

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE CHRONICLES SEPTEMBER 2018

PASTOR'S LETTER

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Dear Church,

I grew up in a part of rural Minnesota that was surrounded with prairieland. In fact, one of the historic Laura Ingles Wilder *Little House on the Prairie* sites was on my drive to church. Prairies have a lot of grasses because they are sandy and lack trees like some ecosystems. I remember seeing devastating prairie fires as a kid. The fires would spread quickly in the wind and leave scorched earth behind in their wake. However, within days the ash would generally yield a bounty of new green growth. The ashes gave way to new life.

For the past couple of weeks I have been talking about the Bread of Life readings from John's Gospel. It has been challenging to a number of folks in our congregation because I have tried to connect the stories to our world today. In the first episode we heard about Jesus feeding 5,000 people without enough food to feed that many people. Somehow there was enough for everyone. That story was a challenge to our sense of scarcity and basic human needs. The second episode involved the people who Jesus fed in the first one. They came around him for more leftovers, but Jesus used the opportunity to challenge them about what it means to be hungry versus empty. He told them they would always get hungry, but their deep spiritual hunger could only be sated by the way of life he offered. Jesus challenged the people to choose a different path and to be open to the life he offered them. We talked about being challenged by differing viewpoints as a way of feeling deep fulfillment.

In the next episode, we heard that people were upset with Jesus for calling *himself* the "bread of life" that came down from heaven. This angered the people around him since it was as if he was making a mockery of their ancestral story of God sending "manna" (bread particles) down from heaven. This offended his religious community. They also knew his birth parents so they knew he didn't literally "come down from heaven." I tried to break down why it mattered that people seemed to disqualify what Jesus was saying because they knew his parentage. They weren't able to hear what Jesus had to say because they were fixated on how he offended their traditions *and* they knew his background. Like the folks in Jesus' community, some folks didn't quite hear what I intended to say, either – but focused instead on the illustration I used to explain how people talked about Jesus' family.



Something was said and meant one way, but it was heard and interpreted differently because of our strongly held convictions about customs.

In the fourth episode of the Bread of Life discourse, Jesus again reiterated that he is the bread of life come down from heaven. We heard that the people didn't complain about him saying this – they *argued*. They fought. Did this stop Jesus? No. He goes on to say he actually is the bread itself and his blood is the wine. If the people were upset about his interpretation of the manna story, they were probably even more offended by his interpretation of their Seder Meal custom (eating bread and drinking wine). Jesus knows what he says is challenging to people. He knows what he says sets ablaze the anger of those who are embroiled in tradition. He knows that what he says sets aflame the wrath of those who *know* his parents and his background. He knows that what he says is likely to cause a flare-up on a sensitive topic for them: customs and heritage. However, Jesus does not lob a bomb at his fellow persons of faith to destroy them. Jesus didn't leave behind an ash heap, but instead he left the people with new life and an alternative perspective from their own.

Jesus did not and I do not intend to preach on things or make illustrations during sermons as a way of leaving behind scorched earth. What would be the purpose of that? However, as Christians living in the 21st century we need to know what our options are for how to live out our faith in the world. Jesus addressed challenges and difficult subjects during his time. He challenged in order to make people wrestle with their own convictions and call into question whether they aligned with God's vision for the world – the Kingdom of God. He challenged in order to feed and nourish people. Like a prairie fire, a challenging example is not fatal. It may leave behind ash and fallout, but from that ash – new sprouts of life and growth shoot forth.

A couple months ago we celebrated Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. We remember how tongues of fire anointed the apostles' heads and how each of them was able to speak and understand different languages. The Spirit rested upon them as a fiery flame, but it did not burn them up. The image I used for Pentecost Sunday was an earth-fired chalice. I set it ablaze and it burned brightly with fire. Ever since that Sunday – the Sunday when I departed for 40 days of active duty military service, the chalice has sat upon the altar at the front of the church cold and full of ash. It's kind of sad because that isn't what a church is supposed to be like. It is my prayer that perhaps difficult conversations and topics can be a spark that ignites the chalice of our church again.

I need each of you to know that when I preach I try to be mindful of 200 people's points of view and beliefs. I try to be as even-handed as possible. Like the community back when Jesus was alive and preaching difficult lessons – we sometimes don't hear the intended message in the way that I meant. For that I am sorry. However, like Jesus, I will try to continue to challenge and help us grow. It is my prayer that we will not leave behind scorched earth when we teach, preach, and dialogue – but rather, new life. I look forward to the new life that this fall brings us at Christ Church as we continue to explore the Bread of Life discourse from John's Gospel. I hope you do too.

With respect,
Pastor Dan Stark

OUR FALL STEWARDSHIP THEME: LIVING THE FAITH

Fall Stewardship activities will concentrate on Small Group Meetings regarding the giving aspect of Stewardship. All congregants will be contacted and encouraged to attend one of these hour-long sessions that will focus on addressing the resolution passed at the last Christ Church Annual meeting. That resolution called for a 25% increase in offerings made to the church in 2018, to allow us to move from surviving to thriving in our ministries to our members, our community, and to the world as a whole. Emphasis will be given to the importance of Christ Church in the lives of the congregants and how easy it would be to move from merely surviving to thriving as a Christian congregation and in the ministries which we participate. All are called by God to engage in LIVING THE FAITH in all aspects of our lives.

“HOW IS CHRIST CHURCH DOING FINANCIALLY??”

Our 2018 annual church budget is \$205,350, or \$17,030 per month, or \$3,930.00 per week.

Month	Budget	Running Budget Total	Monthly Receipts	Total Running Receipts	Monthly Balance/ (Shortage)	Running Balance/ (Shortage)
April	\$17,030.00	\$68,120.00	\$20,049.17	\$64,190.14	\$3,019.17	(\$3,929.86)
May	\$17,030.00	\$85,150.00	\$11,641.05	\$75,831.19	(\$5,388.95)	(\$9,318.81)
June	\$17,030.00	\$102,180.00	\$15,251.10	\$91,082.29	(\$1,778.90)	(\$11,097.71)
July	\$17,030.00	\$119,210.00	\$15,837.02	\$106,919.31	(\$1,192.98)	(\$12,290.69)

“AT A GLANCE”

For a quick update each month check out the large thermometer in the Niefer Chapel showing our budget and the funds received each month. July had five Sundays which helps with our monthly totals. As of the end of July we were approximately 10.3% short of our budget, or about \$12,300.

Thank you to all for your faithful and generous giving. Keep up the great work!! Your gifts are the reason Christ Church is able to continue our mission in the Bay View area and beyond.

IDEA: Please consider helping with the fund raisers that happen around Christ Church. These fund raisers help us meet our budget too. Saturday, the 20th of October is the Christ Church Craft Fair. There are opportunities to help serve lunch, sell bakery, sell your own crafts or stop down and see what you might want to purchase. It is also a fun way to get to know members of your congregation. Thanks for considering this opportunity.

Joan Gaeth, Stewardship Committee

OPPORTUNITY: ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is now a possibility! If you're in the pew and you'd like to give something other than cash or a check, you are encouraged to use your phone to visit



www.christchurchbayview.org and tap the donate button at the bottom. You can pay with an existing PayPal account or with any credit card. It's easy and it saves your information for the next time you visit! Wondering what one of these weird scanny codes in the bulletin is? Give them a scan with a QR reader app on your phone and it will bring up the donation page! Want more information about online giving? See

Pastor Dan or contact the church office at 414-481-3530. **Please only donate with a credit card using a Pay Pal account so the church doesn't incur costly fees.**

COLLEGE STUDENT & DEPLOYED MILITARY INFORMATION REQUEST

Please contact the church office with the name(s), address, phone number and any email information of any family members who are at college or deployed for the military. We would like to keep in touch with them while they are away so they know we care. You can do this via church email: christ-church@att.net, phone: 414-481-3530, mail: 915 E Oklahoma Ave. Milw. 53207 or the black mailbox outside of the church office. Thank You!

OPPORTUNITY: WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you're interested in receiving the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the Church Administrator (christ-church@att.net) to be added to the list (414-481-3530). Sign up sheets are also available at the information areas at the church entrances, then just drop it in the collection plate. It's that simple.

OPPORTUNITY: SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY POSTER

Anyone missing the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Sunday in June can still identify their spiritual gifts by filling out the questionnaire and following the instructions on the Spiritual Gifts Poster found in the church chapel. Explanations and opportunities to utilize your talents are listed. What has God been calling you to do? Spend a few minutes answering the questions and find out!

SHARING IN OUR SPONSORSHIP OF DAWA CHOEDON

Please remember that the Christ Church Council has voted to sponsor a child through "Global Ministries" (Relief organization of UCC & Christian Church-Disciples of Christ). Yes, we are all very excited about our sponsored child, Dawa Choedon.

Dawa is 12 years old and lives in Lhaze Zong in Tibet. Both her father and mother are farmers. She has 2 sisters. Since Dawa's parents are poor they have sent all 3 siblings to the Upper Tibetan Children's Village (TCV) for an education.

The cost of sponsoring Dawa is \$45/month, or \$11.25/week. We hope to be able to sponsor her for a year with proceeds from our donut hour offering. We are encouraged to write to Dawa so she will know who is sponsoring her and that she may be able to write back to her "family" in the United States. The address to write to her is:

Dawa Choedon
Tenzin Zeden, Children's Secretary
Tibetan Children's Village
Dharamsala Cantt 176216
Distt. Kangra H.P. India

This is a special mission that was initiated to bring special meaning to our social gathering on Sunday mornings. Please give as you are moved to support this mission effort. This particular children's mission was chosen because it is connected with the United Church of Christ. If our Donut Hour ministry is successful perhaps we can support another child/organization next year through our funds. If you have any thoughts regarding this mission step taken through the donut hour please voice them to any member of the church council or to Dean Kothrade.

May we all share our God given blessings with Dawa.

OPPORTUNITY: BVCC FOOD PANTRY ANNUAL WALK AND \$\$ COLLECTION

July-September 8th you can donate your change or write a check and deposit it in the container in the entrance of the sanctuary for the BVCC Food Pantry drive. You can also participate in the 12th annual Food Walk Saturday Sept. 8th at 10:00am. Pick up an entrance form by the container. Last year we were #2 in all of the community organizations in donated funds! Let's keep up the good work again this year!

Sponsored by Lutheran Chapel of the Cross and BVCC.

EVENT: FERMENTING THE FAITH (FTF) SEPTEMBER 26TH

FTF (not to be confused with FFF!) will meet on Wednesday Sept 26th at 6:30 PM at the Humboldt Park Beer Garden. On Wednesday Oct 24th, we will move inside and meet in the home of Jim & Randene Wick, 8507 Willow Pointe Parkway, Franklin. FTF is a social gathering with a Bible Study theme. Join us for some fun and interesting discussions about our faith.

EVENT: CROP WALK SUNDAY OCTOBER 14, 2018

CROP Walk raises funds for global disaster and hunger relief. They also collect food for the Milwaukee Hunger Task Force, helping to feed our neighbors right here in Milwaukee County. CROP is our community wide hunger response of Church World Service (CWS).

We have been informed that Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee is no longer organizing the annual CROP Walk in the Milwaukee area. They suggested that any church who is still interested in raising funds for Church World Service, create their own event. We would like to have a "symbolic CROP Walk" at Christ Church in which we would raise donations for CWS without the formality of an organized walk. Over the next several weeks there will be opportunities for you to contribute food and/or monetary donations to our CROP Walk event.

Please give generously to our hungry neighbors in need both near and far!

See Dean or Pam Kothrade or Laurel Dayton for more details.

EVENT: CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR OCTOBER 20TH

The Craft Fair is fast approaching. If you have any crafts you wish to sell and are interested in purchasing a both or floor space, see Ken or Sue Klockow, or call the church office. If you are interested in helping with the craft fair see them as well. It is Sweetest Day and you could purchase your sweetheart something special or get that one of a kind gift for Christmas which is right around the corner.

EVENT: FFF OCTOBER FAMILY ACTIVITY OCTOBER 26TH

Please join your fellow church members for a fun October Family activity! We have reserved a group of tickets for David Seebach's "Illusions in the Night" magic show on October 26th at 7:30 p.m. The show is described as a seasonal mixture of magic and humor with some appropriate Tricks N' Treats! The show is at the Sunset Playhouse 700 Wall Street Elm Grove, WI 53122. Cost for tickets is \$17.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children under 12. **Please let us know if you are interested in reserving tickets by September 23rd as a deposit is due 1 month prior.** Please contact Mary Ann Mowery, Ken Klockow, Dean or Pam Kothrade to reserve your seat. Additionally beer, wine, water, soda, cookies and chocolate are available at the theater for an additional cost. Looking forward to a fun night!

OPPORTUNITY: ALL CHRIST CHURCH BOOK CLUB

We would like to invite all members of the congregation and any family or friends to our upcoming book club meeting. On November 25th we will discuss "Christmas Jars" by Jason F. Wright. Books can be obtained at the library, Half Price Books and online at Amazon or EBay. If you have any questions contact Carol Borchardt, Carol Dohoney, Debbie Hansen or Mary Ann Mowery.

OPPORTUNITY: BREAKFAST CLUB

Next breakfast club meeting date pending. Please watch for more information in upcoming announcements and newsletters.



OPPORTUNITY: EARN POINTS THAT TURN INTO \$\$\$ FOR CHRIST CHURCH AT GFS (GORDON FOOD SERVICE)

Christ Church now has an account with GFS. GFS is similar to Restaurant Depot where they sell bulk foods and food related supplies and offer points when you make a purchase. Here's how you can help:

*Shop at any of these these locations: 6919 S 27th St., Franklin, 2064 Miller Park Way, Milwaukee, 1025 S. Green Bay Road, Racine

*When checking out ask that the points from your purchase go to Christ Churches account. (The cashier will look up our account and credit Christ Church with the points)

*If you're making a purchase for a Christ Church event contact Debbie in the church office for our member card and any cash on the account can be used towards your purchase.

NEED: BAY VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER COLLECTION SUNDAY September 2ND

Canned proteins such as: • Canned Soups (both cream and broth) • Peanut Butter • Jelly • Canned Vegetables • Canned Fruits & Juices • Cereal • Mac and Cheese • Canned Tuna

NEED: DIVINE INTERVENTION & LARRY UNDER THE BRIDGE

Most urgent needs are: Paper Towel, Toilet Paper, Kleenex and Laundry pods

NEED: ASLC (ARTS, SCIENCE, LITERACY CAMP)

Paper Products: Paper towels, toilet paper, napkins and Kleenex.

Snacks: Cheese cubes or sticks, Crackers, Carrots, Granola Bars, but no more pretzels please.

No nuts and some gluten free appreciated!

Donations for DI, LUTB and ASLC can be put on the table next to the stage or in the basket in the chapel designated for these causes. Please label which group they are for. Thanks!

ONGOING NEED ASLC:

Tracking to date: \$2625.00-**\$1026.50 received**=Need \$1599.50 to reach goal.

Thanks! The Social Concerns Committee & Jim Wick

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

September: Regular church office hours commence-Tuesday-Friday 8am-2pm

September 2: BVCC Food Pantry Drive, Worship with Communion 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30am, BVCC "Coin Drive", Holiday Weekend-No Confirmation Class

September 3: Happy Labor Day!

September 5: Staff Meeting 10:30am, Praise Team Resumes 7:00pm

September 6: Bulletin Announcement submissions by 10:00am, Choir 7:00pm, AA Meeting 7:00pm

September 8: Crochet Class 10:00am, Card Club 10:00am

September 9: Rally Sunday, Choir 8:15am, Adult Ed. 8:30am, Worship, Confirmation & Sunday School 9:30am, No Confirmation Class following worship, No Coffee Hour- Church Wide picnic 10:30am Humboldt Park, Final day for the BVCC "Coin Drive".

September 10: Property Committee Meeting 7:00pm

September 11: Quilters 10:00am

September 12: Praise Team 7:00am

September 13: Weekly announcement submissions by 10:00am, AA Meeting 7:00pm, Social Concerns Meeting Offsite 7:00pm

September 16: Praise Team 8:15am, Adult Ed. 8:30am, Chapel Communion 9:00am, Worship, Confirmation & Sunday School 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30am, No Confirmation class following worship, Pastor Dan departs immediately after worship for Military Duty thru September 29th.

September 18: Council Meeting 6:30pm

September 20: September Chronicles Submissions by 10:00am, AA Meeting 7:00pm

September 22: Crochet Class 10:00am
 September 23: Adult Ed. 8:30am, Worship, Confirmation & Sunday School 9:30am, No Confirmation Class following worship, Coffee Hour 10:30am
 September 25: Quilters 10:00am
 September 26: FTF(Fermenting the Faith) 6:30pm Humboldt Park Beer Garden
 September 27: Weekly Announcement submissions by 10:00am, AA Meeting 7:00pm
 September 29: Pastor Dan returns from Military Duty
 September 30: Adult Ed. 8:30am, Worship & Sunday School 9:30am, Confirmation Class 11:00am, Coffee Hour 10:30am

SAVE THE DATE

October 6: SECA Picnic
 October 7: BVCC Food & Infant Formula Pantry Collection, Choir 8:15am, Adult Ed. 8:30am, Worship with communion 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30am, Confirmation Class 11:00am
 October 10: Endowment Meeting 7:00pm
 October 14: Local CROP Walk
 October 20: Christ Church Craft Fair
 October 26: FFF-David Seebach's "Illusions of the Night" 7:30pm at the Sunset Playhouse

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

9/2 Volunteer Needed	9/9 Church Picnic 10:30am	9/16 Sara Rogers	9/23 Volunteer Needed	9/30 Volunteer Needed
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LENOX STREET PARKING HELPER SCHEDULE

9/2 David & Nancy Wareham	9/9 Tom & Carol Dohoney	9/16 Bill & Carol Borchardt	9/23 Jim & Randene Wick	9/30 Don Antoniewicz
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GREETER SCHEDULE

Oklahoma Street	9/2 Eric & Lauralei Schmidling	9/9 Joan Amich	9/16 Nancy Jonokuchi	9/23 Fritz & Maggie Jorgenson	9/30 Amy Cox
Lenox Street	9/2 Robert & Joyce Zieman	9/9 Brad, Cheri & Aaron Boyle	9/16 Brad, Rebecca, Evan & Isabelle Berger	9/23 Don Antoniewicz	9/30 Dean & Pam Kothrade

USHER SCHEDULE

9/2 Bill Borchardt Tom Dohoney Carol Dohoney Debbie Hansen	9/9 Debbie Behling Ben Clark Chelsea Clark Fred Passow	9/16 Katelyn O'Brien David Porn Mike Thomae David Wareham	9/23 Julene Flanagan Mary Ann Mowery Judy Savage Chuck Terlinden	9/30 Joan Amich Dick Gaeth Joan Gaeth Brian O'Brien
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WELCOME BACK TO CHOIR AND PRAISE TEAM!

I hope you've had a wonderful summer filled with fun and sun and you are refreshed to begin a new year! I am looking forward to worshipping our Lord together in song.

Anyone interested in singing or playing a musical instrument with us, please see Pam Kothrade. Stay tuned for more information on our Christmas concert in December.....



CHOIR SCHEDULE

Rehearsals	9/6 7-8:30pm	9/6 7-8:30pm	9/27 7-8:30pm	10/4 7-8:30pm	10/25 7-8:30pm	11/1 7-8:30pm
Sunday Rehearsal and Service	9/9 8:15-9:15am	10/7 8:15-9:15am	11/4 8:15-9:15am			

PRAISE TEAM SCHEDULE

Rehearsals	9/5 7-8:30pm	9/12 7-8:30pm	10/10 7-8:30pm	10/17 7-8:30pm	11/7 7-8:30pm	11/14 7-8:30pm
Sunday Rehearsal and Service	9/16 8:15-9:15am	10/21 8:15-9:15am	11/18 8:15-9:15am			

WEEKLY SCRIPTURES

9/2	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Deuteronomy 4:1-6-9 Psalm 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
9/9	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125	Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
9/16	Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19	Isaiah 50:4-91a Psalm 116:1-9 or Solomon 7:26-8:1	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
9/23	Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1	Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
9/30	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19: 7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

9/2 Howard Fritsch	9/9 Doris Mayeshiba	9/16 Dean Kothrade	9/23 Diane Bingheim	9/30 Randene Wick
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BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all these wonderful folks!

SEPTEMBER 3

Rebecca Berger
Bradley Bingheim
Ryan Gaeth
Lynn Schmeling

SEPTEMBER 6

Ella Malecki

SEPTEMBER 9

Tiffany Buell

SEPTEMBER 11

Charlotte Stark

SEPTEMBER 13

Marian Witter

SEPTEMBER 15

David Hansen

SEPTEMBER 17

Jack Tremarello

SEPTEMBER 19

Jill Unglaub

SEPTEMBER 20

Patricia Popp

SEPTEMBER 21

Brad Boyle
Melissa Wells-Nyklewicz

SEPTEMBER 22

Robert Fine

SEPTEMBER 23

Jean Flynn

Madeline Norton

SEPTEMBER 26

Thad Spidell

SEPTEMBER 28

Kathy Stouff



THANKS

~Thank you to all who helped at the Ruth Buenger funeral greeting, ushering, setting up and with the reception. Ruth's family was very appreciative and grateful.

~We thank Mike Behling & Tom Dohoney for repairing and stabilizing the church kitchen cabinets. Thanks also go out to all who emptied the cabinets, washed the dishes and carefully put the dishes away again.

Fritz Jorgenson

~We accept with gratitude and appreciation a memorial donation made to the roof fund in memory of Pastor Dan's Grandma, Mary Anna Kennedy Hennessy from Judy Borkowicz.

~We received a "Thank You" from Linda Niefert at the BVCC for a monetary donation to the food pantry. She states that usage of the food pantry is up 10% the 2nd quarter of 2018 and continues to rise. They are grateful for our help.

CHRIST CHURCH
United Church of Christ
915 East Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

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THE CHRONICLES

SEPTEMBER 2018



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