



# CHRIST CHURCH

A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

## Matt's Meanderings



**Matt**

### Fire

*"I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy."*

Philippians 1:3-4 (CEB)

These are the opening words of Paul to the church in Philippi. I use them here to greet you all after a 6-week absence. I want to thank you for the time you've allowed me to spend with God, and with Abby, Joel, and Nora. It has been a blessing to my family. We are grateful.

No doubt you've heard bits and pieces of my renewal leave, chief of all is likely that I set Abby's van on fire. I wanna make sure we have all the facts: first, I set her jumper cables on fire; second, I did put the fire out; third, the 3 (yes...3) fire trucks that showed up to the house all validated that I put the fire out (haha).

It's interesting, I've used jumper cables countless times in my life...and still, I set a pair on fire by not attaching the correct ends on my jeep. Life happens as they say. As I've spent time during my renewal leave praying and pondering, it's easy to see where we all so often do things repeatedly without really thinking about it. Most of the time, no problem, but every now and then...FIRE!! Since that experience in the garage, I've pondered all the little things that I do as a husband, father, pastor, son, and friend.

It's all too easy sometimes to cruise through life without thinking much about it. I'll readily admit that after 20 years of ministry, I was starting to cruise. I could tell that I was tired and needed a reset. This last 6 weeks has been just that. It has been a time for me to fall back in love with Christ's church and ministry. I've been able to see how close I was to burnout. I can honestly say I am excited to get back. I'm excited to see where the next 20 years of ministry will lead. I'm excited to see how God wants to work in and through Christ Church.

As the fire of the Holy Spirit has been rekindled within me, I've been reminded of these words by John Wesley: "Light yourself on fire with passion (for God) and people will come from miles to watch you burn." I'm ready to burn alongside each of you with passion for God. I'm ready to see all who will come to see what God is up to in our midst as we rejoice in God's goodness.

I realize that while I've had time to rest, many of you, including our staff, have not. I'm going to encourage each of our staff members to take some extra time off during the next several months. I know they've stepped up in significant ways. It's time for me to repay their kindness and step up for them. Again, I thank God for you every time I pray! May we continue to pray together and may we burn with passion for God and his church! Amen and so be it.



God bless!

August  
2025



### CHURCH CONTACT INFO:

**Office Hours:**  
Mon-Thurs; 8am-2pm

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270-842-4343

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[info@christchurchbg.org](mailto:info@christchurchbg.org)

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### Contact info for Pastor Matt:

Cell phone  
270-719-2389

Email  
[seelrev@gmail.com](mailto:seelrev@gmail.com)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Summer is winding down and school is about to begin. We would love for you to take a moment and pray for our teachers and children of Christ Church to have a safe and wonderful school year!



Angie

On August 10<sup>th</sup> we will have Promotion Sunday. Children will be moving Sunday School Classes according to their new school grades. We have several children that will be receiving their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bibles during our church services: Sam Carver, Josephine Foley, Lincoln Foley and Asher Gupton will all be heading into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this year- Congratulations!

Sunday evening (August 10<sup>th</sup>) from 4pm- 7pm we will also be having a church wide back to school cookout! Preston Withers will be grilling hot dogs and we just need you to bring a potluck dish. There will be a water slide for the children (and any adults that are brave enough). Come have some fun with us!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Wow - July has been so good to our youth group (and adults who joined us on the mission trip)! Thank you for your continued prayers for our youth as they traveled, served, worshipped, and made memories together on the mission trip. We had a wonderful week in Seymour, TN volunteering with Live-It ministries and TeamEffort. Our projects included painting, organizing, pressure washing, weather sealing a bridge, mulching and weeding a trail, moving benches, and weed-eating around the property. It was a hot, sweaty, memorable week!! And to the adults who were able to join us, thank you for your support and partnership in this important work. It was very special to experience this together.



Nick

Looking ahead to August, we have the Back to School Cookout on August 10th from 4pm-7pm. It will be a great afternoon of food and fellowship as we gear up for another semester of school. Shortly thereafter we have the annual Water Wars event where our rising 6th graders officially join the youth group! Water Wars will take place on Sunday August 17th from 4pm-7pm. Finally, our WD2 Wednesday nights kick back into gear on August 20th. We look forward to getting back into regular routines and more frequent meeting times as the end of summer approaches!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Christ Church Youth Group. The youth are immensely blessed by this congregation.

God Bless,

Nick Winquist



## WORSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

Our **July youth and adult missions trip** was an incredibly special week! We saw God move in so many ways and are seeing the fruit of that partnership in our church community. Thank you to those adults who spent a week with us in Seymour, TN!



We have another potential opportunity for a **missions trip over Labor Day Weekend**, working in Newport, TN. This area was devastated by Hurricane Helene in September 2024. They have had less attention than other areas and remain in great need of help. We would be working with a local long-term recovery team. Our project would be coordinated by the Midsouth GMC Disaster Relief Coordinator, Pastor Suzanne Whittaker. We are awaiting information on what possible projects might include.



*Melissa*

The feasibility, cost, and details of this trip are entirely dependent on the people interested in going and completely customizable. Due to that flexibility, the **deadline to commit to this weekend is August 10. Please contact [melissa@christchurchbg.org](mailto:melissa@christchurchbg.org) or sign up outside my office if you are interested!**

-Newport is just past Gatlinburg, approximately 4.5 hours drive from Bowling Green. There is a GMC church there that would be happy to host us – we would need to bring air mattresses/cots/etc. We could also rent an Airbnb – there are several affordable high-capacity rentals in the area.

-We would be responsible for our own meals. We can decide together how we want to handle those – perhaps to have breakfast and lunch supplies available, and to either cook together or go for dinner somewhere together.

-The church bus can accommodate up to 15 people, or can we take separate cars.

The missions team is considering an **international missions trip in 2026**, either to a partner ministry in the summer of 2026 or to Johannesburg to do missions projects with other GMC volunteers during General Conference Aug 30-Sept 5 2026. Please begin praying now about whether you would be interested in doing this!

Big thanks to all the families who made our **Summer Jr Chimes** such a success! Extra thanks to Emily Wilson, Nick Winqvist, Shan Winqvist, Abby Seel, and all the other helpers who made it all possible! Stay tuned for future plans...



## THE LEARNING TREE

The Learning Tree is looking for people willing to be on our sub list. If you are interested, please reach out to Abby Seel at [pdoatthelearningtree@gmail.com](mailto:pdoatthelearningtree@gmail.com)





## CHRIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**Christ Women's Ministry Purpose:** We dedicate ourselves to serve Jesus by our goals, actions, and commitment. May we grow stronger in our faith as we serve others through our missions.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, August 13th, at 11:00am**. Please note the time change. Our lunch meeting will be at El Mazatlan, 2435 Nashville Rd. Please sign up on the rolling board and let us know if you wish to carpool from the church.

It has been a great summer serving at VBS and gathering for the July Women's Bible study, Breathe, on Wednesday evenings. Thank you to everyone who has served over the summer. I hope you have taken advantage of the slower summer pace and have been able to stop and worship our God by ceasing the business of our daily structures.

A HUGE thank you to all church members who donated supplies for Lost River Elementary School.

We are collecting items for our Learning Tree Parent's Day Out (PDO) program. Please see the needed items list on the rolling white board and sign up to donate. Items are due by August 10th.

### **2025 Women's Ministry Remaining Meeting Dates:**

Wednesday, August 13th—Lunch at 11:00pm at El Mazatlan

Sunday, Sept. 7th, 6:00pm

Sunday, Oct. 19th 6:00pm

**\*\*Christ Women's Bazaar—Saturday, November 8th**

Wednesday, Dec. 10th, 5:30pm Christmas Gathering

I hope to see you soon!



It's not too early to begin thinking about our Christmas Bazaar and how you might be able to help this year. Will you begin to save items you no longer use to contribute to Grandma's Attic? Maybe bake a yummy treat for our Bake Sale. Maybe you would consider taking on a more active roll and chair one of our areas this year. We are looking for someone who might enjoy chairing the Silent Auction. We are always looking for new vendors, if you know a crafter that might be a

good fit for our Bazaar please don't hesitate to let one of us know. We hope you will volunteer to help when the sign up sheets are posted in October. It will be here before we know it; Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can answer any questions. Nancy Pollock 419-304-7761 or Bonnie Hanes 270-202-0762



## Welcome New Members!

God is moving and we are thankful we get to be a part of it! Let's celebrate our growing church family by welcoming those who have joined us so far this year. If you see them in worship, Sunday school, serving or anywhere else, make sure to introduce yourself and get to know them better.



Top Pic, L to R: Sandra Speer, Susan and Mike Gardner, Bob and Becky Wheeler, Trent and Lee Young, Art, Debbie, and Nate Robb



Bottom Pic, L to R: Jim and Amy DeCesare, Marie and Ed Yager, Linda Bratcher, Rose and Ernie Davis



Not Pictured, but also joined this year: Daniel, Cheryl, Hailey, and Averie Wilhelm, and Nevil Speer

## Giving Thanks With Grateful Hearts

~Shan and I would like to thank our church for the love and support we have received since my surgery in late May. The cards, notes, texts, meals and most especially prayers are greatly appreciated. We are blessed to walk through life with Christ Church.  
Rick Winquist

~We'd like to thank the church for their generosity during our ""Dough-nations"" for doughnuts fund raising drive for the youth mission trip. Their support helped us so much in having such a successful mission outreach!  
The Mission Trip Team



## In Christian Sympathy

Our Deepest Condolences are given to:  
**Todd Altimus and family in the passing of his mother, Kathleen Altimus**



## Sami Says

### "The Little Note That Made a Big Difference"

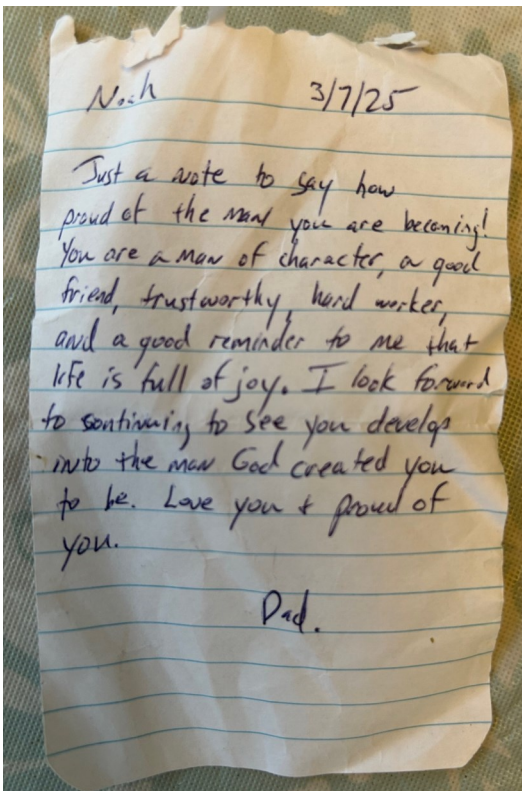
I got a text from my neighbor friends sharing a picture of a small handwritten note. She said, "This is on Facebook. It says it was found in Hidden River. I thought maybe Tim wrote this to Noah. They're holding onto it in case Noah wants it back." What unfolded reminds me of the Guideposts magazine article called "His Mysterious Ways."

Immediately, I recognized Tim's handwriting. It indeed was a note that Tim wrote to our oldest son Noah back in March. A man named Alex, who does lawn work in our neighborhood found it. It choked him up, so he took it home. When he showed his neighbor, she decided to post it online to see if it could be returned. People began commenting on the post, wondering if friends could have written the note, wondering if it could be to a Noah they knew. Others said that they wanted to be adopted by Noah's dad. Some talked about losing their own dads wishing they could have just one last note in his handwriting. Others poured out their grief because the dads who raised them did not love them like they saw in the words written. Then something cool happened, people started encouraging one another, speaking words of blessing and hope. Sometimes taking the place of an absent father and speaking life into all the broken and hurting places. Others began to share about the love of God and how it is there for all of us, and can be found where people gather as families of faith. As I read the comments my heart was filled with wonder, wonder that leaked out of my eyes.

I rarely get on Facebook, I never knew Tim wrote that note to Noah, and I never would have seen this post on my own. That note was 2 inches by 3 inches. The kind that is torn out of a little notebook. It was probably folded in half. Anyone seeing it, if they picked it up, could have just as easily thrown it away, thinking it was trash. But it wasn't thrown away. It was shared with people who needed hope. A friend of mine who lives across the street helped us find it, when we didn't even know it was lost. And yes, we were able to get it back to Noah, safe and sound.



Sami



How many things had to go right for all this to happen? It is the kind of thing only God can do. But He does it with our ordinary faithfulness. It's like the little boy who shares his lunch with Jesus, and winds up feeding over five thousand. So be encouraged dear friends. That little thing you do because you want to be faithful, because you are sharing God's love with your family, friends or neighbors, it makes a difference. We may never know the impact our small acts of faithfulness make, but God does. It could be the thing that sparks a fire of God's love and light, pouring into the dark places, bringing hope and healing where we least expect it, sparking others to share light and love too!

So let us bravely shine the light of God that is within us, and sing with big hearts and joyful voices, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine."

P.S. I am including the link so you can see the post and comments yourself. Let this wash all over you and know that God is at work all the time!

Spotted in Bowling Green | This note was found in a yard being mowed in Hidden River | Facebook



## August Birthdays

8/2 Mary Rose  
8/4 Grant Heckman  
8/5 Will Moore  
8/8 Alex Gilpin  
8/10 Melissa Bull  
8/10 Carlie Hardin  
8/10 Suzanne Vitale  
8/18 Lisa Hood  
8/18 Don Johnston

8/18 Margaret Johnston  
8/18 David Puckett  
8/19 Joyce Buckman  
8/20 Tonya Heckman  
8/21 Yetta Meador  
8/21 Karen Sauerbrey  
8/23 Joe Hood  
8/25 Marie Yager  
8/26 Becky Harrell

8/29 Emily Carver  
8/29 Anaclare Cobb  
8/30 Woody Harrell  
8/31 Beth Creek



## Stewardship and Attendance

Budget for the Year \$593,336  
Needed Per Week \$11,410

Building Fund Received July \$690

### Stewardship:

July 6 \$23,498.00  
July 13 \$13,777.00  
July 20 \$11,344.00  
July 27 \$24,042.00

### Attendance:

July 6 188  
July 13 228  
July 20 200  
July 27 222

## Sunday Worship Times

**Traditional Service 8:45 am**  
Sanctuary

**Sunday School 10:00 am**

**Contemporary Service 11:00am**  
Family Life Center

### **Watch Online**

<https://www.christchurchbg.org/online/>

### **Past Services**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA\\_hizimRxR-kTXwdpEMk0w?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA_hizimRxR-kTXwdpEMk0w?)



**CHRIST**  
S T A F F

Rev. Dr. Matt Seel.....Lead Pastor  
Melissa Bull.....Minister of Worship and Connection  
Rev. Sami Wilson.....Pastor of Congregational Care  
Nick Winquist.....Youth Minister  
Rev. Michael Romans .....Assistant Youth Minister  
Angie Gordon..... Children's Minister  
Abby Seel ..... Asst. Children's Min. & Learning Tree Dir.  
Emily Romans.....Administrative Assistant  
Roman Di Gaetano ..... FLC Production Manager  
Jeanie Orr ..... Organist  
Bonnie Hanes .....Treasurer  
April Taylor ..... Nursery Supervisor  
Lorenzo Hall, Jr..... Security  
Tiffany Baker.....Custodian



**CHRIST**  
CHURCH

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