

The Epistle

St. John UCC; 409 Park Ave., P.O. Box 156; Bolivar, Ohio 44612

FRIENDSHIP • MISSION • SPIRITUALITY October 2020



*Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful. -
Psalm 149:1 (NRSV)*

I have been singing in choirs since I was about six years old, in the junior choir of my home church. Of course, at that age none of us could read music. Reading itself was a challenge. So every song we sang, we learned by “rote,” singing the words and the tune over and over until we had it right. When I began taking piano lessons a year or so later, reading the music was much easier. As I grew older I sang in the youth choir, and I eventually joined my dad in the adult choir.

When I auditioned for the Canton Symphony Chorus five years ago, the application form requested the following information: “Have you sung in a church choir?” (Yes). Have you sung in a college choir?” (Yes). Have you sung in a community choir?” (Yes.) I had never stopped to think about it before. I just knew I had loved singing for a long time.

I miss it. When the coronavirus hit our nation, and everything shut down, the Canton Symphony Orchestra/Chorus were within a month or so of our final performance. Dr. Britt Cooper, the chorus director, sent out an e-mail, telling us that he was cancelling further rehearsals, and that the chorus would not be singing even if the orchestra was going to perform. Then the entire concert was cancelled.

Within the United Church of Christ, most churches are conducting only online services. Those like St. John, who are continuing with public services, are asked to sing only sub-vocally, or not at all.

I miss it. I miss this choral experience—“the practice of tuning ear and voice to be part of one sound. The acute awareness of breath and diaphragm and body. Community, at its most harmonized, elicits our best selves, invites our best presence, strengthens and multiplies our gifts. It teaches us new songs, studies them with us, practices them together, sings them together.” Rachel Hackenberg, “New Songs,” Daily Devotional, September 8, 2020

A psalmist in exile, thousands of years ago, wrote: “By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs. . . , saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’ How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?”

This world of Coronavirus does feel like a foreign land. But we can “Sing to the Lord a new song,” as individuals and as a congregation, as we remember to turn to God for God’s strength, and know that God is always with us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor David+

The Epistle

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1	Pastor's Page	Pg. 4-6	Church News & Happenings
Pg. 2	Calendar	Pg. 6-8	Consistory Meeting Minutes
Pg. 3	Birthdays, Servers, Thinking Of you	Pg. 9-11	Treasurer's Report

October 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Gen 1-3	2 Gen 4-7	3 Gen 8-11
4 Gen 12-15 Pew Communion 10:30am	5 Gen 16-18	6 Gen 19-21	7 Gen 22-24	8 Gen 25-26 Consistory Meeting 6:30pm	9 Gen 27-29	10 Gen 30-31
11 Gen 32-34	12 Gen 35-37 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	13 Gen 38-40	14 Gen 41-42	15 Gen 43-45	16 Gen 46-47 Rummage Sale 9:00am-5:00pm Clothes Closet 9:30am-12:30pm	17 Gen 48-50 Rummage Sale 9:00am-1:00pm Clothes Closet 9:30am-12:30pm
18 Ex 1-3	19 Ex 4-6	20 Ex 7-9	21 Ex 10-12	22 Ex 13-15	23 Ex 16-18	24 Ex 19-21
25 Ex 22-24 Guest Pastor Jeff Shultz	26 Ex 25-27 Clothes Closet/Pastor's Pantry 9:00am- 12:00pm	27 Ex 28-29 Epistle Items Due	28 Ex 30-32	29 Ex 33-35	30 Ex 36-38	31 Ex 39-40

The Epistle



October Birthdays

10/6 – Cam McCoy

10/6 – Luke McCoy

10/8 – Bob Ely

10/8 – Chuck Fenstermaker

10/9 – Barb Norman

10/9 – Lynn Rootring

10/14 – Helen Hall

10/16 – Deisy Felgenhauer

10/23 – Thelma Morrison

*****We will not have greeters/ushers until further notice due to social distancing*****

PRAYER LIST

Nila Baad, Ken Bee, Terry Carpenter, Diane DeLong, Bob and Joyclin Ely, Bill Emley Sr., Pam Farnsworth, Rhonda Felgenhauer, Barb Goldsmith, Helen Hall, Patty Hartman, Liam Holdsworth, Anne Houdeschell, Missy Jones, Linda Levensgood, Katie Miskell, Kim Moore, Thelma Morrison, Mike Mullett, Holly Myers, Jeanne Nalley, Charles Regula, George Rootring, Charles Smith, John and Wanda Stucky, Crystal Weaver



The Epistle

OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

There are several guidelines that will need to be followed in order to ensure the safety of the congregation during worship services. If you have not received the guidelines by mail/email, please call the church office for a copy. We are not providing bibles in the pews at this time, so please feel free to bring your own.



RUMMAGE SALE

The Christmas project committee will be holding a Rummage Sale this month. The sale will be from 9:00am-5:00pm on October 16th and from 9:00am-1:00pm on October 17th. All proceeds will benefit the Community Christmas Project. The committee is asking for donations of household items, decorations, games, books, etc. No clothing will be accepted. Any donations can be left in the church social hall. Please see Chris Stevenson or Pam Diehl if you have any questions or to make arrangements for drop off. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards if you are interested in helping.



CLOTHES CLOSET/PASTOR'S PANTRY

The Clothes Closet and Pastor's Pantry will be open 4 times during the month of October. The usual 2nd and 4th Mondays, they will be open from 9:00am-12:00pm. They will also be open during the Rummage Sale. On October 16th, the hours are 9:30am-12:30pm and October 17th, the hours are 9:30am-12:30pm. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors about this wonderful resource we have here at the church. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards if you are interested in helping.



The Epistle

SHARE-A-CHRISTMAS

Since 1975, Tuscarawas County residents have depended on the Share-A-Christmas program to be available to provide assistance to low-income families at the holiday time. St. John UCC will again be participating in this needed program. While many things will be done differently than in the past, those families with children who need help will still be able to count on receiving it. There are a few changes this year listed below:

-They will not collect food. Area food pantries will provide food and T4C will make a monetary donation to them for their help and to purchase additional food items.

-They will not collect socks, underwear, hats, gloves and mittens for distribution. They are hoping additional monetary donations will enable them to increase the amount of each clothing voucher so recipients can purchase those items this year. Using last year's count, if voucher is increased by only \$5, their total cost for clothing vouchers would be \$90,000 in 2020.

-They will collect and distribute toys using guidance from the Tusc. Cty. Health Dept. Only new toys and stuffed animals will be accepted, as well as new bicycles.

-No books will be collected except for new coloring books and crayons. Cash contributions are essential to help provide clothing vouchers, food and toys. If you would like your donation to be used in a specific area, please indicate that on the memo line of your check.

All monetary donations can be mailed to: Share-A-Christmas 2020, 1458 Fifth St. NW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663 or you may give your donation of cash/toys to Chris Stevenson.

FOURTH AND FIFTH SUNDAY GUEST PASTOR



Pastor Jeff Shultz, from Zoar UCC, will be serving as guest pastor on the 4th and 5th Sunday of every month. We look forward to having him lead worship on those Sunday's!

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour has resumed. Social distancing will be appreciated and every precaution will be taken for safety. Please sign up at the bulletin board to serve for a Sunday or two. Come and enjoy a little social time after worship service!



The Epistle



HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL

St. John UCC provides a meal for the Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County every other month. We are looking for a volunteer to head up this project. Please contact the church office if you are interested or for more information.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

On the monthly calendar, every day has a passage from the bible. Follow this daily schedule and you will read the entire bible in one year! The schedule will also be listed by the week in the Sunday Bulletin.



PRAYER LIST/CARD MINISTRY



Every week, our prayer list is updated to the best of our ability. Please notify the office if you have any additions, deletions or suggestions! Remember the shut-ins and those on the prayer list. "Thinking of you" cards, a note, or a telephone call means so much. Contact the church office if you need addresses or phone numbers.

CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES – August 13, 2020

Consistory meeting minutes will now be published AFTER they have been approved at the following months meeting.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER –
Becky Wolf called meeting to order.
Members present: Chris Stevenson President, Becky Wolf VP, Becky Miller, Dick Diehl, Birdie Wilt, Dale Duerr, Pastor David, and Secretary Pam Diehl.
- 2) OPEN MEDIATION – The Power of Touch comes from Matthew 17 verse 7. The author is Vicki Kemper the Pastor of First Congregational, UCC, of Amherst, Massachusetts. By Pastor David.
- 3) CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - none
- 4) CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – none. All in favor. None apposed
- 5) APPROVAL/CORRECTIONS OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT – none. All in favor. None apposed.

The Epistle

- 6) PASTORS REPORT – For the month of July. Returned to Tuesday/Thursday office hours on June 23. The office hours are 9a-12n
Resumed worship on July 5
Maintained phone contact with our members who are homebound and produced a weekly “sermon” for distributions to all members.
Coming up: I am continuing to produce my weekly “sermons” for shut-ins and any others who desire them.
The side door opening onto Walnut St was left unlocked at some point.
Pastor David found two lawn service trucks in our parking lot on Aug. 4.
- 7) CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY) – none
- 8) COMMITTEE REPORTS – none
- 9) OLD BUSINESS – Thank you Dale Duerr and Chuck Fenstermaker for assisting the kids to paint the shed. Did anyone take pictures? Kaley took pictures. We need to have a Sunday to recognize the kids for painting the shed. Brody Wolf, Kate Hamilton, Leah Hamilton, Cam McCoy, Maggie Hamilton, and Luke McCoy.
Supervisors: Dale Duerr and Chuck Fenstermaker.
Dale Duerr asked, are we going to do something for opening Sunday this fall? Depending on how the covid virus goes will determine what we do.
Gretchen Deubner agreed to teach Sunday school for the kids.
Pastor David talked with Charles and Jane Regular and they are staying close to home.
Pastor Jeff’s first Sunday went well. Suggested we have name badges, so Pastor Jeff knows the names of members.
Parking lot signs, Dick Diehl responded to the truck that had been parked in the parking lot for 2 days.
Becky Wolf got one estimate from Lightning Signs. Price should be \$40 apiece. Agreed on metal signs. Color combination is to be red and on white. Size 18 x 24. No Thru traffic, No trucks Except Delivery. Solid red at top and white letters, bottom solid white with red letters. Dick motioned to order signs, Dale Duerr 2nd. We agreed on 3 signs.
Becky Wolf updated the facebook page.
Dale asked for donations fo the homeless shelter, clothes closet is going to donate \$50. Is \$100 enough to donate for the shelter. Dale stated it would be enough.
Kaley looked into the markings on the driveway and sidewalk. They are marks for the sewer line for the Gas company.
Health dept. sent notice that they want to know who comes to church and what dates. Kaley will keep track on computer.

The Epistle

Cleaning outside of church, Chris Carpenter said he will do the cleaning. Possibly Saturday August 15. Needs access to a ladder.

Ministeral meetings, Chris didn't see anything on the calendar. Nothing has been heard about the meetings. Pastor David to call and find out about it.

10) NEW BUSINESS –

Share a Christmas update, Chris was notified, and they will be doing minimal face to face interaction. No food collections at all. No clothing. They will accept monetary donations to add to their clothing voucher. Information will be in the epistle.

We are going to use name tags for Pastor Jeff.

We are doing pew communion. Communion server schedule. We only need one person per month. For September, Birdie Wilt. Becky Wolf, October. Dale Duerr, November. Dick Diehl, December. Chris Stevenson, Dec 24.

Copyright Laws, do we need a blanket license? The question is are we allowed to put Pastor David sermon on facebook and website. We have copyright on hymns. Pastor David explained the copyright. Discussed the copyright laws.

Our website is not viewable on the internet. We need to find out about it.

Chris will find out about blanket license if we need one.

NEXT MEETING: September 10 @ 6:30p

Adjourn: Becky Wolf motioned to adjourn; Becky Miller seconded.

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Secretary
Pam Diehl

The Epistle

St John United Church Of Christ ~ Treasurer's Report ~ August 2020

7/31/2020	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	9,571.00			
	General Fund Deposits	\$	6,670.00	YTD	\$	43,653.00
	Other Deposits		\$10.70	YTD	\$	19,607.35
	Transfer from Money Market Acct			YTD		
	Balance and Receipts	\$	<u>16,251.70</u>	YTD	\$	63,260.35
	Disbursements	\$	<u>(6,215.77)</u>	YTD	\$	(55,469.52)
8/31/2020	Balance on hand - Checking Account	\$	10,035.93			

Envelope Offering	\$	6,670.00	Transfer-UnitedChurchFunds	
Plate Offering			Anonymous Donations	
Initial			Miscellaneous	\$ 10.70
Total General Fund	\$	6,670.00	Total Other Deposits	\$10.70

Money Market Account Fund

Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$	27,729.24	
(Memorial-School Supplies- Funeral Lunch Donations and Stain Glass)	Transfer to Checking Check # Contribution			
	End of month balance	\$	<u>27,729.24</u>	
Mrs. Floyd Burris Mission	Beginning Balance:	\$	362.43	
	Check # 1084	\$	<u>(30.00)</u>	DQ gift cards
	End of month balance	\$	<u>332.43</u>	
Christmas 2019	Beginning Balance	\$	-	
	Contribution			
	End of Month Balance	\$	<u>-</u>	
Homeless Shelter	Beginning Balance:	\$	272.62	
	Check # Contribution			
	End of Month Balance	\$	<u>272.62</u>	
Pastor's Pantry	Beginning Balance:	\$	548.45	
	Check # Contribution			
	End of month balance	\$	<u>548.45</u>	
Clothes Closet	Beginning Balance:	\$	1,030.92	
	Check # Contribution			
	End of month balance	\$	<u>1,030.92</u>	
Capital Fund	Beginning Balance:	\$	125.29	
	Check # Contribution	\$	13.00	
	End of month balance	\$	<u>138.29</u>	
Interest	Beginning Balance:	\$	340.75	
	Service Charge			
	Interest	\$	2.58	
	End of month balance	\$	<u>343.33</u>	

TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT FUND \$ 30,395.28

UNITED CHURCH FUNDS:

St. John UCC Trust Fund	As of 12/31/19	\$	48,831.11
St. John UCC Housing Fund	As of 12/31/19	\$	63,388.97

The Epistle

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUGUST 2020

SALARIES & BENEFITS	Monthly Expenditures	Year-To-Date	2020 Budget
101a Pastor's Base Salary - Gross	\$ 1,561.86	\$ 18,862.51	\$ 25,625.00
101b Pastor's Travel Expense	\$ 573.56		
102a Pastor's Housing Allowance	\$ 1,513.32	\$ 12,106.56	\$ 18,160.00
102b Pastor's FICA Allowance	\$ 161.26	\$ 1,423.38	\$ 1,935.00
104 Pastor's Hospitalization Allowance	\$ 158.32	\$ 1,266.56	\$ 1,900.00
106 Pastor's In-Service Training			\$ 50.00
107a Pastor's Books & Periodicals			\$ 50.00
108 Secretary Wages - Gross	\$ 356.26	\$ 2,850.08	\$ 4,275.00
109 Custodian Wages - Gross	\$ 421.66	\$ 3,373.28	\$ 5,060.00
110 Organist Wages - Gross	\$ 300.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,250.00
111 Choir Director Wages - Gross			\$ -
112 FICA/Workmen's Comp	\$ 82.45	\$ 761.46	\$ 1,355.00
Employee Taxes WH	\$ (1,303.68)	\$ (11,678.65)	\$ -
Total	\$ 3,825.01	\$ 29,715.18	\$ 60,660.00
ADMINISTRATION			
203 Telephone	\$ 128.98	\$ 1,050.14	\$ 1,550.00
204 Postage & Office Supplies	\$ 46.15	\$ 1,169.10	\$ 1,800.00
207 Maintenance of Equipment	\$ 126.06	\$ 992.32	\$ 1,650.00
208 Outreach & Church Growth	\$ 9.50	\$ 181.63	\$ 1,000.00
209 Altar Committee			\$ -
210 Worship	\$ 65.77	\$ 546.54	\$ 1,000.00
211 Tuning & Repair			\$ 150.00
215 Pulpit Supply	\$ 250.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 300.00
216 Special Music			\$ 200.00
217 Social Functions			\$ 200.00
218 Bell Choir Music			\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 626.46	\$ 4,314.73	\$ 7,900.00
BUILDING/GROUNDS OPERATIONS			
301 Building/Grounds Operations		\$ 1,113.57	\$ 3,000.00
302 Insurance & Taxes		\$ 3,612.00	\$ 4,700.00
303 Utilities	\$ 517.85	\$ 5,001.91	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 517.85	\$ 9,727.48	\$ 17,700.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
400 Christian Education		\$ 89.94	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ -	\$ 89.94	\$ 200.00
BENEVOLENCES			
503 OCWM			\$ 1,000.00
504 T-4-C			\$ 100.00
505 Food Pantry			\$ 400.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 4,969.32	\$ 43,847.33	\$ 87,960.00

The Epistle

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUGUST 2020

NON-BUDGET - IN & OUT FUNDS
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SPECIAL EXPENDITURES	Monthly Expenditures	Year-To Date	
603 Special Offering - OCWM			
603.1 Offering - OGHS		\$ 10.00	
603.2 Offering - Neighbors In Need			
603.3 Offering - The Christmas Fund			
606 Memorial Fund Transfers		\$ 45.00	
608 Local Projects Non Budgeted			
Total	\$ -	\$ 55.00	
State Income Tax Withheld - paid qtrly		\$ 247.79	
City Income Tax Withheld-paid qtrly		\$ 174.94	
Federal Tax Withheld - paid qtrly	\$ 1,246.45	\$ 11,144.46	
Total	\$ 1,246.45	\$ 11,567.19	
NET DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 6,215.77	\$ 55,469.52	\$ 87,960.00