

The Christ Church Courier

Fall, 2025 – Rally Day and Beyond

“Living in God’s Economy”



Fall Sermon Series
Organ Dedication and Recital Series
Activities for Children & Youth
United Women in Faith
Worship Arts Ministries
and so much more!



A Word from the Lead Pastor

Welcome to 2025 Fall edition of the Courier and welcome to Christ Church, where we seek to be a welcoming community of faith, hope, and love serving our neighbors and the world with the hands of Christ. Through the pages of this edition of the Courier, you will get a general idea of what to expect at Christ Church this fall.

I want to begin by saying, it is great to be a pastor at Christ Church United Methodist. I am grateful for the opportunity to share ministry with you. I am excited about the days ahead as we live into what God has created us to be in Charleston.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to work with David and Ashley in providing a high quality of ministry for you and our Charleston community. Through these pages, you will read about Rally Day, multiple opportunities to participate in choirs from children through adult, children and youth activities, as well interpretive dance. Most of you are already familiar with these opportunities, but I am continuing to learn how important your participation is to the life and ministry of Christ Church.

Our study book for the fall will be *On Love: 20 Lessons for the World We Seek* by Paul and Janet Chilcote. It is my hope that you will read On Love whether you are participating in a study group, Sunday School class, or reading the book on your own. You will find a description of the book in this edition of the Courier. You can pick up your copy of On Love in the church office immediately after Labor Day.

Our Fall Sermon Series is titled "Living in God's Economy." As we worship together each Sunday, whether in person, online, or listening on the radio, please know there is a place for you in worship at Christ Church. More than anything, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings as we continue to grow together as followers of Jesus.

Our Fall Bible Study is titled "A Study of the Wesleyan Tradition." The study will be held every Sunday morning at 9:50am in the Chapel. It will begin September 7 (Rally Day) and continue through November 2 (All Saints Sunday). The study will focus on what we believe as United Methodist Christians. You will find a detailed outline of the study in this edition of the Courier. This is an opportunity to learn and to grow together in our understanding of what makes us who we are as United Methodists.

Let's continue to pray for Charleston. As the prophet Jeremiah reminded the Hebrew people, as the city goes, so we go. Let us also pray asking God to "send us the people no one else wants" and "to receive the people God sends to us." And, as we enter the fall season, I challenge you, as you begin to meet in your groups, to ask God to show you where we need to be in ministry in Charleston, the Kanawha Valley, in West Virginia, and the world. What do we need to do that no one else is doing?

Know also how much you are appreciated. May you always be as blessed as you are a blessing! Your servant for Jesus' sake,

Tim

Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias
Lead Pastor



Fall Sermon Series

“Living in God’s Economy”



On Sunday, September 7, Dr. Bias will start a sermon series titled “Living in God’s Economy.” Taking in consideration our mission, “Christ Church United Methodist is a welcoming community of faith, hope, and love, serving our neighbors and the world with the hands of Christ,” the series will focus upon making our mission come alive in a culture of conflicting values.

As followers of Jesus, it is God’s economy that informs our faith, our living, and our relationships within our Charleston community and beyond. It is God’s economy that sets our priorities and helps us understand the importance of people, prayer, and finances.

The major theme for the series is “Jesus not only possessed the Holy Spirit but promised the Holy Spirit to the church and to each of us.” How are we empowered to live our faith in and through Christ Church? How are we empowered to love the people we encounter in every day and ordinary ways? How do we respond to God’s grace with our giving?

This fall is an excellent time to invite a friend either to worship in person or online as we learn more of what it means to be a follower of Jesus living within God’s economy, and to be a transforming agent in Charleston, the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, and the world.

September 7 (Rally Day), our series will begin with “Priorities: First Things First” from Luke 14:25-33. To be a follower of Jesus is to live God’s love in every situation and circumstance and with every relationship and acquittance.

September 14, we will focus upon “People Are Important” from Luke 15:1-10. What does it mean to say that people are important as a follower of Jesus with God’s love as your priority.

September 21, the focus is upon “The Economy of Grace” from Luke 15:11-32. What does it mean, as a follower of Jesus, to respond to and extend God’s grace? How does grace respond to self-righteousness?

September 28, we will explore “How Big Is the Neighborhood?” from Luke 16:19-31. How we use our resources is important. None of us would neglect a sick, starving beggar on our doorstep, but how far away must the person be before we are “no longer responsible?”

October 5 is World Communion Sunday. We will focus upon the sacredness of feeding hungry people with “More Than Enough” from Luke 9:10-17. In God’s economy, feeding hungry people is as sacred as holy communion. Remembering that people are important and responding to God’s grace is putting faith into action.

October 12, the focus is upon “The Grace in Gratitude” from Luke 17:11-19. In God’s economy, grace and gratitude go together. Only when there is an awareness of grace can there be a response of gratitude.

October 19, we will explore “The Difficulty with Prayer” from Luke 18:1-8. The difficulty of prayer is staying focused upon God and God’s priority of people and grace. Prayer demands preparation, persistence, and perseverance.

October 26, Ashley Wood will be leading us in the celebration of Children’s Sabbath.

November 2 is All Saints Sunday. We will focus upon the “Understanding that God Seeks Us” from Luke 19:1-10. God comes searching for us even though we think we are searching for God.

November 9, we will focus upon “It Matters Where You Start” from John 3:1-21. John understands the God is love. His theme is “if you have seen Jesus, you have seen God.” In other words, if you have seen Jesus, you have seen God’s love in human form.

November 16, “It Matters Who You Love” from Matthew 28:18-20. In God’s economy, relationships are important. God sent Jesus to teach us how to live before God in relationship to God and to neighbor.

November 23 is Christ the King Sunday. The focus will be upon “It Is a Matter of Power” from Luke 4:16-21. In God’s economy, you have received power to communicate across the barriers of race, gender, nationality, and culture.

Why Do We Use Real Flowers in Worship?



Occasionally, the question is asked, "Why do we use real flowers in worship?" With the advancement of technology, artificial flowers look just as good as real flowers, and they last longer and cost less in the long run. So, why should the church incur the expense of having real flowers every week in worship?

The members of the Worship Arts Committee are responsible for managing the altar and font flowers, and one of the items on their monthly agenda includes a conversation about altar and font flowers. At least once a year, the committee talks about the cost of the flowers and the number of individuals who have stepped forward to sponsor flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, or to celebrate a life event. The Worship Arts Committee is committed to the beauty of both the Centrum and the Chapel and works toward the goal of having fresh flowers every week in worship. Occasionally, the group will go through a bidding process to make sure we are getting the best flowers for the best price.

So, the reason why there are real flowers in worship is theological.

In his book, *United Methodist Altars: A Guide for the Congregation*, the late United Methodist pastor and theologian, Rev. Hoyt Hickman, spells out very clearly why churches should use real flowers. He states:

"Flowers speak of festivity, and to Christians, flowers speak specifically to the resurrection. Flowers given to the church can be an exquisite offering of praise and thanksgiving. Since flowers symbolize the resurrection, and in keeping with the principle of integrity, no type of artificial flower or plant is appropriate to the environment of worship."

Rev. Hickman goes on to say that, *"If for a given service no fresh flowers are available, there are several alternatives. One is to use evergreens or mixed greenery. Another alternative is to have one or more sets of potted plants available for use when needed."*

When you think about the worship spaces at Christ Church, Rev. Hickman's theological advice around flowers and greenery is exactly what the Worship Arts Committee believes is the right thing to do.

The Worship Arts Committee normally meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month from September to May, and as they regroup for the upcoming season, one of the agenda items will include a discussion about the altar and font flowers, and the costs associated with each.

To make the flower ministry successful, weekly sponsors are needed. Here are the dates that are available to sponsor flowers until the end of 2025:

- October 5, 12, 19
- November 2, 16, 23, 30
- December 7, 14, 21, 28

If you would like to sponsor altar or font flowers, please contact the church office at 304.342.0192

Thank you for supporting this vital worship ministry at Christ Church. If you have any questions, please contact David Donathan at 304.342.0192, ext. 210.

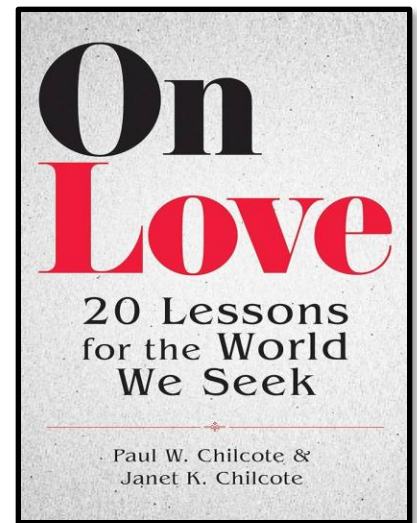


Fall Book Study

“On Love: 20 Lessons for the World We Seek”

In a world that often feels divided and dark, *On Love* reveals how everyday moments can become transformative acts of love. Drawing from their rich life experiences, Paul and Janet Chilcote offer twenty essential practices that anyone can begin immediately—no special training required. Each chapter shares relatable stories and simple practices that fit naturally into your daily routines, from making meaningful eye contact to creating beauty in ordinary spaces.

Through refreshingly honest personal stories and down-to-earth wisdom, the Chilcotes show how small shifts in the way we interact with the world create ripples of positive change.



Bible Study in the Chapel “A Study of the Wesleyan Tradition”

Dr. Bias will be leading our Fall Bible Study titled, “A Study of the Wesleyan Tradition.” The study will begin on Sunday, September 7 at 9:50am in the Chapel and continue through November 2. We will be focusing upon what we believe as United Methodist Christians.

September 7: Ephesians 2:1-10

September 14: John 3:16-19

September 21: Romans 7:13-8:2

September 28: Philippians 3:15

October 5: Romans 8:1-17

October 12: Ephesians 1:15-23

October 19: Romans 2:17-29

October 26: Galatians 5:1-9

November 2: Romans 12:1-2

Introduction: The Goal of Faith
Amazing Grace: Prevenient and
Justifying

Sin: Everybody’s Doing It
Christian Perfection: Sanctification
Blessed Assurance

The Church: A Dwelling Place
of Wonder

Holiness of Life and Work

Distinctive Marks of a
United Methodist

The Means of Grace:
Staying in Shape

Weberwood Backpack Ministry

As the school year begins, our shelves are empty, and the need is great. For September, we’re collecting canned pasta (ravioli, SpaghettiOs!), canned soup, and beanie weenies to help Weberwood Elementary students in need of weekend meals. To give financially, text 855-953-1471 or note “Weberwood Backpack Ministry” on your check. Questions? Contact Lenore Tweel at robert.tweel@gmail.com.

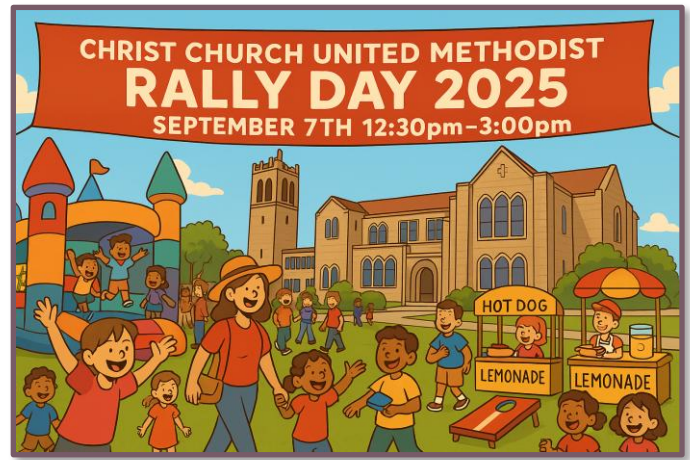


Rally Day

September 7, 2025, 12:30pm - 3:00pm,

Join us for Christ Church's Annual Rally Day on Sunday, September 7th, immediately following the 11:00am worship service. We welcome all Christ Church families, friends, and neighbors to come and celebrate with us. The church will provide hot dogs, sauce, and drinks — just bring along your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with face painting, inflatables, rock climbing, yard games, music, fellowship, and a crowd-favorite cake walk (donations for the cake walk are welcome.) Don't forget to bring your lawn chair and join us outside for an unforgettable day of community and celebration!



The Growing Place Preschool



Our preschool classrooms are full of curious minds, joyful laughter, and big dreams — and we need your help to keep them thriving!

We are seeking back-to-school donations to support our classrooms. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us create a nurturing environment where young children can explore, learn, and grow.

Support the Growing Place this Fall!

Our Most Needed Items:

Kleenex
Paper Towels
Sanitizing Wipes
Hand soap/sanitizer
Washable markers/crayons
Colored Pencils

Scotch Tape
Tempera Paint
Liquid School Glue
Construction Paper
Clothing sizes 2T and up
(used or new)

C.R.O.S.S. Ministry 2025 Season

(Christians Reaching Out in Service to the Savior)

C.R.O.S.S. Ministries hosted seven groups over our spring/summer season. We anticipate at least one more group this fall. Our groups came from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, and West Virginia. Each team brought its unique skill set to provide repairs to homes across our region.

We housed most of our groups in the Virginia Street property, with one group staying in the gym overnight. We also fed a few meals to one group with the capable assistance of United Women in Faith, the United Methodist Men and Bob Morris. We provided project leadership through the talents of Jim Lord, Perry McDaniel and Rich Ford. Our hospitality league of women welcomed our groups and helped them get settled into their surrounds.

Without this collaboration of willing volunteers from our church, C.R.O.S.S. would not be able to function. I cannot thank you enough for living out your faith through this ministry. If you would like to be involved in this community outreach, there are many ways you can help. Please reach out to me for future opportunities.



Kathy Chaney, Director of C.R.O.S.S. Ministry
304-546-8513; mchainee@aol.com

Thank You for Your Generosity!



Through the generous sharing of your gifts, we are touching lives here at Christ Church United Methodist this past summer.

The annual summer **Music & Arts Camp** centered on the theme of creation. The composer of the week was Ludwig van Beethoven and his "Hymn to Joy." The children painted, sculpted, played Orff instruments, sang, and even made their own t-shirts. At the end of the week, the children gave a performance for their parents.

This summer, our Christ Church Youth embraced their call to serve by being the hands and feet of Christ during their **Youth Mission Trip** to Portland, Maine. While there, they partnered with Preble Street, a local food pantry that prepares an incredible 2,000 meals each day for unhoused and low-income neighbors. The Youth also teamed up with The Root Cellar, volunteering their time with the children's summer camp and assisting with the organization's ELA (English as a Second Language) class.



This year's **Vacation Bible School** hosted two sets of children. In the mornings Ashley Wood held VBS for the 40+ children aged 2-5 in The Growing Place. In the evenings with a team of church volunteers, we hosted children from our church and community ranging from preschool to 5th grade. Each group enjoyed learning music and games, hearing Bible stories and making crafts. The evening group had time to fellowship over a meal. The Mission Project for this year's VBS was to raise money for the flood buckets for the WV Annual Conference's Disaster Response Ministry. Thank you to everyone that helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a success!

Your generosity makes it possible for us to provide life-changing programs for our children, youth, and neighbors in need. This fall, we are excited to offer even more opportunities to grow in faith and serve our community together. As you settle back into your regular routines, we encourage you to remember your church giving, especially since summer often brings lower weekly offerings due to vacations and busy schedules. To explore the many ways you can share your financial gifts, visit ccumwv.org or contact Toni in the church office.

Youth Group Mission Project

The Christ Church Youth Group will be heading to the New Vision Depot for a one-day mission project! During Vacation Bible School, we raised over \$1,000 to support the Disaster Response Team's flood bucket ministry. Now, we have the opportunity to put that generosity into action by helping assemble flood and cleaning buckets for the conference. We invite anyone from the congregation to join us! We will meet at the church at **9:00am on Saturday, September 20th**, then travel together to the New Vision Depot, located at 143 Southern Industrial Drive, Beaver, WV. We'll spend the afternoon serving and enjoy a pizza lunch together. If you would like to participate, please register with Ashley Wood by **September 14th**.

College Student Care Packages

On Sunday October 19th, the Youth Group will be packing care packages to send to our young adults in college. You can donate to this at any time by earmarking a monetary gift to College Care Packs. For donations of nonperishable food items or gifts, and school supplies, please do so between October 1st to 18th.





The upcoming 2025-2026 season is going to be VERY exciting for the congregation of Christ Church as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Centrum Pipe Organ, and the installation of our Antiphonal Organ, which uses the organ pipes from the first pipe organ this congregation purchased in 1903 with funds donated by philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie.

The Worship Arts Committee, in conjunction with the Trustees, have been working during the past year to finalize all the details, including the electrical needs, as well as stain and paint colors for the project. Minister of Worship Arts/Organist, Rev. David Donathan, has been working closely with the Holtkamp Organ Company to finalize a timeline for the installation, which should begin around the first part of October and take 6-8 weeks to complete. If all goes to plan, the Centrum organ should be playable again sometime in October, but use of the antiphonal organ won't be possible until sometime in November.

Watching the installation of a pipe organ can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Therefore, during the installation of the organ, David plans to host an evening get-together to explain everything while it is being assembled so everyone can see, firsthand, the craftsmanship that goes into the creation of the "King of Instruments."

Playing off our bicentennial theme from 2004, "Our Future Acclaims Our Past," the theme for the organ recital series is "Renewed and Resounding; A Golden Jubilee." The word 'golden' is often used to celebrate 50th anniversaries, and in biblical history, every 50 years is a jubilee year of celebration.

In addition to the dedication of the instrument, four additional organ recitalists have been chosen to help us celebrate this historic event. Each recital will be livestreamed through our church Facebook page and our church YouTube channel. More detailed biographical information for all these recitalists will be available in the recital series concert program provided at each concert. All the concerts are free and open to the public.

"I would like to say a word of thanks to EVERYONE who has worked for at least the past 14 years to make our antiphonal organ project and this Golden Jubilee Recital Series a reality. This is a monumental event for our congregation as we bring a part of our worship arts history back into our worship life. It has been a labor of love, and I want to say thank you for everyone's hard work, dedication, and affirmations."

Rev. David Donathan, (Deacon)
Minister of Worship Arts/Organist

David Donathan, Organ Dedication and Recital,
Tentative Date - Sunday, November 23, Christ the King Sunday
www.ccumwv.org

Our Minister of Worship Arts/Organist, David Donathan, will give the first recital in the series. The current plan is to have a dedication during the 11:00am Sunday morning service, with an organ recital that afternoon at 2:00pm. Please note that this dedication is listed as 'tentative.' Depending on the installation timeline, the dedication might have to be pushed to a later date. We will know more once the installation begins in October.





Dr. Brenda Portman, Sunday, January 25, 2026, 2:00pm

(Inclement weather date: Sunday, February 15)

www.brendaportman.com

Brenda Portman will make her Charleston debut by giving the second recital of the Jubilee Series. Brenda is a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, where she serves on the faculty of Xavier University as an Adjunct Professor of Organ. She also serves as the organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her services at Hyde Park began when our Lead Pastor, Dr. Timothy Bias, was serving Hyde Park UMC as their Lead Pastor. Brenda and Tim have known each

other for years. An award-winning organist, Brenda is quickly becoming a well-known composer of organ and chamber music, and many of her compositions are released through the Lorenz Corporation Publishing House.



Peter DuBois, Sunday, February 22, 2026, 2:00pm

www.organixconcerts.ca/bio.php?id=219

Peter will be returning to Charleston to give the third recital in the Jubilee Series. Peter served here at Christ Church as the Director of Music/Organist from 1981-1991. In 1991, he took the position of Director of Music/Organist at the Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. Recently retired from the church, Peter is still the host and producer of the nationally syndicated public radio program, "With Heart and Voice." He also tours on a regular basis giving organ concerts in the United States and in Europe.



Paul Fey, Sunday, March 29, 2026, 2:00pm

www.paulfeyorganist.com

International and Internet sensation, Paul Fey, will be giving the fourth recital in the Jubilee Series, and we are fortunate that he will be touring in the United States next year. A resident of Leipzig, Germany, Paul has become an Internet sensation with his organ videos on YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram where he celebrates almost 100,000 total subscribers. To help pay for his formal education, Paul started selling his organ compositions through his website. He is now a full-time composer and performer who travels the world promoting the art of playing the pipe organ. While he is in Charleston, he will be featuring Christ Church on his media platforms, which will give the church international exposure.



Dr. Janette Fishell, Sunday May 10, 2026, 2:00pm

www.janettefishellorganist.com

Dr. Janette Fishell will be returning to Charleston for a third time to give the final recital in the Jubilee Series. In the August 2025 magazine of the American Guild of Organists, the interviewer called her "organist royalty" because of her popularity and personality. Janette is a Professor of Music and Chair of the Organ Department at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, one of the largest organ schools in the country. She also travels internationally giving recitals and lectures. She is a passionate church musician, and part of her teaching career was spent at Scarritt Graduate School in Nashville, Tennessee where she served on the faculty. Our Minister of Worship Arts/Organist, David Donathan, met Janette when he was a student at Scarritt from 1985-1987 and they have been colleagues ever since.

'Jubilee Choir' Planned for Organ Dedication

To celebrate this Jubilee year for the Worship Arts Ministries, David Donathan, Minister of Worship Arts/Organist, will be creating what he is calling a 'Jubilee Choir.' This festival choir will sing for the dedication worship service and is open to anyone who would like to sing, especially past and present members of the Chancel Choir and the Wesley Choir. Extra rehearsals will be required, including a Saturday morning rehearsal for the weekend of the organ's dedication. This choir will be like a reunion or homecoming choir, so there will also be extra social events planned that weekend. The tentative date for the organ's dedication is Sunday, November 23.

New Organ Work Commissioned for the Organ Dedication in Memory of Joan and Chet Dodd



As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Centrum organ and the dedication and installation of the Antiphonal Organ, the family of the late Joan and Chet Dodd have been working with David Donathan, Minister of Worship Arts/Organist, to commission a new organ composition that will have its premiere as part of the organ dedication recital in November, 2025. The family has asked internationally known composer, Daniel Gawthrop (photo left, with David Donathan), to compose a three-movement organ composition of 8-10 minutes in length. Daniel moved to Charleston a few years ago and is active in the local organist guild.

Joan and Chet Dodd (photo, right) were very active in the life of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Chet and Joan moved to Charleston and joined Christ Church in 2002. In 2003, Joan suffered a stroke and was moved into assisted living. She passed away in 2018. Chet, along with Joan, were huge supporters of the Worship Arts Ministries of Christ Church. Chet sang bass in the Chancel Choir from 2002 until about 2015. Chet also participated in several plays and musical productions, including "The Living Last Supper," "and the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. Chet passed away in January of 2024. Joan and Chet's daughters, Jody Chatlain, Linda Fluharty and Kathryn Hunt, along with their families, have worked together to help commission this new organ composition, which will be dedicated to the memory of Joan and Chet and be available for purchase through Dunstan House Publishing, a branch of Subito Music, later this year.



Dan Shreve Joins the Church Staff as the Director of Digital Marketing and Communications

On Tuesday, September 2, Dan Shreve will be joining the staff of Christ Church as our new Director of Digital Marketing and Communications. Dan brings a lifetime of knowledge to the field of communications and marketing, and his expertise is exactly what we need to help tell Christ Church's story through digital platforms. Almost everyone in the church knows Dan because he has been involved in the life of Christ Church for decades. Dan will continue to manage and produce our Sunday morning livestreams, but this new role will enhance his involvement in every aspect of the church. If you need a video produced, Dan will be the one to create it. Do you need your church event advertised? Dan will be the one to contact the local media. In addition to his continued management of the livestream, Dan's other responsibilities will be to attend the weekly staff meetings, manage the church's social media platforms and the church website, maintain the church's sound and audio-visual equipment. Dan will work closely with the Worship Arts ministries in all things related to worship. He will also be more integrally involved with every ministry of the church. Welcome to this new staff position, Dan! (photo: Dan with his daughter, Hannah at Blackwater Falls.)



Worship Arts Ministries, Fall 2025

In addition to the Jubilee Organ Recital Series, the Worship Arts Ministries will be back in full swing starting in September. Every year, the schedule is adjusted slightly for children and youth in order to accommodate splits in grade levels as well as the church schedule. If you would like more information about any of these ministries, please contact David Donathan at 304.392.0192, ext. 210, or at DFDonathan@gmail.com prior to the start of rehearsals.

Adult



The **Chancel Choir** will resume their rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30pm in the Adult Choir Room. This group is open to all adults 18 years of age and older. Child Care is provided during rehearsal. The choir also meets on Sunday morning at 10:30am to prepare for the 11:00 worship service.

The **Chancel Ringers** will resume their rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3. This group rehearses from 5:30pm-6:25pm prior to the Chancel Choir rehearsal at 6:30pm. Child Care is also provided for this group. The handbell ensemble normally plays monthly in worship.

The **8:45am Ensemble** is the instrumental group that plays for our 8:45am non-traditional worship service. This group consists of piano, guitar, bass guitar and drums, but any instruments, including vocals, can be added.

Youth & Children

The **Youth Dance Ensemble**, led by liturgical dance artist, Cecilia Ford. The dance group will meet on an as-needed basis, but rehearsals would normally be on Sunday from 4:00-4:30pm prior to Chapel Choir and Youth Group. The group is now open to all children & youth 4th-12th grade.

Chapel Choir (Older Children & Youth 4th-12 Grade)

The **Chapel Choir** is a new group formed this year that will combine last year's older children's Jubilate II Choir with members of the Youth Choir. This group will resume on Sunday, September 14 and meet at 4:30pm prior to Youth Group, which meets at 5:00pm. Those children not in Youth Group will participate in drumming or other activities until 5:30pm.



The **Jubilate Children's Choir** will resume their activities on Sunday, September 14th from 4:30-5:30pm in the Children's Choir Room. The choir is open to all children Kindergarten to 3th grade (photo, left.)

Special Worship Arts Dates for the Fall

The Worship Arts Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Rich Ford, Chairperson

Rally Day - September 7, Acolyte Ministry Resumes

World Communion Sunday - October 5

All Saints Sunday - November 2

Jubilee Organ Dedication Service and Recital - November 23 (Tentative)

First Sunday in Advent - November 30

40th Annual Lessons and Carols Service - Sunday, December 7, Prelude 4:00pm, Service at 4:30pm



Acolyte/Cross Bearer Ministry Resumes this Fall

The Acolyte Ministry of Christ Church is open to all children/youth in 3rd-8th grades, If you have children in this age range, be sure to watch for an email from the church announcing an opportunity to register to participate. The schedule will resume after Labor Day.



Leah's Legacy

The Strickland Family is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Leah's Legacy 5K Run/2 Mile Walk/Kid's Fun Run on **Sunday, Sept 21, 2025**, at 5:00 pm. Last year we had close to 500 participants and look forward to a bigger/better Celebration in 2025! The event will start at Charleston City Center (Slack Plaza), proceed

towards the boulevard, and end back at Charleston City Center (Slack Plaza). Leah Strickland was active in multiple sports and very competitive with a "team first, ALL IN" attitude. She encouraged her teammates and put the best interests of her team and teammates before her own. On August 31, 2022, a few weeks into her freshman season, she lost her life in a car accident while coming home from a soccer game. The Strickland Family, who are members of Christ Church, chose to honor Leah's memory, character, and love of athletics by establishing a Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund provides scholarships for high school senior athletes who embody the same characteristics.

Race Award Categories:

- Top 3 Overall Male & Female
- Top Masters Male & Female (40+)
- Age Groups (Top Male & Female runners) 8 & under, 9-11, 12-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89
- Top 3 Fastest Adult Teams (Minimum of 5 members-must be co-ed)

Monthly Book Club

Join Helen Epps and the Book Club on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm in the Omega Room. All are welcome! This fall, we'll be reading:

- **Sept. 10:** *Becoming Madame Secretary* - Stephanie Dray
- **Oct. 8:** *Ordinary Grace* - William Kent Krueger
- **Nov. 12:** *Solito* - Javiera Zamora





Children's Sunday Morning Kick-Off

Sunday, September 14th, during both the 8:45am service and 11:00am service, the new fall programming will begin. We will continue to provide a Sunday School curriculum during the morning services following Moments with the Children. The nursery will be available for children ages 2 and under throughout Sunday morning beginning at 8:30am.

Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 8:45am and 11:00am will be Children's Sabbath, which will be a special child-focused Sunday. We will be handing out Bibles to our 3-year-olds as well as our 3rd graders, as is our church tradition. The children will be singing and participating in many aspects of this service.

Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 6:00pm Christ Church will again be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat celebration for our friends and neighbors. This event will be at 6:00pm. Set up will begin at 5:00pm, please have your car in place by 5:15pm for safety. Lots of fun for all ages!



Sunday Afternoon Youth Group

September 14, 2024, 5:00pm-6:00pm

The Youth Group will resume on Sunday afternoon, September 14th and is open to children 6th grade to 12th grade. We will not be meeting on the afternoon of September 21st so the Youth Group can participate in Leah's Legacy Run/Walk in honor of Leah Strickland.

The Yarnettes

The Yarnettes are proud to celebrate one of our own. **Congratulations to Judy Crouse** for being recognized for her volunteer work with Thomas Memorial Hospital! Our group is currently creating white crosses for the upcoming Clergy Gathering Celebration in October. We're also continuing our ongoing projects, including baby blankets for the hospital, and gifts for the Assistance Ministry.

In July, we turned our attention to making Christmas items for Christ Church's homebound members. We're taking a short break during the month of August, but we're still available to provide shawls, lap blankets, or baby blankets as needed for the congregation. Regular meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 10th at 1:00pm in the Potter Room. If you need assistance or have a request, please contact Linda Meszaros at 304-550-0947.

In Loving Remembrance Initiative

The *In Loving Remembrance* Initiative will hold a special observance on October 19th to honor babies lost through miscarriage or stillbirth. During the service, white roses will be placed on the baptismal font as a symbol of love and remembrance. This ministry continues to share comfort by sending blessing kits and handprint kits to Women's & Children's Hospital and Thomas Memorial Hospital. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Blake and Fred Westfall for their dedication to this meaningful project and wish them every happiness as they begin their new chapter in Kentucky.





United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Fall Activities

Fall is here, and the women of Christ Church are ready with a variety of opportunities to connect, grow, and serve. Browse through the plans below and mark your calendar for the ones that inspire you!

United Women in Faith Reading Program:

The UWIF Reading Program is designed to deepen women's faith and action, with books chosen each year in five categories: Education for Mission, Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Leadership Development, and Nurturing the Community. Our library now includes books from this list along with recommendations from our board. This summer, a small group read and discussed *All That Is Secret* (Education for Mission)—a historical mystery set in 1922 Denver featuring a Black woman theologian solving crimes. Our next book, *The Book of Rosy* (Education for Mission), tells the story of a mother separated from her children at the border, which we'll discuss with the youth. All of these titles, along with past selections, are available to sign out from the library.

September 14: One Bag at a Time Sunday

The Blessing Closet, created to support our Assistance Ministry, provides personal care and household items every Tuesday. What began with just a few volunteers has grown—recipients now receive 4 items and a Bible (if requested), totaling 90-100 items given out weekly. This ongoing ministry has no budget support, but thanks to your donations it stayed stocked this summer.

We are re-introducing it as the **Blessing Closet: Sharing Blessings by Meeting Needs One Bag at a Time**. Once a quarter will be *One Bag at a Time Sunday*. Pick up a labeled bag, purchase the listed items, and return it filled. Donations are always welcome, not just on these Sundays.

October 19:

We are planning a church meal together in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you'll join us for this time of food and fellowship! More details will be shared soon, so keep an eye on the Midweek Update email.

October 30:

A book discussion is planned on *The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border*. Copies are available in the church office for \$20. All are welcome to come and take part in this meaningful conversation.

November 16:

The UWIF and the Youth Group will gather for a joint discussion on *The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border*.

December 14: 3rd Annual Christmas Cookie Extravaganza Exchange

Last year's Cookie Extravaganza was filled with food, fun, and fellowship as the UWIF prepared over 60 tins of cookies, candies, and fudge—plus a little "quality control sampling." Volunteers delivered them to hospitals, shelters, first responders, and city workers, each box including a welcome from Christ Church and an invitation to Christmas Eve services.

. This December, we're planning an even bigger event to bless more community workers. Join us in person or by supplying cookies and tins—it's a joyful time of fellowship and delicious sampling!

The Catherine Blair Circle

The Catherine Blair Circle, named in honor of the late Catherine Blairs (pictured right), holds monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Join us for fellowship, fun, and meaningful activities throughout the year!

Upcoming Dates & Events: **September 18** - Meet & Greet

October 16 - Meeting at The Greenbrier and Amtrak Train Ride

- **November 20** - Painting Class led by guest, Beth Sears
- **December** - *Date to be announced*: Christmas Luncheon at Pat Garner's home.



September Birthdays

- 1st Ottis Linger, Blake Westfall,
Tracy Wilkerson
2nd Tanner Purdy
3rd Nancy Jackson
- 4th Ann Ballard
5th Chloe Burdette, Jenny Morris
8th Teddy Stewart
9th Joni Mazelon
10th Jack Lipphardt
12th Krissa Frontz
13th Jeffery Holsclaw, Kathy Storage,
Emily Woolwine
14th Jane Carter, Terry Reale
15th Stephen Hall, Fred Westfall
16th Connor Sorrells
17th Tanya Law
- 18th Grace Fisher, Perry McDaniel
20th Karen Donathan
21st Garth Atkins
23rd Becky Bumpus, Kara Moore,
Jackson White
24th Larry Roller
25th Ben Grose
26th Wilkes Aliff, Sarah Clarke,
Rachel Clarke Carolee Felber,
Thatcher Frankenberg, Cindy Harris,
Carol Linger, Finnegan Malone
27th Jane Purdy
28th Rich Ford
29th Teresa Bailey, Lorella Boggess,
Lynn Hartsog, Dink Jarrett
30th Jimmie Wood

November Birthdays

- 1st Elizabeth Carmichael, Linda Hannah,
Adria Sirbu
4th Rose Long
5th Wendel Tuner
8th Bernice Harshberger
9th Susan Harpold
10th Kim Kristic
11th Wayne Johnson
12th Marvin Culpepper, Edward Maguire,
Molly Matthews, Jennifer Vickers,
13th Cheryl Kirksey
15th Carla Grose, Adrian Marshall
16th LuAnn Adams
17th Pat Duncan
18th Robert Hartman, Jr.
20th David Flannery, Ada Thomas,
Cameron White
22nd Emily Tweel
24th Liz Tate
30th James Ryan

October Birthdays

- 1st Erika Bartley, Emily Holsclaw-Hammond
- 2nd Clara Cassis
3rd Kathy Beckett, Carolyn Gorrell, Beth Sears,
Taylor Shaw
4th Donald Jones, D.F. Mock
5th Mike Clowser, Emily Jenks
6th Sharon Standish
7th Bernie Gorss
8th Ali Duvall, Julia Frankenberg
9th Jean Simpson
11th Judy Shew
- 12th Jeff Carmichael
15th Mary Booker
16th Trey Kristic, III
18th Lee Ann Browning, Chris Johnson,
Sonia Mills
19th Carol Crow, Don Ryan, Susan Scott
21st Jeff Stewart
22nd Kitty Atkins, Randy Flanagan
23rd Bettijane Burger,
- 24th Nathaniel Young
25th Jody Chatlain, Jillian White
26th Taylor Wood

- 28th Jami Carpenter, Charlie Hageboeck
29th James Lane, Jr
30th Mason Tate, Warner Thomas

December Birthdays

- 1st Violet Affleck, Judy Kline, Jake Stewart
- 2nd Tony Mazelon,
- 3rd Meredith Aliff
4th Helen Epps, Ingrid Ferrell, Mary Lou Grove
7th Anna Copenhaver, Beth Lord, Donna Wood
8th Thomas Carmichael, Amy Smithson
10th Ann Martin, Melisa Sirbu
11th Jean Woodfell
12th Abbi Elmore, Rod Friend, Rod Haney
- 14th Anthony Mazelon, Adelyn Sirbu, Kitty Vickers
17th Tom Clark, Rory Gillingham
18th Ryan White
20th Jon Elmore
21st Cathy Rice
22nd Nora Aliff
- 23rd Susan Casto
24th Meredith Moore
25th Jim Lord, Harryette Pyrtle
27th Janice Runyon
28th Marlyn Bissett, David Duvall,
Andy Richardson, Nelson Robinson Jr.
29th Lacy McClung
30th Randy Allio
31st Barbara Carpenter

September Anniversaries

Nelson & Joyce Robinson	September 1, 1973
Larry & Jean Woodfell	September 1, 1968
John & Judy Crouse	September 3, 1960
Don & Gena Ryan	September 4, 1970
J.B. & Lee Ann Browning	September 9, 1989
Evan & Lindsay Conard	September 9, 2023
James & Jessica Lane	September 17, 1994
Skip & Samantha Hageboeck	September 18, 1992
Thomas & Jeffifer Clark	September 23, 2000

Years Married as of 2025

52
57
65
55
36
2
31
33
25

October Anniversaries

Jim & Cheryl Kirksey	October 2, 1976
Tom & Bettijane Burger	October 3, 1970
Perry & Nan McDaniel	October 7, 1989
Jim & Beth Lord	October 14, 1989
Jonathan & Susannah Carpenter	October 16, 1999
Jacob & Emily Woolwine	October 21, 2017
Rob Aliff & Tracy Wilkerson	October 28, 2006

49
55
36
36
26
8
19

November Anniversaries

Bernie & Carla Grose	November 1, 1997
Dayton & Barbara Carpenter	November 2, 1974
Arnie & Susan Casto	November 3, 2007
Ed Korsgaard & Laura Wilhelm	November 4, 2004
Ryan & Gretchen Frankenberry	November 5, 2011
John & Susan Bratt	November 7, 1980
Benjamin & Meredith Thomas	November 12, 2011
Lawrence & Lindsay Silbernagel	November 19, 2011
Rich & Cecilia Ford	November 20, 2010
John & Sherry Clarke	November 24, 1990
Jim Douglas & Phyllis Veith	November 24
Chris & Laura Gunnoe	November 24, 2018
Gordon & Elizabeth Rice	November 26, 1971
Ross & Deidra Johnson	November 28, 1987

28
51
18
21
14
45
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7
54
38

December Anniversaries

Tyler Holsclaw & Emily Holsclaw-Hammon	December 1, 2018
Jeffrey & Elizabeth Jane Purdy	December 9, 1995
Carlos & LeAnne Neccuzi	December 16, 1989
Larry & Ronda King	December 20, 2020
Conrad & Beverly Haskell	December 22, 1962
Albert Liu & Juliana Serafin	December 22, 1990
Mike & Emily Strickland	December 28, 2002
Paul & Kathy Hudson	December 29, 1979
Stephen & Martha Hall	December 30, 2016

7
30
36
5
63
35
23
46
9





Christ Church United Methodist is a welcoming community of faith, hope, and love, serving our neighbors and the world as the hands of Christ.

Information:

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