

Emmanuel United Church of Christ October 2025 Newsletter



Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
Hebrews 11:1-3

From the desk of the Pastor

As I am writing this message, it is the first full day of the Fall season, which is hard to imagine as we continue to experience 80 and 90 degree days. The Summer season was full of activity and new mission as Emmanuel hosted this year's Community Vacation Bible School, celebrating and learning about Joseph's Journey in Egypt, while the St. John's Bike Ministry found a new passion in offering a Bike Swap Meet during a Saturday Farmer's Market here in Bluffton. From that mission they were even able to forge a new covenantal partnership with Lima's *The Wheelhouse: A Christian Bicycle Cooperative*, who will help to teach us how to refurbish and refit bikes in preparation for new owners.

It never ceases to amaze me that God places opportunities and resources before us each and every year to learn together, grow together, and experience ministry together in new and impactful ways. As we look forward to another busy Fall and Winter filled with such opportunities, it is important to recognize that even our annual events play an important role in the shaping of the Kingdom of God here in Bluffton and surrounding area. For example, I am looking forward to our Fall Festivities Day at Emmanuel in October. This year we will continue to reach out to the community and expand our event to local businesses by offering a safe, friendly, and welcoming environment for local families to get dressed up for the Halloween occasion, sharing some good food, music, games, and, of course, candy! Every year we hear comments from the community about their appreciation for our outreach and the low-pressure opportunities we provide for their children to experience 'trick-or-treat'. And as soon as one leaf is found on the ground at our house, my children are already planning and discussing what they will dress up as for the church event.

At St. John's we continue to improve upon our outreach and will be installing a new electronic sign to replace the lighted one currently on our beautiful front lawn. While the landscaping around St. John's is not nearly as extensive as Emmanuel and their countryside view, the flowers, plants, and trees will become even more noticeable with our newly installed form of community outreach. The sign, while seemingly functional only in providing information, will be a flexible and attractive way by which to spread the Gospel of Jesus into our community and draw the eyes of that community to our open doors. Like many churches in small communities all around the country, stagnant activity suggests there is no activity and, therefore, the church is not actively worshiping or serving. While the members know this to be a falsehood, the greater community begins to sink those congregations into the

background and people begin to walk by noticing nothing but ‘the white church on the corner.’

With our new sign in place, we will express our activity and our outreach in new, exciting, and meaningful ways that will let them know who we are, why we are here, and how others might join us in our engagement with the Word of God. I very much look forward to finding ways in which to use this new improvement to strengthen our ministry here in Bluffton. That being said, and this goes for both congregations, one of the ways in which we strengthen the church is by participating, attending, and serving in dedicated and consistent ways. When I go back and read the comments previous ministers have made in their columns, reports, and letters to the congregation, attendance is *always* a concern. Even during my Sabbatical research, I read a comment from a minister in the 1800’s who expressed concern that only 12 of the 17 members of the church were in attendance on Christmas Eve. I bet one family was missing, but even that was enough to notice and make comment. I know that we are all busy, I know we all have other commitments and plans in this life, but I encourage you to make attendance at worship a priority just like any other, if not more of a priority than any other. It has nothing to do with how “Chrisitan” you are or are not, how “Faithful” you are or are not, how “Committed” or “Devoted” you are or are not. Regular worship, habitual worship, is about dedicated time with your God and with your Church Family. Yes, you can be connected with the divine anywhere you go and yes, you may see those same people out in public from time to time, but taking the time to sit with one another, to commune with one another, to worship with one another, cannot be replaced with a simple check-in on social media and prayer out the door.

If you’ve gotten out of the habit of attending, then this is a great time to get back into that habit. If your schedule is simply busy in this season, then make the commitment, and follow through with that commitment, that when this season has come to an end, you will return. Because in a small congregation, in a small church family, your presence is missed. Not because you are a number on the attendance line, but because you are loved, you are supported, and your absence is felt in the hearts of others. Come and let us share together in the ministry with our community and with one another. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Pastor Jeremy



Prayer list

September 5
Luke 17:5-10

September 12
Luke 17:11-19

September 19
Luke 18:1-8

September 26
Luke 18:9-14

Emmanuel News

Sean Burrell
Larry & Val Eikenbary
Eddie Shepler
Sherri Winegardner
Travis Swank
Chad Koontz
Bill Herr
Gerry Fett

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)

October Happenings

October 5



October is clergy
appreciation
month

**October 20 The Women's Outreach will be going to
make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at Faith
Christian Church in Lima**

(Our noisy collection monies goes to this mission this year)

Faith Christian Church will be sharing with us how they got involved in this ministry and how it works.

Afterwards we will be going out to eat. We will be leaving the church at 10:00am. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



Join us for some Fall Family Fun

SATURDAY, October 25

Fall Festivities Day at Emmanuel

Sat. Oct. 25 4-6pm

How can you help?

Sign up your car for trunk or treat

Donate small pumpkins

Spread the word—all are welcome!

Emmanuel UCC

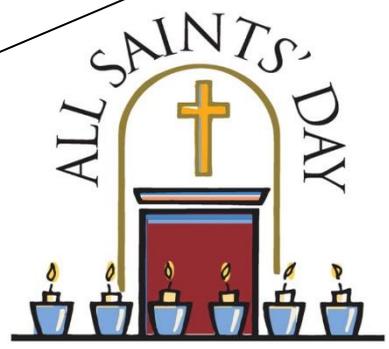
8375 Phillips Road, Bluffton

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 mental health 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)

Sunday, November 2



Remembering

Jerry Fett

November 25, 2024

Bev Osborne

March 3, 2025

Harvest Home Collection starts
November 2



November 2



The food pantry can use canned or boxed food items are always appreciated.
We've had a need recently as well for some women's hygiene, products like deodorant, lotion, shampoo, conditioner.

Consistory News

Budget & Annual Meeting November 9, after worship

(end of the year reports do not need to be in
until January)

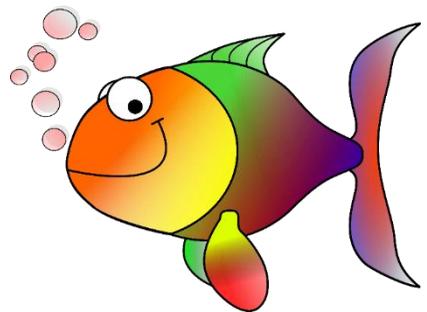
As we prepare for next year's consistory board, there will be a few open positions to fill. Please prayerfully consider if this might be a way you could help the church out. Thank you to the many people who have voluntarily and served faithfully in these roles and continue to serve.

“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

Mark Your Calendar

November 14, 4p.m.-7p.m.

FISH FRY



Emmanuel UCC Financial Update

Current Fund 8/31/2025

YTD Income \$64,052.85
YTD Expenses \$64,241.53
Budget \$68,326.00

Benevolence Fund

YTD Income \$2,735.00
YTD Expenses \$3,500.00

Overall Income/Expense

YTD Income \$98,220.06
YTD Expenses \$83,220.72

BIRTHDAYS

Jared Burkholder	10/01
John Sommers	10/03
Amy New	10/09
Nancy Steiner	10/10
Sawyer Fruchey	10/10
Chad Parkins	10/11
Randy Matter	10/12
Skyler Wehrly	10/14
Onalee Shepler	10/15
Erin Burkholder	10/16
Brian Kiene	10/16
Jane Agner	10/17
Colton Fruchey	10/19
Canda Schmutz	10/19
Ron Luginbuhl	10/20
Reed Andrews	10/22
Hank Neeper	10/26
Kendra Cottrell	10/28
Rachel Mummert	10/30





The Northwest Ohio Association
of the Heartland Conference
of the United Church of Christ
cordially invites you
to attend a service
of celebration
honoring the dedicated service
and retirement of



Reverend Daniel Busch

Sunday, October 26th at 3:00 p.m.

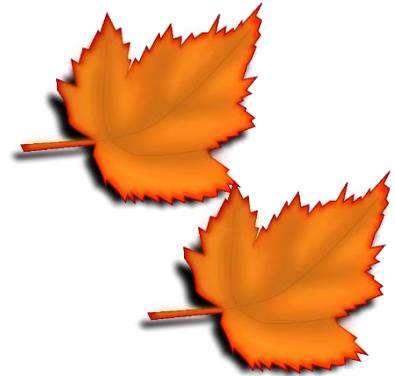
Trinity United Church of Christ
131 East Perry Street
Tiffin, OH 44883

(Refreshments immediately following the service)

Clergy are invited to robe wearing a colorful stole



October



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wed. Thurs. Friday Sat.

			1 Office opened 8-1	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:00am Communion	6 Consistory 6:30pm Office opened 8-1	7	8 Office opened 8-1	9	10	11
12 Worship 9:00am	13 Office opened 8-1	14	15 Office opened 8-1	16	17	18
19 Worship 9:00am	20 Women's Outreach Office opened 8-1	21	22 Office opened 8-1	23	24	25 Fall Festivities Day 4-6
26 Worship 9:00am	27 Office opened 8-1	28	29 Office opened 8-1	30	31	

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
8375 Phillips Rd
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-1561
emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com

Office Hours Monday & Wednesday 8am to 1pm

 Facebook: Emmanuel United Church of Christ
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