

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE CHRONICLES APRIL 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Letter
President's Letter
Church Council New Members
Weekly Newsletter & Online
Giving Sign-Up's
Information Request & update
Opportunities, Events & Needs
Schedules & Scripture Calendar
Birthdays
Thanks
Dawa Choedon Sponsorship
Rummage Sale Sign Up
Chronicles Sign Up
Get Connected



PASTOR'S LETTER

DEAR CHURCH,

A couple days ago I was doing some spring-cleaning in my office and I came across an old "Frequently Called Numbers" list from one of my predecessors. It was surprising because I couldn't help but notice how different the congregation is today. This led me to consult our church directory.

When I looked at the directory a lot of thoughts came to my mind: "Wow! I haven't seen this person forever!" "This person passed away." "This person moved." "This person doesn't attend here anymore." There were even some pages of the directory that I could simply cross out. It made me a little sad, because I think that our church could be dying. As Christians we know, though, that death is not the end of our story.

With April we don't just see the season premiere of the finale of *Game of Thrones*, but we also cross the finish line of Lent. The empty tomb of Easter Sunday reminds us that death is the beginning of our story, and it does not get to have the last word. The Christ Church that existed 20, 30, 40, or 50+ years ago is dying. However, because we are a resurrection people, our story does not end with death. Death is unpleasant. Jesus knew this. That is why he grieved for his dead friend Lazarus despite being able to resurrect him. I believe our church – the church of all those crossed out names, numbers, and faces in the directories – is in the process of being resurrected. It may be sad to say goodbye to our life before, but it will ultimately lead to new life.

I mentioned in my last article that our Church Council is going to be exploring our mission statement. Part of this statement that our spiritual forebearers put together is a charge for each of us *to accept diversity, to share the good news, and to serve beyond ourselves*. Over the last 3.5 years of my tenure I have had countless people reach out to me time and time again about whether Christ Church would be an accepting community for them and their LGBTQ loved ones. These persons have asked me whether Christ Church is the welcoming church that our mission statement says we are. I have not always been able to answer these Christians with an affirmative.

I believe our resurrection story was written in the words of our mission statement long ago. Part of this story has to deal with human sexuality, gender identity, and hospitality for all God's people. If you aren't yet aware, there are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Christians who attend Christ Church already.

They are involved in the ministries of our church. They give and support our ministries. They enjoy our coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings. In the UCC we believe in the “priesthood of all believers.” That means that each of us bear gifts from God no matter who we are. These LGBTQ Christians are part of that priesthood too.

Yes, our church is dying but it is in the process of being resurrected. Part of our resurrected church means that we can and will live more fully into our mission statement of accepting diversity, being a nurturing community, and sharing the gospel with *everyone*.

Part of our church’s dying and resurrection process is going to be exploring our identity, because I cannot tell you how many evangelistic and opportunities for growth we have missed out on with LGBTQ persons because they have thought we were not welcoming.

I know that you are a people of extravagant welcome. I know that we can live into our mission statement more fully. I know that embracing the walk of Christ will not fundamentally change our identity. However, I do believe that the church resurrected will be different than the church of old. Be advised that your Church Council is going to be approached by me to initiate a conversation about this birthing process. Be advised that I will be looking for persons who take issues of human sexuality seriously and passionately. Be advised that whatever side you come down to you will be heard, loved, and listened to by me.

Part of this journey to becoming a resurrected church will involve conversations with you and hearing stories from our friends and families. I am hopeful you will be open to the Spirit and respectful of the persons of faith that choose to bear their souls and be vulnerable with you as we begin a journey of discernment together. My prayer for you this Easter for all of us and for our church is that we can die and be resurrected – so we can recognize our potential as a resurrection people.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor



PRESIDENT’S LETTER

I believe we are given lessons plainly displayed in everyday things we do or see but like with any blessing we have to have receptive hearts and discerning minds to see and understand the lessons being shown to us.

My example? Dexter. Dexter is our Wisconsin Humane Society American Fox Hound who is as gentle and loving as any creature that ever lived. He loves to be with people, play, and would not harm anyone. He let’s me sleep and will not get out of his bed until I get up. No kidding. He is a very good dog except.... for one tiny little thing. When he gets off his leash he’s gone as fast as he can run. No amount of coaxing, commanding, or food will bring him home. Not even the Humane Society training class the Joe & Barb Heino family gave us or Jim Wick’s suggestions to me have worked. It is only after he’s completely tired out, hungry, and totally spent will he return home. Sometimes he’s very dirty and scratched, he’s always hungry, and he’ll sleep for 12 hours after returning from one of his “vacations”.

He loves to play ball but we have to do it on a leash. He loves to play tag but we have to do it on a leash. Sometimes he just picks up his favorite toy and just wants to run to get his energy out but, you guessed it, he has to do it all on the confines of his leash.

I want so badly to give him his heart’s desire and take him to an open area and just let him run and have the fun he wants. But I can’t, he won’t come when he’s called. I want the best for him and I know all the fun we could have if he would just come when he was called so I could keep him out of danger.

I know that if he could, he would gladly give up those very few sprints for freedom for a lifetime of no leash walks, no leash playing ball, and no leash running as hard as he wants around the yard chasing all the rabbits. But he can't make that decision. God gave me the ability to make a decision like that but Dexter doesn't have the same ability.

So, here I am. The only difference between Dexter and I is I know there is a better way. Whether I choose that way is totally up to me. I have my "sprints for freedom" when I do things that benefit only me at the time, or cause me no embarrassment at the time, or save me money at the time, or make me popular at the time. I do these things instead of reading, studying, remembering, and thinking through what the Bible teaches me. Jesus proclaims a life of never ending bliss (Dexter's no leash dream) if only we use the ability we have all been blessed with and make a decision to see past our fleeting "sprints for freedom" and trade those few sprints for the endless blessings that are promised to us from our Creator who knows better because, after all, He created everything, including all of us.

May we all use our priceless gifts of reasoning and intelligence to our own, and our Creator's, advantage by trusting in His instructions to us on how to obtain the heaven we all want but can't fully absorb in our limited thinking.

Dean Kothrade
Council President

CHRIST CHURCH NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

We are very pleased to have had 2 people join the council. They are Kim O'Brien and Jennifer Perdue. The church council is grateful to have such energetic and talented people partner with the rest of us in guiding our church. We are still looking for 1 more council position to be filled. Please talk to anyone on the council including Kim and Jennifer. This is an opportunity to use the talents and gifts you were given to shape and guide our church and its ministry outreach.

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.uccmke.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.**



OPPORTUNITY: WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you're interested in receiving the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the Church Administrator (office@uccmke.org) 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.

INFORMATION REQUEST: COLLEGE STUDENT & DEPLOYED MILITARY

Please contact the church office with the name(s), address, phone number and 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: office@uccmke.org, phone: 414-481-3530, mail: 915 E Oklahoma Ave. Milw. 53207 or the black mailbox outside of the church office. Thank You!

EVENT/OPPORTUNITY CHRIST CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER 9AM-4PM FRIDAY APRIL 5TH & SATURDAY APRIL 6TH



NEEDS:

*Bakery for the Bake Sale *Hot Dogs & Bun donations *Workers at the Sale both Friday & Saturday
Please fill out a sign up sheet on the last page of the Chronicles, from a Sunday bulletin or contact
Debbie Behling via the office: 414-481-3530, office@uccmke.org or at home 414-481-8454.
Thank You! Debbie & Mike Behling



OPPORTUNITY: CHRIST CHURCH BOOK CLUB

Inviting all Christ Church members and their friends to our next book club meeting. We have fellowship time as well as thought provoking discussions about our book. Please join us on Sunday April 7th after church as we discuss *Bad Grils of The Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Looking forward, we will be meeting on Sunday October 6th and discussing *Angels Among Us* by Wanda Rosseland. Books can be obtained at the library, Amazon, Ebay or your local bookstore. Hope you can join us! If you have any questions ask Carol Borchardt, Carol Dohoney, Debbie Hansen or Mary Ann Mowery

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRAMENT LEARNING CENTERS PALM SUNDAY APRIL 14TH-20 MINUTES PRIOR AND AFTER WORSHIP 9:00 AM to 9:20 AND/OR 10:35 AM to 10:50 AM (Choose one)

NOTE: If needed, there will be a slight adjustment in time based on the end of the worship service

- **Tour the Sanctuary** exploring baptism and communion areas and symbols of these displayed in the church.
- **Seder meal enactment** in the chapel (shorter version). The Seder meal is a Jewish ritual that commemorates Passover, which is the very reason the disciples gathered for Christ's Last Supper.

10:45 to 11:15

Fellowship Hall Activities

- **Breadmaking** for Holy Week communion services. (Pine Room)
- **Making grape juice** for Holy Week communion. (Pine Room)
- **Individual reflections** about the sacraments.
- **Hands-on projects.**



Background

Sacrament by definition is a sacred ordinance of the Church instituted by Jesus Christ in which by visible signs and means he imparts and preserves the new life.

How many sacraments has Christ instituted? There are two sacraments; Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Within the denomination of the United Church of Christ we celebrate these two sacraments, while in other faith groups like the Roman Catholic Church there are additional sacraments.)

During each baptism our congregation promises, with the help of God, to provide a nurturing community of faith. These learning centers are one way we can live out that pledge.

Questions: Please contact Pastor Dan or Jim Wick

EASTER BREAKFAST

The Christ Church council will be hosting our Easter Breakfast this year. It will be served from 7:30am-8:45am on Easter morning Sunday April 21st. The menu will be an egg casserole dish, hash brown potatoes, fruit, rolls, bakery, juice, coffee, and milk. We will be accepting a free will offering on that day and we are hoping that the breakfast goers remember that we are sponsoring a child with the proceeds from ALL Sunday morning fellowship events including the Easter breakfast.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome!



EASTER EGG HUNT FOR KIDS

An Easter Egg hunt will be held for Sunday School age children following breakfast from 8:45am-9:10am on Easter Sunday April 21st. Children will gather in the chapel at 8:45am for instructions and bags to collect their eggs in. All Sunday School age children are invited to participate as well as any guests.

AED REVIEW SUNDAY APRIL 28TH

There will be a review on how to use the church's AED. For those interested please join us on April 28th after church in the pine room. If you have any questions please contact Mary Ann Mowery.

OPPORTUNITY: VOLUNTEER FOR 2019 UCC GENERAL SYNOD

The Wisconsin Conference will be hosting the 32nd General Synod of the UCC in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019. Approximately 300-400 volunteers will be needed throughout the 5 days of the General Synod next June. Volunteer opportunities are: Hospitality, Childcare & Children's Ministry, Mission, Word Processing and Tech, Worship, Outdoor Festival and More!

Read more at WCUCC.org/synodvolunteer. Use the link there for volunteer registration.

NEED: BVCC FOOD & INFANT FORMULA MONTHLY DRIVE SUNDAY APRIL 7TH

Requested items: 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: LARRY UNDER THE BRIDGE (LUTB) & DI MOST URGENT REQUESTS

Hand Warmers	Coffee (regular & decaf)	Bread
Dish & Hand Soap	Sugar & Creamer	Butter/Margarine
Dish Soap	Hot Chocolate	Peanut Butter
Hand Sanitizer	Milk	Jello
	Cereal/Oatmeal	Pop Tarts

Donations for LUTB can be **dropped off at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church (125 W. Saveland Ave.)** door closest to 1st Street. (Tippe's staff are in and out of that door all day long so someone will bring them in.) They will also accept monetary donations. Thanks! The Social Concerns Committee

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS IN MARCH

April 1: Happy April Fool's Day! Church Office open 8am-2pm
April 2-4: Rummage Sale set up 2:30pm-7:30pm. Please sign up to help if possible.
April 2: Staff Meeting 10:00am, Rummage set up 2:30pm-7:30pm
April 3: Midweek Lenten service 12:00pm, Rummage set up 2:30pm-7:30pm
April 4: Weekly announcement submissions by 10am, Rummage set up 2:30pm-7:30pm, Choir & AA 7:00pm
April 5: Church office closed
April 5-6: Rummage Sale 9am-4pm. Please join us and bring a friend or relative. Come for lunch!
April 7: BVCC Food & Infant Pantry Drive/Collection, Choir 8:15am, Adult Ed. 8:30am, Worship with Communion & Sunday School 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30am, Book Club 10:45am
April 8: Property Committee Meeting 7:00pm
April 9: Quilters 10:00am
April 10: Last Midweek Worship service 10:00am, Praise Team 7:00pm
April 11: Weekly Announcement Submissions by 10:00am, Choir & AA Meeting 7:00pm
April 13: Crochet Class 10:00am, Dartball League Banquet

April 14: Palm Sunday! No Adult Ed. class, Learning Centers 9:00am-9:20am, Worship, Baptism & Sunday School 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30am, Learning Centers 10:35-10:50am, Fellowship Hall Activities 10:45am-11:15am

April 16: Council Meeting 6:30pm

April 17: Endowment Meeting & Praise Team 7:00pm

April 18: Choir 6:15pm, Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm, Weekly Announcement submissions by 10:00am, AA Meeting 7:00pm

April 19: Good Friday Service 7:00pm, Chronicles Submissions by 10:00am

April 21: ☀️ Happy Easter!! Easter Breakfast 7:30am-8:45am, Choir 8:15am, Easter Egg Hunt for Sunday School kids 8:45am-9:10am, No Adult Ed. or Sunday School, Worship with communion 9:30am, No Coffee Hour

April 22-28: Pastor Dan Military Duty in North Dakota

April 23: Quilters 10:00am

April 24: Praise Team 7:00pm

April 25: Weekly Announcement Submissions by 10:00am, Choir & AA Meeting 7:00pm

April 27: Crochet Class 10:00am

April 28: Praise Team 8:15am, Adult Ed. 8:30am, Worship & Sunday School 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30am, AED Review 10:45am



SAVE THE DATE

May 12th: Mother's Day

May 28-June 2: Pastor Dan Military-Duty Grand Forks

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sunday Rehearsal and Service	4/7 8:15am	4/21 Easter 9:15am	5/5 8:15am	6/2 8:15am		
Rehearsals	4/4 7:00pm	4/11 7:00pm	4/25 7:00pm	5/2 7:00pm	5/23 7:00pm	5/30 7:00pm
Special Rehearsal & Service	4/18 Maundy Thursday 6:15pm	4/21 Easter 9:15am				



PRAISE TEAM SCHEDULE

Sunday Rehearsal and Service	4/28 8:15am	5/19 8:15am		
Rehearsals	4/17 7:00pm	4/24 7:00pm	5/8 7:00pm	5/15 7:00pm



COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULE

4/7 Volunteer Needed	4/14 The Gaeths	4/21 Easter Breakfast	4/28 Sara Rogers
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GREETER SCHEDULE

Oklahoma Street	4/7 Joyce Jakimczyk	4/14 The Borchardts	4/21 Charlotte Jeske	4/28 The Gaeths
Lenox Street	4/7 Joyce Neumann & Doris Piacentine	4/14 Sonia, Charlotte & Elliott Stark	4/21 The Thomae Family	4/28 Sue Steinhauer

LENOX STREET PARKING HELPER SCHEDULE

4/7 The Borchardts	4/14 The Warehams	4/21 The Dohoneys	4/28 Don Antoniewicz
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USHER SCHEDULE

4/7 Joan Amich Brad Boyle Cheri Boyle David Wareham	4/14 Debbie Behling Chuck Terlinden Amber Urbaniak Chris Urbaniak	4/21 Mary Ann Mowery Brian O'Brien Danette Volz Renolle Volz	4/28 Ben Clark Chelsea Clark Debbie Hansen Olivia Mayeshiba
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LITURGIST SCHEDULE

4/7 Andy Oren	4/14 Randene Wick	4/21 Bill Borchardt	4/28 Dean Kothrade
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WEEKLY SCRIPTURES

4/7	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalms 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
4/14	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 Luke 19:28-40	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
4/21	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalms 118:1-12, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
4/28	Acts 5:27-32	Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20: 19-31

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all these wonderful folks!

<p>APRIL 1 Michael Miksic David Porn</p> <p>APRIL 2 Selena Mayeshiba</p> <p>APRIL 3 Rebekah Freitag</p> <p>APRIL 7 Chris Whiting</p> <p>APRIL 8 Denise Broberg Taylor Gilgenbach</p>	<p>APRIL 10 Eloise Enright Ken Pisarek Ryenne Strausbaugh</p> <p>APRIL 14 Grace Perdue</p> <p>APRIL 15 Devon Jorgenson</p> <p>APRIL 22 Lauren Darling Loretta Senderhauf</p>	<p>APRIL 25 Melissa Franco Sue Steinhauer</p> <p>APRIL 27 Dean Kothrade Isabella Wick Moreira</p> <p>APRIL 29 Eric Bingheim</p> <p>APRIL 30 Corrinne Valleskey</p>
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THANKS

~We accept with appreciation and gratitude a donation made to the Christ Church Sunday School from Carol A. Forde in memory of Lawrence H. Poth.

~We accept with appreciation and gratitude donations made to Christ Church from The Behlings, Judy Borkowicz, The Jonokuchi family, Fritz Jorgenson, The Mayeshiba Family and Sue Steinhauer.

~A Thank you was received from Nancy Jonokuchi and the whole Jonokuchi family. "Dear Christ Church Friends, Our family would like to thank you for your many, many messages of condolences. We appreciate all your kind words, it really meant a lot to us. It is gratifying to know that Dad had friends who thought so much about him. We will miss him, but have wonderful memories to us through this difficult time. God Bless."

~We accept with appreciation and gratitude a donation made to Christ Church in memory of her mother, Ann Schroder's March 3rd birthday from Kathleen Schroder.

~We accept with appreciation and gratitude a donation made to Christ Church in memory of Edmund Jonokuchi from Sue Steinhauer.



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.





**EVENT/OPPORTUNITY: SPRING RUMMAGE SALE AT CHRIST CHURCH
FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 5TH & 6TH 9AM-4PM**

Thank you for all of your rummage sale donations. We still need as many volunteers as possible to make this a successful fundraiser. There is still time to sign up below. Please contact the church office if you would be able to help on any of the dates and times listed below.

**Please see below to sign up to help. It takes a village to make this happen.
Thank You! Debbie & Mike Behling**

Please put a check mark when your available to help:

Set Up: Tues. April 2__ Wed. April 3__ Thurs. April 4__
2:30pm-5:00pm__ and/or 5:00pm-7:30pm

Work Rummage Sale: Fri. April 5__ Sat. April 6__
8:30am-11am__ and/or 11am-3pm__ and/or 3pm-clean-up__

Donate Food items: Bakery__ Hot Dogs & Buns__
Name: _____ Phone/Email: _____

**PLEASE TEAR OFF AND DROP IN THE OFFERING PLATE , IN THE BLACK MAILBOX
OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE, OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE 414-481-3530 or
office@uccmke.org**



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

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DATED MATERIAL

THE CHRONICLES

APRIL 2019



**YES...I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE
THE "CHRONICLES NEWSLETTER" VIA EMAIL**

**YES...I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE
THE "CHRIST CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER" VIA EMAIL**

YES...I NEED THE NEWSLETTER MAILED

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

(Please submit this information to the church office)

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If you want to know more about the happenings at Christ Church, scan the code to the left with your phone or visit our website at www.uccmke.org

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbayview/> and get links to important events and weekly sermons!