Church Chatter

February 2020

Mission Statement:
We, the members of the United Church of Christ Congregational, Vermilion, strive to love, serve, and grow as we live God’s message in our families, our church, our community and our world, now and forever more.

Upcoming Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2nd</td>
<td>Boy Scout Sunday and Pancake Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16th</td>
<td>Women’s Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22nd-23rd</td>
<td>Youth overnight for Denison UCC</td>
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<td>Feb. 26th</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6 pm—Soup Supper</td>
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<td>7 pm—Ash Wednesday Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>Lenten Series begins</td>
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WOMENS SUNDAY
~ celebrating women of all ages ~

Sunday February 16, 2020
Worship
and
Special Coffee Hour

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES
~ starts March 4th ~
Soup and sides served at 6 pm

An intergenerational Lenten program based on “The Andy Griffith Show” will happen after supper. The evening will wrap up by 7:30 pm—perfect for young families! Please join us!
# February 2020

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 am Choir</td>
<td>6 pm Property</td>
<td>9:15 Yoga</td>
<td>5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
<td>Grace’s Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 am Missions</td>
<td>8 pm AA</td>
<td>7:30 pm Diaconate</td>
<td>6:30 AA</td>
<td>7pm Boy Scouts</td>
<td>12 –4 pm</td>
<td>Mildred Early 7pm AA</td>
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<td>9:30 H.S. Coffee</td>
<td>9:15 Yoga</td>
<td>5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
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<td>7pm Boy Scouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am Worship—Boy Scout Sunday</td>
<td>12 pm Stephen Min.</td>
<td>12 pm Marmaru</td>
<td>5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
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<td>12 pm Stephen Min.</td>
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<td>9 am Choir</td>
<td>12:30pm Bridge 8pm AA</td>
<td>9:15 Yoga</td>
<td>1 pm Prayer Grp 5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
<td>6:30 AA</td>
<td>7 pm Boy Scouts</td>
<td>7 pm Youth Overnight Event</td>
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<td>9 am Finance</td>
<td>12 pm Marmaru</td>
<td>5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
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<td>10:30 am Worship</td>
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<td>12 pm Members at Large meeting</td>
<td>6 pm AA</td>
<td>7pm Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>17 Presidents’ Day 8pm AA</td>
<td>9:15 Yoga</td>
<td>Rachel Circle</td>
<td>1 pm Prayer Grp 5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
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<td>9:15 Yoga</td>
<td>1 pm Prayer Grp 5:30 Girl Scouts</td>
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**February Birthdays**
- Adam Beckwith, Shari Beckwith
- Kathie Fitzgibbons, Pete Wade
- Kip Baker
- Aaron Smith
- Becky Wade
- Valerie Hildum
- Gara Jones
- Sue Cieslak, Julia Clark, Kase Baker, Gene Hector, Erin Strittmatter, Colleen Traut, Dwayne Kocan, Janice Williams, Rebecca Endrai

**February Anniversaries**
- Bill & Judy Somers ‘98
Grace’s Kitchen

Grace’s Kitchen Wish List:
Butter  Cream cheese  Paper towels  Egg noodles  Canned chicken broth  Bbq sauce

Drop off any donations at Trinity Lutheran, or bring them to the church office and we’ll get them where they need to go! Please label any items brought to the church "Grace’s Kitchen," so they don't end up in the pantry box by mistake. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Our next Grace’s Kitchen Service opportunity is February 6th. Sign up in the Gathering Space or Fellowship Hall, or call April Urban at 440-590-2204 and let her know you’d like to help!

Shout Outs!

Many thanks to Matt Greiner for the repaired bathroom faucet in Ms. Krista’s room!

Thanks as well to Bud Ennis and Lance from Musicians Alley in Sandusky, for getting our sound system back in great shape this week!

Applause to all those who made our Christmas celebrations so special: those who decorated and undecorated the church; those who donated poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary; those who read and lit candles during Advent and our two Christmas services; those who lent their voices to the choir and bell choir; and those who helped with our carol service December 29th. We appreciate all of your efforts to make this a special season for all who worship here!

An additional shout out to Diane Langham, Judy Klucas and their committee for all their work for the Good Luck Pot Luck luncheon!

And a special moment of gratitude for the joyous and energetic voices of children, that once again fill our building with the return of our preschoolers! We’ve missed hearing you - welcome back!

Highway Cleanup

Our church members are once again volunteering to pick up litter on West Lake Road between Blue Bird Beach and Volunteer Bay. Judy Williams, Jayne Flemister, and Georgi Tarrant have agreed to chair the project. Dates will be set, based upon projected good weather forecasts, and will be announced a week beforehand. Volunteers must watch a video on YouTube (ODOT) regarding safety procedures before beginning to pick up the litter. Anyone 12 years and older is welcome to help. Younger children can volunteer to sort the recyclables after the bags are returned to church. Please contact Judy Williams with your willingness to help. Remember, UCC supports "Protecting our Environment".

Save the Date for Women’s Lantern Fellowship!
April 24th—26th!
From the pastor...

My dear UCCC family,

As I was sitting at my desk at home looking out the on the back yard at the squirrels hanging from the bird feeders, the yard was covered in snow, the pond was frozen; and I was amazed at how the squirrels figured out how to climb up the black pole and hang there, eating away at the food that we had put out for the birds. I began plotting ways to fix this, because you see it wasn’t for them. They could pick it up on the ground like the geese do. They are quick and can find nuts, and they should have been preparing for winter, anyway right?

A couple of things came to mind about this… tenacity and ingenuity of the squirrels, sadness for the birds that got chanced away, habitats and what we are doing to the earth, and then it got me thinking about life in the church.

Sometimes, at church, we try to be like the squirrels and figure out ingenious ways to get the church back to the way it has always been, but this doesn’t work anymore. Sometimes we plot ways to get our way, because we don’t like the squirrels climbing all over our “food”. Sometimes we are the song birds that run away when the “bully” squirrels come and take over. Being the church involves squirrels, and songbirds, and woodpeckers, and deer and geese, and fox. We need to figure out how to live and be the church when we are all different, to live in the same backyard in harmony. It isn’t about winning and losing, it is about working together for God, and with God’s love and kindness towards all.

You know there is a text: Isaiah11:6-9

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

“Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy…” Isaiah 12:5-6a

God is working through us, as the squirrels figure out ways to get food, as the song birds come to the food, as the geese and the ducks gather on the pond, and the deer and fox drink water and play.

God gives us signs each day, we just have to look.

These signs come in many ways...
In the laughter of a child...
In the phone call from a colleague or friend...
In the concern of another for you....
In saying yes to something when you really wanted to say no....
In the sun shining and breaking forth on a grey day...
In the music played loud or soft...
In the quiet of a prayer...
In the conversation with a friend....
In the kindness shared...
In noticing, something is different about you, new glasses, new haircut, new clothes, etc...
In the hug of a young friend or an old one....
In a card received... in a note written...
In squirrels climbing to the food...
In birds singing...

The signs of God's blessings are all around us. We just need to look.

God is definitely at work at United Church of Christ Congregational Vermilion,

What a blessing,

Pastor Mindy
DNS Registration is OPEN!

Registration for the DNS 2020-21 school year will begin in February. We will offer a 3 day option and a 4 day option for our 4/5 year old students and a 3 day option for our 3 year old students. We expect registration to fill up quickly. Please call Cecily at 440-967-5230 to register a preschooler or grab a registration form from the bulletin board outside of the DNS office. Please spread the word about our school! Your good word is our best advertisement.

Calling all youth!

Vermilion UCCC is inviting youth grades 6-12 to sleep overnight at the church to help Denison Avenue UCC help the homeless! 

So...how does that work?

The overnight will be held at Vermilion UCCC from 7 pm Sat. February 22 through Sunday morning worship Feb. 23. Games, activities, and presentations will focus on the issue of housing insecurity.

There is no fee to attend, but we are challenging the youth to try to raise $100 each for Denison’s needs. The goal is a request, not a requirement, and no one will be turned away for not meeting it. Youth are also encouraged to collect new hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, etc.) and new undergarments and/or socks for Denison’s clients.

Want to attend, or help? Talk to Jen Bertoni or call the church office at 440-967-5212!

Another Opportunity to Help...

Socks are the most requested item at homeless shelters across the country. They are also among the things in shortest supply. Because of this, our church will be starting a sock donation (only new ones, please).

With Winter getting into full swing in our area, there are many people in homeless shelters that need new socks to help them keep warm. This is an easy way for each of us to make a difference in someone’s life.

There will be collection boxes for the socks in the Sanctuary and in the Gathering Space. We will be collecting socks throughout the month of February and donating them to area homeless shelters as they come in. Please consider donating a pair (or two, or three...) of socks during our sock collection campaign! Thank you for helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Don’t forget—the Annual Pancake Breakfast for Boy Scout Troop 447 is this Sunday, February 2nd, from 8 am-1 pm.

All proceeds go toward a future camping trip!
United Church of Christ Congregational

990 State Street
Vermilion, OH 44089

February Servants of the Church:
Usher Coordinators: Property Committee
Greeter Coordinator: Peter Hart
Coffee Hour Hosts: Rachel Circle
Altar Committee: Jane Dean

No matter who you are
Or where we are on life’s journey
You are always welcome here.
As we journey together we discover...
Love is the key!
Love of neighbor, children, and creation.