

Christ Church, United Church of Christ
15 South Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas KY 41075
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CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

The Guide

March/April 2016 Issue

I love coffee and I also love food that goes well with coffee: scones, donuts, chocolate and caramels. I received an espresso machine from my in-laws (thanks Brenda and Jeff!). It's an excellent machine and I've been working on perfecting my mocha lattes (FYI: I use organic milk espresso beans from Carabello Coffee, and Starbucks mocha powder).

I love the process of getting the machine warmed up, scooping the ground espresso beans, tamping the ground beans, pulling the shot, and steaming the milk. I sometimes put on some jazz (usually Miles Davis) to set the mood. It takes about ten minutes to make and about 15 minutes to slowly drink.

You might think that since I have received this machine I would have cut back on my visits to my favorite local coffee shops (Fort Thomas Coffee and Carabello Coffee). I definitely have, yet I have missed going. Sure I can make a pretty decent espresso drink at home, but I have gone so many times to Fort Thomas Coffee and Carabello Coffee (and also to Starbucks on Grand Ave) that I've gotten to know the baristas and they have gotten to know me.

Recently I had a flurry of meetings at the Fort Thomas Coffee in preparation for the launch of ReVision and during that time I ran into a handful of people I knew during different meetings: church members, other pastors, people from son's schools, city workers, etc. Also I went to Carabello Coffee the other day for old times sake. During my wait I had good conversation with the barista making my drink. I had missed going to those places and I was glad to be back.

I wonder if churches like ours could take a page from the local coffee shop? Research shows that church attendance has declined significantly over the past 50 years and in particular accelerating in decline over the past 25 years. Yet, people are still interested in the profound questions that religion has historically addressed in community: Why are we here? What is the good life? What is God like? I think that people have increasingly turned to seeking out these answers in the privacy of their own homes where they can Google the question or join a Facebook group. Like making an espresso at home there is some satisfaction in doing your own work, but sometimes something is missing. →

15 So. Ft. Thomas Ave
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

Phone: 859-441-2565
Fax: 859-441-3117

www.christchurchuccft.org
Facebook.com/
christchurchuccft

Twitter @ChristChurch_FT

Office Hours:
Monday -Thursday
9 am -4pm
(lunch 12-1 pm)
Closed on Friday

Worship Schedule:

9:15-10:15 Sunday School
& Small Groups

10:15-10:30 Fellowship
(coffee & donuts)

10:30-11:30 Worship

(child care available)
Call for Youth and
Children's Ministry
Information

Christ Church Staff:

Rev. Ryan Byers, Pastor—

ryantaylorbyers@gmail.com

Toni Sheffer, Music Director—

tsheffer@immanuelumc.org

Max Gise, Non-Traditional

Service Leader—

maxgise@hotmail.com

Sherrri Spaulding,

Parish Administrator—

s.spaulding00@yahoo.com

Alicia Taylor-Byers, Director of

Illumination Youth Ministries—

aliciataylorbyers@hotmail.com

Rev. Dr. David V. Schwab

Pastor Emeritus



When I head to the local coffee shop I get to see people I might rarely see pop in for a coffee. I might be introduced to someone new. I usually get tips on how to improve my own espresso drinks at home from the barista. When I head to the local coffee shop I feel that I am part something greater: a coffee community.

The local church is worshipping community. We might be able to pull off spiritual growth solely at home. Yet, I believe it's worthwhile to be a part of something regularly that not only grow us in our relationship to God, but also grows us in relationship to one another. Being a Christian— a follower of Jesus takes practice... a lot of practice. Coming to a church like ours rooted locally *and* a part of something larger is worth its while. I love it when our church reflects the love of God in our worship, our singing, our mission, and our fellowship.

During the ReVision process we will have the chance to get know one another better: to deepen the relationships we have with those we already know and to get know someone new. This church has not had a dedicated fellowship time since from before I have been here. During ReVision we will. We'll have Carabello Coffee and snacks (starts and 9:00 a.m., but the dedicated time is at 10:15 in the parlor) and probably the most important thing is we shall have conversation and community (kind of like at the coffee shops).

peace,
Ryan

LUNCH AND LEARN MARCH 22, 2016

Our guest presenter for Tuesday, March 22 will be local author CW Spencer. CW, a retired middle school science teacher, and his wife Bonnie are Fort Thomas residents. He grew up in northeastern Ohio and is a graduate of Asbury University in Wilmore Kentucky. More recently, after his life was touched by tragedies, he began hiking and writing. His book "**Hiking Without Dave**" published in November 2014, is the true account of failure, grief, forgiveness, and healing.

After the loss of his kid brother Dave to suicide, he was devastated. Threatened with unrelenting guilt, he finally made the decision to step out of the dark place in which he found himself and begin his journey to healing. It involved a hike of 1444 miles over the Buckeye Trail in Ohio over a three-and-a half-year period, during which time he journaled his experiences and thoughts to Dave. CW's journal writings are intertwined with stories from his 47 years with his brother. While this book addresses the serious topic of suicide, the reader will find that it also contains many humorous stories and a message of hope.

Lunch will be served at 11:30AM with the program to follow at noon.

For lunch reservations call Nancy at 441-7207 or email nhunter@zoomtown.com.



Christ Church Prayer Requests

Prayers for Members and Friends:

-Don Leisl, Catheline Detisch, Deborah Grover, Cheryl Schmidt, Dot Racke, John & Michelle, Patty Steffee, Theresa Schlecht, Becky Kaiser, Bill Kappesser, Jim Hurtt, Carole Buechel, Howard Storm, Jeff Waxman, Nancy Faulkner

Prayers of Celebration:

-Congratulations to Chris and Stephanie Pinguely on the birth of a son, Lane Douglas, on February 9th. The proud grandparents are Jeff & Nancy Pinguely and great grandparents are Jack and Evelyn Weber.

Prayers of Sympathy:

-To the family and friends of Owen Hauck. Owen passed away on Wednesday, February 17th. Visitation was at Christ Church UCC on Tuesday, February 23rd with a memorial service on Wednesday morning. Please keep the Hauck family in your prayers.

-To the family and friends of Nancy Zeh Lipscomb - Nancy was the mother of church member Karen Robinson. She passed away on February 19th. Her visitation was on, Friday, February 26, 2016 at Muehlenkamp-Erschell Funeral Home, followed by a Memorial Service . Please keep Karen and her family in your prayers.

Loved Ones At Home: Ginny Francis

Loved Ones In Retirement Centers & Nursing Homes:

Highland Springs Baptist Home Grand Towers Panorama Apts.
- Marie Dunham - Shirley Baldorff - Amy Dunn - Gloria Roell

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You! Thank you to all of you who helped to make the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner so very successful! We had approximately 50 individuals who helped in such a variety of ways: publicity, decorating, shopping, making fruit, transporting food, cooking sausage, flipping pancakes, serving at stations, being refill "runners," cleaning up, etc. Each person was so willing to help in any way I asked! What amazing, wonderful people we have at Christ Church who help to fulfill our mission goals! We collected \$372.00 in donations from our congregation (for expenses) and almost \$600.00 (for the Illumination Youth Group) from donations at the dinner. A warm, special thank you to each of you and to the Pendery Family and First Watch who donated the pancake batter, syrup, and butter. Linda Gracey

Labyrinth Event Training

Rescheduled



Is your church interested in facilitating a labyrinth event? The UCC's Labyrinth Project founded in Northern Kentucky is offering a date of training for lay and clergy.

Labyrinth Facilitator Training

Saturday, April 2, 9am-Noon

Christ Church UCC in Ft. Thomas

Contact: Rev. Chad Abbott to sign up for the event.

He can be reached at: chad@stpaulsalexandria.org.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE As part of the ReVision project, we are going to have one worship service for 90 days starting February 28th until May 22nd. The Sunday schedule will be as follows:

9:15-10:15 Sunday School & Small Groups

10:15-10:30 Fellowship (coffee & donuts—**except for Easter Sunday**)

10:30-11:30 Worship

EASTER CELEBRATION! On Easter Sunday, March 27th, following the 10:15 combined service, we will celebrate together with a delicious brunch in Hoffman Hall. All of the food, egg casseroles, pastries, and beverages, will be donated by us so please sign up on the form in the Narthex. Thank you so much!

MISSION TEAM NEWS We're pleased to report that in 2015, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our church gave over \$20,000 to local (and a few national) service organizations that help improve the lives of people suffering from hunger and poverty. We provided monetary support for the work of places such as Brighton Center, Hosea House, Washington UCC, Faith Community Pharmacy, St Elizabeth Hospice, People Working Cooperatively, and the St Vincent de Paul food pantry in Ft. Thomas. In addition, members and friends volunteered their time to serve meals, stock shelves, and rake leaves for their neighbors in our community.

We're off to a good start in 2016. Approximately 12 individuals prepared and served dinner to 137 people at Hosea House on January 31. Upcoming dates for service at Hosea House this year are April 24, July 31, and October 23.

This spring or summer, a Northern Kentucky chapter of Family Promise is scheduled to reopen. Family Promise works with churches to provide shelter and meals to homeless families in the region. Christ Church will again be a host church for the program. Volunteers will be needed to prepare and serve dinners, host guests, and possibly drive guests to and from the Day Center. More details will be provided when an opening date is set.

Keep in mind that Washington UCC is always in need of tutors for its after-school Homework Club (HWC). The HWC meets from 4:15 to 5:30 on Mondays through Thursdays. Contact Melissa Cox if you're interested or would like more information.

Thank you all for helping us to share God's love and serve God's children.



It's Recertification Time! Learn how to save a life!



What: CPR/AED (defibrillator) Training

When: Monday May 2, 2016

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Place: The Parlor, Christ Church

Cost: \$35.00

Sign up: e-mail Stephanie Laake at

s.laake@twc.com OR

a sign up poster will be available in the
Narthex starting Sunday February 28th!

- Questions? Contact Stephanie at s.laake@twc.com

Flowers for Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016



To order a spring plant for our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please complete the form below. Place the completed form and check in the Altar Flower mailbox (the slot in the top row of the wooden boxes across from the Parlor) or mail them to: Melissa Cox, 83 Geiger Avenue, Bellevue, KY 41073. Call Melissa at 859-291-1324 with any questions.

Orders must be received by MARCH 20, 2016.

_____ Tulip	\$10.75	_____ Azalea	\$17.50
_____ Lily	\$10.75	_____ Hydrangea	\$20.00
_____ Hyacinth	\$10.75	_____ Chrysanthemum	\$12.50
_____ Daffodil	\$15.75		
TOTAL	\$ _____	(please make checks payable to Christ Church UCC)	

Presented by

In memory of

- OR -

In honor of

Please pick up your plant after the service on Easter Sunday.