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.

Office Info:
United Church of Christ Congregational
990 State Street
Vermilion, OH 44089
vermilionuccc@gmail.com
Phone: 967-5212
DNS phone: 967-5230
Worship: Sunday 10:30
Office Hours: M-F, 9-2

Staff:
Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Pastor
Judy Brizzolara, Administrative Asst.
Jerry Boros, Treasurer
Jim Innes, Financial Recorder
Shelly Innes, Christian Ed
Cecily Musser, Director, DNS
Dr. Ted Williams, Music Director
Corey Knick, Organist

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Facebook link to Worship Videos:
https://www.facebook.com/207535775991402/videos

Find us on YouTube & subscribe to our channel!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ilxQOMqB-OEJ2SorcbQHA
# November 2020

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<td><strong>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT VESPERS 7pm FB LIVE</strong></td>
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**BIRTHDAYS**

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<td>Joe Brizzolara</td>
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<td>Annalee Hector</td>
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**ANNIVERSARIES**

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Becky &amp; Pete Wade 2001</td>
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<td>Mary Ann &amp; Joe Brizzolara ’94</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Barbara &amp; Don Bedillion</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Barb &amp; Larry Akers ’74</td>
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*If your birthday or anniversary is missing or if any changes are needed, please let the office know!*
From the pastor...

As I sit in my study, trying to figure out what to write about this journey that we are on, I looked outside...

the colors, the leaves are falling, the chilly drizzle
and then I listened...

Not just in the building, but in our journey together, as the church, in this time and space...

I heard Rich working with the food that had come in,
hearing the elevator and footsteps on the stairs, the rustle of bags and the outside door opening and closing as more food was brought in...

I heard voices of people needing help, and the joy of those helping...

I heard the DNS board wrestling with what we should do, what decisions should we make that will keep our children and teachers safe, caring and compassionate voices...

I heard the mission committee cheerfully working to share out of our abundance with others, and stand up for justice for all of God’s children,

I heard the finance committee working through numbers and budgets to keep us on task and the stewardship committee sharing the theme of Beloved, Love, and how to help increase our giving out of our abundance...

I heard the Christian Ed committee working hard to find ways to connect with the children and youth, (don’t forget to stop by on Saturday from 2-3 to pick up your treat bags),

I heard the reopen team, look at all the science and what it means to keep even the most vulnerable among us safe and healthy...

I heard music and laughter in the air...

I heard connections being made...

I heard people making decisions in this different time

I heard the phone ringing and being answered...

I heard an inspector come in and someone else stop by to check on something...

I heard fingers moving across the computer keys, words and thoughts being written, the melody of a hymn being played, mail being answered, people being listened to and talked with,

and I had to stop....

I realized... WOW!!

Our journey is taking us into autumn, and colder weather. Our journey is one of decisions based on how COVID-19 is growing in numbers in Ohio, in Erie and Lorain counties, and our journey in moving towards Advent and Christmas. What will keep the most vulnerable safe is the question that needs to be kept in front of us. In our journey, filled with compassion and care, we will be meeting online and streaming online. The re-open team had written that both counties needed to be yellow for 2 weeks before we gathered back in the sanctuary. We are not there. We will re-evaluate again, in January, as we continue to look at science and numbers. On this journey, Advent and Christmas will look a bit different, just like Easter did. But please know this, we will worship and praise God, we will prepare in Advent, we will celebrate the birth of Christ, and we will continue to be the church in this time and space.

Yes, we are getting weary of the way this year’s journey is going. I think because we are getting weary, we are letting our guard down on this journey. Our journey is creative, and transforming, our journey is filled with love and compassion, with care and hope. Our journey is filled with God. Our journey is filled with love. The thing about journeys is that they are all different. May our journey be filled with love, where-ever our journey takes us.

Blessings,

Pastor Mary
This year’s gathering was held via Zoom. While I naturally missed the face-to-face interactions & some hugs, the team did an amazing job to make it feel like being together. At one point we even broke into small groups for discussion. It was nice to be able to share in that way as some folks (including me!) get a little overwhelmed by larger groups, especially when most of the participants have been a part of the UCC family for what seems like forever!

The One Heart Working Group, formed from members of the Executive Teams of the Associations & Board of Directors of the Heartland Conference, revised the titles of their “Vision” & “Mission” Statements to “Why” & “Calling.” Over time, titles can sometimes lose their meaning. I think the change is a great way to refocus energy on what God is calling us to do & why!

I enjoyed hearing about all of the different ministries throughout the Wider Church which are funded by giving from individual churches. In addition to the ones I was aware of (Heidelberg University & United Church Homes) there’s Bay Back Mission Home at Last that counsels the homeless, CHHSM – Council for Health & Human Service Ministries - consisting of 75 related organizations that provide help, Crossroad which ministers to children & families thru Godly Play which brings the Bible to life to aid in healing, the list goes on! It was wonderful to see how our donations are used to do such great work.

Two ministries spoke to me personally. The Westphalia Partnership is located in Germany. Pastor Christel Weber spoke eloquently about the commitment to Kirchengemeinschaft, which is the full communion of the churches. This 30 year old full communion, begun by Pastor Mindy’s dad Ralph & Krista Holzsapple, has worked to weave us all into a wider net of family no matter our differences. As Pastor Christel said: ‘We are all brothers & sisters in Christ, called to live as a beacon of hope for those who suffer from this divided world; an example of love & justice for all, especially those who may have forgotten God is there for all of us.’ She spoke about how the UCC has inspired their civil rights work for the LGBTQ+ community, the legalization of same-sex marriage & working to end the pandemic of racism including the translation of the white privilege curriculum into German. She spoke in front of a sign which said “We all have Human Rights, BUT not everyone can experience them!”

The other ministry is camp. Having never experienced church camp, it had been difficult for me to understand its importance. Watching the presentation was so inspiring! I didn’t feel I could do it justice in writing so I reached out to Jill Frey, executive director of Outdoor Ministries, who provided me with the wonderful poem written by one of the campers as well as a link to the camp video. Camp at Templed Hills Video

The last thing I would like to share with you is from the presentation by Nayiri Kajjian, our Association’s General Minister on living thru COVID. She said there are four things holding us back because of the importance we have assigned to them … Comfort, Convenience, Control, Certainty. We need to let go of their importance. They hold us back from trust, from faith, from the ability to “let go & let God.” We have to walk through the crucifixion to get to the resurrection. We need to remember that “the only constancy is change” and “the only changeless thing is the love of God through Christ.” They can become thoughts that can guide us in our journey not only through COVID but through life.

If anyone is interested in reading any of the documents, please let me know & I will email them to you!

Judy Brizzolara

ps - Please consider a donation to keep camp alive! Click here or send a check to the Heartland Conference office marked “Camp 2.0” at 6161 Busch Boulevard, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43229.
What It Means to Be Camp
A poetic reflection from MMADD camper Hannah

Camp is different this year
That’s easy to see
After all we are worshiping
Virtually

So I’ve been thinking it over
What this whole camp thing means
Why we do this year after year
And here’s how it seems:

Camp isn’t a place
Camp is a people
And here, every year
We find MMADD is our people

It’s not about where we are
Or how we connect
It’s about how we laugh
How we learn and reflect

It’s about how we dance
How we sing and have fun
It’s about how we grow
Together as one

The place is important
Of course, it’s true
Templed Hills is my home
And I’m sure it’s yours too

But there’s a light that we bring
When we gather together
And that doesn’t change
In the stormiest of weather

Though being apart isn’t easy
And our tears are still damp
This year we’ve all learned
What it means to be camp

Hannah Dunn-Helton is the daughter of Rev. Nancy Dunn and Rev. Chris Helton.
She attends St. Peter UCC in Seven Hills, OH.
Tracy Davis
Bryan Davis
Devin Jarvis
Jan Kinloch
Paul, Nancy, Joy & Rick Kirby
Randy McCaugherty
Dave Munger
Michael Paetzold
Family & Friends of Arlys Schwensen
Jennifer Smith
Carolyn Strittmather
Family & Friends of Joseph L. Toth
The Wilson Family
Floyd Work

If you would like to add anyone to the prayer list, please contact the office.

In Loving Memory

Arlys Schwensen
October 31, 1926 - October 22, 2020

May we hold fast to the promise of the resurrection for Arlys
and prayers of hope for her family.
All Saints Day
Sunday, November 1

Janice Barton
Lucile Clark
Gary Ensinger
Nelda Love
Ruth Martin
Rev. Dr. Ralph Quellhorst
Tom Roberts
Arlys Schwensen
Ruth Smith
James Snell
Marilyn Van Den Bossche

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised Imperishable, and we will be changed. - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
Dear Church Family,

Beloved, Love. That is the theme of our Stewardship Campaign this year. We hope everyone has received their Beloved, Love porch present and you think of the love sent to you from your church when you see it.

Whether on Facebook or YouTube, we hope you have enjoyed hearing from some people to whom our church means so much. Some have recently become members, thanks to Pastor Mindy’s hard work, dedication to our church and her uplifting worship services streamed online. The Stewardship Committee would like to welcome Gail Cordy and the Pierson Family to the church! We are blessed to have you all.

Needless to say, 2020 has been a year to remember . . . that we all will want to forget when better times come! Rest assured that God has seen us through these past several months and He will continue to walk side by side with each and every one of us.

With God’s blessing and guidance, Pastor Mindy continues to steer us through these difficult times. And although the sanctuary is not open for weekly worship services in person, our church continues to be a guiding light in our community. The ministries of our church continue, be it Grace’s Kitchen, the Food Pantry, Stephen Ministry – God is still speaking and working through us!

At this time, we are asking you, our beloved members and friends of the church, to prayerfully consider how you can help maintain and continue these most important ministries. May you feel God’s love and blessings as He keeps you in his never-ending care.

Faithfully,
Your Stewardship Committee
News from the Sunset Shores Outreach Fund Committee

Your SSOF Committee, made up of Judy Klucas (Finance Chair), Anne Stock (past Moderator), Jim Estle (current Moderator), Fred Rossi, Julie Strittmather, and Rich Ozmun, met for the first time this month. We reviewed the history of the fund, the current amount in the fund ($524,605) and the policy.

We are currently putting together project application forms for groups and individuals. The congregation will get more information on how to sponsor groups or individuals in November.

Current members will serve the rest of 2020; actual terms will begin January 2021. So that not all members are replaced in the same year, the following will serve these terms: Fred Rossi (2021-2024), Julie Strittmather (2021-2023), and Rich Ozmun (2021-2022). The positions of Finance Chair, past moderator, and current moderator (as ex-officio member) are fixed.

If you have any questions for this committee, please feel free to call any one of us.

Anne Stock, Chairperson

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SHOUT OUT to Mark Pierson for cleaning our front yard sign! Looks terrific!

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Christian Ed Halloween Fun!

Come for some treats-- no tricks! Due to the pandemic, we are not able to have Trunk or Treat this year, so the Christian Education Committee has put together treat bags which will be handed out from 2-3 on Halloween to the children of our church. We’ll be in the parking lot if there’s sun & in the pavilion if not! Come in costume or not, we just miss you & want to see you!

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PLEASE SUBSCRIBE!

Pastor Mindy is so grateful for your support of our online worship! While you’re thinking about it, why not go to our YouTube page & subscribe! If we can get to at least 100, the links will show up faster & easier. You don’t need to open an account, all you need to do is click the link below, then click SUBSCRIBE. Thanks!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ilxQOMqB-OEJ2SorcbQHA
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.

United Church of Christ Congregational

990 State Street
Vermilion, OH 44089

Turn back your clocks one hour
before heading to bed!!
don’t forget!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY!