

Emmanuel United Church of Christ  
**October 2021 Newsletter**



Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. Psalm 40:5

Praise the Lord!  
Every note and voice  
For harmony on and on  
for melody too.

By Sage Music

Praise the Lord!  
For waters deep  
For travel far and  
Directions to get there.

By Kaleb Mann

The above Psalms were written during Faith Formation class (K - 5)

## PASTORS PAGE

In May of 2014 I, along with 2 dozen other colleagues, participated in the 189<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony of Lancaster Theological Seminary and completed a Master's degree which would open for me the world of ministry in the United Church of Christ. That summer I was connected with and contacted by Emmanuel UCC here in Bluffton. By September of 2014 I, along with my wife, moved 476 miles and began my ministry in a place I had never heard of, with a church family whom I have grown to love, and a community which I have grown to respect and admire.

From the very beginning I had set a goal for myself to serve this community to the best of my abilities for at least 5 years with the mindset to go further. The turnover rate for ministers in the United States has hovered around 5 years and is edging closer to 3, meaning that in only 3-5 years' time is a minister able to connect, serve, learn, and care for a church family. There are many reasons for this shift, however one major reason is due to the overworked and under-supported clergy who are being burned out by their church communities. I wanted to beat this trend. In my opinion 3-5 years is not enough time to build or form a relationship that could potentially be long lasting and extend to multiple generations of church family members.

If you have done the math for yourselves or have heard me say this many times, I have served Emmanuel for 7 years now and I *could not* have done that without **you**. The love and support which has been shown and given to me and to my growing family in this community is immeasurable, save for the comparison in the years of service which you have allowed me to give with the average turnover rate; for this I thank you and I hope to continue serving for as long as you will have me and God wills it.

On September 20, 2021 Emmanuel UCC and St. Johns UCC held a meeting between Emmanuel's consistory and St. John's search committee along with Northwest Ohio Association Minister Rev. Dan Busch to discuss a potential ministerial opportunity in Sharing a Pastor between these two historic and storied congregations. However, that meeting was many years in the potential making. During my time with you and this community I had become friends with Rev. Carol Clements, a fellow LTS graduate and German Reformed fan, Pastor of St. Johns UCC upon my arrival. A few years prior to her more recent retirement, Pastor Carol shared with me, then in confidence, that she fully intended to retire from ministry from St. Johns. "Not yet!", she would say, "but sometime in the next few years." From that moment my heart, mind, and spirit turned towards the possibility of serving both congregations in Bluffton.

How would it work? What would I need to do? What could we do together? Can I do this? Am I being called to this? Do I desire this, or is this God's will? Many questions like these have been in my mind for years now and I will tell you that I do not have the answers to them all. I have ideas, many ideas, of how this could potentially work. In my heart of hearts I have a desire for this to work, not for myself, but for the community of Bluffton. A desire for these two church families who have a shared history, one understandably not unchallenged or un-fraught with disagreements and harsh feeling/emotion, to come together in an intentional way that says the things of the past are in the past and the future is brighter together than apart.

But in every scenario in my mind, in every simulation I have played out in my dreams, none of these possibilities for ministry come to bear the fruit of the Spirit without **you**. You are the soil in which God has planted the Spirit. You are the ones called to cultivate that Spirit in order to bear good fruit. You have done this for over 160 years and in the past 7 years you have helped me to become the Pastor I am today. So if Sharing the Pastor is the future of these two congregations, then I will still need you, both of you, to continue with your love and your support. I don't know exactly what this will look like or how all of the details will be planned out, but if 476 miles didn't prevent me from finding out in 2014, then only time will tell in 2021 and beyond.

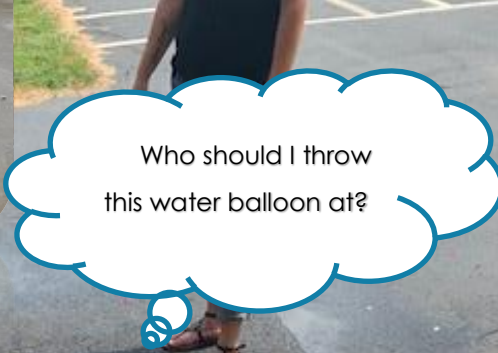
Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy

# LOOK WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!

## August Social Picnic

Women's Outreach & Congregational Life plan together for some church family fun



Sherry tried to tell Erin Bingo didn't work that way. She couldn't find the answers on the phone.



After church the day was filled with food, (chicken sandwiches, sloppy joes, noodles, diet ice cream, and lots of other good food. The cake walk was enjoyed by all. There were games for all ages.

Sunday, September 12

160 Years



Celebrated **50 year** membership class on Rally Day  
(and other 50+ year members were recognized)

Jayne (Sousley) Caskie

Emmanuel celebrated 160 years anniversary of its affiliation with the United Church of Christ on Sunday September 12. To commemorate the occasion, the congregations dedicated 160 school kits to Church World Services, which supplies kits to areas of need throughout the world. A church photo was taken with a meal that followed.



### History of 160 years

Originally formed in 1842 in a log school building as Riley Creek Church, the congregation was independent until **1861** when it became the German Reformed Society, and adopted the constitution of German Reformed Church in the United States.

In 1957 Emmanuel became a member of the United Church of Christ with the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches.

Emmanuel twice has been destroyed by the elements, once by windstorm and most recently the Palm Sunday tornado in 1965. The early 1800s building was the first brick church in Richland Township. The second brick church was completed in 1903 and served until the tornado struck in April 1965.

The current building was dedicated September 18, 1966 and served more than 50 years.

(If you would like to read more about Emmanuel UCC Church history, let the church office know. we would be glad to share more interesting information.)

# October Happenings



## Congregational Meeting

October 10, 2021

### Agenda:

1. Discuss and vote on Sharing the Pastor with St. John's UCC in Bluffton

This vote will not make Pastor Jeremy St. John's pastor, it will allow the conversation to continue

*Join us for some Family Fun*



**SATURDAY, October 23<sup>th</sup>**

Food, Trunk or Treat FROM  
4-6PM

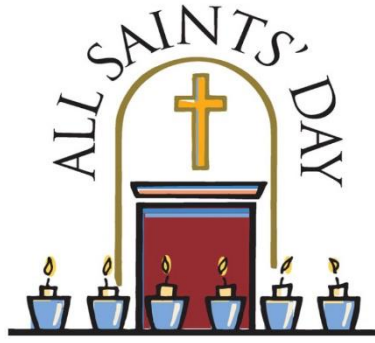
**Come Dressed for Halloween!**

Mini Golf, Face Painting  
Cookie Decorating

Emmanuel UCC  
8375 Phillips Road, Bluffton

Count the number of pumpkins in this newsletter. Put your name and your guess in the fishbowl at the back on the table. We will draw the winner for a prize October 31. Here's a hint for the prize: Pastor Jeremy said I could not give away real fish.

What's happening  
in November?



Sunday, November 7



Mark Your Calendar  
for our **FISH FRY**

Carryout Only (drive thru)

“Limited Menu”

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

8375 Phillips Rd. Bluffton, OH

Friday: November 12

4p.m.-7p.m.



Buckeye Orders Start Nov 14



Watch for information if you  
would like to order a Poinsettia

Harvest Home Collection

Starting October 24

Dedication November 21

LAUNDRY AND  
CLEANING  
SUPPLIES

CANNED  
GOODS

PAPER PRODUCTS

HYGIENE  
PRODUCTS



Your greatest gift is the ability  
to share your blessings.



Hanging of the Greens

November 28

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

# DECEMBER



**Christmas Dinner Meal  
December 12  
(Ham Provided)**

**Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 19**  
(During Worship Service)



\*\*\*\*\*Emmanuel providing Community Meal Thursday, December 16\*\*\*\*\*

*Praying the*  
**SCRIPTURES**  
elisapulliam.com

**October 3rd**  
Mark 10:2-16

**October 10th**  
Mark 10:17-31

**October 17th**  
Mark 10:35-45

**October 24th**  
Mark 10:46-52

**October 31st**  
Mark 12:28-34

Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good;  
his love endures  
forever.  
1 Chronicles 16:34

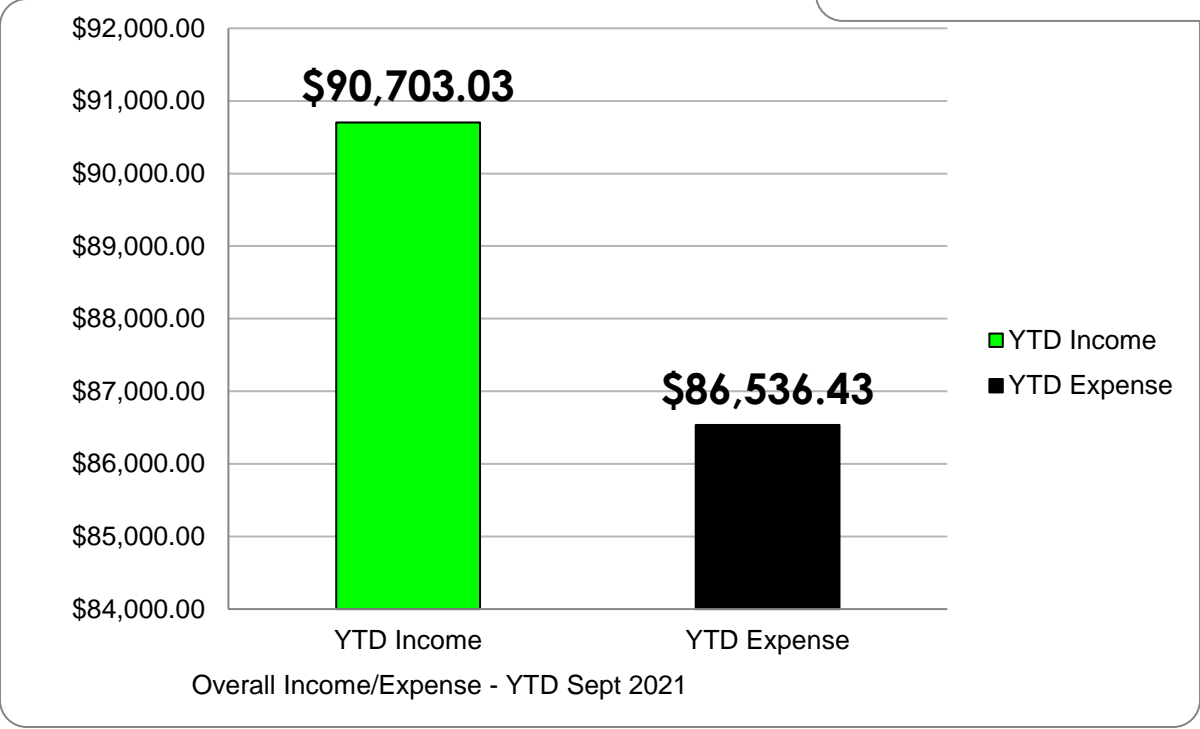
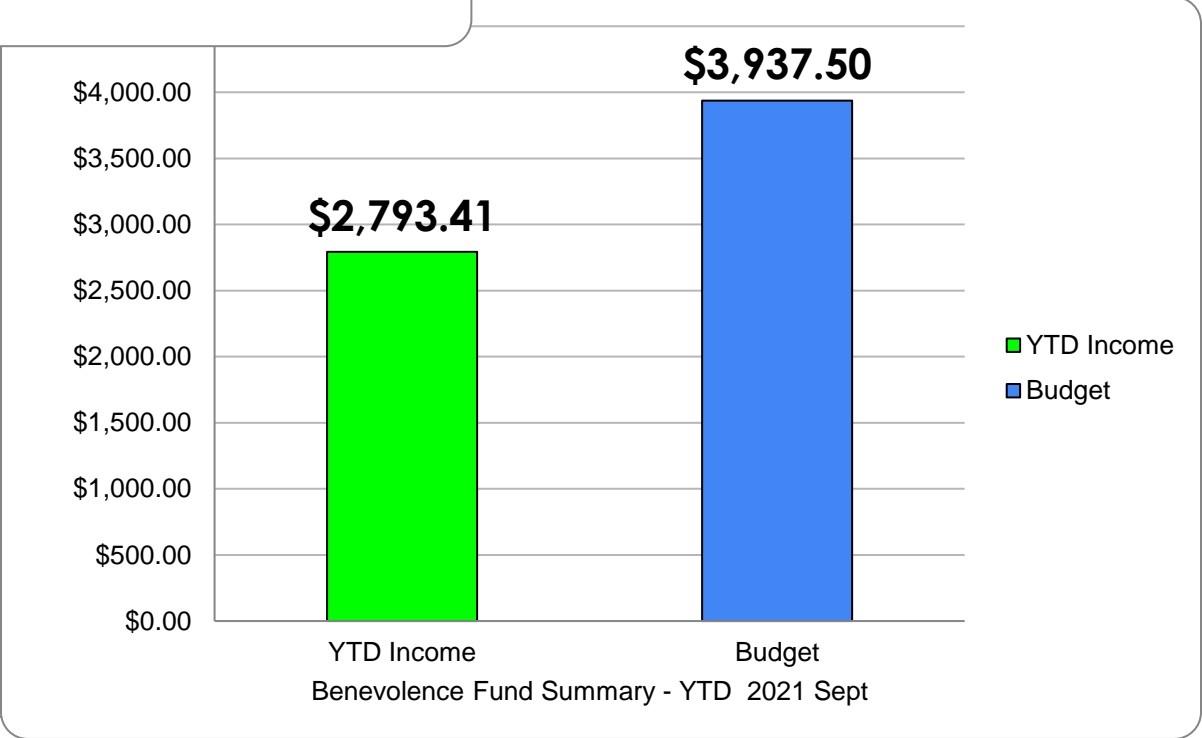
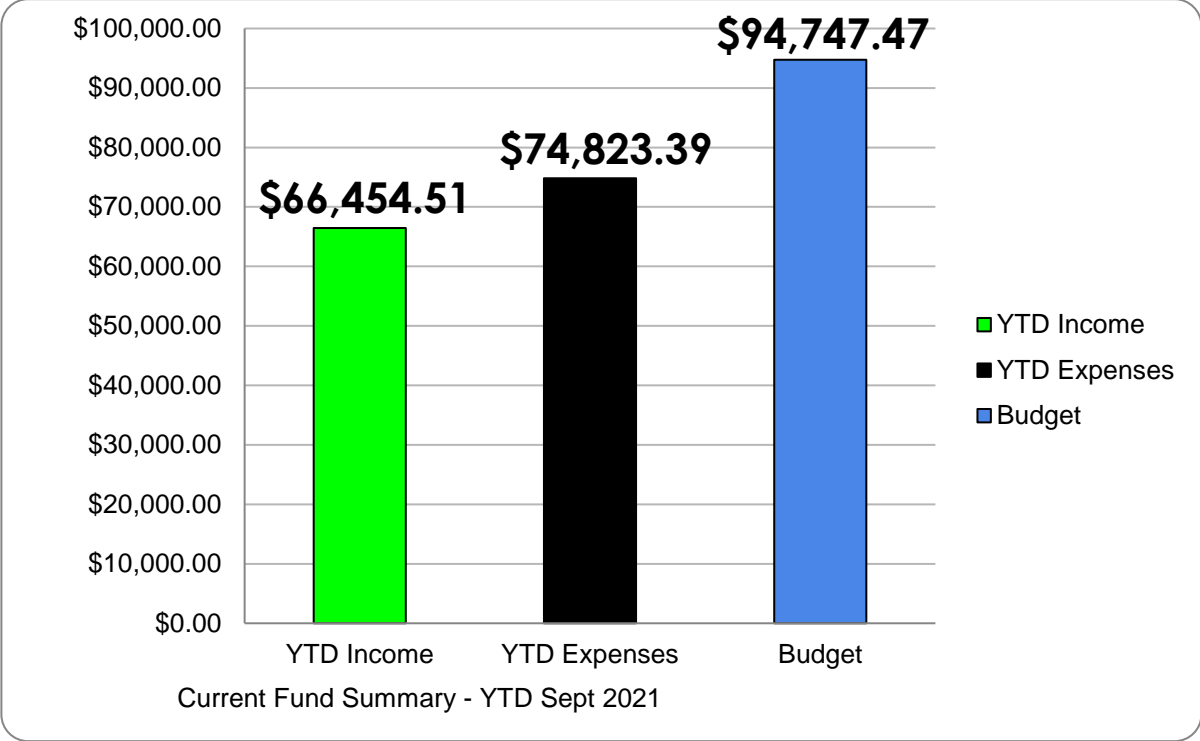


Janice Brewster	Linda Steele
Fred Arnold	Kathy Hobensack
Fred Andrews	Lane Rossman
Sean Burrell	Wyatt Sultzbach

**Prayer list**

# Emmanuel UCC Financial Update

Incoming monies for the months of  
 June, July, August  
 June – 13,133.37  
 July – 8,251.52  
 August – 9,241.83







# Fall 2021 Emmanuel UCC Calendar

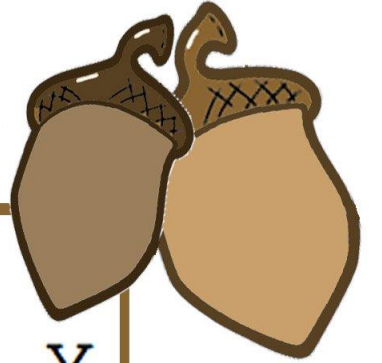
Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

					1 Jared Burkholder Brian Ruhlen	2
Worship 3 Communion Neighbors in Need Offering  John Sommers	4	5	6	7	8	9 Men's Breakfast 8:00am
Worship 10 Congregational Meeting Nancy Steiner Sawyer Fruchey	11 Consistory 6:30pm Chad Parkins	12 Randy Matter	13	14 Skyler Wehrly Andrew Reichley	15 Onalee Shepler	16 Erin Burkholder Brian Kiene
Worship 17 Jane Agner	18 Women's Outreach 7:00pm	19 Canda Schmutz Colton Fruchey	20 Ron Luginbuhl	21	22	23 Fall Festival Trunk or Treat 4:00-6:00pm
Worship 24 Worship 31	25	26 Hank Neeper	27	28 Kendra Cottrell Ashley Sickles	29	30 Lydia Skelly Rachel Mummert

# Autumn



## WORD SEARCH



E	A	X	W	A	L	R	S	T	S	T	
T	K	W	Q	U	E	E	F	G	C	N	Y
F	B	O	O	T	S	F	A	E	I	D	L
H	A	E	A	R	C	I	L	S	K	A	I
M	F	E	O	E	A	P	L	S	C	S	E
A	W	H	H	E	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
S	I	H	K	A	R	B	E	T	P	R	D
E	A	A	N	E	Y	N	M	R	O	A	C
O	R	J	X	K	V	S	N	C	G	R	Q
H	L	E	A	F	S	C	A	R	F	I	O



SCARF  
TREE  
ACORN  
HAY

APPLE  
FALL  
PUMPKIN  
SWEATER

BOOTS  
RAKE  
PIE  
LEAF

The grass withers, the  
flower fades, but the  
word of our God will  
stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8