

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
October 2023 Newsletter



THE FALL SEASON IS THE TIME WE HARVEST THE CROPS AND PREPARE FOR WINTER.
BIBLICAL PHRASE "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW"

God inspired Paul to write: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" ([Galatians 6:7-9](#)).

As another church calendar year begins I find myself excited about the things we have accomplished and the things are working toward in the future. We have continued a wonderful partnership in ministry with St. John's UCC in town having now had another opportunity to gather over the summer for an outdoor service and church picnic, a more recent presentation at an impromptu joint worship service at St. John's with Barb Plaucher sharing her missionary work and ministry, and successful work in supporting local ministries like the Bluffton Community Assistance Program through the Bluffton Food Bank and Weekday Christian Education or Release Time. Going forward this partnership will see another joint worship service this month as well as some joint worship services during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

When we look to the future, our congregation will have the opportunity to serve the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Community Meal this year, our Fall Fish Fry already has some inner workings churning and the community is abuzz with anticipation as I get the question, "When is the next fish fry?" all the time when I'm out, our Fall Festivities Day and Trunk-or-Treat is beginning to shape up and will have the addition of St. John's assistance, our annual Christmas Buckeyes fundraiser will once again happen this year, and our Christmas Program will be hosted here at Emmanuel in December.

Were we to rewind time and go back before a Global Pandemic our congregation was very excited about the successful mission trip we took to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Our work with the Meals on Wheels of Lancaster County was trend setting for them as they invited at least two more volunteer groups, that I know of, to do similar work after we had left. Going to the clients homes and meeting the other needs they had was very welcome and eye opening, not only for those who serve in Lancaster, but also for those who were able to go on the trip. At that time I had established the idea that every 2 years we would take a mission trip, alternating between a smaller "local trip" somewhere in Ohio and a larger "abroad trip" somewhere out of state, not know that there would be a great challenge to this plan.

On the other side of the Global Pandemic, yet still with valid concerns, we find ourselves to be in a position to pick this program up once more. There have been quite a few questions and interested parties in this missional work and so this winter I will be looking for help to research possible smaller "local trip" options for a Mission Trip in 2024. I would imagine that Emmanuel would be planning this trip, while inviting members of St. John's to join. Funds for that trip would come from our respective congregations' collections and Missions funds, however, more importantly, our work would be meaningful and our connections would be strengthened with one another again. Please keep your ears pealed and calendars open to this ministry for 2024 if you think you would be interested.

Finally, I have always said that this quarterly message would serve as a finger on the "pulse" of the congregation for me and I would say at this time that we are quite healthy considering all that we have faced in the past few years. We might identify that our numbers in attendance have not returned to "pre-covid" status, however with our service being online our analytics have shown that anywhere from 4 to 10 others have joined us from week to week online. Also, those numbers only show us the number of computers accessing, not the total viewing the screen at the time, which could make the number even higher. Even so, we are not at the 50 to 60 from before, or even the 70 to 80 from decades ago. I assure you, we are not alone in this. Every

congregation, in our community of Bluffton, outside of our community in Bluffton, everyone is proclaiming the same thing.

How do we change this? The same way we have always changed such a thing, invite your friends and your family to attend. Let them know about the work we are doing and the ways in which they might be able to join us. Get excited about what you are doing and seeing. Talk about your faith. Talk about your faith community. Everyone is looking for the same thing in this world, a place to belong. A place to call home. Our doors are open and there is a place for others to join us, but they don't know that they can come unless you invite them. So let's keep doing what we do best, let us continue finding new ministries and missions, and let us spread the Gospel to all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy



October 1st

Matthew 21:23-32

October 8th

Matthew 21:33-46

October 15th

Matthew 22:1-14

October 23rd

Matthew 22:15-22

October 30th

Matthew 22:34-46

Prayer list

Janice Brewster

Carolyn Shaw

Sean Burrell

Bob Wilch

Terri Wilch

Amy Muniz

Gene & Gerry Fett



There are leaves at the back of the church. Please take one and write something on the leaf you are thankful for and hang it on the board at the back of the church. If you get a leaf in the mail you can mail it back to the church or I would be glad to come and pick it up, just call the church.

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

Emmanuel News

Thanks to all who helped organize and clean the shelter house.

Georgia Arlene Owsley

7lbs. 2 oz.

20" long

Born at 4:29pm

Parents: Jesse & Kristi

Owsley

Address: 9860 N Dixie Hwy

Bluffton, OH 45817

Congratulations !
On your new arrival !



Has anyone seen the long stapler? (It is not a regular stapler, it is extra long, see below). It is used to staple the middle of pages. It is missing from the church office.



October Happenings



Neighbors in Need Offering through the month of October

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of compassion and justice in the United States of America.

This year the focus is on environmental justice. See bulletin board for more information in regards to this mission. (Envelopes are available on the back table if you would like to give to this mission)

Join us for some Family Fun



SATURDAY, October 21

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



Sunday, October 29 – Emmanuel and St. John’s
Worshipping together at St. John’s 10:30am
followed by a potluck meal

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

Food Collection starts
November 5

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



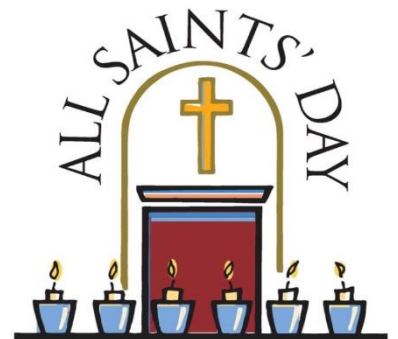
If you are able to help out with the Faith Formation for kids on Sunday mornings during 9:00am worship please check with Julie Oberly or Renee Caskie. We will send you the link to the google doc for you to sign up. Material is all ready to go.

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it”
Proverbs 22:6 (English Standard Version)

What's happening
in November?

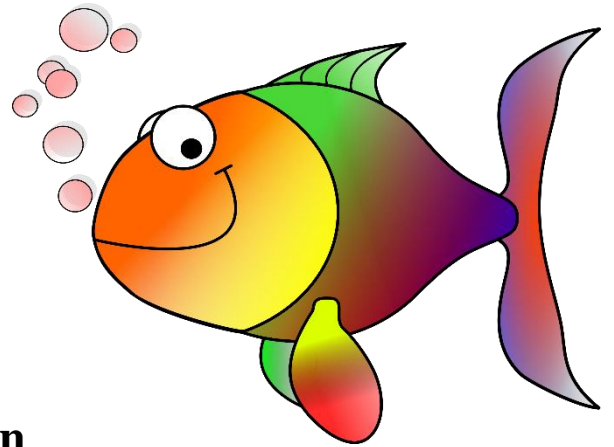
Sunday, November 5

Mark Your Calendar



FISH FRY

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
8375 Phillips Rd. Bluffton, OH
Friday: November 10 4p.m.-7p.m.
\$12.00



**Carryout (limited menu) fish, potatoes, green
beans, applesauce and cookie
or Dine in**

*******Emmanuel providing Community Meal Thursday, November 16*******

This will also be the Community Thanksgiving service following the meal

Buckeye Orders will be starting
Nov 5



Consistory News

As we prepare for next year's consistory board, there will be an open deacon position to fill. Please prayerfully consider if this position might be a way you could help the church out.

Thank you to the many people who have voluntarily served faithfully in these roles and continue to serve.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.” I Corinthians 12:12

Emmanuel UCC Financial Update

Current Fund

YTD Income \$76,786.19

YTD Expenses \$66,931.23

Budget \$65,773.60

Benevolence Fund

YTD Income \$2,990.00

YTD Expenses \$3,500.00

Overall Income/Expense

YTD Income \$94,293.12

YTD Expenses \$103,049.97

There are pictures on tables in the fellowship hall. These pictures are of previous Christmas programs and Easter pictures and various other events. These pictures will be left out through the month of October. After that they will be gone.

October is
clergy
appreciation
month







October 2023 Emmanuel UCC Calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Worship 1 Communion Jared Burkholder	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 8	9 Consistory 6:30pm Amy New	10 Nancy Steiner Sawyer Fruchey	11 Chad Parkins	12 Randy Matter	13	14 Andrew Reichley
Worship 15 Women's Outreach following worship Onalee Shepler	16 Erin Burkholder Brian Klene	17 Jane Agner	18	19 Canda Schmutz Colton Fruchey	20 Ron Luginbuhl	21 Fall Festival Trunk or Treat 4:00-6:00pm
Worship 22	23	24	25	26 Hank Neeper	27	28 Kendra Cottrell Ashley Sickles
Worship 29	30 Rachel Mummert		Neighbors in Need Offering the month of October			


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Bluffton OH

 Twitter: EmmanuelUCC Bluffton
(@EmmanuelUCC1561)

 <http://www.emmanueluccbluffton.com/>

(Today's and past Sermons can be heard on the
Emmanuel UCC Bluffton website under media)

 Instagram #EmmanuelUcc

E-Mail: emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com

Consistory Members 2023

Elders

Ron Geiser - Secretary

Amy Muniz

Jaret Geiser – Vice President

Kelli Fruchey

Deacons

Logan Fruchey - President

Nick Shepler

Sara Music

Jerilyn Neeper

Teresa Pinks – Financial Secretary

Kristen Parkins - Treasurer

