

Emmanuel UCC

JULY

Newsletter 2021

*And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
John 8:32*



It's hard to believe that July is already upon us! Towards the beginning of the year 2021 we were all hopeful that perhaps this summer would see a return to normalcy; trips to visit family, vacations, camping, even swimming at the Bluffton pool with friends, yet it all seemed a distant memory. And now with the miracle of science, the persistence of prayer, and the perseverance of the human spirit we find ourselves on the better side of another devastating human pandemic. As an historian I have studied much of human history throughout the time periods of varying plagues. I have been fascinated by these strong willed peoples as they struggled to survive and the innovations in science which were made during their time periods. And now we have lived in such a time as that. But we face the same questions our ancestors faced when it comes to the question of, "What now?"

We have survived something which has affected many lives and if you have not personally lost someone during the past year and half from this disease, then you at least know someone who has. But what do we, as survivors, do in the aftermath? Do we return to what was normal before? What lessons have we learned and what do we take away from such a global event? Sadly it would seem that our human desire for violence has returned as there have been quite a few mass shootings, local shootings, robberies, and now cyber-attacks which have affected us in varying ways. With so few resources at hand and in the midst of pandemic it seemed like the human spirit had found its way to unity once more as we supported those on the front line. As we all wore our shirts of "Bluffton Strong", as communities came together for prayer gatherings, for drive-by graduation parties, birthday celebrations, and anniversaries. Yet as soon as we have been set free of many of the bonds which kept us apart, it would seem that the human desire for violence and hatred quickly returned.

Is this what we desire to return to? Or do we desire to return to a better place, made so by the lessons which we have all learned? Now we are not the perpetrators of such violence ourselves, certainly. I am not so naïve as to portray our time of pandemic as one of complete and peaceful tranquility either as there were plenty of riots and acts of violence during that time. Also, I do not imagine that the members of our congregation are participating in acts of intentional violence by any means, but we do find ourselves asking what role we are to serve in such a time as this. In order to find that role we must remember that we are an outlet for heartache and pain. We are called to be a safe haven for those who are weathering storms. We have all felt and been lost in our lives, uncertain of where to turn or what to do, and the Church has been that one place where light can shine and people can be and struggle and live together.

We are not the first 'survivors' in the Christian community nor will we be the last. If anything, the entirety of the story of Christianity is about being survivors. The first disciples survived the crucifixion of Jesus, for a time. And as they passed on their teachings, others became those same survivors. God has not gone anywhere during this pandemic and neither have we. Save for the lesson that we have learned about ourselves. The lessons of living without for a time. The lessons of self-sufficiency and strength of spirit. The all important lesson that we tend to forget those who serve our community on a daily basis without recognition or thanks. The scarcity of demand when supply is high and now the inverse, when demand is high and supply is low. Yet we are still here. Surviving.

When Jesus calmed the storm, do not imagine that the waves simply went back to glassy calm. The boat was rocked and it was still rocking when Jesus told his disciples, "be not afraid." The disciples had survived. And now we, like they, must decide what we will be. What lessons we will learn and how we will enact what we have learned. And as always, as we strive to survive and to be who we have been called to be, we are not alone in our survival. For God is with us. The Spirit of God is with us. Christ is with us. Let us become what we have been called to be and survive for them. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy

p.s. Have a safe and happy summer!



Outdoor Movie Nights

Sunday evenings starts at 6:00pm

July 18 - Raya and the last Dragon

July 25 - The Call of the Wild

Praying the SCRIPTURES

www.apuflam.com

July 4

Mark 6:1-13

July 11

Mark 6:14-29

July 18

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26

John 6:1-21

Prayer List:

Janice Brewster

Linda Steele

Raelene Wilch

Fred Andrews

Fred Arnold

*We welcome Jane Dunlap
into our church family!
(Who joined the church in May)*

Church Watering

Help is needed with the watering and care of outside plants here at the church - Signup sheet on bulletin board or call Bev Shepler 419-236-5902 or the church 419-358-1561

WOMEN'S OUTREACH NEWS

The women's outreach has been active and meeting again. Thanks to the people who donated for the Personnel Hygiene Kits. In April 60 kits were put together and delivered to the Northwest Ohio Association the beginning of May. The NWOA has partnered with Church World Service for the distribution of these supplies. *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* Romans 8:28

The NWOA collected 379 Hygiene Kits, 31 Disaster Kits and 38 school supply kits to be distributed.

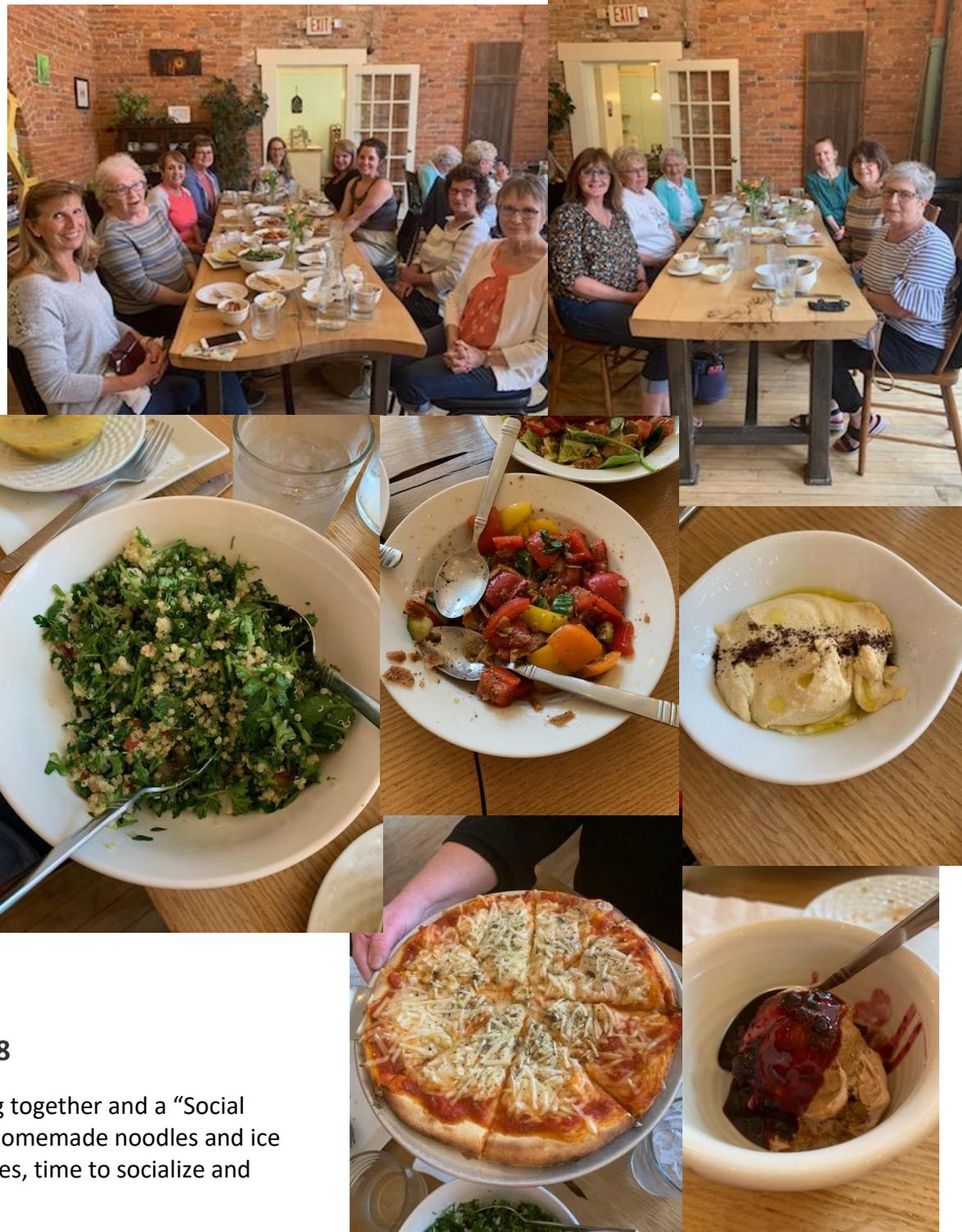
In May the Women's Outreach went to the Greenhorn Restaurant in Bluffton owned by Jonah and Nancy Agner. A wonderful meal was served with various dishes of plant based and Lebanese food. Jonah shared how he got started and about the restaurant. A wonderful time and we would all go back again. Thanks Jonah and Nancy!

In June we went visiting. We visited with Jill Burkholder, Fred and Pat Arnold, Lou Ann Leiber, Sandy Garmatter, Linda Steele. Lots of reminiscing was talked about.

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you." Deuteronomy 32:7

Save the Date Sunday, August 8

The Women's Outreach and Congregational Life will be working together and a "Social Picnic" is being planned. Sloppy Joe and chicken sandwiches, Homemade noodles and ice cream provided. Bring a side dish and come. There will be games, time to socialize and relax. Come and enjoy our church family! Donations accepted

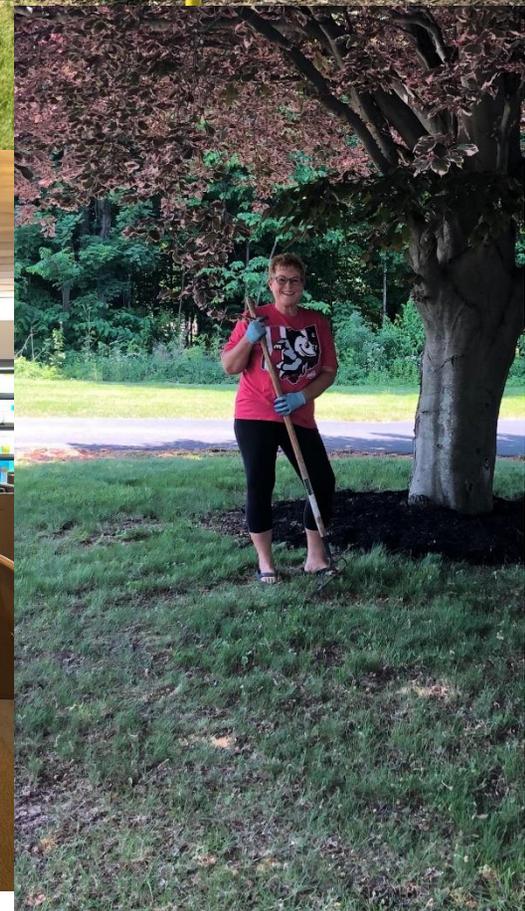


Work Day May 23

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make the work day a success. Mulch was spread, weeds were pulled, chairs and pews got cleaned, and leaves were raked out from under the trees and bushes. Following the work, a baked potato bar was served; organized by the Congregational Life Committee.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24



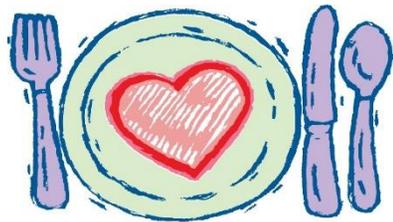


Emily Stratton – Daughter of Jay & Sherry Stratton

Emily is graduating from The University of Toledo with a degree in Middle Childhood Education with a concentration in Math and ELA.

Abbie Parkins – Daughter of Chad & Kristen Parkins

Abbie is graduating from Bluffton University with a double major in Accounting and Business Administration.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Thursday, - July 15th

Emmanuel UCC will be hosting the meal at Senior Citizens

Eat In or take out

Food and workers are needed. This will be a crockpot meal of your choice to bring. If you would like to donate food or sign up to help;

There is a sign up sheet posted on the back bulletin board

or

Call or text Kira Kohli 419-302-2710, Jane Agner 419-957-4144

or

call the church at 358-1561 Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings. If no one answers please leave a message and I will get back with you.

Renee Caskie

Vacation Bible School



Sunday, July 18th – Thursday, July 22nd, 2021 Family Nights: Sunday, July 18th and Thursday, July 22nd (To spread out, we have suggested a time for each family to come based on your last name.) A-F 5:30-5:55, G-L 6:00-6:25, M-R 6:30-6:55, S-Z 7:00-7:25) 4-7 year olds: July 19th – 21st in person from 6-7:50p.m. Hybrid nights: July 19-21st for ages 7 and up (Packets will be given on Sunday for M, T, W sessions. Any leftover packets will be left at St. Mary's Catholic Church) VBS is held at: St. Mary's Catholic Church 160 N. Spring St. Bluffton, Ohio Registration begins: May 17th, 2021 (Please drop off completed forms to St. Mary's Catholic Church or First Mennonite)

Summer Campers

Meet our campers and hear what they had to say about camp.

Dyllan Worcester will be a Junior at Bluffton-7th year at camp

"Church camp is and will always be a place where I feel at home with people I consider a part of my family."

Landen Worcester will be a Freshman at Bluffton-6th year at camp

"Thank you for sending us to camp! I really loved the food and all the sports."

Alexis White will be a Senior at Ada - 6th year of camp

"I'm so glad that I took some time out of my summer to go to sports camp. I made so many new friends and rekindled the friendships that I already had. It's always a blast going there and surrounding myself with such good people. I'm extremely thankful for the church giving me the opportunity to go."

Peyton Worcester will be a 6th grader at Bluffton - 4th year of camp

"Thank you so much for sending us to camp!! I missed seeing everyone last year 😞 and the having to wear masks thing was annoying but I'm so thankful that we got to go at all!! My favorite thing about camp was probably Vespers, which is where everyone gets together to worship, and then whoever leads the worship picked songs for the whole camp to sing together!! I'm so thankful that we get to go to camp and make so many amazing friends! Thank you 😊"



Thank you for sending us to camp!



Celebration of life of the Rev. Dr. Ralph C. Quellhorst August 12, 1937-June 23, 2020

We would love for you to join us to honor our dad.

We know he mentored many. He loved deeply.

We are celebrating with a celebration, service and meal

Heidelberg University, Wickham Great Hall, located in the Campus Center, Tiffin, Ohio.

August 8, 2021 4 PM service followed by a reception outside

Following the service, our family will greet guests outdoors on the Campus Center lawn (Campus Center 220 in case of inclement weather). A meal will also be served on the lawn following the visitation (Hoernemann Refectory in case of inclement weather).

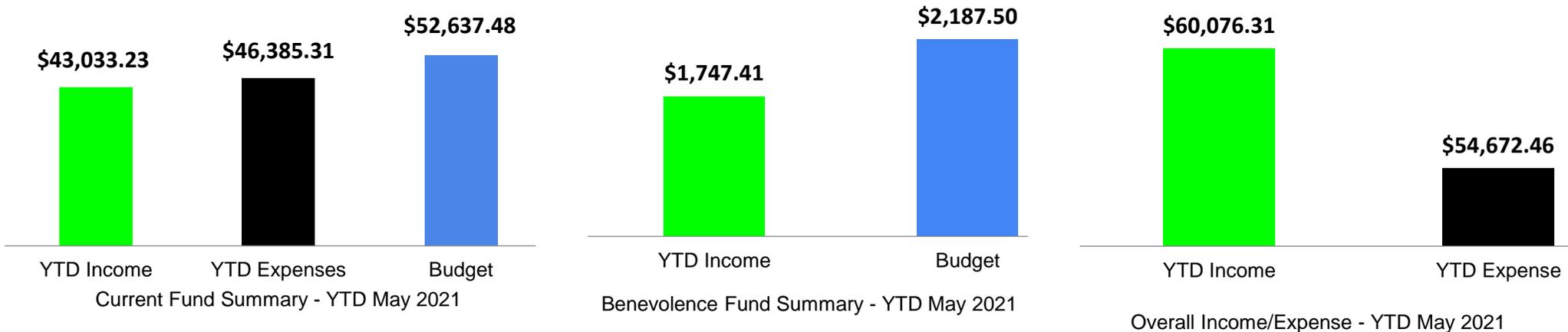
Please **RSVP**, so we know how much food to fix here:

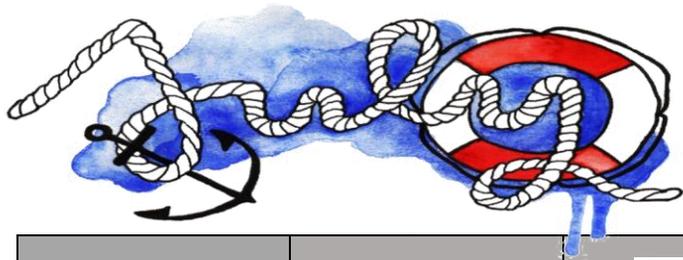
https://www.alumni.heidelberg.edu/s/1897/bp19/interior.aspx?sid=1897&pgid=882&gid=2&cid=2430&ecid=2430&post_id=0

Please note that Heidelberg University continues to follow CDC guidelines with regard to COVID-19. We kindly request that those who are not fully vaccinated continue to observe masking and distancing protocols while on campus for the Celebration of Life ceremony.

Mindy, Jeff, AJ, Andy, Miranda, Charlotte
Cindy, Harry, Brad, Rob
Pam, Chris

Financial Update





2021

Emmanuel UCC Calendar of Events & Birthdays

				1 Kizor Young	2 Bev Osborn Benjamin Shaw Tucker Wyman	3
4  Doug Oberly	5	6	7	8	9 Cassie Leiber Lani Shumaker	10 Men's Breakfast Lulu's 8:00am
11 Ron Geiser	12 Consistory 6:30pm	13 Jo Lynn Burrell	14 Deron Geiser	15 Staff Meeting 7 pm Paul Cottrell Barbara Fett	16	17 Greg Fett Sandy Garmatter Katie Palte
18 Braden Mitchell	19 Women's Outreach 7:00pm Madison Melton	20	21	22	23	24 Joe Fruchey
25	26 Jayne Caskie Kayleigh Oberly	27 Robin Creeger	28	29 Roy Reichenbach	30	31