

# CHRIST CHRONICLES

**Christ United Church of Christ, 1414 Ligonier Street  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650**

*May 2021*



## Worship Services For May

**May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 AM**

**May 2 - Holy Communion, 11:00 AM**

*May 9 - Mother's Day*

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.**

## Concerns of the Congregation

Please pray for: Chad Amond, Henry Arelt, Marcie Baker, Baker and Hilty Families, Jim and Joan Banocy, Olive Barr, Donna and John Brajdic, Eleanor Bridge, Pastor John Cofield, Dick and Mary Crawford, Kristen Disciascio, Dorothy Facemyer, Tim Farkas Family, Amy Flynn, Belinda Henry, Helen Hoover, Ron King, Stacey Klug, Zoe Klug, Michelle Kutzer, Leanne Lehosky, Mick Mattern, Bill McCullough, Chuck McNerny, Ben and Jane Miedel, Dana Miller, Ruby RaeLynn Moore, Joan Musick, Pastor Shirley Musick, Bob and Evelyn Neighly, Harvey and Helen Noel, Richard Porembka, Emmett Michael Poto, Joyce Puzak, Shirley Robb, Bailey Robinson; Charlene "Charlie" Roble; Emily, Eva, and Graeme Sautter; Ken Sible, Laken Smith, Rick Stahl, Larry and Loretta Staruk, Nathan Stevens, Scott Thompson, Ken and Sheila Yost, Sara Young



*We especially hold in prayer the family of Judith Short,  
who passed away on April 10, 2021*

Praying the roll: Everyone on the church roster will have a turn at experiencing the comfort and peace of intentional prayer. We are family . . . and families pray for one another! Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers for the entire week.

**Week of May 2 - Pastor John Cofield, Lori Cramer, Dick and Mary Crawford**  
**Week of May 9 - Richard Crawford, Jr., Sarah Davis, Thomas and Lauren Davis**  
**Week of May 16 - Margaret, Asrat, Debreyesus, Biruk and Mimi Delle;**  
**Valerie DeMichele, Caryn and Geary Dettling**  
**Week of May 23 - Donna Dinco, Art Dira and Dottie Stahl, Beverly Dumas**  
**Week of May 30 - Ruth Eversole, Dorothy Facemyer, Sandra Fircetz**

## USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

May 2 - Bob and Carolyn Stutzman  
May 9 - Larry and Loretta Staruk  
May 16 - Art Dira and Jim O'Connor  
May 23 - Harvey Noel and Sally Walker  
May 30 - Jim and Elena Sillaman



## Christ United Church of Christ Consistory

Stephanie Albaugh, Vice President  
Rick Kunkle  
Michelle Kutzer  
Harvey Noel  
Jim O'Connor, Secretary

Kenny Repko  
Ellen Sautter  
Elena Sillaman  
Carolyn Stutzman, President



## A Message From Pastor John

In the 1980s, Phil Collins was all over the radio air waves, as he launched a solo career, parallel to his career as the drummer and front man for the English progressive rock group Genesis. He recorded a cover of the Supremes' hit song, "You Can't Hurry Love." All of this is to introduce lyrics from his song "Duke's Travels," from Genesis' album entitled Duke:

And you kill what you fear!  
And you fear what you don't understand.

"And you fear what you don't understand," sounds about right, doesn't it? I think that has always been the case; humankind doesn't seem to be comfortable with difference.

Herman Hesse's novel, "Beneath the Wheel," is about the power to compel conformity, which seems to have been a notable, though not particular, Prussian value. Other societies have also prized conformity. Pink Floyd's best-selling album "The Wall," also rails against conformity.

We can see the pressure for conformity in businessmen's suits and hairstyles.

We can also see the fear of difference in our country, today. Mostly white folks are afraid that if folks that look different rise to power, then, white folk will be disenfranchised, and white society will be devalued. At the individual level, white folk fear that then they won't matter.

Because I'm referencing a lot of song lyrics and literature, insert "And the Beat Goes On," by Sonny Bono, here.

And you kill what you fear!  
And you fear what you don't understand.

Humankind has lived in fear of each other, and, hence in fear of death from time immemorial. And this fear has defined interpersonal relationships from time immemorial.

On his blog, "re:knew", Greg Boyd has written:

According to the New Testament, the central thing Jesus did was drive out the "prince of this world" ([Jn 12:31](#)). He came to "destroy the works of the devil" ([I Jn 3:8](#)). He came to "destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil" in order to "free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death" ([Heb. 2:14-15](#)). Jesus lived, died and rose again to establish a new reign that would ultimately "put all his enemies under his feet" ([I Cor 15:25](#)).

Boyd, G. (2021, April 15). The "Christus Victor" View of the Atonement. Retrieved from <https://reknew.org/2018/11/the-christus-victor-view-of-the-atonement/>

The early Church held that death having been overcome, because the "prince of this world" had been driven out, humankind could live without fear, which the early Church did until it sought the protection of the state, when the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the religion of the Empire.

...to be continued...

Pastor John



I always like to start my monthly newsletter articles with a verse of scripture or the lyrics to a song that has inspired me, or in this case, got stuck in my head a few hours before I sat down to write this.

**That song today is, "*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*" written by the late Natalie Sleeth. " In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be. Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."**

What perfect words for a day like this when we see God's wonder all around us! The beauty of the unexpected snow and the knowledge that God will bring us through this with many, many, warm and sunny days to come.

There are many liturgical happenings in the church this May.

**We will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord on Sunday, May 16th followed by Pentecost on May 23rd. Remember to wear red that Sunday as we rejoice in the Holy Spirit in scripture and in song. Finally, May 30th is Trinity Sunday.**

The bell choir is on a hiatus for a little while. I would like to thank all of the bell ringers and Ellen for their dedication to the weekly practices. It was a gift that we were able to ring the bells to the Glory of God when we weren't able to use many vocals. Special music always adds to the worship service.

I hope that you are enjoying the new grand piano. If you weren't aware, the piano was given to the church by Rick Kunkle. I am very happy with it. It has a beautiful tone. Thank you, Rick!

On a personal note, I would like to thank you, my church family, for the prayer chain prayers that you have been offering for Emmett Michael Poto. Emmett was born on Dec. 31, 2020 weighing only 2.2 pounds. He was about 14 weeks premature. I am happy to tell you that his mom and dad, Alison and Jim Poto, brought him home last Friday, April 16th from The University of Cincinnati Medical Center. Emmett weighed 8.4 pounds on his discharge date. Emmett is the grandson of my son Jason's wife Peggy. Jason and Peggy, send their heartfelt thanks for your prayers. God is Good!

**Prayer: Father in heaven, thank you for your mercy and the way you restore our lives. Help us to share our struggles with those who surround us and encourage us through your grace. In your most holy name we pray. Amen.**

Love and peace to you, *Julie*

## LAY LIFE AND MISSION UPDATE

### THE BLESSING BOX



The Lay Life and Mission Committee's ongoing mission will be the Blessing Box. The Blessing Box will provide food for those in need in our community. This box will be supplied with non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products such as canned vegetables and fruits, cereals, pastas, soups, snack crackers, boxed goods, toothpaste, tooth brushes, masks, deodorant, socks, diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper etc. **(NO GLASS PLEASE)**. Lay Life is asking for donations of food and/or money (to purchase food items). **If you are donating by check, please make payable to Lay Life and Mission Committee.** If you have any questions or would like to donate, please contact Dorthy Paulovich. Our thanks to all those who have already donated food and/or money towards the Blessing Box.

Lay Life and Mission Committee will meet on Monday, May 3 at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. Face masks must be worn.

Due to Covid-19, the Lay Life and Mission Committee will **NOT** hold their April or June Soup and Salad bars.

**Tentatively**, the Lay Life and Mission Committee will hold their annual Flea Market and Book Sale in August. More information will be forthcoming. Please start saving your fleas and books!

### Honor Your Mother

The Lay Life and Mission Committee usually honors the women of our congregation with a flower or gift on Mother's Day. However, our fund raising has been at a standstill for most of the past year. So this year we are giving you the opportunity to honor or remember your mother or any woman you admire with a donation to our Blessing Box and her name in the bulletin on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Just fill out the following form and submit it with your donation to the office or the collection plate by May 6<sup>th</sup>. Please put both your donation and the following slip in an envelope marked "Mother's Day." **(If donating by check, please make it payable to Lay Life and Mission Committee.)**

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A Blessing Box donation has been made **in honor of/in remembrance of**  
**Circle one**

\_\_\_\_\_, given in love by

\_\_\_\_\_



## Christian Education Committee Update

In May Sunday School for Children will be held on May 9 and May 23. The class will continue to learn about the life of Jesus. We will be having fun making cards for Mother's Day. We will continue with practicing prayers. This will be the last class until fall.

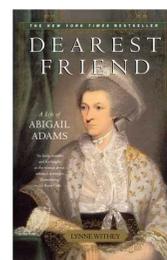


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Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor John in the Chapel Area - 10 A.M.

## BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, May 11 at **10:30 AM (this is a time change)** the discussion will be on *Dearest Friend*, a full biography of Abigail Adams who became the most influential woman in Revolutionary America. *Dearest Friend* captures both the public and private side of this fascinating woman who was an ardent advocate for a greater role for women and abolition of slavery.



On Tuesday, June 8 at **10:00 AM** the discussion will be on *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain. Based largely on letters written for New York and San Francisco papers, Twain narrates the progress of the first American organized tour of Europe. Immensely successful when first written, the book is so funny and provocative that it made Twain an international star for the rest of his life.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help with **Senior Food Distribution on Tuesday, May 11 at 8:30 AM**. Thanks so much for your help as always.



**ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON SATURDAY, MAY 15**

Please send to [cocoakitty2001@gmail.com](mailto:cocoakitty2001@gmail.com) or give to Loretta Staruk

**BIENVENUE** will meet on **Wednesday, May 5 at 12:30 PM in the Chapel.** Please bring a lunch and a beverage. All the ladies of the church are welcome. Face masks must be worn except when enjoying lunch.



## Happy Birthday!

May 3      Ava Klug  
May 13     Ellen Sautter  
May 18     Riley DeMichele  
May 22     David Ackerman



## Happy Anniversary!

May 1      David and Marsha Ackerman  
May 4      Larry and Loretta Staruk  
May 20     Jim and Elena Sillaman



**“C” Dollar Bills for the Union Mission** - As of April 18, the accumulated total donated to the Union Mission is \$513. Thanks to all who have helped to reach this amazing total one dollar at a time.



## CONTACT US

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**Mission Statement:** To reflect Christ's love in everything we do.

**Vision Statement:** Not our will, but God's

The novelist Philip Roth, winner of a Pulitzer Prize and numerous other writing awards, often wrote about real or fanciful scenarios taken from his own life as a Jewish American male. Published in 2004, "The Plot Against America," is an intriguing and frighteningly believable imagining of the possible social and personal consequences of a different outcome in the presidential election of 1940. Since we are now eighty years removed from that election, many of us are not fully aware of the sociopolitical climate of the country just before the U.S. entered World War II. In fact, it often seems to us, with the infallible 20/20 vision of hindsight, that history *had* to unfold the way it did, that we were inevitably destined to enter that war and save Europe and the world from Nazi domination. But Roth has taken an historical step backwards into the few years before and after that potentially pivotal election by portraying how things looked from the viewpoint of a pre-teen boy growing up in a lower middle class Jewish family in an ethnic neighborhood in Newark, NJ.

Many of us are probably aware of the political situation of the 1930's in Europe: Nazism was on the rise in Germany as that country became focused on its growing industrial and military capabilities. Its economic resurgence was accompanied by a rising tide of belief in German ethnic superiority, especially as manifested by anti-Semitism. Hitler, of course, was the primary proponent of this through his rabid nationalism and militarism, and it soon led to the invasion of Poland and Czechoslovakia, followed by Belgium and France and, finally, an assault on Britain.

People in the United States were, perhaps, less alarmed, maybe even less informed about what was happening "over there." Of course, there wasn't an internet or 24 hour news telling everyone about the European situation. Further, because of relatively fresh memories of our soldiers fighting in Europe in WWI, there was a fairly strong isolationist point of view throughout the country. To the extent that people acknowledged any problem at all, many believed that it was *Europe's* problem. There was also a significant contingent of people, many of German heritage, who were very supportive of Germany and, even, Hitler. There were rallies attended by thousands of people which looked very much like the Nazi rallies in Germany, including swastika flags and uniforms. Underlying this, of course, was a belief in Aryan superiority and castigation of Jews and other minorities.

Charles Lindbergh was an American hero of the time, the man who first flew a solo flight over the Atlantic ocean, demonstrating the potential for air travel. Even more so, he and his wife carried the mantle of sympathy from the nation following the kidnapping and murder of their infant son, subsequently blamed on an immigrant. Even prior to this tragedy, Lindbergh was one of a number of prominent, influential people who harbored and expressed overt anti-Semitic opinions.

Mr. Roth convincingly describes Lindbergh being convinced to run against FDR in the 1940 election and winning. The young boy protagonist becomes aware of the rising concern of his parents and their neighbors, worried that they and their friends will soon be subject to discrimination or worse. His older brother is recruited to spend a summer at a "youth retreat" for American boys, and he returns from a few months on a mid-western farm much changed: he now eats pork and thinks his family is being paranoid. Soon, though, the father, a successful insurance salesman, is told by his company that he must either move to the mid-west or lose his job. Before long he learns that many others in their neighborhood are similarly having their lives uprooted and are, in one way or another, being forced to move. It is quite evident that there is a process afoot to break up their community and "dilute" their association with each other. A resistance starts to develop when gangs of toughs from other areas begin to cruise their streets and harass people. Soon the police are sent in, ostensibly for "protection" of the neighborhoods, yet they seem more like an occupying force.

The story is very well told, mixing real historical figures while we are experiencing the thoughts, concerns and fears of a young boy. It becomes very easy to see how insidiously ethnic prejudices and one group's belief in its own superiority can be put to use against others. This well written book takes us on a very personal journey seen from the eyes of a typical American family, people who never suspect that they will be the ones who are being persecuted.

Jim Sillaman

## May 2021 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Continue to pray for all those affected by the coronavirus.						1 Ask God for forgiveness for selfishness.
2 Pray for hospital chaplains.	3 Pray for strength and obedience to follow God more completely.	4 Praise God for rain and water.	5 Pray for our community.	6 <b>National Day of Prayer</b> Pray for our nation.	7 Praise God for caring so much for us.	8 Pray for those living with PTSD.
9 <b>Happy Mother's Day!</b> Pray for mothers and all the women of the church.	10 Thank God for the support of family and friends.	11 Pray for those you find it hard to like.	12 Ask God for peace in your heart.	13 Pray for those who do not have a relationship with Christ.	14 Pray for those in need of water.	15 <b>Armed Forces Day</b> Pray for members of the armed forces and their families.
16 Pray for those who have lost a child.	17 Thank God for new opportunities and new beginnings.	18 Pray for those who are hungry.	19 Give thanks for the staff, donors and volunteers of the Blackburn Center.	20 Thank God for loving you even when you turn away from God.	21 Ask God to lead you to do God's will.	22 Thank God for God's help today.
23 Pray for those with insomnia.	24 Pray for childcare workers.	25 Pray for those contemplating suicide.	26 Pray for those suffering from chronic fatigue.	27 Pray for those who are paralyzed.	28 Pray for the wisdom to discern God's call.	29 Praise God for the wind and clouds.
30 Pray for those who are lonely.	31 <b>Memorial Day</b> Pray for those mourning the loss of a loved one.	Dear Father, May your spirit give me wisdom that I may know your will, that I may honor you, and find pleasure in obeying you.  -Philip Law, from Isaiah 11: 2,3				

*Happy Mother's Day to all the ladies of the church!*



## MAY 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 11:00 AM Worship <i>Holy Communion</i>	3 6:30 PM Lay Life and Mission	4	5 10:00 AM Bible Study  12:30 Bienvenue Chapel Area  <b>Consistory Reports Due</b>	6	7	8
9 11:00 AM Worship  <b><i>Mother's Day</i></b>  <i>Sunday School for children</i>	10  6:30 PM Consistory	11 8:30 AM Senior Food Distribution  10:30 AM Book Discussion	12 10:00 AM Bible Study	13	14	15  <b>June Newsletter Deadline</b>
16 11:00 AM Worship  <b>*Mental Health Sunday</b>	17	18	19 10:00 AM Bible Study	20	21	22
23 11:00 AM Worship  <b>Pentecost Sunday Please Remember to Wear Red</b>  <i>Sunday School for children</i>	24	25	26 10:00 AM Bible Study	27	28	29
30 11:00 AM Worship	31					

\*Mental Health Sunday – An important time to remember all who suffer and who cause suffering to others as a result.

The United Way also is working with volunteer drivers, Westmoreland Transit, Veterans Cab and others to make sure senior citizens have rides to and from their vaccination appointments. Members of Voice of Westmoreland are helping with scheduling and coordination, she said.

Cholodofsky said officials hope to expand the program to others who don't have access to technology, including additional senior citizens and those with disabilities, once all the current clients are scheduled. The program is starting small and the agencies are reaching out to their service recipients.

Excelsa Health has established a phone number for vaccine scheduling — 724-689-1690 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Registering online at excelsahealth.org remains the quickest method for scheduling an appointment.



Top

It's time to take politics out of prescriptions. It's time to **STAND UP TO THE INDEPENDENT PHARMACY LOBBY'S AGENDA TO RAISE RX COSTS** TAKE A STAND