

February 2026

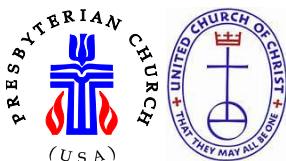
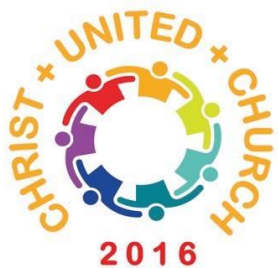
The Good News

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.



Your Favorite Scriptures

Thank you all so much for sharing your favorite scriptures with me. It has been a joy to read the verses and get to know you better as a congregation. If you haven't shared your scriptures yet there is still time! While I have a good bit of the year planned out, I still have a bit left to go so keep sending in the cards or emailing me the scriptures!

I don't know why, but I have been surprised to find that some of these texts have spoken to more than one of you. I've enjoyed reading about the impact that they have had on you all. Reading them has also made me wonder if some of you might also have a favorite song or hymn that goes with your scripture. If you are sending in your scriptures and have a favorite hymn that you love to hear when you think of this scripture, let me know. We would love to make this series the best that it can be.

Walk in Balance,
Pastor Janis †



Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

At Christ United Church we acknowledge Ash Wednesday with a service on **Wednesday, February 18 at 7 pm** in our sanctuary and on Zoom. This service includes the distribution of ashes.

Community Outreach Task Force

If you look at the last newsletter, COTF was concerned that we were not getting many requests for assistance. Guess what? That changed dramatically. Here are some of the people we assisted in December:

We continue to help a single father of a disabled son has been going through some rough time. His wife died two years ago, and he has been trying to manage his job and taking care of his son. He was let go by his employer for attendance problems. Meanwhile, the trust fund that supports his son has stopped payments for some unknown reason. We are helping him with his monthly bills. We helped a woman that we helped last year. She fell behind on her expenses and was sent a termination notice for gas. This time of year is not a good time to have your gas shut off, so we paid her bill.

A woman whose partner died earlier this year has been going through probate court. Since they were not married, his family is contesting the probate even though it lists her in the will. She lost his car because it was not in her name. She has no transportation. However, she did find a job at a local business. We paid some of her bills.

A Berea family lost their home due to a fire. They are both employed, but they lost all their clothing. We provide a grocery gift card so they can use the cash for clothing.

Thank you for continuing to support this mission effort in the local community. ✚



Happy Birthday

Belatedly to those we missed in January

15 Jeremie Hilberg
15 Nancy Wares
18 Carol Gardner
18 Zackary Van Zante
20 Georgia Wilson
28 Taliesin Allen

February

1 Stan Barclay
1 John King
6 Barb Berkey
9 Austin Cole
12 Judy Mitchell
13 Linda Ault
14 Henry Ault
17 Don Berkey
20 Terry Mercier
22 Katie Fort-Fleming
24 Trish Demko



We Get Letters

I have no words adequate enough to thank my church family for your support during this most difficult time. Michael was a very special young man and his death has left a huge hole in my family.

I am so very grateful for your love and compassion. It came in many forms. There were texts, cards, hugs, listening ears, sweet treats from Dick's bakery, visits, a donation to a kitty rescue organization in memory of Michael, the presence and support of those who came to Michael's memorial service and the simple words, "I'm thinking of you." All of this meant so very much to me.

Even though this is the hardest thing I have ever experienced, I can say I have never felt the presence of Jesus like I do now.

Regina Wolfe

Linda Ault thanks you for all your prayers and the beautiful cards sent after her accident. She says she is getting a little better each day.

Stop, Look, Listen

Why should we observe Lent? We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile.” Lent says, “Stop doing wrong.”

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.



Lenten Book Study

A Lenten soup lunch and book discussion will begin **Monday, Feb. 23 at noon**. We will discuss the book *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang.

For more than two centuries, the United States Constitution has given us the right to a society where church and state exist independently. But Christianity has been hijacked by those who weaponize the Bible for earthly power that actually is not on the side of Jesus. How do we fight back against those acting—literally—in bad faith?

Comedian and broadcaster John Fugelsang finally offers the answers as he takes readers through common fundamentalist arguments on abortion, immigration, LGBTQ rights, and more—exposing their hypocrisy and inaccuracy through scripture. Fugelsang’s message is fighting for the love, mercy, and service that are supposed to make up the heart of Christianity.

Sign-up sheets for bringing soup and bread will be posted on the communication board outside the sanctuary. The series will continue **every Monday through March 23** in Friendship Hall.

A few buying options (non-Amazon):

[eBay](#) [Bookshop.org](#) [Audio option](#)

Martha Circle

For the next two months, Martha Circle will be busy with projects.

On **Wednesday, February 11**, we are meeting at the church at 10 am in room 10 to make Valentine cards for those who might need some cheering up. Bring your most creative self and enjoy some fellowship.

Heads up for March: since Easter is early this year, and Palm Sunday falls on March 29. We will be filling eggs on **Wednesday, March 11** in Friendship Hall at 10 am. No plastic eggs are needed, but we are asking for donations of wrapped candy, nut free if possible, snacks, and small toys.

All are welcome. ☩

Place-Based Ministry Workshop Continues

CUC hosts this SPIRE Center sponsored, six-session online workshop. It is live via Zoom and we will gather to participate in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm a **on Mondays February 2, 9 & 23, and March 2**.

This series helps participants reimagine how faith communities engage their neighborhoods through asset-based development and community resilience. Each participant or team will walk away with a practical community engagement plan rooted in their local context. The facilitator is Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association.



Meet Our Members

Linda & Henry Ault

Things you didn't know about Linda:

- I have a lot of collections including glass candy containers in the shape of animals and vehicles.
- I started to crochet when our church had a contest with the other churches to see who could make the most scarves for the homeless.
- I also like to do genealogy research on our families. You never know you may find a famous cousin.
- I found my Canary cousin on my Dad's side, "Calamity Jane" Canary.

Things you didn't know about Henry:

- I played a snare drum in high school but I haven't played since.
- I enjoy watching the Guardians, Browns and Cavaliers on TV.
- I used to do a lot of yard work, but do less since I am getting older.
- I have been on the Building and Grounds Team and enjoy it.
- I worked 40 years as a Fire Insurer Rater.



The Good News

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If you would like to submit information for "Meet Our Members," email it to Office@ChristUnited.Church before the 15th of the month. It can be in this 5 facts form or in a short narrative. All submissions are welcome.