\$23,217	\$70,927	\$ 67,103
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,710	\$ 2,074	\$ (5,921)
Benevolent Fund	\$ 2,844	\$ 9,003	\$ 8,789
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 220	\$ 1,220	\$ 365
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$ 652	\$ 1,214	\$ 1,157

Pastor Emergency Fund Balance is \$1,749.

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

## Memorial Gifts

### In Memory of Marilyn Schantz

Nancy Monheim  
Mike & Julie Finney  
Linda McHenry  
John & Judy Kropf

### In Memory of Bonnie Thompson

Linda McHenry

# Youth News

## Youth Fellowship (6th -12th grades)

5/5: Last Youth Fellowship until the Fall



## Youth & Mentor Outing:

Our next youth and mentor activity will be Sunday, May 5th after worship.



## Graduation Sunday:

On Sunday, May 26th, we will be recognizing our high school senior, Hailey Ayers. Hailey is graduating from Orrville High School. Please come join us to celebrate Hailey and wish her well on her next adventure!



## College Graduates:

Do you have a child or grandchild that is graduating college this year? We would like to recognize them in the bulletin on May 26th. Please e-mail Lisa Yeagley the name of their college, and the degree they are earning. We would love to celebrate their wonderful accomplishment!



## Summer Camp:

It's not too late to register for summer camp at Templed Hills! The church will once again be paying for half the cost of all Christ Church campers' tuition. Be sure to use code "letscamp30144667" to snag your 50% off registration discount. Need help choosing the camp that's right for you? Contact Kaylene Holderman for suggestions or just more information.



## Marketing Team:

Have you heard? We're getting a brand-new website! Kaylene Holderman and the Marketing Team have been working hard over the past few months on a fresh new look for Christ Church online. The site is planned to launch by the end of May, so be sure to watch the bulletin and the Chat!

We have also been working hard on a new logo for the church! Be sure to attend worship on June 9th for our official "Logo Launch" and the chance to get the latest in Christ Church swag!



**WE BELIEVE IN CHANGE... Please give thoughtfully to this month's Special Offering and thank you for your support!**

Our May Special Offering is for S.A.R.A (Sharing America's Resources Abroad) a non-profit organization incorporated in Ohio. It is an ecumenical ministry affiliated with the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ. S.A.R.A distributes medical supplies, equipment and expertise throughout the world.

S.A.R.A believes that by helping people to help themselves, and by giving them a boost towards self-sufficiency, the world will become a better place. Resources to accomplish S.A.R.A's mission come from volunteer participation and charitable donations provided by health-care providers, religious organizations, businesses, not-for-profit corporations and concerned individuals. S.A.R.A is particularly interested in working with other not-for-profit organizations who are seeking to serve others in the same way.

-Anna Davidson, CUCC Mission & Outreach Chair



## 3rd Sunday Potluck Cook-out!

Please join the Fellowship Committee for our annual cook-out on Sunday, May 19th. The Committee will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixings. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!



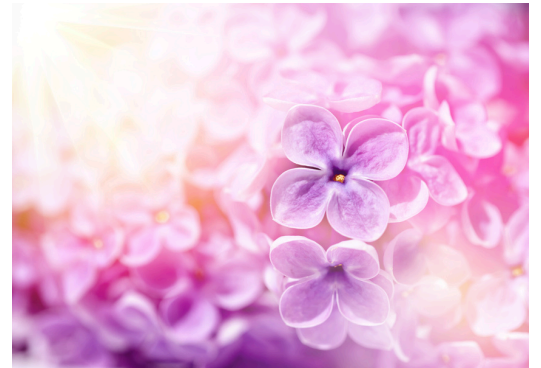
# Birthdays

5/01 Robert Ballentine  
5/01 Kehra Feltner  
5/03 Jasmine Clay  
5/03 Owen Lacy  
5/04 Charles Craft  
5/04 Jensen Hostetler  
5/05 Honoree Pouly  
5/06 Pat Lytle  
5/06 Eric Smith  
5/07 Jim Jelinek  
5/07 Erik McGrew  
5/07 Isaiah Phaphouvaninh  
5/08 Vicki Dreher  
5/08 Richard Smith  
5/08 Seo Conrad  
5/08 Scott Findley  
5/08 Haiden Luangraj  
5/09 Barbara Bupp  
5/09 Jenna Thistlethwaite  
5/09 Jillian Thistlethwaite  
5/11 Leah Acker  
5/12 Annaliese Gehres  
5/13 Brian Shaffer  
5/14 Mary Legan  
5/15 Alison Cook  
5/15 Sarah Legan  
5/16 Michelle Savchuk  
5/16 Jadon Weyrauch  
5/17 Mike Ferich  
5/17 Rhonda Weeman  
5/18 Tim Musser  
5/18 Jake Kohler  
5/18 Thomas Landis  
5/18 Ken Legan  
5/19 Matthew Kratzer  
5/20 Robert Hershey  
5/20 David Hershey  
5/21 Bonnie Thompson  
5/22 Ryan Berkey  
5/23 Lynn Anderson  
5/23 Parker Duxbury  
5/24 Carol Leiendecker  
5/24 Mary Scott  
5/24 Tim Schantz  
5/24 Heather Kohler  
5/24 Megan Malcuit  
5/26 Elle Shumney  
5/27 Brent Shupp  
5/27 Brooke Musser  
5/27 Alaina Yeagley  
5/28 Betsy Wagers  
5/28 Garrett Brest  
5/28 Zachary Donley  
5/29 Nadine Landaw  
5/30 Priscilla Musser  
5/30 Janet Williams  
5/31 Lori Ayers  
5/31 Alexander Phaphouvaninh



# Anniversaries

5/11 Brian & Tammy Erb  
5/12 Andrew & Geneva Johnson  
5/13 David & Barbara Bupp  
5/17 Don & Sharon Wolf  
5/18 David & Beth Lamrsh  
5/20 Jason & Jamie O'Quinn  
5/23 Mike & Tina Hostetler  
5/26 Scott & Kathy Falb  
5/28 Marvin & Nancy Kragt



# Bed-Build Update:

In April, CUCC delivered more beds to Orrville Salvation Army. These were beds from the most recent build. Thanks to Joe Hranko for responding to the call with same-day delivery! Our next bed-build will take place on the evening of May 19th in the outdoor green space. Youth will work with adult volunteers to ready the bed parts for assembly and probable storage. Ultimate delivery will be to Orrville Salvation Army when CUCC gets a call from the service agency, letting us know beds are needed.



## 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.

