

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

THE CHRONICLES MAY 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Letter
President's Article
2019-2020 Council Officers
& Committee Liaisons
Online Giving & Weekly
Newsletter Sign-Up's
COVID-19 & Christ Church
Updates & Needs
Opportunities
Calendar, Scripture
& Schedules
Birthdays
Thanks
Prayer Requests
Chronicles Sign Up
Get Connected



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Christ Church,

It's been a long month since we've been apart. We haven't been able to gather in person for worship, activities, and other important parts of church life. I miss you. Because you may be wondering what your pastor has been up to, I want to take some time to walk you through a typical week at Christ Church during COVID-19.

Before COVID-19, it would generally take me a couple days to put together a Sunday morning worship service. I used to have to submit a service to our Office Administrator by Thursday so she could print the final bulletins by Friday afternoon. Today, however, I have to put together two services by the beginning of the week, so we can mail copies out to some of you and email them to the rest before Sunday. This means the sermon that I would normally work on all weekend has to be completed by Wednesday. Because you are spending more time *looking* at written things from church, Debbie and I have spent extra time finding art, videos, and other worshipful things to improve your devotional experience.

The real fun begins after the service has been put together in print. It takes me nearly an entire workday to record a 45-minute worship service. This process takes longer if musicians are involved because I have to schedule an appointment for them to come to church and record their music. After they finish recording, I have to edit the recordings using special sound editing software so that they are acceptable for adding to the final product. Whenever I record videos, I have to adjust the camera settings, lighting, sound, and angle between every segment of worship. All of this is done from my personal laptop. You should seriously see some of the outtakes! One of these days I will make a blooper compilation and share it on Facebook. I am hopeful I can look back on this experience and laugh someday.

The challenging part starts after worship has been recorded. I use a video editor to create a storyboard of all the different movements of worship such as the call to worship, sermon, songs, blessings, and so forth. After I have an order of worship established on the storyboard, I have to trim each video clip, sort of like I am cutting up film.

When the clips are in the correct order and trimmed down, I superimpose graphics, text, transitions, and other visual flourishes into the video to make it look slicker. When this is complete, I add music to the video by importing and adding the audio files that I recorded with our musicians *into* the video. The hope is that this gives you a more meaningful and familiar sounding worship experience.

Once the video is finalized, I export it to my computer. This creates a gigantic video file that can take sometimes over an hour, as it renders each frame in real time. This means if a video is 45 minutes in length, it takes 45 minutes to render from start to finish. After the video renders, I *usually* watch it to make sure there are not any errors. If there are, I must revisit the video editor, fix the issue, and render it all over again. Sometimes this process takes several hours.

When the video is rendered and passes my inspection, I can put it on YouTube. Because the video files are generally quite massive, this process takes at least an hour. When this finishes up, I create a “Premier Video” on Facebook with the movie. This takes another hour as the video has to upload to Facebook. This feature allows us to watch the worship service together on Sunday morning. When everything is uploaded to YouTube and Facebook, I send out the devotionals to you in your email and post a message in Facebook. Hopefully, I remembered to blind carbon copy you all! Finally, when all this is finished, I let out a sigh of relief and pour a large glass of red wine.

The process of creating a worship service, recording, editing, and uploading the services takes several days, but it is a labor of love. While Debbie and I put together the services for the week, we make calls and emails to check in on you and get prayer requests together for the services. We also have been putting together devotionals that go out on Facebook for you and your families to enjoy, as well as art and activities that can be done at home.

We are hopeful that our hard work has paid off for you and your families. We continue to diligently operate as best as we can with limited resources, tools, and time. We are thankful for your grace and patience as we have learned how to navigate through COVID-19 together as a church and staff. As we continue to lean into the reality of being the Church in a pandemic, my hope is not only to provide you the spiritual nourishment that you need to get through the week, but about what our path forward will look like this summer and beyond.

God bless you. Stay strong.

Pastor Dan



PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE

Many of us remember the 911 terrorist attacks and the related nationwide confusion, sadness, uncertainty, and the fear it caused. Airports and other modes of transportation were either shut down or altered and we were not sure how much more danger was coming our way.

Dial forward 19 years and we again have nationwide (and worldwide) confusion, sadness, uncertainty, and fear created by an enemy. This time our enemy is a virus. We are as uncertain about this enemy’s ability to attack us as we were about the terrorist’s ability to harm us. We mourn the deaths in both attacks and live uncertain of what is to come.

To me there are a lot of parallels to both attacks. Both attacks were caused by enemies we can identify but not isolate. Both attacks point out our weaknesses, the first in our lax security measures and the second in our underdeveloped healthcare system and pandemic readiness policies. Both attacks cause anxiety and confusion because we are a nation of wealth and power, always having the money and answers, not being faced with the questions and problems. Uncontrollable disease spread is/was a third world issue, not an American problem.



One of the most important lessons to learn from this attack is that anything we have can be taken from us at any time even if we live in a land of plenty and prosperity. Our jobs, loved ones, investments, our much revered and thought to be inalienable personal freedoms to do, and go where we want, at any time we wish, with whoever we wish to be with, can all be taken away in a minute by an enemy so small we'd need a microscope to see it and all the millions of dollars we have thrown at it hasn't bought us any relief at all.

It has been painfully demonstrated that the poorest widow in India and the wealthiest American are equals when it comes to the Coronavirus. Let's let this virus experience remind us that we are all siblings and equals on this earth. May we never lose sight of that fact. With God's help we will get through this and when we do, hopefully we will see how much we really have in common with all our earthly "siblings". Now, let's make our Creator happy. Go in peace. Live in love.

2020 COUNCIL OFFICERS & COMMITTEE LIAISONS

OFFICERS:

President: Dean Kothrade

Vice President: Sara Rogers

Recording Secretary: Chuck Terlinden

Financial Secretary: Dean Kothrade

Congregational Treasurer: Rich Tremarello

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Property/Insurance liaison: Chuck Terlinden

Membership Committee liaison: Katelyn O'Brien

Christian Education: Kim O'Brien

Worship & Music Committee liaison: Rich Tremarello

Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations liaison: Dean Kothrade

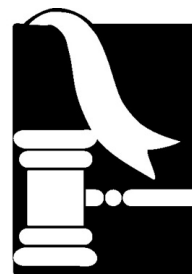
Stewardship Committee liaison: Barb Wells

Memorial Committee liaison: Rich Tremarello

Social Concerns Committee liaison: Sara Rogers

IT/Tech: Chuck Terlinden

Committee TBD: Sue Pfeifer



ONLINE GIVING IN LIGHT OF 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.

SIGN UP: 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).



COVID-19 AND CHRIST CHURCH

It's been a long 6-weeks since we've been apart. I hope you and your families are staying healthy in body, mind, and spirit during these trying times. At this time, I would like to give you some updates about what we've been up to at Christ Church and some important considerations for how our decisions about the future will work, given the federal government's gated criteria for reopening the country.

But first, here is a bit of ancient history. At the beginning of March, the Church Council and I met to discuss a path forward for worship, activities, and church operations given the developments surrounding the pandemic. We agreed at that time that it would be best to suspend in-person worship and gatherings at church until it is deemed safe by the public health, denominational, ecumenical, and government officials. Within hours of our first meeting, Governor Evers declared the safer at home order. We are proud to have taken this order seriously and believe it is an expression of our love of neighbor. With the encouragement of the Council, I developed an action plan and have largely stuck to it, with the exception of a few items changing here and there about the frequency of devotionals.

Ever since we decided to suspend in-person worship, events, and activities - Debbie, our church office administrator, and I have hit the ground running to put together worship services for two distinct groups of people. We put together a service for computer and technology users, and a hard copy for persons who would prefer to receive something in print. A weekly worship bulletin is mailed on Thursdays and emailed every Friday.

What started off as a simple recorded service now requires several days to complete from start to finish.

I have been posting devotional materials to Facebook several times a week.

We began hosting Zoom coffee hour services together after worship every Sunday at 10:30 am.

Debbie and I have been working our way through the church directory, calling, and emailing everyone possible with the contact information we have.

Even though we have not been able to connect in-person - there has been a great deal of *reconnection* taking place at Christ Church. Whether through Zoom, Facebook, our weekly newsletter, or the monthly *Chronicles* mailing - people seem to be reconnecting with us after long departures or connecting with us for the first time during this crisis. That is a hopeful thing.

To be blunt, COVID-19 has negatively impacted the church's financial health. We did not gather in person for Easter this year and we will feel the impact of that throughout the summer and fall. This was a responsible move on our part, but it has real ramifications for the church's financial solvency. Furthermore, when the economy struggles, we *all* tend to tighten our belts a bit - and it can be hard to be generous when you feel anxious about giving.

To seek relief from the pandemic, our church's ad hoc financial team, consisting of our church treasurer, financial secretary, stewardship chair on council, accountant, and myself applied for one of the federal government relief programs CARES act small business loans. Unfortunately, the program ran out of money before we could even submit our application. Fortunately, we have completed the application, submitted it, and are waiting in the queue in the event that more relief becomes available.

We also had General Fund money available in our endowment that was put aside specifically for the future of the church, which we were able to draw from to help pay our immediate overhead expenses. This was a short-term solution. Your consistent, generous giving are the long-term solution that will help your church weather this crisis. Thankfully, many of you have generously donated, even without us worshipping together in person. For that, I am thankful.

Finally, I want to discuss the future of the church, with respect to the 3-phase plan the federal government recently released about opening the country again.

Given the federal government's criteria for reopening the country, places of worship can reopen if they observe strict social distancing during **phase one**. Just because the government says its acceptable to open, it doesn't mean that it's safe for *us* in our particular church, to open. And friends, as much as I would love things to go back to how they were in February – that time is over.

Worshipping in person may look different than it did before Ash Wednesday when we last gathered. What will church look like with social distancing measures put into place? Will it still feel like church? Strict social distancing measures means we will have to have people sit apart from one another in the pews, wear PPE, potentially eliminate paper bulletins or anything that you might touch, restrict bathroom use, refrain from serving food, and put a cap on the number of people who can be in the sanctuary at church at a time. As your pastor, I want you to know that I am more concerned about your health and safety *in the church* than our government is.

The church council and I will take the federal government's guidance into consideration. However, we must also make an informed decision about when we will open our church for worshipping in person along with various other factors such as our state leader's guidance, what our neighboring churches are doing, the guidance of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and local authorities. We want to make sure that when we do settle into a new normal with in person worship, that it can be meaningful, but most of all, that it will be safe and we will not contribute to the spread of disease.

With this being said, it feels like a lifetime ago that I first sat down in my office after admiring the empty church, and spoke to you from the heart about what our plan would be as a church moving forward into this pandemic. As the situation continues to develop and the administration, state and local government, and church leaders for the UCC and Wisconsin make details and plans available, we will continue to act decisively for the wellbeing and future of Christ Church.

Until we see one another again. Remember – germs and Jesus are everywhere.

God bless you. And wash your hands.

Pastor Dan

UPDATE FROM UCC CHURCH CAMPS

“The safety and health of all guests and staff is always the highest priority at UCCI, consequently, all UCCI events at all three locations will be canceled through May 10. We will monitor the situation and share current information via our website www.ucci.org.

Our mission continues to be to love God, all others, and the earth by providing sanctuary, practicing hospitality, and performing ministry. This decision is consistent with our mission on all fronts and we pray for a safe and healthy resolution to these unprecedented times.

In the meantime, we want you to know that we are here. We will be here. Our events will happen-when it is safe. We are your community. You are our family. Be safe, be healthy, be loved!

Glen Svetnicka, Executive Director

Fun Facts: Did you know Moon Beach was established in 1957 and had previously been a family fishing camp? Moon Beach still hosts a Family Fishing Camp each year!

NEED: BVCC FOOD & INFANT FORMULA PANTRY

You can still donate to the pantry as the Food pantry part of the BVCC will remain open.

All other activities and classes have been cancelled for the time being.

They are in desperate need of the following: Canned Tuna, Chicken, Soups, Ravioli & Spaghettios

You can bring your food donations directly to the BVCC @ 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9:30am-12:30pm.



DO YOU NEED FOOD ASSISTANCE? THE BVCC FOOD PANTRY IS HERE FOR YOU!

Typically, if you live in the following zip codes: 53207, 53215 (you must live south of Becher, East of 27th St., and your address must be 2000 and up), 53221, and 53235 you may come to the Food Pantry with a photo ID from someone in your household to receive food.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY MAY 10TH!

We wish all the wonderful Mothers and people who have taken on a maternal role in others' lives a Happy Mother's Day! Your love and kindness are a true blessing!



PENDING: SCHEDULES FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP, EVENTS, MEETINGS & REHEARSALS IN MAY

You will be updated via postal mail, email, facebook, phone etc. as to when worship, activities, rehearsals, meetings etc. will resume. The following are tentative schedules. They may or may not take place and may be revised.

PENDING: CHRIST CHURCH BOOK CLUB MEETING DTBD



Inviting all Christ Church members and friends to join us on DTBD after church in the fellowship hall for our next book club discussion. We will be reading "Running for my Life" by Lopez Lomong with Mark Tabb. This is the true story of a Sudanese child refugee who became an Olympic star. His life story is one of courage, hard work and having hope where there is hopelessness. Please join us for thought provoking discussion and fellowship. Books can be obtained through the library, ebay or Amazon. If you have any questions ask Carol Dohoney, Debbie Hansen or Mary Ann Mowery. Happy reading!

PENDING: LITURGIST SCHEDULE

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5/3 Jill Unglaub | 5/10 Andy Oren | 5/17 Dick Gaeth | 5/24 Randene Wick | 5/31 Jim Wick |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|

WEEKLY SCRIPTURES

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5/3 | Acts 2:42-47 | Psalm 23 | 1Peter 2:19-25 | John 10:1-10 |
| 5/10 | Acts 7:55-60 | Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 | 1Peter 2:2-10 | John 14:1-14 |
| 5/17 | Acts 17:22-31 | Psalm 66:8-20 | 1Peter 3:13-22 | John 14:15-21 |
| 5/24 | Acts 1:6-14 | Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 | 1Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 | John 17:1-11 |
| 5/31 | Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 | Psalm 104:24-34, 35b | 1Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 | John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39 |

PENDING: LENOX STREET PARKING HELPER SCHEDULE

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5/3 Mike & Debbie Behling | 5/10 Paul & Doris Mayeshiba | 5/17 Jim & Randene Wick | 5/24 Don Antoniewicz | 5/31 Dave & Nancy Wareham |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

PENDING: OKLAHOMA GREETER SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Oklahoma Street | 5/3 Judy Borkowicz | 5/10 Dick & Joan Gaeth | 5/17 Paul & Doris Mayeshiba | 5/24 Judy Borkowicz | 5/31 Joyce Jakimczyk |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|

PENDING: USHER SCHEDULE

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| 5/3 Joan Amich Brian O'Brien Katelyn O'Brien Mike Thomae | 5/10 Ben Clark Chelsea Clark Danette Volz Renolle Volz | 5/17 Joan Amich Fred Passow Chuck Terlinden Mike Thomae | 5/24 Joan Amich Debbie Hansen Mary Ann Mowery Brian O'Brien | 5/31 Katelyn O'Brien Fred Passow Danette Volz Renolle Volz |
|---|---|--|--|---|

PENDING: COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5/3 O'Brien Family | 5/10 O'Brien Family | 5/17 O'Brien Family | 5/24 Volunteer Needed |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THESE WONDERFUL FOLKS!


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|--|
| <u>MAY 1</u> Tom Albertin Joan Gaeth |
| <u>MAY 3</u> Patti Roginski |
| <u>MAY 5</u> Colton Zvara |
| <u>MAY 6</u> Judy Faja Kathleen Schroeder |
| <u>MAY 7</u> Emma Bingheim |


| |
|---|
| <u>MAY 9</u> William Kroening Leone Krueger |
| <u>MAY 11</u> Betty Budzien Michelle Vail |
| <u>MAY 18</u> Stacey Bergeman |
| <u>MAY 21</u> Jean Abler Andrea Blankenberg Scott Schmeling Debbie Wells |


| |
|--|
| <u>MAY 23</u> Patricia Freitag |
| <u>MAY 24</u> Ben Clark Sophie Malecki |
| <u>MAY 28</u> Pam Kothrade |
| <u>MAY 29</u> Sandra Wegner |
| <u>MAY 30</u> Kirstyn Heino Jacob Heino |
| <u>MAY 31</u> Daniel Hansen |



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

 Emily Simons, granddaughter of Jon & Noelle Simons is graduating from U.W. Steven's Point with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics this spring. She is 1 of 10 who has been accepted by Mount Mary College for graduate work in Dietetics and Nutrition. She will be doing an internship with the Hunger Task Force and Froedtert Hospital. Good Luck and Congratulations Emily!

 Brianna Luebstorf, granddaughter of Jon & Noelle Simons is graduating from Waukesha South High School this spring. She will be attending U.W. LaCrosse in the fall majoring in radiation therapy. Good Luck and Congratulations Brianna!

 Katelyn O'Brien, daughter of Brian and Kim O'Brien is graduating from Franklin High School this spring. She will attend the University of Eau Claire in the fall to study Physics and Engineering. Good Luck and Congratulations Katelyn!



THANKS

~For the prayers for Andy Oren's friend Tanya who had COVID-19 as she has been with a normal temperature for 72 hours straight now and has almost recovered.

~For the prayers for Jackie Struck's granddaughter Jodie who has recovered from COVID-19 and is now able to return to work.

~Christ Church received an acknowledgement and a "thanks" from the UCC for our congregations 2019 contribution of \$3638.49 for the Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission Changing Lives. From John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

PRAYER REQUESTS



Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3*

We pray for:

~Pastor Dan's friend Elliot Sizemore and his family as they cope with his brother Evan taking his life this past week. Thoughts and prayers also to Pastor Dan for his young friends unexpected death.

~Jerrilyn, Paul & Doris Mayeshiba's daughter in-law's mother who after having gallbladder surgery is dealing with coronary shock a complication of surgery and is on a ventilator in ICU and is slowly improving.

~Ernestine Faja, Mary Ann Mowery's mother who fell and required hospitalization and surgery with rod placement for a broken femur. She has confusion as to where and why she is in the hospital from her dementia. The inability of the family being able to be present because of the Coronavirus has put a lot of stress on her family also.

~Lauralei Schmilding's sister in-law's mother who is in a long-term care facility without family or friends able to visit.

~Jessie & Adam who will be having their 1st child in the next week by C-Section. From the Seguins.

~The five healthcare workers within our immediate family and we are grateful for the recovery of one of them from COVID-19. From, Gloria Konkel.

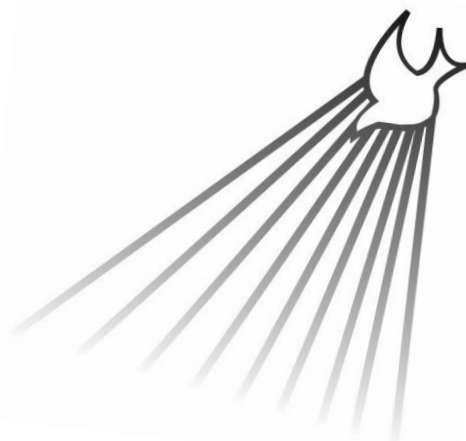
~Dawn Dayton, Brad Dayton's wife who is going thru some serious health issues. Prayers that she does not contract COVID-19 as it could be fatal for her.

~Taylor Gilgenbach to stay safe and healthy as she works in the medical field and has been and will continue to be exposed to people with COVID-19.

~Joe, Jackie Struck's son-in law who remains hospitalized at St. Luke's South Shore for COVID-19. He is no longer intubated and has been moved to a private room. He remains on oxygen and has difficulty in raising his arms and legs.

~Everyone in our church community, family & friends, those cut off from loved ones, medical & emergency personnel, scientists, researchers, leaders, workers, manufacturers, and patients in cities & states across our country and the world.

Please contact the church office with any additional prayer requests. Also see additional prayer requests listed in the weekly worship bulletin.



Make a



*This is a fun art project
you can do on a rainy day.*

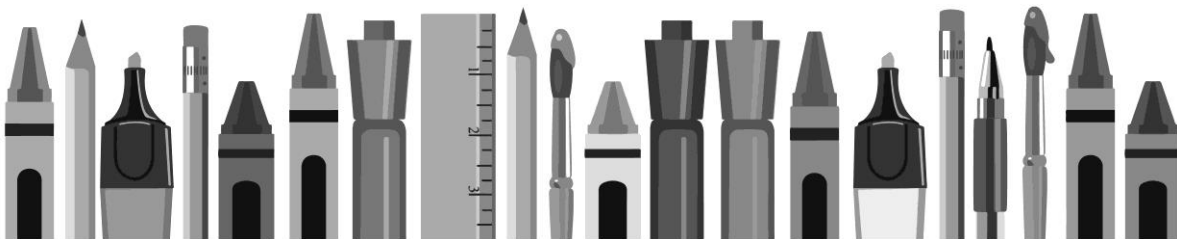
You will need:

- ▷ rain
- ▷ paper
- ▷ water-soluble markers
- ▷ old newspapers

How to make the picture:

- ▷ In the house, use the markers to draw shapes, lines and designs on the paper.
- ▷ Go outside and put your picture in the rain for about 20 seconds.
- ▷ Take it back into the house and lay it on some newspapers to dry.

*The rain
helped you
create a
masterpiece!*



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

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THE CHRONICLES

MAY 2020



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YES...I NEED THE NEWSLETTER MAILED

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

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(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!