

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

October 2022 Newsletter



Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love
endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 99:4-5

PASTORS PAGE

It has been 7, almost 8, months since Emmanuel and St. John's made an historic decision to share a Pastor once more and no matter where I go or what group I am with I always hear the same question, "How's it going with two churches?". My response, "So far so good.". I would be lying if I said it has not been difficult at times and challenging at others. I am certainly more tired on a Sunday afternoon and evening, however my family has been very supportive in offering time for "daddy rest," as Lucy likes to call it. I have not, however, rested in trying to better know the congregation of St. John's, find a balance between the two with regards to the logistics of things like Holiday Worship, New Membership, and even Congregational/Annual Meetings, and accustom myself with the two very different leadership models.

All in all I do believe that this has been a very positive move for both congregations and I continue to look forward to the possibilities of the future. Emmanuel is looking at another Fall Festivities Day in October and Fall Fish Fry in November, the dates for which I have already been asked by many members of our community who look forward our bi-annual meal. It is exciting to know that we will once again have the dine-in or carry-out options available with the inclusion of some more fryers which have been donated to us in order that we might keep up with the demand. In the springtime our carry-out orders almost doubled our dine-in orders, freeing up space and time for those who crave fellowship, while also providing meals for those who are not able to make it for the full dine-in experience. 'The Wait' has always been our biggest challenge and with this new model of operation in place we have drastically cut down on that wait time. We will be looking for a big volunteer push in November and I know this congregation will respond well to that as it always has.

Another opportunity for this congregation to rise to the occasion will be in preparation for the holidays and our annual Buckeye Candy Sale. Along with members of the community looking for those Fish Fry dates, we have also established ourselves in the Christmas Season as being a great source for some wonderfully tasty Buckeye treats, and so people are asking if we are planning on selling them again. By happy circumstance our Grand Master General of Buckeyes, Sherry Stratton, and her Chocolate and Peanut Butter platoon will be busy preparing for the wedding of Emily Stratton and so will be unavailable at the time of baking this year. Thankfully, members of the consistory, Jesse Owsley and Logan Fruchey, have stepped up to keep our great fundraiser going and will need some volunteers to help. This has, and will always be, a fundraiser of the Congregation, much like the Fish Fry. We will need everyone who can to step up and fill-in where needed this year in December.

As for our worship plans this holiday season, both congregations have agreed to have a joint worship service on Sunday, December 18th at Emmanuel beginning at 10:30 for our Youth Christmas Program and then a joint worship service on Sunday, December 25th at St. John's beginning at 10:30 in order to accommodate for holiday plans and for the health of your pastor, who doesn't necessarily relish the idea of 4 services in 24 hours' time ☺.

And finally, the leadership of both congregations continue to look for ways to serve the community of Bluffton and have provided new commitments to our local Release Time Program. Both consistory's will be donating \$150 for the purpose of paving the way for students to attend Release Time and supporting this 90+ year old program of which we have been a part from its conception. With this financial commitment we join with the other congregations in our community who are making similar commitments as we have all recognized and benefited from such a program among our youth. We continue to need volunteer walkers for this program, which has moved locations to Bluffton First United Methodist Church across the road from its previous location at First Mennonite. I would ask that you continue to keep the Release Time Program in your prayers and thank you all for the ways in which you have supported it through the years.

I look forward to seeing you all this Fall!

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy

LOOK WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!

Rally Day

After church Sunday, September 12 the day was filled will food, chicken sandwiches, sloppy joes, Dietsch ice cream, and lots of other good food brought in. The cake walk was enjoyed by all. There were games for all ages. Thanks to all who made the day a great kick-off to the faith formation classes start up.

We also celebrated 50 year membership class on Rally Day
(John Fritschi, and other 50+ year members were recognized)

Romans 12:4-5

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.



October 2nd
Luke 17:5-10

October 16th
Luke 18:1-8

October 9th
Luke 17:11-19

October 23rd
Luke 18:9-14

October 30th
Luke 19:1-10

Prayer list

- Janice Brewster
- Fred Andrews
- Sean Burrell
- Bob & Terri Wilch
- Amy Muniz
- Jeta Fruchey
- Weekday Release Time

The National Office of United Church of Christ has moved and are having a Community Open House on Wednesday, October 19, 2:00-5:00pm
1300 East 9th Street,
Suite 1100
Cleveland, OH 44114

Registration required
www.ucc.org/openhouse

We would like to Welcome Summer McClouskey, a graduate of Allen East HS. Summer is an Early Education Major at Bluffton University who will be observing our youth Faith Formation classes this fall semester

October 2

October Happenings



Noisy Collection w/monies going to the Lion's Club and Foundation

Trip to Crossroads Ft Wayne, In

Monday, October 17 leaving at 8:30am from Emmanuel. Tour of Crossroad Child & Family Services. Crossroad creates promising futures for children in difficult circumstances by providing therapy, education, and family support services.

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can call the church and let us know we can get you signed up. This will be a combined trip with St. John's. We will then be having lunch in Fort Wayne (details to follow)

Join us for some Family Fun



SATURDAY, October 22

**Food, Trunk or Treat FROM
4-6PM**

**Come Dressed for Halloween!
Face Painting, Naturalist
Food and lots of fun**

Emmanuel UCC
8375 Phillips Road, Bluffton



October 30

Joint Service with St. John's

Service will be at St. John's at 10:30pm

Reverend Christina Perkins the Chaplain from Crossroad Child & Family Services will be speaking. Reverend Perkins joined Crossroad as Chaplain and Director of Religious Life Support Services in 2018. Chaplain Christina holds regular weekly worship services for interested Crossroad clients and staff members and provides a variety of religious life programming. She utilizes her connections with religious leaders in the community to provide spiritual formation for clients and staff members of all faiths.

Reverend Perkins is also a pastor in the United Church of Christ. A graduate of Berea College in Kentucky, she received her Master of Divinity degree from Campbell University in North Carolina. She is an alumna of AmeriCorps, providing literacy services in Appalachia.

A special offering will be taken up starting October 30 – November 20 to go to Crossroads. There will be a colored envelopes to put your donation in if you would like to support Crossroads.

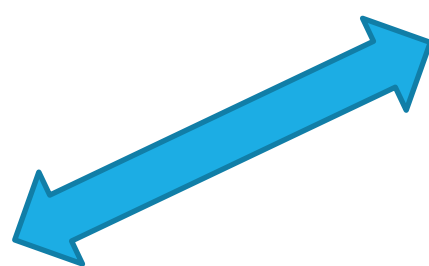
The Crossroad and
Food Collection will be
dedicated on Nov 20

**Harvest Home Collection
October 30 - November 20**

Your greatest gift is the ability
to share your blessings.

*The one who blesses others is
abundantly blessed;
those who help others are
helped.
Proverbs 11:25
(The Message Bible)*

Cereal
Chunky soups
Fixings for chili including sauce
Macaroni and cheese
Canned Mandarin oranges
Spaghetti-o's
Baked beans
Hamburger Helper
Spaghetti sauce
Packaged noodles
Personal Hygiene items
Paper products



HYGIENE
PRODUCTS

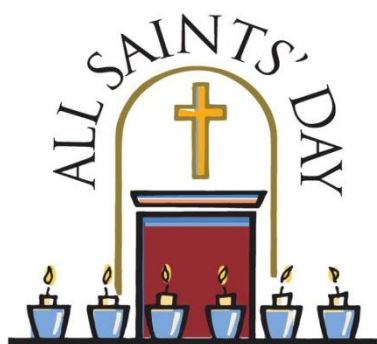
PAPER PRODUCTS



CANNED
GOODS

LAUNDRY AND
CLEANING
SUPPLIES

What's happening
in November?



Sunday, November 6

*****Emmanuel providing Community Meal Thursday, November 17*****

This will also be the Community Thanksgiving service following the meal

Mark Your Calendar
for our **FISH FRY**

**Carryout
and Dine in**

**Emmanuel United Church of Christ
8375 Phillips Rd. Bluffton, OH**

Friday: November 11

4p.m.-7p.m.



**Meal
Plate:
\$10.00**



Watch for information if you
would like to order a Poinsettia

Buckeye Orders

Oct 30 -Nov 20

Help will be needed to make
buckeyes. Please take time to
come out and share in the fun even if it is
only for a while. Some of our regular folks
that help with this will not be able to help so
let's keep this going.

Buckeye making Friday evening December 2
and Saturday December 3



Hanging of the Greens

November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18

(Joint Service with St. John's during Worship Service)

at Emmanuel

10:30am service time

Practice times Dec 3, 10, 17 in the morning Times TBA

all children welcome



December 24 Christmas Eve Service

6:00pm Service at Emmanuel (Nursery provided)

9:00pm Service at St. John's (No Nursery provided)

December 25 Worship Service

Joint Service

10:30am at St. John's



Emmanuel UCC Financial Update

Incoming monies for the months of

June, July, August

June – 7,260.17.37

July – 8,675.99

August – 9,211.66

Current Fund \$63,429.07

YTD Income \$68,020.37

YTD Expenses \$68,230.00

Benevolence Fund

YTD Income \$2,958.76

YTD Expenses \$3,500.00

Overall Income/Expense

YTD Income \$113,691.00

YTD Expenses \$94,282.28