

April 2026

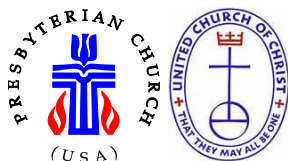
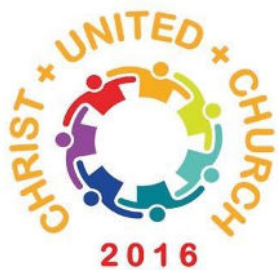
The Good News

The monthly newsletter of Christ United Church

Christ United Church

A federated church
of the Presbyterian Church
(USA) and the
United Church of Christ

With Christ
as our heart
and God's love
as our fire,
we learn, we love,
we care for all
people.



Small Steps Make Big Differences

As the weather keeps changing its mind on whether it's going to be cold or possibly bring warmer weather, I can't help but think of our campfires that have occurred in the last few falls. It may be nearly April, but that doesn't mean that a good yarn around the fire might not be in people's minds even now. This past fall we had a few new faces pop up around the fire.

Some were people that we have had relationships within the past such as David the young man from down the block. Or a member who was here already because of practice. Others were new. While the adults sat around the fire talking, you could hear the kids running around playing tag on the front lawn. And hiding in the bushes. A good friend of one of the kids was invited to come and begged to come every week so that she could spend time in a safe place with people that she knew would be kind to her. Others came because they were in the building for a meeting and saw the campfires advertised. They came because they were curious. Because they wanted to see what it was all about. What **we** were all about. The crew that comes to the campfires might be small, and the marshmallows and chocolate might disappear more quickly than we would like, but we do have an impact. People know they are welcome to sit by the warmth of the fire that is burning brightly, welcoming in the darkness just as God's love does.

It doesn't matter if we will have the same people come again in the fall, or if they will never come back, because for those moments, they were here and they knew that they were loved by God; that they were accepted; that they were important and mattered. We might not see huge strides and gains in the small things we are doing, but we are making a difference.

Walk in Balance, Pastor Janis ☩



Welcome to Joshua Arkangel

CUC's New Assistant Director of Music and Keyboardist

Please join us in welcoming our new Assistant Director of Music and Keyboardist Joshua Arkangel. Joshua (he/him) is a performer and composer specializing in contemporary classical music. A



collaborative musician at heart, Joshua holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Music degree from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is a member of the Parma Symphony Orchestra and regularly performs with other local ensembles in the Greater Cleveland area. Some performance highlights include the Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (New York City), Harvard University, and Carnegie Hall.

Beyond his artistic endeavors, Joshua serves the Northeast Ohio community as a circulation assistant for the Cuyahoga County Public Library. He enjoys reading, travelling, thrifting, and spending time with his three-year-old cat, Maris.

Special thanks to all the help from the CUC Personnel Team and members of the Search Committee including Music Director Bryan Bowser, Chair, Pastor Janis Montgomery, David Betts, Trish Demko, and Janet Winzenburger. †

We Get Letters

I had open heart surgery on February 18. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has prayed for me, sent me a card, called Joan about my condition, sent an email, or simply wished me well. I want you all to know that all were felt and appreciated. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are what makes us a wonderful, caring church family.

From the bottom of my heart,
Jon Wiborg †

Holy Week

Holy Week services include **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm** commemorating the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples. In the midst of the pain of his moment, Jesus shares even with those who are about to betray him showing us every person is blessed regardless of who they are, how they've failed, or what they've accomplished.

Good Friday, April 3 at noon is the Berea Community Cross Walk starting from the BW chapel and returning for a short worship service. At the same time, there will be a Lenten camp for kids who can be dropped off at the Berea United Methodist Church to learn about Holy Week while parents participate in the cross walk and service.

Then **Easter Sunday, April 5**, we celebrate the risen Christ with a **service at 10 am** in our sanctuary. Join your church family for the rest of the Lenten journey and triumph of Easter.

Our **Sunday morning worship services** take place in-person at 10 am and are live-streamed on our website, ChristUnited.Church. †

Happy Birthday

April

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Phyllis Michaelson |
| 5 | Stan Vozar |
| 8 | Roy Frederick |
| 10 | Mary Ellen Williams |
| 10 | Carrigan Rickel |
| 13 | Sharrie Landers |
| 14 | Brian Scheuermann |
| 17 | Dalene Frederick |
| 22 | Leslie Salzgeber |
| 23 | Janice Cole |
| 28 | Kathy Smith |



Community Outreach Task Force

This year is off to a slow start for requests. Given the economic conditions, we expect to receive more in the coming months.

Berea Outreach notified us of a man that had recently been evicted from his apartment. He has full-time employment with a Berea firm and works from home because of a disability. Recently, he has been suffering from depression and was scammed out of most of his savings. He is staying at an Extended Care motel while he can find a new place to live. After speaking with him we decided to buy him some time and pay for a week's rent plus provide some funds for food.

As a reminder, Senior Scams are increasing rapidly, especially with the growth of Artificial Intelligence. If you receive a call that you do not recognize, let it go to Voice Mail. If someone is calling you and asking for information to verify who you are, then ask them for a phone number where you can call them back. Then search on that number to see if it is associated with a company that you have an account with. Never give out your bank account number, social security number, driver's license number or birthdate. †

Reminder: Team Reports

For the **Congregational meeting on May 17, reports** from Ministry & Operations Teams are due to the church office by **Wed., April 15**. (There is a much more important deadline on that day but do your best.) This report should include your team's accomplishments for the 2025-26 program year. If you need last year's report to help you create this year's, let Betsy know and it can be emailed to you.



Martha Circle

This month, Martha Circle will gather on **April 8th at 11:30 am** at Moosehead Hoof and Ladder, 7978 Columbia Road in Olmsted Falls. Seating is limited to 14, so if you would like to join us, please RSVP early to Corky in person, at 440-243-2667, or grammacats@cox.net

We would love for you to be there. †

Dates to Remember

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

April 5 - Easter

April 15 - deadline for annual reports

May 17 - Congregational meeting

May 24 - Pentecost and CUC 10th anniversary

Why the Underground Railroad Quilt?

As you may remember, room #9 and the robe room, on the small hallway across from the sanctuary, both suffered extensive water damage before the roof was replaced. CUC lost many banners and paraments to this damage. Bobbi White was looking for ideas to make some new ones when she discovered the Underground Railroad Quilt story. Pastor Janis has been preaching on these quilt squares for several weeks and believes they are a good fit for the year's topic, Rooted in Faith. And now you can help with making them as well.

The Underground Railroad quilt is a story about a set of quilt blocks that could have helped enslaved people escape. The idea took off in 1999 with the book, "[Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad](#)," by Jacqueline Tobin and Raymond Dobard, a journalist and art historian duo. For the book Tobin interviewed Ozella Williams, a South Carolina quilter who descended from enslaved people. Williams recalled an oral history shared by her grandmother that her family had passed down for generations about how patterns like wagon wheels, log cabins, and wrenches were used in quilts to navigate the Underground Railroad. Williams stated that the quilts had ten squares, each with a message about

how to successfully escape. The “Monkey Wrench” pattern, for example, signaled that the time had come to gather tools and prepare for the journey. “Wagon Wheel” indicated that a wagon, essential for transporting escapees, was nearby. “Log Cabin,” with its central square often stitched in red, suggested a safe house, a place of refuge and warmth along the journey. The “Bear’s Paw” advised travelers to follow mountain trails, providing safer, less-traveled routes. While some historians debate the extent of the use of quilt codes, the stories persist, supported by oral histories and the testimony of descendants. These quilts represent more than just practical tools; they are symbols of resistance, resilience, and the unyielding pursuit of freedom. Alongside the guidance of the stars and nature, they tell a story of profound courage and ingenuity. And soon one will hang in our sanctuary.

If you are interested in helping create these squares for CUC’s quilt, contact Pastor Janis or Bobbi White.

Sources: worldbeatcenter.org; npr.org & Wikipedia



The Good News

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Welcome
Spring