

**OCTOBER
2020**



Christ United Methodist Church

THE VOICE OF CHRIST CHURCH

...to help people find and follow Jesus Christ

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (In-house/Streaming)
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults (zoom)

2020: Worst. Year. Ever.



There's little doubt that the headlines for 2020 will go down unlike any many of us have ever seen. Sometimes in conversation, someone will reiterate to me how difficult and challenging the last 9 months have been. No doubt, they have been hard: politicians fighting battles over the upcoming election, scientists are waging war in search of a vaccine to quell a global pandemic, families are challenged everyday to balance the needs of work, school and caring for loved

ones,

racial tensions and the pursuit of justice still reach boiling points in cities across our nation. Then there's the devastation of hurricanes along the Gulf Coast or wildfires spreading along the Pacific Coast.

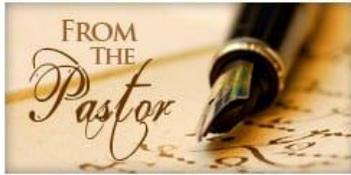
Times have been tough! You could make a compelling argument declaring this year as the worst ever, and likely get a strong chorus to support your view. But will simply wishing and wanting 2021 to come really change our world?

Suppose though, that through all the negativity and upheaval of this year, there is a reason to be grateful, thankful, and hopeful? If I told you we could find it in God's word would you believe me? Perhaps this time is a good one for those of us who are Christians to remember that God's Word teaches us that things like grace, hope, perseverance, and faithfulness are meant to be the trademarks of how we live our faith in such a challenging time. Hope you will join me in person or on-line for an encouraging word as we begin the month together!

The best awaits us,
Pastor Steve

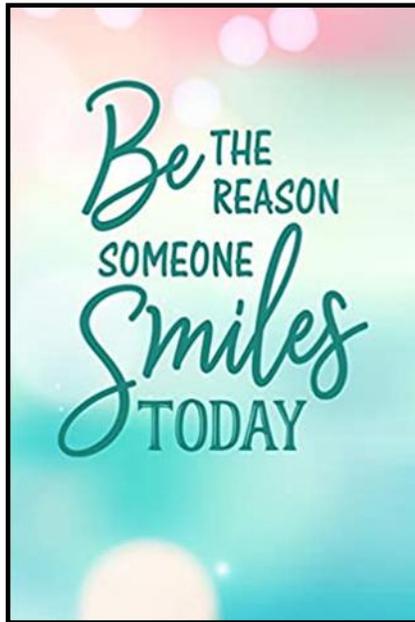
October Sermon Series and Scriptures

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| October 4 | "Extra Grace Required" | <i>Genesis 3:14 - 21</i> |
| October 11 | "Strength in Our Suffering" | <i>Job 33:9-12 & 36:6-15</i> |
| October 18 | "A Path Called Perseverance" | <i>Hebrews 12:1-3, 28-29</i> |
| October 25 | "Even So, God is Still Good" | <i>James 1:12-18</i> |



Sometimes in life we get much more than we deserve. It's been happening to me often in the last couple of weeks. Through phone calls, notes, cards, and conversations, I have so appreciated your compliments and encouragement in this season of our lives together. (Some days I've definitely needed them!) Whether it be praying together, staying connected to worship, or just being together for fellowship, your words of appreciation have been a boost to my spirits! Thank you!

It's an amazing gift we share when a smile, a positive spirit, or an encouraging word greets our day at just the time we need one. This is especially true as we continue our journey through so much dis-ease in our society. Becoming overwhelmed is a slippery slope of temptation we can all meet without a word of hope once in a while.



The apostle Paul in one of his letters to the saints at Thessalonica offered these words of exhortation: "Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are already doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) These early Christians had made encouragement a habit and it showed in who they were and what they did for God. How would you say we as a congregation are at practicing the habit of encouraging one another? What is one way we might grow and improve in this habit?

The gift of encouragement is something that every one of us can give to someone, no matter if you're young or old. It costs no money but its rewards are priceless.

Let me offer you a little challenge, that I am going to do as well: Find at least one way to encourage someone in your life every day – jot them a note, send them an e-mail, post on their social media, tell them face to face, offer an act of kindness without expecting anything in return. Let's try this together for the thirty-one days in October and see what the impact will both be upon your heart and the hearts of others God places in your world.

Bless you friends!
Pastor Steve



2020 Annual Charge Conference: As is our practice, fall means preparing for 2021 mission and ministry. Staff, leaders, and I are preparing a variety of administrative reports in preparation for our Annual Charge Conference with the District. **This year's Charge Conference will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 P.M. We will be convening via ZOOM** under the direction of our District Superintendent, Dr.

Tim Bias. Everyone is welcomed and invited to join in this time of celebrating our ministry for the coming year. Watch for details on how you can connect in the weeks to come!

2021 Leadership Nominations: Fall also means working on ministry leadership for the coming year together. As pastor, I am also chair of this committee for our church and want to offer you some of my thoughts as we look ahead to 2021.

As we plan for 2021, I would like to ask this request: If you have been in leadership position for 2020 and are scheduled to complete your term, I would like to extend your term for one additional year as committees and ministries resume in 2021. If for some reason you cannot serve an additional year, I understand. We will seek a replacement for your position. You can let me know via phone, e-mail, or text if you are unable to serve. If you are able to extend an additional year, it would be a great help! Thanks so much!

Administrative Council Report

The Administrative Council did not meet in August.

The Ad Hoc committee did meet once since our last newsletter. The committee is composed of Pastor Steve, Dwayne Miller, Tim Lawlis, Joe Farmer, Denise Vandermark, Cheryl Fey, Jerry McCreery, Dana Hoisington and myself, David Brookover. Below is an overview of our meeting:

- ◆ **Family Life Center/Fellowship Hall rentals** – After a discussion that included groups that use the facilities, logistics, sanitization between groups, priorities, schools, recommendations from the district and the health department we came to a consensus that at this time we would not be renting our facilities until safer medications or a vaccine are available and/or our county color level lowers consistently.
- ◆ **Fall Festival cancelled** – The committee agreed with Jim Thompson (Outreach Chair)
- ◆ **Turkey Dinner** – There will be no Turkey Supper this year.
- ◆ **Worship services** – We are now having communion (individual prefilled cups with wafer) and congregational singing is allowed with the congregation wearing masks
- ◆ **Charge Conference** – Is going to be virtual on October 20th at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Pre-School committee** - Has been formed and includes Pastor Steve, Mallory Stilwell, Jennifer Lodge, Shelly Beckham, Cheryl Fey and David Brookover.

Yours in Christ,
David Brookover
Ad Council Chair



We are hiring!



Christ UMC is looking for a permanent pianist to lead in the worship and music for our Sunday service. If you know of someone interested, let Pastor Steve or SPRC Chair Joe Farmer know. No worries though! Our current pianists, Julie and Peggy, will continue for us until an additional person is found.

CHERYL FEY

Worship

Our times in worship of our Lord have gone through many changes during this time of the pandemic. First it was only offered virtually and we all got used to watching our worship service in the comfort of our own homes, perhaps even dressed in our pajamas. Those were scary times when there was so much we didn't know about the virus. Slowly, in accordance with our church leaders and some direction from the state officials, we began to open up to just a few people who really wanted the "live experience."



September has brought an increase to between 50-60 in attendance, mainly due to having mandated wearing of masks. It is so very encouraging that everyone is abiding by this policy and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Pastor Steve has admitted that he much enjoys preaching and praying with some people in the pews as compared to a relatively empty sanctuary.

This said, we totally understand that many of us (myself included) are still not comfortable being in an indoor space until this virus is more under control. Each person must make up his or her own mind, wanting everyone to feel safe, but still connected. It is so good that

we have, in this day and age, the ability to worship as a community virtually, knowing that we are there together in spirit, worshipping the same God, singing the same songs and joining together in prayer.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Cheryl Fey
Worship chair



A WORD FROM THE MRS.

HOPE

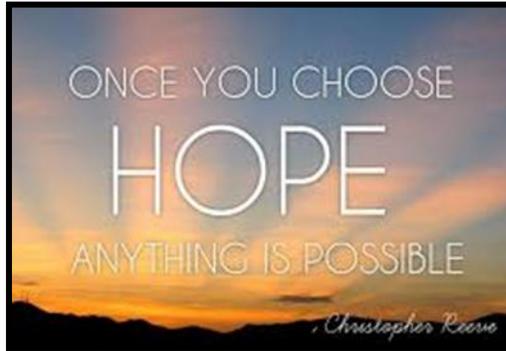
In the last couple of months, I have written about Anti-racism and having conversations surrounding that subject. We have come a long way already, with four of us meeting to educate ourselves and learn what it truly means to be anti-racist.

This month, as I look at everything going on now, and everything coming up (as much as I know at this point), the one word that beckons me is, "hope."

Hope is both a noun and a verb. The noun definition of hope is, "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." It is something we possess if we choose. I have hope that next year is going to be a little smoother than this year. I have hope in God that we can still get through the rest of this year.

The verb definition of hope is, "to want something to happen or be the case." It is something we do. I hope that the wildfires get put out soon. I hope the hurricanes stop. I hope people can start choosing to find joy in the midst of where we are right now.

We can find hope in everyday things (again, if we choose to) such as answered prayers, devotions, and bible verses. I also believe that God gives us things to remind us of the hope we have in Him. We find rainbows, flowers, sunrises, and sunsets.



Let us bask in the world around us and remind ourselves of the hope we have in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 121 reminds us:

*¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?*

*² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;*

*⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

Blessings and love,
Tricia Rath

JIM THOMPSON

Missions and Outreach

Knitted Hats for the Rosebud Reservation

Let's Do It Again!

If you have been knitting or purchasing knitted hats to send to Tree of Life in South Dakota, please put them in the box in the narthex by Sunday, October 25. The Rosebud Reservation is one of the poorest areas in the United States. If you would like to donate to defray shipping costs, designate that on your offering envelope or drop your financial gift to the office.

Operation Christmas Child, 2020

Bless Children Around The World!

Shoebboxes will be available beginning October 4 in the narthex. A Shoebox must be returned by Sunday, **November 15 along with \$9** for shipping costs. Information will be



God's Work
Our Hands

God's love with a boy or girl in need around the world. Simply select toys and other fun items you'd like to include from our collection, and personalize your gift with your own letter and photo. The box will be packed for you and sent on its way for a suggested donation of just \$25. Put in "build a shoebox online" in your search to use this process.



Jim Thompson
Missions & Outreach Chair

available with the boxes to help you.

You can choose to do a **shoebox online**. With just a few clicks, you can pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift online to help share

HOLLY HARMAN FACKLER

Good Neighbors in the Village

“Living out Christ’s love by responding to our neighbors’ needs.”

Recently I have been thinking about those who rallied to hear Jesus nearly 2,000 years ago. From my reading of the Gospel, it appears that it was the dispossessed, the oppressed, the hurt, the abused, the sick, the mentally and physically disabled, the poor, the scorned, the vulnerable, the strangers and foreigners, the broken and heartbroken, the homeless, the expendables – the “losers” and “suckers” of first-century Galilee -- who were interested in what Christ offered. They were the focus of his ministry. Historians suggest that they led difficult, unremarkable lives of desperation and deprivation. But their hunger for “something more” shows that they also longed for fuller participation in the give-and-take of community life. They carried within them a spark of the divine and, in Christ’s calculation, were worth time, attention, care, love. Their lives mattered.

As we go about our lives in this fraught time, I urge us all to think, speak, act, and vote in ways consistent with the compassion, and passion, that Christ showed to those who were different or damaged or despised.

The Liberty Union After School Program launched its fifth (!) year in late August as the local school district reopened for in-person instruction. Enrollment has been limited so that we can maintain social distancing. Our COVID precautions include less sharing of supplies, plenty of handwashing and, of course, face coverings. Pastor Dave Perkins and LifeBridge Church welcomed us to use their space so we



could continue to provide young students with homework support, crafts, games, and other electronics-free activities along with copious amounts of encouragement. The program meets only on days when in-person school is in session – in other words, not on Wednesdays. We can still use adult volunteers, so if you are healthy and willing to mask up and help out even for an hour or two a week, contact Kay Williamson at 740-407-7554.

Our ramp builders are caught up for the moment, though that could change with a phone call. If you need a ramp, want to help build ramps, or want to make a donation so that we can continue responding to ramp needs, call Gayle McCreery at 740-438-3820.

Chair volleyball and Wednesday lunch remain on hold, but we want our sidelined seniors to know that both will resume as soon as the host facility is confident that it’s safe. In the meantime, keep your team spirit alive by continuing to check in with one another.

GNIV’s next quarterly meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2. It will likely be held via Zoom.

If you see or hear about a kind of unmet need impacting the most vulnerable of our neighbors, please text or call to see if there is something our volunteers can do.

Holly Harman Fackler, chair
hjh409@gmail.com, 419-564-0964
www.facebook.com/GoodNeighborsintheVillage

DANA HOISINGTON/JIM ANDERSON

Trustee Message

Our normal church life is still far from normal, but the Trustees are still trying to function with emails, texts, a phone call or two and socially distanced conversation in the parking lot after church service on Sunday mornings.

Jim Anderson and Steve Vandermark continue to make sure our church is nice and clean each week and use the new “mister” to sanitize all areas that have had occupancy or people passing through. That is why we’ve restricted entrance to one set of doors on Sunday morning and blocked the education wing and Fellowship Hall that are not being used.

Building rentals have been suspended at this time until there is a vaccination available to the general public and we have assurance from our local government and West Ohio Conference that we can meet their standards and recommendations.

We continue to track down nuisance leaks in the education wing roof, so you will notice a variance of colors of shingles

as the old ones are no longer available. In a few years we will have to address a complete replacement.

The Parsonage will be getting a new sanitary sewer line replacement very soon as we have had more than one occurrence of back-up because of roots in the line. With further inspection by camera the cast iron pipe had also deteriorated to the point of holes in the bottom and infiltration of ground water. An old tree stump was still growing roots and pushing the foundation wall, therefore the stump was dug out and two other trees were removed. One of the trees was directly above the sewer line exiting the house and had wind damage earlier this summer.

The Sanctuary is clean, wear a mask and hope to see you in church!

Dana Hoisington, Jim Anderson
Co-chairs Trustees



KRISTY SCHOOLER

WHEN GOD SAYS "NO" ~ "...His way is blameless..."

Scripture reading: Psalm 18:30-32



In his book, *Is Anybody Up There?*, Tom Howard recounts the apocryphal story of a mountain climber. After a long and tortuous climb, he had almost reached the peak. Suddenly, he

lost his footing and started sliding down the mountainside.

Just before plunging over a deep precipice, he caught hold of a shrub. Momentarily he dangled midair. Despite frantic efforts, however, he was unable to gain a foothold.

In desperation, he looked up and shouted, "Is anybody up there who can help?" To his astonishment a voice came back, "Yes, but first you must let go of the shrub." A brief moment of silence followed. Then the mountain climber looked up again. "Is there anybody else up there?" he called.

All of us have gone through similar experiences, although probably not as desperate. We need help, lack guidance, desire healing. So we make our petition to the Lord - perhaps even ask friends to pray for us. Then, when the answer comes, we don't recognize it, forget that we have prayed, or simply toss off the answer as unimportant. Sometimes when God says "no," we experience frustration or even anger. However, if we give God time, we may see the wisdom in His response, even if it is not to our liking. In fact, we may even learn to joyfully thank God for saying "no."

Prayer Ministry

As an unknown poet expressed it:

Lord, Day after day I have thanked you for saying "yes." But have I genuinely thanked you for saying no?

Yet, I shudder to think of the possible smears the cumulative blots on my life would have had if You had not been sufficiently wise to say an unalterable "no."

So thank You for saying that "no" when my want-list for things far exceeded my longing for You.

When I asked for a stone, foolishly certain I had asked for bread. "Thank You" for again saying "no" to my petulant "Just this time, Lord?"

Thank You for saying "no" to senseless excuses, selfish motives, dangerous diversions. Thank you for saying "no" when the temptation that enticed me would have bound me beyond escape. Thank You for saying "no" when I asked You to leave me alone.

Above all, thank You for saying "no" when, in anguish, I asked, "If I give You all else, may I keep this?"

Lord, my awe increases when I see the wisdom of Your divine "no."

Keep praying and praising,
Kristy Schooler



LESLIE MARTENS

Food Pantry Ministry

"I tell all of you with certainty, whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple will never lose his reward." Matthew 10:42

The changing of the seasons is upon us. Days are getting shorter and nights are cooler. Many lives are also changing, a little at a time, trying to return to normal.

Some lives will see little difference in their circumstances. There will always be a need for help feeding these families. Through your generosity, we are able to assist them during these difficult times.

Baltimore Food pantry has a new address. Same location, just address change: 828 Railroad Street, Baltimore.



Especially needed for this month:

- ◆ Canned sweet potatoes
- ◆ Noodles
- ◆ Stuffing Mix
- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Soups
- ◆ Boxed Pasta/Rice dishes
- ◆ Canned Fruit

Leslie Martens
Food Pantry Ministry
leslieann247@gmail.com





Electronic Giving



Electronic Giving is a secure & convenient way to give your offering or to make a donation to Christ UMC. Offerings/donations can be made with all major debit/credit cards currently accepted by the church or you can give or pay by using your checking or savings account or your debt/credit bank card. Your account information is secure through Vanco Payment Solutions which meet all industry standards to safeguard your data.

1. Go to our website at www.christum-baltimore.com and click on the link on the home page. It will take you to a site where you create a personal account through GivePlus Church (Vanco). You will be asked to enter your email address and create a password. Your offering/donation will go into the church account and you will be sent an email of the transaction.
2. You can also set up an account by holding your smartphone camera over the QR code. Then it will give you a link to tap on. Login & create a profile and follow the steps.



If you have any question please just contact Darla Reedy or Darcy Soliday at the church office. We will be glad to assist you.



FINANCIAL UPDATE DARLA REEDY, TREASURER

**2020
Report**

August

Year To
Date

**Fall
Blessings!**

OPERATING INCOME	34,828	214,280
OPERATING EXPENSES	31,297	192,349
SUNDAY SCHOOL	0	343
COINS FOR MISSIONS	22	1,162
MORTGAGE BALANCE	862,130	



CUMC NEWS!

Attention: College Student

To all college students and/or parents: please send updated information to Sheila Burns (emdmom3@hotmail.com) or the church office for all college students. We would like to have a current address, email, and send us information about the college they are attending, the year in school, and their major.



Save the Date

Next Blood Drive!
November 16, 2020
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The next Blood Drive for Christ United Methodist Church will be in the Fellowship Hall.



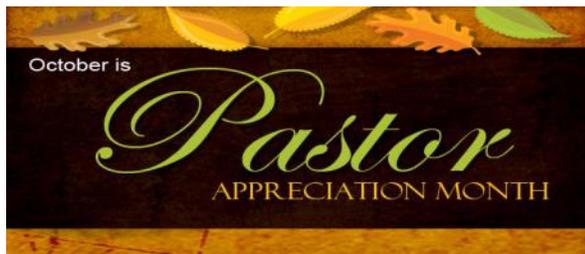
A clip board with available donor times will be in the Narthex around the first of October or you can call Dana Hoisington, 740-862-6544.

Our lives now are unusual & different for many of us, but the need for life saving blood products never ends.



EVENT
CANCELLED

There will be no Fall Festival or November Annual Turkey Supper held this year.



Send cards to:
Pastor Steve Rath
P O Box 246
Baltimore, OH 43105

Thank you Guys!



A big thank you to Dwayne Miller and David Brookover for all their hard work getting more media equipment set up. It took a little more engineering than they had planned, but got the job done!!!

CELEBRATIONS AND MORE!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 2 Kyle Farmer, Adam Hetterle
- 4 Kasey Farmer, David Lodge
- 6 Debbi Alderdice
- 8 Katie Hetterle
- 9 Xavier Clum
- 10 Lorri Wright
- 12 Geoff Davis, Rick Tewell
- 13 Claire Berlekamp
- 14 Rich Reed
- 16 Carol Craig
- 17 Clayton Bey, Allison Hoff
- 19 Cienna Lodge
- 20 Chris Barr
- 22 Jim Smith
- 23 Tim Lawlis
- 24 Chris Shreyer, Denise Vandermark, Hahna McCreery
- 26 Rita Radford
- 27 Caroline Berlekamp, Emma Coakley
- 28 John Mandeville
- 29 Jill Maldovan
- 31 Michael Dulin



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES!

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Greg & Debbi Alderdice | October 4 |
| Andrew & Devin Fey | October 9 |
| Manny & Natalie Clum | October 11 |
| Kyle & Carrie Schrader | October 12 |
| Jason & Megan Shreyer | October 14 |
| David & Sherry Keller | October 18 |
| Joe & Jane Farmer | October 19 |
| Rick & Jane Tewell | October 19 |
| Ted & Darla Reedy | October 23 |

HAPPY Anniversary

Congratulations to Clay and Emily Selway with CRU ministry (and Elliott, big brother) on the birth of their son



Judah Tyler Selway



Congratulations to Pastor Stacy and Cheryl Evans as they welcomed a new grandson,

Desi William Evans

Congratulations to Seth and Elisa Kohler as they welcomed their daughter



Candace Jo-Elle Kohler

Proud grandpa is Lee Kohler

Christ UMC,

Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my recent hospital stay and recovery in rehab. I love getting all the cards and really appreciate all of your love and concern.



Diane Friesner



Thanks to Richard Blackstone and his equipment we were able to remove the stump at the parsonage that was causing a root problem in the sewer line and causing some concern with the basement wall.

Thanks to Ted Reedy who was also there to help with the removal of the half dead spruce tree and the pear tree that needed to be removed for the sewer line work (stumps also dug out).

It ended up being a full day work for all of us. Richard ended up with 2 huge dump truck loads of trees and roots to deal with at his farm. A big thank you to Richard Blackstone, Ted Reedy & Dana Hoisington!!!!

Picture sent by Dana Hoisington



SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

- ◆ 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship In–House & Live Streaming
- ◆ 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School on Zoom

*Our **MISSION** is to help people find and follow Jesus Christ, by (**VISION**) connecting people with **GOD** through worship, connecting people with the **CHURCH** through whole-life discipleship, and connecting people with the **WORLD** through mission.*

Church Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor	Pastor Steve Rath pastor@christum-baltimore.com 740-575-6190
Administrative Asst.	Darcy Soliday 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. office@christum-baltimore.com
Treasurer	Darla Reedy 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Tues. treasurer@christum-baltimore.com
Choir Director	Tim Lawlis 614-570-9021
Bell Choir Director	Becky Ety 614-581-8037
Pianist	Julie Ulrich, Peggy Lawlis
Audio	Dwayne Miller
Custodians	Jim Anderson, Steve Vandermark

ATTENTION!

We are emailing our newsletters!

If you would like to receive your church newsletter by email or mail, please contact the church office.



Christ United Methodist Church

700 S. Main St.
Baltimore, OH 43105

Phone: 740-862-4343

Fax: 740-862-6163

E-mail: office@christum-baltimore.com

Web page: www.christum-baltimore.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our mission is... to help people find and follow Jesus Christ.