

The Epistle

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

FRIENDSHIP•MISSION•SPIRITUALITY September 2017



*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though mountains tremble with its tumult.
Psalms 46: 1-3*

Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, on Friday, August 25, as a Category 4 hurricane with 130 mile per hour winds. The storm has caused widespread flooding and significant damage across southern Texas and Louisiana. More than eight million people live within the area of impact. Over 500,000 homes are estimated to have been affected. 200,000 are without power. Some 40,000 persons are currently in shelters, as evacuations and search and rescue operations continue.

UCC Disaster Ministries is already engaged in response to the long-term recovery work that will be necessary in the region. Our contributions will provide for community support for repairing homes and businesses, and enabling emotional and spiritual care for those who have lost everything in the wake of this catastrophic event. Giving through UCC Disaster Ministries ensures that 100% of our support will be used for disaster relief and rehabilitation, targeting the unique needs of the communities as well as the individuals and families. Please give as you can to this effort by placing your special offerings, marked "Disaster Relief" in the offering plate.

Let us also lift our prayers: *O God of mercy and grace, strengthen all those in need during this time of turmoil, loss, and grief. Help them to lean on you. Lead them from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Help them to know that you are near and that you care.*

God in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

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September 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Country Breakfast 8:00-11
Communion	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Rally Day Breakfast 9:30	11 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9:00-Noon, 5:30- 7:30pm	12	13 Bolivar UMC Lunch, 11:30am	14 Consistory 7pm	15	16
17	18 Ladies Lunch, Wendy's, 11:30am	19	20	21 St. Paul's Dinner, 5:00-6:30pm	22	23
24 Consistory hosts Christmas 2017, Ham and Scallop potato lunch	25 Clothes Closet/ Pastor's Pantry 9:00-Noon, 5:30- 7:30pm	26	27	28	29	30

COMMUNION SERVERS FOR SEPTEMBER: Barb Berens, Carolyn Birk, Rob Lee, and Birdie Wilt

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September Birthdays

Sept. 1 Richard McFeeders	Sept. 22 Dale Duerr
Sept. 2 Jordan Felgenhauer	Sept. 26 Kody Mizer
Sept. 14 Barbie (Lee) Harrower	Sept. 28 Chris Scott

Serving in September

Liturgist

Sept. 3 Carolyn Birk
Sept. 10 Ron Gauding
Sept. 17 Arline Mase
Sept. 24 Dale Duerr

Acolyte

Sept. 3 Max McCoy
Sept. 10 Hallie Carpenter
Sept. 17 Julia Felgenhauer
Sept. 24 Max McCoy

Coffee Hour

Sept. 3
Sept. 10
Sept. 17
Sept. 24

Greeters

Sept. 3 Chris Stevenson & Birdie Wilt
Sept. 10 Chris & Beth Carpenter
Sept. 17 John & Janet Stewart
Sept. 24 Arline Mase & Tonya Winters

Bell Ringer

Sept. 3 Julia Felgenhauer
Sept. 10 Hallie Carpenter
Sept. 17 Max McCoy
Sept. 24 Camden & Luke McCoy

(Please try to find a replacement if you are unable to serve.)

Esther Simon	Scotty Trambaugh
Helen Hall	Crystal Weaver
Bill & Lucile Lebold	Mike Mullett
Clare Stevenson	
Barb Goldsmith (Hennis)	
Linda Levensgood (Clare's sister)	
Family of Dale Duerr and Chris Stevenson	



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CONDOLENCE

Our heartfelt sympathy is being extended to the family of Dale Duerr on the passing of his beloved wife of 50 years, Claudia Duerr. Claudia passed away on Thursday, August 24, 2017 following a courageous battle with Parkinson disease and cancer. Our condolences to Dale, their three sons and Claudia's two sisters, Brenda and Christine.



MILITARY NEWS

Family friends of Clare and Chris Stevenson, the Burgesses, have asked for prayers for their son, **Blake Burgess**. Blake has been deployed to the Persian Gulf (his first deployment). At this time we have no details to share. Please pray for Blake and his entire family for his safe return.

ALL YOU CAN EAT COUNTRY BREAKFAST

Come hungry and bring a friend on Saturday, September 2, 2017 from 8:00-11:00am. Breakfast consists of scrambled eggs, ham or sausage, biscuits and sausage gravy, pancakes, juice, and coffee. Cost is \$6 ages 11 and up, \$3 ages 6-10 years old, under 6 eat for free.



Plan on joining us Sunday, September 10th as we kick off another **RALLY DAY**. The Christian Education Committee will be hosting a breakfast at 9:30am prior to **worship service at 10:30am.** Hope to see you!

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Christmas 2017

Consistory members will be hosting a **HAM AND SCALLOP POTATO** lunch on September 24, following worship service.. This will be a free will offering lunch benefiting the Christmas 2017 project.

Clothes Closet Report for July and August

The Clothes Closet was open only one day in July but we had a total of 14 customers and receipts of over 53 dollars. Our helpers for July and August included Cathy, Jane, MaryAnn and Barb's crew took care of the Closet on Saturday during the School Supply Project. In August so far we have had 8 customers and receipts of over 23 dollars. Expenditures from the Clothes Closet included \$7.20 postage for the military coupon project and \$148.45 for the school supply project.

Our next open date will be a Dollar-a-Bag sale to start reducing our summer inventory to have room for cold weather clothing. If you know someone who is in need of low cost children's clothing (50 cents and under) please tell them about the Clothes Closet. The only items over 50 cents are outerwear coats for one dollar. As always, we help people who are in dire need or in an emergency situation free of charge.

School Supply Project

This year we provided supplies for 49 children from 21 families. The younger children always seem to enjoy picking out folders, notebooks and scissors in their preferred colors. A few took extra time to pick out the exact set of watercolors or even the particular glue sticks they wanted. Small bottles of water and juice boxes were provided to drink while waiting in line or on the way out. After the event was over, helpers packed up boxes with supplies to deliver to Bolivar, Mineral City, and the Middle School for children in need throughout the year. Thank you to Chuck, Jane and Charles Regula, and Molly Steiner who all stayed from opening to closing and packing up on Saturday.

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Thank you to all the people who came to help with this project, many for more than one day! On Monday we set up tables and counted the donated supplies. On Friday we put out the supplies which had been purchased with donated funds and bundled pencils, dry erase markers, and ziplock bags into individual packages (buying in bulk saves money!) On Saturday volunteers handed out supplies and cleaned up which included putting all the tables back and vacuuming the carpet. We were fortunate to have volunteers from our church as well as the Bolivar United Methodist, St. Paul Lutheran, and the Bolivar Wesleyan churches as well as another retired middle school teacher and a secretary from the high school.

Monetary donations were received from our congregation as well as the Methodist church and the Zoar U.C.C.

Donations of supplies were received from our own congregation, The Church of the Holy Trinity, as well as all of the churches previously mentioned. Below is a brief report on donations and expenditures for the project.

Donations -	\$290.00 cash	Expenditures -	\$368.75 Walmart
	<u>\$148.45 clothes closet</u>		\$ 60.40 Dollar General
Total -	\$438.45		<u>\$ 9.30 Big Lots</u>
		Total -	\$438.45

AUG. 10, 2017 – CONSISTORY MEETING

Members present: Rev. Houdeschell, Barb Berens (Pres.), Carolyn Birk (Vice Pres.), Chris Stevenson (Sec.), Chris Carpenter, Birdie Wilt, Rob Lee is on vacation.

The meeting was opened with the Lord's Prayer.

MINUTES: (CONSISTORY MINUTES ARE PROVIDED IN THE EPISTLE)

The Secretary's minutes from the July meeting were reviewed by consistory members. A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Chris Carpenter to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's report: Following a brief discussion of the current Treasurer's report, a motion was made by Chris Stevenson and seconded by Birdie to approve the minutes.

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PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Houdeschell reviewed the items on the Pastor's report with consistory.

A discussion of the "Social Hall Sunday" service resulted in a program being developed for the next service in the Social hall.

Other discussion brought up while reviewing the Pastor's report were ways to make St. John more visible in the community. Several ideas were discussed to help St. John move forward in this effort.

OLD BUSINESS;

Pastor interview: Chris Stevenson contacted the Times-Reporter leaving a message on a reporter's answering machine. Unfortunately, there was no callback from the gentleman contacted. Several names were suggested that might be helpful in setting up an interview with the Times-Reporter and the Bargain Hunter.

Cards: Chris Stevenson is continuing to research "Thinking of You" cards to be sent to members currently on the inactive list or those who have not attended services for recently.

Social Hall Sunday: It was decided to continue with the "Social Hall Sunday" service. The next service will be on Aug. 27th. Consistory will again be providing refreshments. The service will include a special Congregational meeting to take a vote on support for the accessibility project. Rev. Houdeschell will make an announcement the previous Sunday concerning the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel committee- The Personnel committee has again submitted ads for the positions available. A part-time position for a custodian has been added.

Pastor/Parish committee- The committee will continue to meet weekly in order to complete the project. In later discussion during the meeting, the guidelines for the committee were addressed. According to the St. John U.C.C. By Laws, Article IX, all organizations are subordinate to Consistory. Therefore, the Consistory has voted to have the Pastor Parish committee follow the Revised Guidelines for the Pastoral Relations Committee, Section 1, Composition and Organization of the Pastoral Relations Committee which states that the pastor provide a list of names for proposed members and that members are persons with whom the pastor has a good relationship.

Communion: After some discussion concerning communion, it was decided to alternate the serving of communion between serving at the front of the church and in the pews. Intinction will still be used either way. Members of consistory will continue to help with communion.

Building and Grounds: The leak that appeared in the sanctuary during Vacation Bible School, has not been a further problem even with the recent rains.

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Christmas 2017: Consistory will be hosting a ham and scallop potato lunch on Sept. 24th. This will be a free will offering lunch benefiting the Christmas 2017 project.

Supply Pastor: Consistory has voted to allot one extra Sunday's salary of \$125.00 to cover the cost of a supply pastor for the four Sundays he will be needed. It was discovered that only three Sundays had been covered.

The Fund: Barb will check with Mark concerning the funds that are currently at Huntington Bank. It has been discussed previously that investing the funds would possibly be better invested with the U.C.C. Fund.

Church Brochure: Rob submitted an estimate from Gorden Printing for the printing of church brochures that consistory previously approved. The cost of printing and mailing the brochures was more than expected.

Lifetouch Studios was also contacted for an estimate. Chris Carpenter suggested adjusting the brochure to allow it to be sent using the current resident sticker and would cost a bit less.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was decided that the brochures would not be ready in time to hand them out at the school during the Tusky Valley Back to School Blast at the highschool.

OTHER:

The custodial duties will be taken over by the consistory members and volunteers beginning this week.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The letter that was sent to Chris Berens explaining the decision of consistory concerning her dismissal as custodian, was signed by Chris and returned to the Church in care of Barb Berens.

Gas cards:

A motion was made by Chris Carpenter and seconded by Birdie to use funds from Outreach and Church Growth to purchase 5/ \$10.00 gasoline cards from the Speedway Station next to the church to help travelers in distress.

The meeting was concluded with prayer by Rev. Houdeschell.

The next meeting will be on Sept. 14th, 2017.