

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church,

Last month I shared a message about Jeremiah and the potter's wheel in my letter to you. I called on us to have a nimble faith, like the unfired clay of a sculptor. This faith requires us to be adaptable and changeable for the challenges to come. This month, in the wake of the announcement of the end of our shared ministry at Christ Church, I want to encourage us with another word from the prophet in Jeremiah 29.

Jeremiah preached and prophesied from a context of exile. The Israelites believed God literally lived in the city of Jerusalem in the temple. When Jerusalem was sacked by King Nebuchadnezzar and much of the populace was deported to Babylon, the people lost hope and struggled to deal with the loss. The prophet Jeremiah delivers a startling message to those in Babylon—to settle in, build homes, and plant gardens in that foreign land. He uses the language of “settling down” in Jeremiah 29. He tells his people to get married, have babies, and increase the population. They were to seek the welfare of Babylon and pray to God on its behalf - for in its welfare they would find their own welfare. The reason he does this is to let the people know that they may be in exile for a while. He essentially tells them they need to dig in because their reality was going to be Babylon for the foreseeable future.

Last month I made a big announcement and gave my 90-day notice to our Council. I accepted a position at another church that will bring me within a short drive of my parents. I need you to know that this ending has nothing to do with our church. It has to do with my family and what is best for our future. I know things may seem a little bleak as we inch towards the end of our shared ministry together in December, but as Jeremiah preached to his people in exile - we

ought to make the best of our time together. “Building and planting in exile” for us today may mean that we lean into the messiness of endings and new beginnings.

Jeremiah knew his people wouldn't be in exile forever and Christ Church won't be without a settled pastor for long. For now, let us build what we can and plant what we must for the future. I may not be there to see the fruits of the gardens or to marvel at the structures you build, but I will dig and hammer right alongside you. I look forward to what the next three months hold for all of us. Thanks be to God.

With gratitude for you,
Pastor Dan Stark



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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 12 & 26 10AM-12PM
CROCHET CLASS SEPT 9 & 23 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

OCTOBER LITURGISTS

Oct 3 Andy Oren
Oct 10 Doris Mayeshiba
Oct 17 Randene Wick
Oct 24 Jill Unglaub
Oct 31 Andy Oren

ASSOCIATION MEETING

Sunday, October 23rd 8:30am–2pm
All Virtual—[Attend by Signing Up HERE](#)

Or Sign Up at <https://www.wcucc.org/associations/southeast-association/annual-meeting/>

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!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

You may have received a phone call from a member of our church verifying your contact information. We thank you for your cooperation as we update the church's records and took a few moments to ask how you are doing. It was a great way for us to connect with each other since COVID has kept us apart. I hope you enjoyed hearing from a fellow member.

If you were not contacted, it might be because we don't have current information for you. Those that we were unable to reach via phone will receive either an e-mail or letter asking to verify your contact information. We kindly ask that you respond to the correspondence.

Thank you all for your help and a big "Thank You" to those who helped with phone calls. Those who helped are the names listed below along with Ken Klockow, Kathy Schroeder, and Jill Unglaub. What a team!! Ken gets a "Gold Star" for finishing his calls in record time!! Way to go Ken!! I know, I know, you had to get back to your crocheting!!

The Membership Committee

Julene Flanagan, Lynn Schmeling, Randene Wick, Joan Gaeth and Susan Pfeifer, Council Representative

P.S. Please keep Christ Church in mind if you move or change an e-mail or phone number. You may communicate the change via e-mail, mail, a written note in the offering plate or a phone call to the church office at 414-481-3530.

If you are interested in joining our fun committee, please feel free to contact anyone of us.

Submitted by Joan Gaeth

BVCC DONATIONS

Just a reminder that the BVCC is in need of food to help those in our community. While we are not currently doing our monthly food gathering at church there are other ways you can donate. The BVCC is open from 9:30am to 12:30pm so you can drop off any donations directly. You can also make a monetary donation to the BVCC. Please consider supporting those families who continue to struggle providing food for their families.

The Social Concerns Committee

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

MUSIC CORNER

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!

Rehearsals on Thursday, 10/21 and 10/28

Sunday service 10/31, warm up at 8:30 AM

Our Choir and Praise Team are 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



Note from the Council President

We, as Christians, believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. Even if someone doesn't believe the Bible is God inspired they would have to admit it contains an honest portrayal of human emotions and characteristics. Since humanity hasn't changed since the Bible was written we can easily relate to, and gain reference from, the stories it contains. I find that in many instances I can see the (almost direct) connection between things I experience in my life and the lessons the Bible teaches.

As an example, I think of the book of Job. It's the story of God and Satan pondering God's creation (humanity) and how proud God is of Job. Satan says the only reason Job worships God is because Job has been so abundantly blessed. God replies that no matter what Job has, or doesn't have, he will always worship God. God gives Satan permission to test Job, but not take his life, so Job can prove God is right. Aren't we all Job? You'd better believe we are. We live in a country of plenty. We have more than we can possibly use in our lifetimes. We have unlimited personal freedoms, state of the art healthcare, excessive disposable income that generates discretionary purchasing like multiple TV sets, multiple cars, recreational vehicles, and an abundance of food that creates an average obesity rate of 30% of our population. How can we possibly read the story of Job and not see the mirror image of us in it?

The strength of our church comes from us, the people who God has blessed. Our strength and identity come from our Creator, not our minister, or building, or sports team, or president, or anyone or anything except our Creator. He has blessed us so we can be strong and share those blessings. He didn't bless us to bribe us. He didn't bless us to make us love Him. He blessed us so we can bless our siblings and tend to His creation. I have no idea what the future holds but I do know that God's will will be done, and you and I have a part in that. We are never asked to carry the full load. In fact, we are only asked to worship our Creator and love each other as we love ourselves. If we do those 2 things God promises to make everything right. Since we have been blessed like Job like us act like Job and never forget to praise and love our Creator.

As Christ Church enters another season of pastoral calling, we must be united in the spirit of praising and worshipping our Lord and united in brotherly love with each other to accomplish the task. If we are true to both callings we can't go wrong. We can never forget or lose track of the fact that all we have is God given. It is what we do with those gifts that either make us succeed or not. Christ's church will prevail against anything that is known or unknown at this time. It is our privilege as "Jobs" to be offered an opportunity to be a part of that. We have already been given the resources, all we need is to believe it and the will to follow through.

Please join with me, your church council, and church staff, in celebrating a fresh new chapter in our church's life in the form of the arrival of an interim minister. We, individuals gathered together in unity to praise God, I believe can make God every bit as proud of us as He is of Job.

Dean Kostrade

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 19TH 7PM

ENDOWMENT MEETING OCTOBER 13TH 7PM

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

OCTOBER 17TH & 31ST

11AM IN THE PARLOR

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

WILL BEGIN MID-OCTOBER. WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE COMING WEEKS.

ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

**A DATE IS STILL
NEEDED FOR THE
ANNUAL
TOWN HALL
MEETING**

**DON'T FORGET TO
COMPLETE YOUR
REPORTS AND SUBMIT
THEM TO CHURCH
COUNCIL**

Another Note from the Council President

Considering the recent events at Christ Church concerning our minister's departure and office staffing changes may make us all a little weary, I would ask everyone to be still and know that God is in still charge. Please remember that Christ Church is made up of members. not pastors. While our pastor is our called (chosen) spiritual leader, we are truly the only Christ Church ministers to the world. Our pastor feeds and inspires us but there is only 1 pastor, and his sphere of influence is limited. We, on the other hand, represent many different vocations, are employed by many employers, shop at many different stores, contribute to vastly different charities, belong to a myriad of organizations, have completely different neighbors, and, well, I think you understand. Our footprint on this earth, as a congregation and ministers of Christ, far outweighs any footprint our 1 pastor has or could ever have.

Our Office Administrator has simply been offered an opportunity to pursue a passion, in the guise of a great job opportunity, that allows her to use her many talents and personally flourish.

The church council is actively working with the United Church of Christ Wisconsin Conference to secure (call) an interim pastor and then we will call another full-time pastor. If anyone in the congregation would like to a part of this process, we encourage you to participate by joining the council or, at least, working with the church council through this call process. I firmly believe we are all here for a reason. Let's make the best of what we have been given.

Dean Kothrade

OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Gold Star Mothers Day	27 Family Day	28 National Good Neighbor Day	29	30	1 4:45pm DI - SOS Meal	2
3 9:30am World Communion Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	4 Child Health Day	5	6 German-American Day	7 5pm Voice Lessons	8 4:45pm DI - SOS Meal	9 Leif Erikson Day 10:00am Crochet Class Wedding
10 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	11 Columbus Day General Pulaaki Memorial Day	12 10:00am Quilting	13 7pm Endowment Meeting	14 5pm Voice Lessons	15 White Cane Safety Day 4:45pm DI - SOS Meal	16
17 9:30am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Member - ship Class	18	19 7pm Council Meeting	20	21 1pm Bells Rehearsal 5pm Voice Lessons	22 4:45pm DI - SOS Meal	23 8:30am - 2pm Assoc. Mtg 10:00am Crochet Class
24 United Nations Day 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	25	26 10:00am Quilting	27	28 1pm Bells Rehearsal 5pm Voice Lessons	29 4:45pm DI - SOS Meal	30

31
9:30am
Worship

10:30am
Coffee Hour

11am Member-
ship Class

SIGN UP: WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you're interested in receiving the *Christ Church Weekly*, please Fill Out This Form or contact the Church Administrator at 414-481-3530 to be added to the list .

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

Place
Stamp
Here

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

THE CHRONICLES

October 2021



Send me The Chronicles Newsletter via US Mail
Name: _____
Home Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
(Please submit this information to the church office)

Send me The Chronicles Newsletter via email
Name: _____
Email Address: _____
(Please submit this information to the church office)

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