

August Updates 2025



2025 Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School

This year, Emmanuel “**hosted**” Bluffton’s community vacation Bible school, which was held at the Bluffton Family YMCA for the 2nd year. Several churches involved in BAMA worked together to provide the kids with an experience that took them through ancient Egypt focusing on the journey of the Bible hero, Joseph. Some important numbers from the week include: **15** youth volunteers, **90** participants, **\$600** raised for the Bluffton Lions Club to be put toward the all-abilities playground being installed at the brand new Legacy Park soccer complex in Bluffton.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year’s VBS—whether you supported behind the scenes, stepped up to a leadership role, or gave generously—your hard work and dedication made this year a wonderful success!



VBS 2025 “Rosetta” Tribe



From the desk of the Pastor

What a Summer this has been! I hope this message finds you well and staying cool in this heat. The farmers tell me the weather has been great for the corn and beans, but as a human being who enjoys nice and comfortable summer days, I sure hope that corn tastes great.

As for an update for our congregations, I would like to start by thanking both Emmanuel and St. John's for providing me with the opportunity to take sabbatical in the month of June. I know many of you were thinking I spent the entire time away in Pennsylvania, however we only spent the first week there and returned to Ohio for the remainder of the month. While I was in Pennsylvania I was able to connect with some friends I have not seen in many years from my college days, took an unplanned trip to HersheyPark, the first place I ever worked as a high school student, and returned to Lancaster Theological Seminary in order to visit the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society Museum on the third floor of the Phillip Schaff Library to conduct research on our two historic congregations.

Many of you would be surprised, as I was, that they have a file on each of our congregations filled with some of our milestones over the years. I will be sharing this research with you all on an upcoming date TBD following a joint worship service in the future. While I did not find anything earthshattering, I did find some artifacts and images worth seeing. As I mentioned the remainder of the month was spent in Ohio with a family trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Sandusky, a silent retreat spent at the Jesuit Spiritual Retreat Center of Milford Ohio, and an impromptu trip to see a hot air balloon festival in Ashland. By the end of the month I was more than prepared to return to our church families and my responsibilities in service to Emmanuel and St. John's.

On June 29th Emmanuel hosted our Annual Church Picnic, following a joint worship service and then, not missing a beat, on June 30th I began preparing for our Community Vacation Bible School hosting responsibilities in July. It was a joy to join the team who had already put in a month's worth of work and more as we prepared for July 13th-17th at the Bluffton Family YMCA to head to Egypt in order to learn about Joseph and his amazing experience with God. Having traveled to Egypt as part of my Seminary experience I was very excited to share with the children what it was

like inside of the Great Pyramids in Cairo and how my camel ride around the Pyramids was so much fun. A few of the kids didn't believe me, but after confirming that I was there they seemed amazed. With 90+ children in attendance through the week, 15+ teenagers and young adult volunteers, and an untold number of adult volunteers from our local BAMA congregations, it was a great success. I look forward to see what St. John's has instore for us next year as they take on the hosting in 2026.

As we look to the month of August, I have a family vacation coming up to visit some more family in Myrtle Beach, SC, St. John's is gearing up (pun intended) for a bicycle swap, another family bike ride is scheduled for August 30th, a fellowship trip has been scheduled for that same Saturday to watch the Toledo Mud Hens, and we have one final Summer joint worship service on August 31st. In the meantime, both congregations are raising funds for a BAMA Back-to-School mission for the 25-26 school year, Emmanuel continues to have success on the softball field with our congregations joining together to defend our title for the 3rd year in a row (4 total years of championship), and, as ever, our service to this community continues with our various other missions and outreach.

We have been blessed these past few years to have such wonderful people gathering together to worship, to serve, to do mission, and to express the love of God to the community of Bluffton, the surrounding area, and the various missions we support who serve the country and the world. I know that the Summer months always experiences a dip in our weekly attendance numbers, but I hope to see many of your return as the Summer draws to a close.

Thank you and may God's blessings be upon you all,
Pastor Jeremy



August 3rd
Luke 12:13-21

August 24th
Luke 13:10-17

August 10th
Hebrews 11:1-16

August 31st
Luke 14:7-14

August 17th
Luke 12:49-56

Confirmation class will be starting in September. Confirmation class will be starting up in September. If you have a child between the 8th and 12th grad who would be interested in joining the class please let Pastor Jeremy by September 1

John 8:31-32 "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

As has been discussed many times in the past, the septic system is in dire need of updating. Consistory has been working with the EPA on a plan to address our needs in the most affordable and appropriate manner. At the recommendation of the EPA, we are working with a local contractor to pursue installing a holding tank which will be emptied on a regular basis. Due to physical space constraints, the EPA will not approve any other path forward at this time.

The cost of installing and maintaining the holding tank will be significantly less than installing a whole new septic system and should be covered by the current capital campaign funds. If there are any questions about this update, please reach out to Erin Burkholder.

***Join St. John's and Emmanuel UCC
at the Toledo MudHens Game***

Saturday, August 30th
7:05p.m. against the St. Paul Saints
Tickets are \$14.00

Members of Emmanuel UCC children's tickets are free

Deadline to Sign up is August 17





Pastor Jeremy will be on vacation August 2 – August 9

You can call the church with general questions
419-358-1561 or Jaret Geiser 419-957-1319
while Pastor Jeremy is away.

Mike Noggle pastor of Pleasant View Church
can be contacted for emergency pastoral needs
419-306-7248

Women's Outreach

Women's Outreach will be meeting Sunday, August 17 following worship to
plan for upcoming year. Come with some ideas to share

10 people attended our game afternoon July 21

Rummikub and Five Crowns card game was played.

Everyone put a few pieces of a puzzle that shared the words

When we put our problems in God's hands,

He puts His peace in our hearts

Emmanuel Softball Schedule

August 3 - 3:00pm **Emmanuel** against SRK Ohio Team 2

August 10 - 4:00pm **Emmanuel** against Bad News Bears

August 17 - Softball tournaments at Village Park

(Times TBA)



August



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wed. Thurs. Friday Sat.

Allen County Fair August 15-23		August 31 worship 10:30am and potluck at St. John's			1	2 Pastor gone
3 Worship 10:30 Pastor gone	4 Office opened 8-1 Pastor gone	5 Pastor gone	6 Office opened 8-1 Pastor gone	7 Pastor gone	8 Pastor gone	9 Pastor gone
10 Worship 10:30	11 Consistory 6:30pm Office opened 8-1	12	13 Office opened 8-1	14	15	16
17 Worship 10:30 Women's Outreach	18 Office opened 8-1	19 Senior Citizens day at the fair (60 and older)	20 Office opened 8-1	21	22 Veterans admitted free at the fair	23
24 31 Worship 10:30	25 Office opened 8-1	26	27 Office opened 8-1	28	29	30

*****Joint Service on August 31 at St. John's. *****
Potluck to follow

August Birthdays

08/02 Rose Burkholder
Dyllan Worcester

08/03 Lee Caskie
Sharl Steiner

08/05 Lucy Mann
Keri Caskie
Kim Lehman

08/07 Sara Jane Matter

08/08 Bill Locke

08/10 Deanna Hackworth
Kim Worcester

08/11 Chris Ruhlen
Larry Shepler

08/13 Riley Stark

08/14 Aaron Lutz

08/16 Brandy Aller

08/25 Alexis Mummert

08/26 Jaelyn Caskie

08/29 John Motter

08/31 Levi Shepler
Sherry Stratton

HAPPY

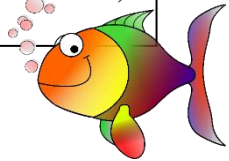


BIRTHDAY

Leftover fish for sale from March fish fry

Small bag - \$18.00 (16-18 pcs 2 1/2 lb)

Large bag \$35.00 (twice as much 5 lb)



Community Bike Swap

Saturday, August 16, 9:00am to 2:00pm

Parking lot behind the Farmers Market

If you have a bike that is cluttering your garage that you would like to donate to another child or your child has outgrown their bike and needs another one.

Swapping bikes so everyone can benefit.

Sponsored by St. John's UCC

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**NOTE:
TIME CHANGE
STARTING
September 7, 2025
WORSHIP
9:00AM**



Celebrating - Sunday, Sept. 14
Rally Day
(Kick off to Faith Formation classes)
Worship 9:00am
Communion
Recognition of membership
50 years +
Becky Leiber



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
	1 Labor Day Office closed	2 Office opened 8-1	3 Office opened 8-1	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:00am	8 Consistory 6:30pm Office opened 8-1	9	10 Office opened 8-1	11	12	13
14 Worship 9:00am Rally Day Communion	15 Office opened 8-1	16	17 Office opened 8-1	18	19	20
21 Worship 9:00am	22 Office opened 8-1	23	24 Office opened 8-1	25	26	27
28 Worship 9:0am	29 Office opened 8-1	30				

September Birthdays

09/01 Alexis White
09/06 Brad Fruchey
 Collin Moser
 Wesley Moser
 Maxwell Moser
09/12 Griffin Stackhouse
09/19 Lois Goodman
09/20 Cassie Weyer
 Kristi Owsley
09/22 Zoey Cottrell
09/24 Ivy Shepler
09/27 Jackson Bowlus



Other News

Teacher Position for Release Time/Weekday Christian Education

Release Time/Weekday Christian Education Board of Bluffton is seeking to fill a teaching position in its Elementary School program, specifically 4th grade classes. This position consists of approximately four, 30 minute classes per week (right now it is scheduled with two on Tuesday and two on Wednesday afternoons). The program runs weekly from the third week in September through the second week of May and is a paid position. Curriculum is provided. The teacher would work closely with the other three teachers.

A teaching degree is not required but Christian Education teaching experience would be preferred. The applicant is expected to be a committed Christian with a heart for children and willingness to work with children from varied denominational backgrounds as well as no church background. The applicant must have a desire to carry out the Christian Education program mission to give children a dynamic understanding of God through Jesus Christ, His Son, and thus create a desire to respond to faith in love, responsible living, purposeful service and Christian witness. If interested in the teaching position, please contact Mark Yoder, President (419-236-5172) or Janice Basinger, (419-296-5041) for questions or an application.

We will be updating our membership roster, one call system and directory to keep things current.

Below is a paper to fill out and can be dropped off in the church office, mailed back to Emmanuel, or information emailed back. Thank you for helping to keep this information up to date.

August 2025 (You can tear this sheet off and return)

Greetings from Emmanuel United Church of Christ. We have been updating and reviewing our membership roster, one call system and directory. (You do not have to be a member to fill this contact information out)

Contact information can be mailed to Emmanuel UCC, 8375 Phillips Rd. Bluffton, OH 45817, or emailed emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com. We send you our love, support, friendship and prayers wherever you are in your journey with Christ.

Contact information:

Name

Address

phone number

email

If you would like to continue on our one call please update the information below (otherwise you will be taken off if you are on it and we do not hear back)

phone number

announcements – yes or no (please circle one)

prayer – yes or no (please circle one)

Women's Outreach – yes or no (please circle one)

Please also help us by checking and returning the statement below which reflects your membership wishes and intentions.

_____ I wish to keep my membership at Emmanuel United Church of Christ and to continue my involvement through participation and/or contributions.

_____ I am now a member of _____ Church
in _____ and no longer wish to be a member of Emmanuel
United Church of Christ.

_____ I would like a phone call or visit from Pastor Jeremy.

_____ Please remove my name from Emmanuel UCC membership.

_____ I would like to receive a weekly message "On the Same Page" written by Pastor
Jeremy by either mail or email

Thank you for taking time to help us in updating our membership, one call and directory information.

In Christian love,
Emmanuel UCC Consistory

