

THE COMMUNICANT

Christ Church Episcopal

A ministry of the Diocese of Ohio

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of faith, grounded
in the gospel of Jesus Christ, serving Hudson and beyond.*

**July/
August**



2025



Vacation Bible School

AUGUST 4-8 FROM 9:00AM-12:00PM

For Children Ages 4 (by July 31 and fully potty-trained) through rising 5th Graders
Pre-K meets only on M- W-F. Nursery care available for younger children.

Waves of Wonder invites children to explore scriptures in which God provides water for plants, animals, and people. They will visit the wilderness and miraculously receive water from a rock. They will take a boat ride with Jesus and weather a wavy storm, and even imagine a new heaven and a new earth where all are invited to receive God's life-giving water. Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children will deepen their understanding of the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource!

Register by scanning the QR code above or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHVBS2025>

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“Vector of the Rector” – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual

A Southpaw Savior

Taylor Swift has a line that goes, *“I’ve been the archer, I’ve been the prey.”* Another: *“I’m so sick of running as fast as I can / wondering if I’d get there quicker if I was a man.”* Across her albums, one theme keeps echoing: being misjudged, dismissed, or labeled the wrong kind of person. And yet—turns out she’s got more Grammys than her critics have metaphors.

The Bible is full of that same energy. Physical details are rare in Scripture, so when we *do* learn something about someone’s appearance—Zacchaeus is short, Saul is tall, Absalom has Pantene-commercial hair—you can bet it’s not filler. It’s foreshadowing.

So when we meet Ehud, a left-handed man from the tribe of Benjamin (which means “son of the right hand”), the irony is thick. A lefty from the right-hand tribe? Not your expected national hero. And it gets worse: by the end of the book of Judges, Benjamin is disgraced—known for violence, corruption, and a crime that nearly wipes them out. Ehud is the wrong hand, from the wrong tribe, the wrong guy for the job of saving Israel—and save it he does, in one of the most graphic (and yes, scatological) assassinations in all of Scripture. See Judges 3:12–30 if you dare.

But that’s how God rolls. God picks Sarah, 90 and jaded, to give birth. He sends Jonah—who’d rather see Nineveh burn—to preach mercy. He transforms Saul, an enemy of the church, into its greatest apostle. And, in the most upside-down move of all, he points to a carpenter from Nazareth—poor, scandal-prone, executed by the state—and says, “This is my Son. The King of Kings.”

Jesus, like our left-handed friend Ehud, is a backwards kind of savior. The wrong guy for the right job. But as St. Paul puts it:

“God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...
so that no one might boast in the presence of God.
He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”
(1 Corinthians 1:27–30)

With God, being misunderstood isn’t a disqualification—it’s a setup for redemption. Or as Taylor sings: *“I once believed love would be burning red / But it’s golden, like daylight.”*

God’s love isn’t loud or flashy—it just rewrites the story.

_Charlie+

Thursday, July 3 and Thursday, August 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month, a healing service is offered at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel for all who would like to ask prayers for themselves or others. The service lasts about 30 minutes and includes Holy Eucharist. Join us for this quiet, yet powerful service.



Summer Sunday Morning Adult Forum: *Women of the Bible*

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

This summer, we're reclaiming names history tried to erase. We've unearthed the truth behind Jezebel's bad reputation, wept with Hagar in the wilderness, and restored Junia to her rightful place as an apostle, despite centuries of mistranslation that tried to turn her into a man.

Join us Sundays at 9:00am in the Parish Hall as we continue exploring the bold, complicated, and too-often-forgotten women of the Bible—and what their stories mean for us today.



Children's Chapel

**For children 3-years old through 2nd grade
SUNDAY MORNINGS DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE.**

Children's Chapel continues on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 throughout the summer. We are continuing with the Godly Play curriculum, which uses Montessori-based learning experiences to help children explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Children have an innate sense of the presence of God and this program embraces and encourages that sense. We will be encountering some of the big characters of the Old Testament as well as the parables of Jesus. Children ages 3-2nd Grade (completed) will begin each Sunday in the service with their parents. During the Hymn of Praise, they will join Sarah Bhatia or a volunteer at the front of the sanctuary and return to their families during The Peace. This program offers a great opportunity for your children to grow in their understanding of faith and experience God in new ways. Come join us!



**Remember
Your Pledge
This Summer**

Pledge income typically goes down in the summer months. As you travel and enjoy the summer, please take a moment to send in your pledge payment to the church by mail, through the giving button at www.christchurchudson.org, or in person (the best option 😊).



Photo credit: Andrew Le



Mario Buchanan
Director of Music and Organist
mario.buchanan@christchurchudson.org

Friends,

In June, I attended the yearly conference for the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM). This organization is made up of over 1000 musicians in Episcopal churches around the country. Each year, we meet in a different city to explore the different liturgical and musical offerings in the city. This year we met in Cincinnati, where we visited Christ Church Cathedral; Christ Church, Glendale; St. Thomas, Terrace Park; Trinity, Covington (KY); and Plum Street Temple. One of the highlights for me every year are the services. The liturgies, music, and preaching are inspirational. Equally exciting is the congregational singing, when over 250 church musicians get together, we have some amazing singing! In addition to the services, we had sessions about Judaism in Cincinnati (the Rabbi of Plum Street Temple spoke), choral concerts by local choirs, and a session on power dynamics in the church.

Every year, I am surrounded by people who love their church. All of us come together to talk ideas, aspirations, and joy in our various parishes. It also is a time for us to talk about our various difficulties, finding friends who can relate. This is not a conference where I come away feeling, "Well, the church is dead." Instead, I come away even more believing that the Episcopal Church is growing. Yes, there are struggles being a church in the 21-century, but I find that what we are doing is working. What I saw were liturgies that held true to our Anglican identity but were expansive in new ways to worship God. For example, several new pieces were commissioned just for this conference. New music for the church that helps us find language to worship God in new and profound ways. I come away energized for my work here at Christ Church. Also exciting is a new hymnal supplement coming out in the Fall. I have already ordered a perusal copy, which I look forward to sharing with all of you in the coming season.

In a world where there seems to be more fighting, the church offers us a place to move forward in our worship of God, where all are welcome, not just some.

If you would like to tune into the Opening Eucharist, please scan the QR code. The singing is AMAZING!

Blessings,

Mario





PICK UP CHOIR

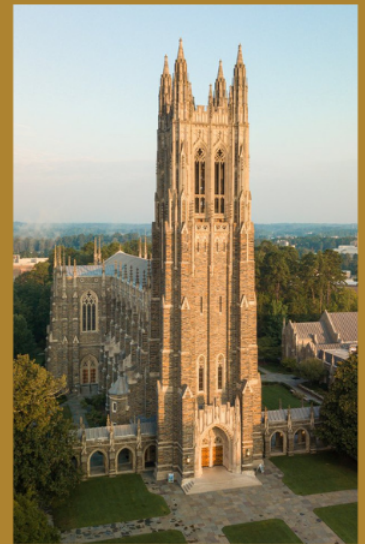
JULY 13, AUGUST 3

**No robes required!
Come as you are at 10am
for a rehearsal in the stalls!**

RS M
THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC
AMERICA

“Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
— Choristers' Prayer

We are very excited that we will be sending Ella Harvey and Anna Barger to the RSCM Carolina Summer Residency in July! This course, housed at Duke University, features opportunities to sing the finest sacred SATB repertoire with the highest standards of musical performance, conducted by internationally recognized musicians, balanced with a full complement of structured recreational and social activities. All of the choristers spend the week at Duke and conclude singing final services in the historic Duke Chapel. In total there will be around 100 singers in the course.



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

July 23rd | 6:00 pm | Green Valley Brewing Co.

Join us for Men's Night Out—an evening of good food, hearty conversation, and a chance to connect outside of Sunday morning. We'll gather at Green Valley Brewing Company in Hudson at 6pm on Wednesday, July 23. No sign up required. Just come hungry and bring a friend! Green Valley does have a closed in area for children if you would like to bring your child(ren) along! Questions? Contact Lee Carpenter at lbcarpen@gmail.com or Greg Daniels at gk_daniels@hotmail.com.

TUESDAY, JULY 15TH AT 5:30 P.M.

Ladies Night Out!

JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Join us for another evening of good food, sparkling conversation, and lots of laughter! We will gather at The Country Club of Hudson on July 15 at 5:30 pm. You do not have to be a member of The Country Club to attend. Please sign up through the office at 330-650-4359 or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> by July 11. Contact Shirley Eells with questions at shirleyeells48@gmail.com.

Our New Online Church Directory Is Live!

Christ Church's new online directory is now available. We're using *Instant Church Directory*, a secure, church-specific platform that allows members to easily find contact information, update their own household details, and stay connected with one another.



Why the change?

We've moved from a shared spreadsheet to this platform for three key reasons: better privacy, easier access, and a more polished user experience. Instant Church Directory gives you control over your own listing, protects your information with bank-level security, and lets you connect with fellow parishioners by phone, email, or message—right from the app or website. No more copying and pasting from outdated docs.

Getting started is easy:

- Visit members.InstantChurchDirectory.com or scan the QR code.
- Enter the email address you've shared with the church. (If it's not recognized, contact the office—we'll get you set up.)
- Click "Send Secure Sign-In Link."



You'll receive an email with a one-time login link. Follow the instructions, and you're in!

Prefer your phone? There's a free app for iPhone and Android—just search *Instant Church Directory* in your app store. It's perfect for quick lookups on the go.

A few quick notes:

Privacy matters. Only Christ Church members with approved emails can access the directory. Your information is never shared or sold, and all data is protected with the same level of encryption used by banks.

Photos welcome! While over 150 households are listed, few have uploaded photos. If you'd like to add one to your profile, the app or website makes it simple.

Not interested in being listed? No problem—just let us know and we'll remove your entry.

Need help?

Contact Fr. Charlie or Kathy in the parish office. Fr. Charlie will also be available after Sunday services during coffee hour—with his laptop in hand—to help folks get logged in and answer any questions.

Staying in Touch with Fr. Charlie

If you'd like to get in touch, you can reach me by email at Charlie.knuth@christchurchudson.org or by cell at 801-635-5162. I typically check email in the morning and late afternoon. My days off are Monday and Saturday, but if something needs immediate attention, please send a text. For pastoral emergencies (things like a medical crisis, a death in the family, or when you just really need a priest to show up), please call my cell any time, day or night.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Does crafting make your heart roar? Do you love feeding the herd with snacks? Do science experiments make you go wild? Is story telling your passion? Do the singing voices of children bring tears to your eyes? If so, ready your skills to make a wonderful week for our community at Vacation Bible School. Contact Sarah for a volunteer registration form and let your wild side shine this summer!

- Registration/Check in (1-2 people): Make sure payment and registration info is in and correct. Pass out name tags. Greet parents and children daily
- Check out (1): greeting parents at the door and checking out children at the end of each day
- Drama (2-3): perform little skits during opening and closing gatherings—can be teens
- Service Learning (1): teach lessons and activities about the mission project for the week
- Arts (1): lead easy arts and crafts that help to build connections with the day's theme
- Science and Nature (1): lead easy science experiments and nature lessons
- Shepherds (12 total): lead group to each rotation station. Lead reflection time at the start of each day
- PreK/K Leader (3-4): lead the PreK/K classes in all activities

Support roles:

- Shopping: food for snacks, supplies for rotations, etc.
- Administrative work: making copies, cutting out materials, prepping materials for rotations
- Set up (3-4): Setting up chairs and rooms each morning (by 8:30)
- Tear down (3-4): putting chairs and supplies away at the end of each day.
- Prepping crafts: getting craft supplies ready to go for each day



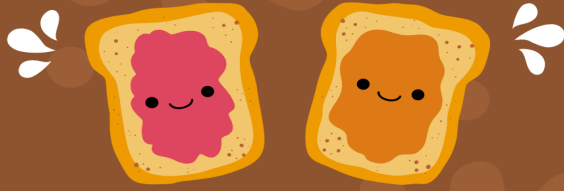
The Harvey family would like to thank everyone who came out to the Rubber Ducks fellowship event and supported Violet's softball team.





OUTREACH MINISTRY

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J WITH A PURPOSE July 19th & August 16th

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM on July 19 and August 16 as we come together to make 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless ministry out of St. Bernard's Church in Akron. We urge anyone and everyone to volunteer at some point, for every month we will put out the call. Get to know each other, get sticky, and do good! For more information, contact Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

Hudson Food Pantry Laundry Detergent Collection



Laundry is a ritual that comes with having a body, and as an act of Christian charity, Christ Church continues to provide laundry detergent for the Hudson Food Pantry. They are requesting **40** jugs of detergent, or packs of pods/sheets by **July 25th** for the July distribution and by **August 21st** for the August distribution. If you are grocery shopping or making a Costco run and you think of it, please pick some of these items up and deposit them in the coat room or at the back door of the church. We will get them where they need to go. Thank you!



OPEN M

A MINISTRY OF FAITH, HEALTH AND HOPE

GRAB N GO LUNCHES August 22nd

Volunteers are needed to help fill bag lunches and make blessing cards for Open M. We will meet in the Parish Hall from 9-11 on Friday, August 22. All food and supplies will be provided. This is a great way to help those in need as well as spend some time together! If you are available to help, please let Susan Mailey know at tmail153@gmail.com.



Blessing Cards for Open M

Please consider making "blessing cards" to be given out with meals at Open M. Your card can be a simple index card or piece of paper with a few words of encouragement, a bible verse, a picture, stickers, or whatever you imagine will share some love and support. You can drop your cards in the basket inside the coat room. This will be an on-going opportunity and cards will be taken to Open M as they are received. Thank you!



**HELP BUILD IT
No Skills Required!**

**Volunteers needed for
Habitat for Humanity**

JULY 26, AUGUST 16, & SEPTEMBER 13

The picture you see below shows the frame of what will soon become a safe, affordable new home in North Akron for our Habitat partner family, Charmaine Jenkins and her two children. As an active member of the Hudson Coalition of churches, Christ Church Episcopal shares in the cost of sponsorship of a house and provides volunteers who work with the partner family on construction. A Habitat Supervisor provides the materials and tools needed for construction, directs the work of volunteers, and maintains a safe work environment. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, and construction experience is appreciated, but not required. The supervisor provides training on the tasks for the workday, which begins at 9 AM and concludes by 3:30 PM.

The next Saturday workday opportunities for volunteers from Christ Church will be July 26, August 16, and September 13. If you are interested in signing up for any of those workdays or would like more information about the opportunity, contact Len Harrison by phone at (615)720-7674 or by email at harrison13n@gmail.com



John Hormel ~ 7/1
Mary Ann Switz ~ 7/1
Theresa Edwards ~ 7/1
Kevin Vaughn ~ 7/1
Arlo Haren ~ 7/2
Paul Westlake ~ 7/3
Margeaux Nething ~ 7/6
Marti Hall ~ 7/8
Greta Foster ~ 7/10
Calvin Harvey ~ 7/11
Tina Monreal ~ 7/11
Bill Phipps ~ 7/11
Doug Swift ~ 7/14
Mary Ellen Wilson ~ 7/14
Dot Lang ~ 7/19
Meredith Bowen ~ 7/19
Judy Murray ~ 7/23
Jack Brookhart ~ 7/24
Drew Le ~ 7/24
Charles Carpenter ~ 7/24
Thomas Kiener, Sr. ~ 7/26
Robertson Gilliland ~ 7/27
Cindy Pirie ~ 7/28
Anna Barger ~ 7/30
Stephanie Manly ~ 7/31



Doug & Heather Swift ~ 7/1
Larry & Sue King ~ 7/9
Midge Karam & Ed Wiles ~ 7/10
Jim & Dot Lang ~ 7/10
Nicholas & Erin Petro ~ 7/23
Jon & Suzanne Lund ~ 7/24



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Mike Scott ~ 8/4
 Catianna Jackson ~ 8/6
 Suzanne Westlake ~ 8/6
 Grace Boazzo ~ 8/7
 Sarah Haren ~ 8/9
 Gehrig Namiotka ~ 8/11
 Betsy Giannotti ~ 8/14
 Rowan Wehrmann ~ 8/15
 Joelle Edwards ~ 8/16
 Milo Haren ~ 8/17
 Schaeffer Barnhardt ~ 8/17
 Amy McCormick ~ 8/18
 Lisa Casamatta ~ 8/18
 Luke Metoki ~ 8/18
 Ruth Wylie ~ 8/18
 Dick Andrews ~ 8/19
 Harriet Carpenter ~ 8/19
 Deb Kelley ~ 8/19
 Dick McCormick ~ 8/22
 Paul Gaston ~ 8/23
 Susie Vanaman ~ 8/26
 Bill Currin ~ 8/28
 Dick Schneider ~ 8/28
 Violet Harvey ~ 8/29
 Fred Monreal ~ 8/29
 Peter Metoki ~ 8/30
 James Ciocia ~ 8/31



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Debbie Currin ~ 8/3
 John & Emily Longenecker ~ 8/5
 Jim & Sallie Bear ~ 8/8
 Matthew & Shannon Bailey ~ 8/8
 Peter Faass & Anthony Kastellic ~ 8/12
 Jay & Courtney Bixby ~ 8/17
 Dick & Amy McCormick ~ 8/17
 Fred & Tina Monreal ~ 8/24

Thank You to...

- RuthAnne Belton, Susan Arnold, Eileen Gaston, Tina Monreal, Ellen Turner, and Bob Zuhl for helping in the office in June
- Guy Wylie for his tireless work to get the sanctuary A/C up and running!
- Heather Swift for organizing the June Ladies' Night Out
- Greg Daniels and Lee Carpenter for organizing the inaugural Men's Night Out
- Cathy Agnor and Sallie Bear for helping with the AED training session and to all who attended
- all of our wonderful Coffee Hour hosts each week!



June Vestry Meeting Highlights

- The vestry met on June 24 at 6:00 p.m. Fr. Charlie opened with a mindfulness meditation.
- Christ Church's average Sunday attendance continues to rise, with 142 people on average so far this year, up from 130 in 2024 and 119 in 2023. The last month's adult education, social events, and youth gatherings have all been well-attended.
- Although the church's primary air conditioning condenser is no longer functioning, the secondary condenser was successfully rewired and recharged with salvaged coolant. The church is currently cooled, but this is a temporary solution. Full replacement of the system is expected by next spring, and Guy Wylie is collecting quotes.
- Financially, pledging is on target due to early 2025 gifts. Building maintenance costs are trending over budget due to necessary repairs, and the anticipated \$200,000 cost of A/C replacement may require using savings, a fundraiser, or external financing.
- Fr. Charlie introduced a new logo and branding style for Christ Church, in line with national Episcopal Church guidance. Website improvements are also planned.
- The annual audit of Christ Church was completed at the end of June by the diocesan. The audit report will be formally approved at the July meeting and submitted to the Diocese before the August deadline.
- Fr. Charlie has offered to lead weekly Sunday afternoon worship at Laurel Lake and we are soliciting the opinion of residents.
- A special vestry meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. to review data from our Rector Search Survey and do some visioning work.



Getting to Know You

Each month we feature a little “getting to know you” vignette of a Christ Church parishioner or family in the Communicant. If you would like to be featured in an issue of The Communicant or know someone who would, please let us know. This month, Eileen Gaston helps us to get to know a little bit more about Peter and Shirley Eells. We look forward to getting to know you better, too!

Get to know Peter and Shirley Eells

“Every church should have a Shirley Eells!” This sentiment has been expressed many times by Christ Church folks, both new and old. Shirley’s warm personal welcome has encouraged quite a few to linger and return. This month we get to know Shirley and Peter Eells.

Peter and Shirley are originally from upstate New York. He is a “cradle Episcopalian,” attending church with his family, including an uncle who was a priest. Shirley’s family was unchurched, although she was baptized as an infant. (She says she has been making up for lost time as an adult.) Peter, after graduating from New England College (economics), worked for ARCO - Atlantic Richfield - as a sales representative. Shirley was an administrative assistant at The Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

How did they meet? With a twinkle in his eye, Peter says, “We met at a bar on a Wednesday night.” They were introduced by his sister. When he asked Shirley if she’d be back the next night, she said, “If you’ll give me a ride.” Peter says, “And we never looked back!”

They were married at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Albany, by Peter’s uncle, in 1973. ARCO took them to Rhode Island in 1976. Young Peter was born three weeks after they moved. He was joined by sister Carrie in 1978.

ARCO next took the young family to Cleveland in 1979. They settled in Hudson and found Christ Church, a welcoming and comfortable space. The children grew up, were confirmed, and finally Shirley was confirmed, in 1996, by Bishop Arthur Williams. (There’s a group photo in the church library.)

Shirley started a wallpapering company, which is still in business. She has expanded to include interior design consulting. Peter worked for Pennzoil for a few years as national accounts manager. In 1986, he purchased Beaver Petroleum, which distributes petroleum products to homes and businesses. Their son Peter is now the president of the company; his dad checks in regularly, when he’s not playing golf.

The Eells became snow birds in 2018, spending winters in Savannah, GA, and coming back for Christmas. Shirley returns for her interior design clients. From May through October, you will find Shirley greeting and serving as crucifer. She is also active in the altar guild and the reception committee. She has been a vestry member and a wedding coordinator. She loves to host coffee hour. Peter has also served on vestry and the Finance Committee (former chair). He is a frequent usher. When not involved in church work, they like to golf, garden, and entertain family and friends in their home. Peter and Shirley have six grandchildren, from age 20 to 10, in Hudson (son Peter) and Charlotte, NC (daughter Carrie).

Peter (the finance committee guy) would like to see the annual budget increase sufficiently to hire an assistant priest. Shirley feels quite content - “I think we are where we’re supposed to be at this moment.” She hopes that “people will continue to search us out.” We hope that she’ll be there to greet them.






Christ Church Episcopal

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www.christchurchhudson.com

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[https://www.facebook.com/
ChristChurchHudson](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchHudson)

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Charlie.knuth@christchurchhudson.org

Affiliated Clergy

The Rev. Allan Belton, Priest
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Grossoehme, Priest
The Rev. Gretchen Green, Deacon

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Russ Gaippe, Sexton
Norma Harbison, Housekeeping
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping
Matt Baker, A/V Technician
Amber Lambing, Nursery Attendant
Courtney Hood, Nursery Attendant

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Theresa Edwards, Jr. Warden:
theresacedwards1@hotmail.com
Cathy Agnor
Sallie Bear
Courtney Bixby
Andrew Le
Lori Metoki
Malcolm Robbie
Rich Wilson

**Christ Church Hudson
is a Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
www.dohio.org**

Save the Date!



RELATIONSHIPS BUILD HOPE

**First Serve Day of Service
Sunday, September 7**

Christ Church is once again participating in First Serve, a one-day mission event that brings together people from area churches to serve the greater Akron community. Projects range from painting and gardening to organizing donations and helping in schools—there’s something for every age and ability. Registration begins on August 1st at www.joinfirstserve.org