

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

THE CHRONICLES DECEMBER 2020

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church,



I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing to you from day five of a fourteen-day quarantine with my family. A few weeks ago, my wife and I were getting the kids ready for bed when we were interrupted by a call from our son's daycare. They called us to inform us that he had been directly exposed to a child in his classroom who was COVID-positive.

After my family got "the call" our semi-normal pandemic schedules and routines were upended, and we began a several-weeks-long new reality. We hunkered down at home instead of going to church, school, and daycare. Foster visits were put on hold. Playdates were postponed. Even our routine weekly outings like going to Target and Woodman's had to change. Things changed for the Starks suddenly and without much notice. In a way, my family situation kind of mirrors what is happening with many churches in the state of Wisconsin and our church right now.

Church, unfortunately we have had to go back to online-only for worship at this time. We had a good run since July, but we have also been lucky. We have operated without incident from the beginning, but most of us now know or have in some way been personally affected by COVID. Christ Church was one of the first UCC churches in our association to physically gather for worship. However, it has not been an easy journey. Our anxieties are elevated. Our resources are running low. Staff and volunteers are tired. All of this seems to be coming to a head right before the end of the year, but there is hope.

Advent begins on November 29th this year. I do not think I can remember a year that has felt more "adventy" than 2020. I say this because Advent is a season when the days grow shorter, the darkness seems longer, and the world around us gets colder. In the liturgical world, we tend to focus on scriptures that leave us in low places and longing for hope. Advent essentially prepares us to welcome the Christ-Child. In 2020 we find ourselves in a time and place that may seem unprecedented. However, in its essence, the world we live in today is remarkably like the time when Jesus was born.

Jesus was not born during a time of economic security or prosperity. He was not born during a time without sickness and suffering. He was not born in a time of political stability. He was not born during a time of peace.



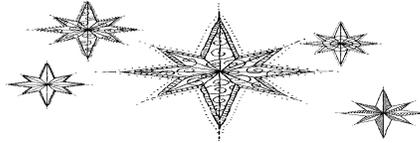
He was born to some of the poorest of the poor and lowest of the low, in a time when death came for paupers and kings alike. Yet, despite all the danger of the world around him – whether from tyrannical leaders, political unrest, or a lack of modern medicine – Jesus still showed up anyway. This is good news for those of us who feel like we are waiting for a nuclear disaster, alien invasion, or an asteroid to bring about the apocalypse during the last month of 2020.

Church, I do not know exactly what the future will hold for us. We must listen to doctors, public health experts, *and* our hearts about whether we will be able to safely convene for the Christmas holiday and beyond. But know this – we will have a meaningful Advent and Christmas.

I am hopeful you have a meaningful, prayer-filled, and healthful Advent and Christmas seasons. The staff and I will do our best to ensure that our services will be as worshipful you and your families. If Jesus can show up in a barn to an unwed teenage mother – Jesus can show up in our homes on Christmas Eve this year.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Dan



PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Happy Advent to everyone reading this. I remember when, to me, Advent only meant we're really close to Christmas. It meant decorating, baking, shopping, Christmas parties, and Christmas Eve, the most beautiful night of the year, was coming soon. Snow was falling and Christmas, with all its magic, was upon us. I really love thinking back on all those happy memories.

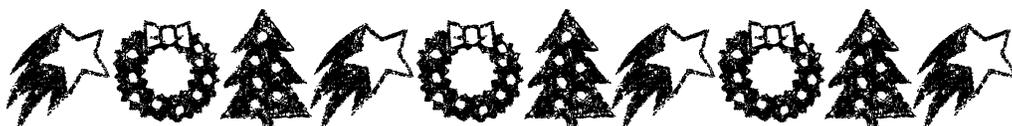
As I've matured (heaven knows that's still an ongoing process) I've become more aware of what Advent really means. It's a time when we can, and should be, still and reflect on the coming of Christ. Our natural thought would be the coming of Christ in his birth at Christmas but also the coming of Christ into our hearts.

Advent leading to Christmas makes me think of Christmas gift giving. We've all experienced that empty feeling inside when we've been given a gift and don't have one to return to the person who gave us the gift. It's terribly embarrassing and uncomfortable for us and makes us want to give something back in return, usually of equal value. Here's where our humanity takes a toll on us. If we claim the title of Christian, we acknowledge Christ in our lives and accept his already given us gifts of grace and mercy. When we're asked to share our blessings, we feel like we're the ones giving the gift to Christ (church) when in fact we are merely returning the gifts already given to us. In other words, we confuse ourselves into thinking we are the original gift givers and not simply the responders to gifts already given.

Our church has always needed faithful stewards but even more so during this time of limited/no in person worship. We are still given the opportunity to show our gratitude by returning to the gift giver (Christ) whether we are physically present at worship or just present in the calm stillness that Advent offers us. Even if Christ's gift was a one and done gift, we'd be indebted forever but his gift is given to us every day. Let's not fail to see that and want to respond the way we would if anyone else gave us an invaluable gift that we never asked for or deserved.

I mentioned earlier that Advent is about preparing for Christ in his birth at Christmas and in our hearts. We could also stretch that a little bit and say we are preparing for his second coming as well. Now that's really something to get excited about and prepare for, isn't it?

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all of us. May we understand and appreciate who we are and what we're called to do in this world. Dean Kothrade



ONLINE GIVING IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Online giving is essential during this time! You can pay with an existing PayPal account. For first time users just go to the church website and click on the donate button and you can donate with a credit card. Feel free to contact Pastor Dan pastor@uccmke.org or contact the church for assistance at 414-481-3530 or office@uccmke.org. Thank You!

SIGN UP: WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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

CLASSES AND MEETINGS DURING COVID 19

If your group/class would like to return to meeting at the church building, please do the following so we can properly sanitize and prepare the room.

- *Contact the church office to reserve a room for your desired meeting date.
- *You will be assigned a room that will fit the size of your group for proper social distancing.
- *Upon entering the building please wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer at the Lenox St. entrance.
- *Sign the attendance sheet on the clipboard that will be found in your room.
- *When your meeting is completed please clean all door handles, tables, chairs, and surfaces that were used or contacted during your meeting. Each room has a caddy equipped with wipes/spray, gloves and paper towels.
- *Initial the attendance sheet that the room has been sanitized.
- *Prior to exiting the building, once again, please use the hand sanitizer at the Lenox St. door.

NEED: BVCC FOOD & INFANT FORMULA PANTRY

You can still donate to the pantry as the Food pantry at the BVCC remains open.

This week the community center is requesting Christmas meal donations :

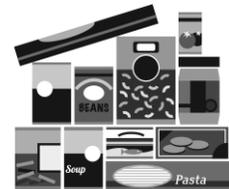
CANNED: Vegetables, Gravy, Evaporated milk, pie fillings and fruit.

PACKAGED: Instant Mashed Potatoes, Noodles, Flour, Sugar, Powder & Brown Sugars, Baking Powder & Soda, Vanilla, Decorating frosting and sugars .

Second Harvest will provide Meat.

Monetary donations are always appreciated as well.

*Donations can be dropped off at the BVCC @ 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.:
Tuesdays thru Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm.*



NEED: SHARING OUR SUPPERS (SOS) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Every Friday our church is the food distribution site for 40 restaurant prepared meals, bottled water, and 45 bag lunches. Those who come for food are homeless or referred to us from Bay View Community Center. Since the pandemic, Divine Intervention has been unable to provide face to face services for the homeless in Bay View. Pastor Karen from Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church has coordinated this meal distribution through a variety of church contacts and organizations along with Jim Wick. The restaurant meals are provided through Meals Matter Movement and the lunches are prepared by individuals from churches in the support group for Divine Intervention.

How can you help?

Be the Christ Church building representative. Responsibilities include: Disinfect and set up of the outside serving table, signage and cones for distancing; bring up the water from the refrigerator and coolers for keeping food cold/warm; assist with meal drop off and distribution; Disinfect and return coolers, signage, table, to the basement and sanitize the areas used before leaving the church. The time required is 4:45 PM to approximately 6:15 PM on a Friday night of your choosing.

Donate heavy duty disposable plastic forks and knives. Please drop them off at church during office hours or on a Sunday. They can be left outside of the church office.

If you would like more information please contact Jim or Randene Wick, 414-614-2622, wickl.51@gmail.com.

MUSIC NEWS

"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." - Martin Luther



"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being." -Psalm 104:33
Christ Church is so blessed to have talented musicians who have created virtual musical presentations for you. Please join us for our virtual Christmas Eve service to enjoy a beautiful vocal choir and hand bell choir.

UPDATE: CHRIST CHURCH BOOK CLUB

We would like to have every reader able to enjoy our book club discussions. We are going to see how the reopening at church proceeds and also small group meetings. While we all miss our time together for now the book club will take a break. When we do resume, we will give you enough notice so you can have time to read the book. Stay safe and healthy!

Carol Dohoney, Debbie Hansen and Mary Ann Mowery

OPPORTUNITY: BVCC GIVING TREE, COOKIE AND HAT&MITTEN DONATIONS

We are asking that the gifts with ticket taped to the outside of the bags be returned by Sunday December 8th so that we can deliver them to the BVCC on time. When you return your gift simply place it on and/or under the table in the hallway near the glass case and name tags.

Thanks to those who signed up to bake cookies to be distributed to seniors. They are requesting this year that cookies be wrapped by the dozen in a plastic bag or container. This is so that there is minimal handling of the baked goods. Can you please bring them in by December 8th? They can also be placed on the table in the hallway.

In addition, we will also be collecting hats and mittens for children that will be donated to the Bay View Community Center. These can also be placed on the table in the hallway by December 6th.

THANKS to everyone in advance for participating! We are truly making the holidays brighter for those in our community! If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Social Concerns Committee.

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

SCHEDULES FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP, EVENTS & MEETINGS

Wednesday December 2nd: Cintas Fire Inspection 8:00am

Friday December 4th: DI SOS distribution at Christ Church 5:00pm-6:30p. Building Reps: The Kothrades

Sunday December 6th: 2nd Sunday of Advent, Online worship.

Tuesday December 8th: Final Giving Tree gift, cookies and Hats& mittens donation drop off from 8am-8pm, Quilters 10:00am

Friday December 11th: DI distribution at Christ Church 5:00pm-6:30p. Building Reps:

Saturday December 12th: Crochet class 10:00am.

Sunday December 13th: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Online worship.

Friday December 18th: January Chronicles submissions due by 10:00am, DI SOS distribution at Christ Church 5:00pm-6:30p. Building Reps:

Sunday December 20th: 4th Sunday of Advent, Online worship.

Thursday December 24th: Happy Christmas Eve.

Friday December 25th: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

DI SOS distribution at Christ Church 5:00pm-6:30pm. Building Reps: The Wicks

Sunday December 27th: Online worship.

Wednesday December 30th-Friday January 1st church office closed.

Friday January 1st: HAPPY NEW YEAR! DI SOS distribution at Christ Church 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Building Reps: The Wicks



QUILTERS

The Piece and Plenty Quilters will meet at church on Tuesday December 8th at 10:00. Randene Wick, Gloria Konkell, Julie Oren and Joyce Ziemann.



CROCHETERS

Crochet class will be held Saturday December 12th at 10:00am in the music room. For information please contact Ken Klockow.



WEEKLY SCRIPTURES

12/6	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
12/13	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55	1Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
12/20	2Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
12/24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
12/25	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
12/27	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THESE WONDERFUL FOLKS!

DECEMBER 1

Charlotte Jeske

DECEMBER 4

Jean Duermeier

DECEMBER 5

John Helt

DECEMBER 7

Skyler Jorgenson

DECEMBER 8

Joyce Neumann

DECEMBER 9

Beulah Goebel

DECEMBER 10

Ethan Misleh

DECEMBER 13

Paul Wick

DECEMBER 14

Larry Brewer

Kristen Wick

DECEMBER 15

Carol Polachowski

DECEMBER 16

Jeff Crouse

DECEMBER 17

Tyler Gaeth

DECEMBER 18

Emmalyn Smith

DECEMBER 19

Virginia Redlin

Elliott Stark

DECEMBER 20

Jim Swenson

DECEMBER 21

Amy Cox

Dennis Griebenow

DECEMBER 22

Brooklyn Urbaniak

DECEMBER 23

Noelle Simons

DECEMBER 24

Doris Mayeshiba

Jackie Struck

DECEMBER 25

Journey Surak

DECEMBER 26

Benjamin Rondorf

DECEMBER 27

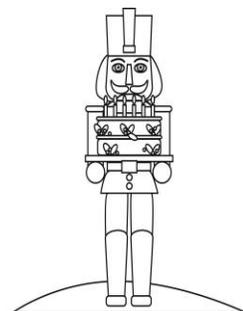
Charles Veit

DECEMBER 29

Doris Piacentine

DECEMBER 30

Harrison Tremarello



PRAYERS



Hear Our Prayers, O God...For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* Ps. 147:3 We pray for:

~Mary Ann, Dean Mowery and their family as Mary Ann's mom Ernestine Faja passed away November 20th

~Our Christ church members and their families, friends and neighbors to have a safe and Merry Christmas!

~Our country during these divided and uncertain times.

~All of our military men and women who will be away from home and their loved ones this Christmas.

~Everyone who will not be able to see their loved ones during this holiday season due to COVID.
 ~Nancy Charles' work facility, as it has been struck with a COVID outbreak.
 ~Melissa, wife of Doris and Paul Mayeshiba's nephew who is recovering from lumbar fusion back surgery. Prayers for a healthy recovery.
 ~Maureen, friend of Sue Klockow, who has breast cancer.
 ~Jerry and Michelle who have been displaced from their home after a fire. They have now found temporary living arrangements in St. Francis for the next 6 months.
 ~Jean, sister of Doris Piacentine and her niece who is recovering from COVID.
 ~Kathy, Ken Klockow's sister who will be receiving home care for a serious infection.
 ~Dan, friend of Molly Pufall Brown, who is very sick with an undiagnosed illness. Prayers also for his wife and 2 young children.
 ~Kelley, friend of Nancy Charles as she receives radiation treatment for breast cancer.
 ~Bernee, friend of Nancy Kaye who has end-stage lung cancer.
 ~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie Struck. Prayers for continued healing.
 ~Linda, daughter of Jackie Struck, as she receives wound care. Prayers for continued healing.
 ~Dawn, daughter in-law of Laurel and wife of Brad Dayton, as she has health issues from complications of diabetes. Continued prayers are requested.
 ~Tracy, daughter of Nancy Kaye, who is at home with Nancy awaiting liver and kidney transplants. She is doing well.
 ~Family of Ken and Sue who live in California close to the wildfires.
 ~Julene Flanagan's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.
 ~Julene Flanagan's family member who is struggling with health issues related to kidney disease.

THANK YOU

~Thank you, my wonderful Christ Church family, for all of your well wishes and prayers! Our prayers have been answered. The doctor believes my tumor is very slow growing and nothing needs to be done at this time. Praise God! ~ Pam Kothrade

~Thanks for the prayers for my friend Dana who has completed her chemotherapy and at her last check up she was negative for cancer. From Mary Ann Mowery.

~Thanks to Dick and Joan Gaeth for putting up our Christmas decorations at church. They are beautiful and will enhance our virtual worship.

~Thank you to Brian O'Brien from our Property committee for orchestrating the setting up of our outdoor nativity. Thanks also to Dick Gaeth, Ryan Gaeth, Rich Tremarello, and Dave Wareham for helping.

~Thank you to Ken & Susie Klockow for decorating our art gallery with beautiful Christmas decorations!

~We accept with thanks and appreciation a donation in memory of Mathilde E. Poth from Carol A. Forde.

~Thank you for all of your prayers, good wishes and cards to my mother in-law, Carol and myself when we were dealing with COVID. We are both feeling much better and appreciate all your support! Debbie & Carol Behling.



*Please remember our Share and Care members when sending out your Christmas cards.
This year might be a year when your greetings are especially appreciated!*

Harvey Albertin
13705 W. National Ave. #223
New Berlin, WI 53151-4566
262-785-1011 BD: 10/28

Betty Budzien
Forest Ridge Apt.
11077 W. Forest Home Ave. Apt. N106
Hales Corners, WI 53130
414-367-2411 BD: 5/11

Jean Duermeier
S77W12929 McShane Dr. Apt F207
Muskego WI 53150
414-448-7053 BD: 12/04

Neil Feest
3521 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
St. Francis, WI 53235
414-483-5945 BD: 03/05

Howard Fritsch
W157N5839 Cherlyn Dr.
Menomonee Falls, WI. 53051
Living with son, Brian BD: 08/19

Charlotte Jeske—
Presbyterian Homes & Pewaukee
Services
700 Quinlan Drive
Pewaukee, WI. 53072 BD: 12/1

Leone Krueger
9095 W. Highland Park Ave. #607
Franklin, Wi. 53132
414-235-3097 BD: 5/9

Carol Polachowski
2638 E. Henry
Cudahy, WI 53110
414-769-8482 BD: 12/15

Milton Reese
6033 So. Illinois Ave.
Cudahy, WI 53110
414-769-8878 BD: 11/19

Jon & Noelle Simons
W176S7517 Harbor Cir.
Muskego, Wi 53150
262-427-1149 BD: J-7/1 N-12/23

David Slattery
3808 Georgia St. Apt. 113
San Diego, CA 92103
No phone # BD: 8/26

Jackie Struck
3300 Ramsey Ave. Apt. 109
Cudahy, Wi. 53110-3081
414-769-1131 BD: 12/24

Lorraine Zabler(son Dave contact
Clement Manor
3939 S. 92nd Street Ave. Room 135
Greenfield, WI 53228
262/821-9389 BD: 3/27

Last updated November 23, 2020



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

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THE CHRONICLES

DECEMBER 2020



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YES...I NEED THE NEWSLETTER MAILED

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Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

(Please submit this information to the church office)

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