



*a diverse, inclusive church experiencing and reflecting the love, hope and joy of Jesus Christ
to each other and our community*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP | 11am | sunday | august 31, 2025

PRELUDE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing | arr. Mark Hayes
Wes Kassulke, piano; Doug Friend, percussion

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WELCOME | Pastor Cathy Johns

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Susan Spragg, liturgist

Come, people of God, let us love the Lord our God, with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We come to love God with all that we are.

And let us love our neighbors as ourselves.

We come to love others, for love is the mark of our faith.

Faith without love is empty, but faith expressed through love brings life.

We will put our faith into action by loving as God loves.

Come, let us worship the God of love.

We worship the one who loves us and calls us to love.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

How Can We Name a Love | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 111 (verses 1,2,3,4)

**How can we name a love that awakens heart and mind,
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?**

Within our daily world, in every human face,

Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.

**If we awoke to life built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.**

**When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
our friend and partner's will is better understood,
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.**

**So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is love full grown and life and hope begun.**

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* OPENING PRAYER

Holy and loving God, we gather here today in your presence, a community drawn together by your grace and love. Open our hearts today to receive your love more fully. Stir within us a passion for you that burns brightly and authentically. And as your love fills us, help it overflow naturally into love for those around us—our families, our friends, our neighbors, and even those who are difficult to love. Show us how to put our faith into action through acts of kindness, justice, mercy, and service. May our love not be merely words or feelings, but tangible expressions of your heart in our world. Send us forth to be your hands and feet to this community, loving you by loving others. Amen.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

World Methodist Social Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.**

**We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom: in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.**

**We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action:
through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, sexual identity, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference;
through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence;
through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.**

**We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ:
to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.**

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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MUSIC MINISTRY

Feed My Lambs | Natalie Sleeth
Carrie Brooke, alto

Natalie Sleeth | Tom Fettke | © 1972 by Carl Fischer, Inc. | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he

passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

These are the words of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE

The Anatomy of Love | Do Love | Pastor Cathy Johns

OFFERING | Pastor Doug Johns

worshiping through the offering of our lives and gifts

- Place offerings in the plates or wooden boxes
- Give online at **christchurchfl.org/give**
- Text GIVE to 954.880.3885
- Mail a check to Christ Church, 4845 NE 25th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Connect cards may also be placed with your offering.

Christ Church is a congregationally supported ministry. We thank you for your faithfulness as we reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

Today is a fifth Sunday, when you are asked to consider an extra-mile gift to Residing Hope, formerly the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Gifts may be made at **christchurchfl.org/give** below the regular giving form.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Very Thought of Thee | Tom Fettke

Chancel Choir

Jesus, I love the very thought of thee. Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see and in thy presence rest. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind thou art, how good to those who seek! No voice can sing, no longing heart can frame, nor can the memory find a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O savior of mankind. Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be; Jesus, be glory now and through eternity. Jesus, I love the very thought of thee.

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* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Together We Serve | LYONS

**Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.**

words and music: Daniel Charles Damon | © 1998 Hope Publishing Company | CCLI License # 487103

* SENDING FORTH

* RESPONSE

Spirit Song | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 347

**O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

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MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Recessional in C | John S. Dixon
Chuck Stanley, organ

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*** *please stand in body or spirit.***

Join us next Sunday. At the 9am service, we will celebrate the ministry of Christ Church School with the message *Great Things*, based on Ephesians 3:20. At 11am, we will continue the message series *The Anatomy of Love*, with the message *Even When They are Strangers*.

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

TODAY

CONNECT CARDS We want to stay in touch. Please fill out a Connect Card, to tell us that you are here, how we can pray for you, and which ministries you're called to serve. We'd love to hear your ideas also. You'll find paper Connect Cards in the worship space and digital cards at christchurchfl.org/connectcard.

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE TIME Every Sunday, coffee and snacks are available before the 9am and 11am services. Join your friends at the kitchen window in the gym lobby for coffee and conversation.

AT THE TABLE today | 10:05am | fellowship halls 1-3 *At the Table* is a time to explore the scripture of the day and meet new people as you do. Invite friends and newcomers to join you. Plan to stay after the 9am service or come early for the 11am service; you don't need to hear the day's message to participate in the conversation. Holy Grounds is open, so grab a snack and coffee, and join us.

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL today | august 31 | 5-6pm | sanctuary Join us to pray and lament the inhumane and unconstitutional treatment of our neighbors held at the Everglades Detention camp. Sunday at 5pm, persons of faith and conscience from across Florida are holding an interfaith vigil outside the detention camp. If you can't travel there, you are invited to pray with others in an ecumenical service in our sanctuary.

CONNECT

SHARED MEALS You are invited to share a meal and community twice each week on the Parkway Campus. On Wednesday, 4:30-6pm, dinner is served to all who come. On Sunday, breakfast is shared 9-10am. This is a great way to build community with our neighbors. The Parkway Campus is located at 100 NE 44th Street, Deerfield Beach.

CHRIST CHURCH AT TRIVIA NIGHT mondays | 7:30pm | Funky Buddha Brewery Join us as we play trivia. It's an informal gathering of folks who have fun trying to answer the questions and catching up on one another's lives. Look for the Christ Church team at the Funky Buddha, 1201 NE 38th Street, Oakland Park, on Monday nights.

WELCOME BRUNCH sunday | october 19 | 10am | fellowship hall 1 If you or someone you sit next to during worship is new to Christ Church, we'd love to get acquainted at the next Welcome brunch. This is an opportunity to learn more about the church and meet others. If you're interested or have questions, please send an email to welcome@christchurchfl.org

GROW

INVITATION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT sign up by september 3 Join Pastor Cathy for this 8-week covenant learning community that will explore the wonder of Creation, important wisdom teaching that shapes our faith, voices of the prophets, and the beauty of poetry. It is appropriate for those new to Bible study, as well as those with Bible study experience. Participants secure their own book before orientation on September 10. The required orientation is Wednesday, September 10, 6:30-8pm. The eight sessions are September 24, October 1, 8, 15, and 29, and November 5, 12 and 19, all 6:30-8pm Child care is available with advance registration to Lisa Jones, coordinator of Children's Ministry. Get all of the details and sign up at christchurchfl.org/events

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA IMMIGRATION TOWN HALL saturday | september 20 | 9:30am-12noon Hear about the devastating impact of the immigration enforcement and detentions, then learn what you can do to help our immigrant neighbors. The Christ Church Anti-Racism Task Force and the Florida Immigration Coalition will bring together people from throughout South Florida on Saturday, September 20, 9:30am-12noon, at Christ Church. The day will start with a time of networking at 9:30am, followed by a Unity Session moderated by District Superintendent Rev. Vidalis Lopez, with speakers from the University of Miami Immigration Center and the ACLU among others. Then, at 11am, you can attend a breakout session where you will be equipped to take action in an area that speaks to your gifts and interest. Sign up at christchurchfl.org/immigration Please sign up in advance to take action to protect our

vulnerable neighbors. If you can volunteer for the morning, contact Susan Spragg, sspragg@christchurchfl.org, or Linda Bajkowsky. Bring friends and neighbors to stand up for human dignity.

CREATIVE SPIRIT sunday | september 21 | 4-7pm | walkway room Women and girls are invited to devotions and guided artwork with Pastor Monique McBride, CCS art teacher and pastor to school and families. The group will paint faux pumpkins. This class is open to girls in 4th grade and up, as well as adult women. Cost is \$10 per class to cover supplies, and scholarships are available. Please bring a refreshment to share: last name A-L bring something savory, M-Z bring something sweet. Additional Creative Spirit gatherings are planned for November 16, January 25, and March 8. RSVP by Wednesday, September 17, to Pastor Monique, mmcbride@ccsfl.org

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE sunday | october 5 | 12:15pm | fellowship hall 1 The mission of the Anti-Racism Task Force is to confront the sin of racism in ourselves, our church, and in the world. Join us as we work toward a church community that reflects the beautiful diversity of the Kingdom of God. ARTF meets quarterly on the first Sunday after the 11am Traditional Worship Service, around 12:15pm. Questions? Contact Susan Spragg, leader of the Anti-Racism Task Force, artf@christchurchfl.org

MORNING PRAYERS Join your church family for morning prayers Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7:30am. Begin the day praying with your church family on the Christ Church Facebook page, [@christchurchfl](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchfl). If you can't be online at 7:30, a recording of morning prayers is available on Facebook. Morning prayers take a break on church and federal holidays.

SERVE

CHURCH COUNCIL APPLICATIONS “Here I Am Lord, Send Me!” These words from the prophet Isaiah ring through the centuries to today. The Leadership Development Team invites you to pray about using your gifts as a member of the Christ Church Council. We are seeking people with a heart to serve Christ, a strong desire to bless others with the love, joy, and hope of Christ, and a willingness to be servant leaders in our faith community. If you have questions, please see Pastor Cathy Johns or Brian McComb. You can pick up an application on tables outside of worship spaces or fill out the online application, christchurchfl.org/leadership.

BE A SPONSOR FOR TRUNK OR TREAT saturday | october 19 | 5-7:30pm Christ Church's annual Halloween fun on the field will be Saturday, October 19, 5-7:30pm. We are seeking sponsors for our games, food tents, bounce houses and more. This is a great way for your business to support Christ Church and tell the community about it. We're also seeking volunteers for many different tasks, including decorating trunks and giving candy away. Now is a good time to start buying candy and drinks – Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Gatorade and La Croix. See all of the ways you can make this a memorable evening for our community at christchurchfl.org/boo

ZOE EMPOWERS Please pick up a prayer card for a family that's part of the Arise and Shine Kironya Empowerment Group, our Zoe Empowers group. We will be supporting this group of 24 orphaned and abandoned teens and young adults as they learn the skills to be self-supporting and join in community through Zoe Empowers. Our partnership with them will run through December 2027. The skills taught by Zoe will help each young adult support themselves and their families in their context. You can learn more at christchurchfl.org/zoe

FOOD FOR THE BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY The following items would be greatly appreciated: canned tuna or chicken, canned or boxed soups, cereals, instant potatoes, tomato sauce, rice, pasta, mac-and-cheese, canned beans, canned vegetables, jelly, peanut butter, coffee/tea, canned fruit, canned ravioli, canned meat such as Spam, and cereal bars. Items may be taken to the pantry during pantry hours, 9-11am Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or brought to the Fort Lauderdale campus on Sunday morning. Learn more at christchurchfl.org/ blessings

PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR PARKWAY The Parkway community breakfast is prepared in the Fort Lauderdale kitchen early Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together, wrapping and heating breakfast sandwiches. Students can earn service hours. Send an email to Outreach Coordinator Paige Darnell, pdarnell@christchurchfl.org if you, your family or group can help.

HEAT DINNERS FOR PARKWAY On Wednesdays, we're preparing Christ Church's famous and tasty meatloaf and side dishes in the Fort Lauderdale kitchen for our guests on the Parkway Campus. Flex volunteer time 2-4pm. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together after school. Students can earn service hours. If you are interested, please send an email to Outreach Coordinator Paige Darnell, pdarnell@christchurchfl.org.

JOIN THE WELCOME TEAM Do you enjoy greeting your church family and welcoming guests? The Welcome Team would be a great place for you to serve. Welcome Team members also help serve communion and collect the offering. Some welcome team members serve as ushers and greeters for memorial services and other special events. Linda Bajkowsky coordinates the team and would love your help. Serving with the Welcome Team is a great way to get to know your church family. Sign up at christchurchfl.org/serve

BE PART OF THE WORSHIP TECH TEAM Put your tech skills to work for God. If you would like to be part of the team that helps run the cameras and visuals for worship, send an email to info@christchurchfl.org

HEALING

FAITH CARING GROUP mondays | 1pm The Faith Caring Group reflects and addresses the need for caring and assistance as well as grief support. The group meets on Zoom every Monday of the month, except the second Monday when members have lunch at the Fort Lauderdale Olive Garden. For more information, send an email to info@christchurchfl.org with your contact information. A Faith Caring Group leader will get back to you.

CHURCH BUSINESS

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT INSTALLATION sunday | september 7 | 4 pm | plantation umc Rev. Vidalis Lopez will be installed as Superintendent of the South East District of the Florida Conference on Sunday, September 7, at 4pm, at Plantation United Methodist Church, 1001 NW 70th Ave, Plantation, 33313 *Where Hope Grows* is the theme for this service. All are welcome.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING monday | september 8 | 6:30pm | fellowship halls 1-3