

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church,

Jeremiah 18 tells the story of the prophet, God, and a potter, working at his pottery wheel. When the prophet Jeremiah observes the potter continually casting new vessels from ones that fall apart on the wheel, the voice of God says: *“Can I not do with you, o house of Israel, just as this potter has done?”* In other words, God tells Jeremiah that Israel is not like a fired piece of clay. Rather, the house of Israel is moldable and shapable into something new. As Christians, we are also called to be nimble and malleable in the wake of change and transition.

As we find ourselves facing into the fall together, with the delta variant of the covid-19 virus, God calls us to be flexible. I am hopeful we won't have to make too many adjustments to our normal operating procedures, but the health and safety of our members demands that we are nimble in the wake of change. We may find ourselves facing some major transitions in the future, but unlike a piece of hardened or fired clay, we are not fixed. The beauty of unfired clay is that it doesn't have a single purpose. It is malleable flexible and changeable...and in that is a powerful lesson for us today from the prophet Jeremiah as we find ourselves as a church, as a community, and as a world facing into this pandemic; that we find ourselves in, in a season of transition with back-to-school time, delta, and going through all sorts of change as a church.

And think about our faith. Are we willing to be open, be flexible to the Spirit's call, responsive, colorful, moldable, and creative? Are we able to listen to the needs of a changing community and world? Are we able to adjust to the future - *for the future*? Are we able to take on a new shape? *Or, Christ Church*, are we a vessel that has been cast and fired already?

My prayer for us is that we remember that God is an artist. God is the potter, and we are clay in God's hands. May we remember that God labors tirelessly at the wheel for us and with us - but what shape we take on is ultimately up to us, as individuals, as a community of faith. But the hope for all of us is that we have not yet been fired, so our future is filled with possibility.

With gratitude for you,
Pastor Dan Stark




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RALLY SUNDAY POT LUCK LUNCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH!

Please join us on Sunday, September 12th, as we gather after worship for a casual Pot Luck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. You may bring a main dish to pass, a salad, a pasta, a vegetable, a snack, a dessert (please!), a beverage, or anything you would like. We ask that you bring your food to the church kitchen before the church service, if possible, so that our crew of servers can have time to gather it all in. Speaking of the crew, would you be so kind as to help set up, serve or clean up? We sure would appreciate any help you could offer. See Pam Kothrade (414-321-4853) for details or more info.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21ST

7PM

Donate Now

ONLINE GIVING IS STILL AVAILABLE

It's as easy as clicking the donate button here!

Or, go to the church website and click on the donate button at www.uccmke.org/donate. Feel free to contact Pastor Dan at pastor@uccmke.org or Paula at office@uccmke.org for assistance. Thank You!

DIVINE INTERVENTION

SHARE OUR SUPPERS

Please help fill up the Friday dates as building reps for DI-SOS. Only one week is covered through September and October at this time. It's a mere 1½ hour time commitment.

Set up approx. 4:45 pm

Tear down 6:00 pm

Finish 6:15 pm

I am always willing to train anyone wishing to participate in this ministry. You will be amazed at seeing 45 hot meals distributed in about 15 minutes each Friday evening! The pandemic is waning, but the effects still linger in the Bay View community. Contact me at jameswick73@gmail.com or 414-614-2612

-Jim Wick



SEPTEMBER SERVANT LEADERS

LITURGISTS

9/5: Andy Oren
9/12: Doris Mayeshiba
9/19: Jim Wick
9/26: Andy Oren

USHERS

9/5: Ben, Chelsea, Joe, Fred
9/12: Chuck, Joe, Fred
9/19: Ronelle, Danette, Joe, Fred, Randene
9/26: Ronelle, Danette, Joe, Fred

SEPTEMBER 3

Rebecca Berger
Bradley Bingheim
Ryan Gaeth
Lynn Schmeling

SEPTEMBER 6

Ella Malecki

SEPTEMBER 8

Chayse Fritsch

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
Elias Franco

SEPTEMBER 23

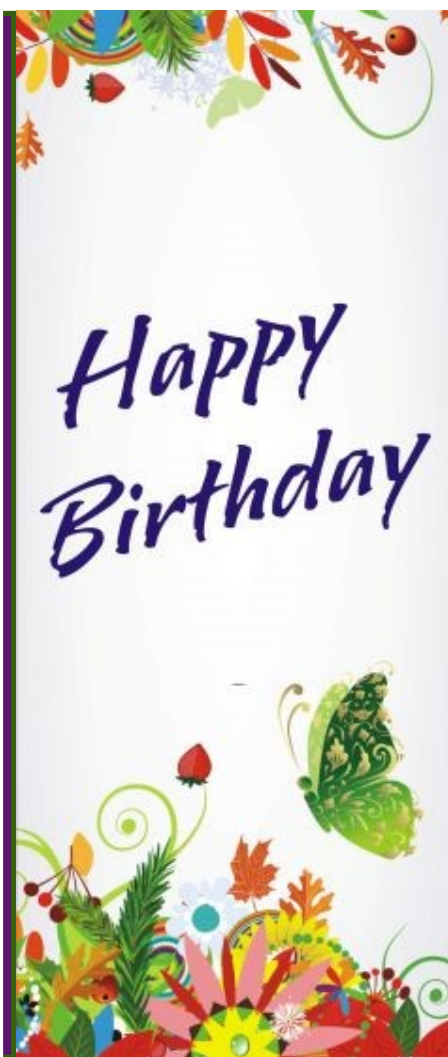
Jean Flynn
Madeline Norton

SEPTEMBER 26

Thad Spidell

SEPTEMBER 28

Kathy Stouff



SIGN UP: WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you're interested in receiving the *Christ Church Weekly*, please contact Paula, the Church Administrator (office@uccmke.org) to be added to the list (414-481-3530).



CHRIST CHURCH BOOK CLUB

We are excited to resume our Christ Church Book Club. Our next meeting will be October 24th, 2021. We will meet at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall to discuss *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

All Christ Church members, as well as family or friends, are welcome to join us. You can get this book at the library, book store, or online. We look forward to an interesting discussion and fellowship time. If you have any questions please contact us.

Thanks,

Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery

SHARE AND CARE LIST

The Social Concerns Committee sends mailings or delivers baskets several times a year to church members on the Share and Care List. These are members who have medical issues limiting their ability to attend church or are undergoing extended rehab. This allows them to feel connected to Christ Church and also know that we are praying for them. If you are aware of a church member who should be included on the list please let the Social Concerns Committee know. We would appreciate information as to their status and how long they might remain on the list.

Thanks,

Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Sara Rogers, Randene Wick



QUILTING SEPT 14 & 28 10AM-12PM
CROCHET CLASS SEPT 11 & 25 10AM-12PM

We are starting up the crochet group again. We will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month starting in September. Anyone who is interested in joining or learning how is more than welcomed to come on down. The time is from 10am until 12pm, with all the coffee you can drink. It doesn't matter what your age is, anyone can learn. I have taught all age groups from 10 through 90. If interested please see Ken Klockow.

Ken Klockow



MUSIC CORNER

What a joy it is to hear you singing! Even if you are a timid singer or even if you don't know the hymns very well, you still sing out and sound great! When you join your voices with others, whether it be in music or in prayer, God is with you. I am reminded of the Bible passage from Matthew 18:20, "For

where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." What a glorious thing it is to experience the presence of God while singing His praises!

The Handbell Choir has been playing for a few months now. Won't you consider joining us? Two rehearsals per month and one Sunday performance per month. It's easy!

Our Choir and Praise Team is not starting up quite yet. We are still being cautious and conservative at this time. We pray we can sing together again in the near future. Keep your fingers crossed!

Keep on singin' in those pews!

Pam Kothrade/Music Director



FOOD WALK COIN DRIVE

BAY VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Hi everyone,

Some members will remember when Christ Church was involved in the CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk. That walk was always scheduled for what turned out to be a beautiful Sunday fall afternoon at the lakefront. A large gathering of walkers would meet, pray, and enjoy the conversations created while walking to raise money to help overcome poverty.

The CROP Walk has now been replaced by many communities creating their own opportunities for people to get involved locally by donating to worthwhile charities. One of those opportunities has come to us from the Bay View Community Center, our longtime community connection, just a few blocks east on Oklahoma Avenue.

When you exit the Sanctuary, there is a rather large and empty plastic jar with a very colorful sticker on it inviting you to donate "coins" (let's use that "coins" description as generic meaning money, hopefully paper money) so that we can share the blessings we have with our neighborhood. Please consider donating generously and often. We will only have this opportunity through Rally Sunday, September 12th.

Pam and Dean Kothrade

Note from the Council President

When you see medical and technological advances that are truly remarkable, is your first response how smart mankind has gotten, or how incredibly superior we are? When I see all the advances that have been made, the first thing I think is wow, look at all the benefits available to us that were unknown previously and thank God we have been given the ability to see, understand, and use those benefits. It may sound odd, but I believe the more we discover, the more we should realize how truly insignificant mankind is. We didn't create anything we use. It was all here waiting for us to discover. We didn't create ourselves or the animals, oceans, or skies we claim to have mastery over. We were brought into being. The more mysteries that are revealed through our ability to think given to us by our Creator should be all the more evidence of our Creator, and not instill thoughts of less reliance on Him. In many important ways mankind is a classic challenged learner. Please follow me for a minute on this.

Christ proved that only love will ever conquer hate. More hate, bigger guns, or being certain we are right, will never conquer hate. Still our only answer to disagreements is war. Christ gave us 10 fairly simple rules to live by so we could prosper and enjoy peace in our lifetime; but we all break those rules constantly, which causes us all sorts of pain and anguish. Christ became human so he could be a real example for us to follow. He wasn't just coaching from the sidelines. He was in the game with us. He went through the same life we live and faced death, a terrible death. He rose again, not to judge those who killed or hated Him, but to show us that what He said was true and He went through that literal hell to prove it to us. Still every day, I resist following that Christ example in many ways because of the things that I desire most at that time, those things that I can see right now right in front of me. My immediate selfish nature overrules the Holy Spirit in me if I let it. We all face that same battle every day of our lives, and if we give in to our selfish nature we will be lost in eternity.

In our selfish state of mind, it's easy to justify almost anything, including not coming to church and/or worshipping. We can say we're tired, they're (people who attend church) hypocrites, they (the church's Financial Secretary (me) just want my money, or, worse yet, we really do start to think we are so advanced that we really may not even need God, or whatever that Man called Himself 2000 years ago. I mean let's face it. This is the 21st century and all that "this", "thou", and "verily I say" stuff happened so long ago, how could it possibly still be relevant? Still relevant? Just try following those same 10 easy rules. They will ultimately make you happier but oh, the temptations you forego! Still relevant? After Vietnam and now Afghanistan, I would also think we'd want to consider exploring another way of handling our next conflict, but I bet it won't be handled any differently than the way we've handled all conflicts since time started.

Every day, I still seek the things in my immediate selfish sight. If it weren't for my natural supports, like a loving wife and understanding extended family coupled with weekly worship to renew the Holy Spirit within me, I might not be able to continue my battle. I'm telling you as a friend that returning to church is good for the soul, because we are never going to run out of selfish desires or hatred or temptations. However, we may run out of time for eternal peace if we convince ourselves that we don't need God.

September 12th is our traditional Rally Sunday when we return to church after being refreshed by the summer sabbatical we took. Please join your church family in worshipping our Lord on that day.

Dean Kothrade

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2 5pm Voice Lessons	3 5pm DI - SOS Meal	4
5 <small>National Days of Prayer and Remembrance</small> 9am Baptism 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	6 <small>Labor Day</small>	7	8	9 5pm Voice Lessons	10 5pm DI - SOS Meal	11 <small>Patriot Day Emergency Number Day</small> 10:00am Crochet Class
12 9:30am Worship & Baptism 10:30am Rally Sunday Potluck	13 5pm Tap Lessons	14 10:00am Quilting	15	16 5pm Voice Lessons	17 <small>National POW/MIA Recognition Day</small> 5pm DI - SOS Meal	18
19 9:30am Worship w/ Communion & Baptism 10:30am Coffee Hour	20 5pm Tap Lessons	21 7pm Council Meeting	22 <small>American Business Womens Day</small>	23 5pm Voice Lessons	24 5pm DI - SOS Meal	25 10:00am Crochet Class
26 <small>Gold Star Mothers Day</small> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	27 <small>Family Day</small> 5pm Tap Lessons	28 <small>National Good Neighbor Day</small> 10:00am Quilting	29	30	1	2

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

Place
Stamp
Here

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

THE CHRONICLES

September 2021



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Name: _____
Home Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
(Please submit this information to the church office)

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Email Address: _____
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