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
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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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Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

“We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.”  - Jenny Uglow

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

Find us on YouTube & subscribe to our channel!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6iixQOMqB-OEJ2SorcbQHA
# October 2020

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<td><strong>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CROP WALK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>UCC Higher Education Sunday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HAPPY HALLOWEEN!</strong></td>
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## BIRTHDAYS

| 1 | Lysle Johnson |
| 3 | Andrew Bertoni |
| 5 | Sophia Kruszynski |
|   | Kim Lewis |
|   | Ronda VanDenBossche |
| 8 | Scott Burger |
| 10 | Jayne Flemister |
|   | Liz Haynes |
| 11 | Elizabeth Haynes |
| 12 | Tess Lewis |
| 14 | Tom Orphan |
|   | Jim Weber |
| 15 | Andy Lacefield |
| 19 | Krystale Kruszynski |
| 21 | Leah Estle |
| 23 | Diane Langham |
| 25 | Diane Creel |
| 26 | Kelly Kocan |
| 27 | Cathy Tucker |
| 28 | Pat Zimmerman |
| 29 | Erin Roberts |
| 30 | Tabatha Fenton |
| 31 | Connie Greiner |

## ANNIVERSARIES

| 26 | Krista & Jim Peters ’96 |
| 31 | Krystale & Jerry Kruszynski 2012 |

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or if any changes are needed, please let the office know!
From the Pastor...

Today, I sit at my desk and look out over the yard and pond and pray…. I am praying for violence to end, for hate to cease, for kindness and love to live in our world, for the pandemic to end and people to take care of each other, for fires and hurricanes to end, for us to take care of God’s earth, for people I know and people whose names have been given to me who are struggling with illness, disease, drug use, etc… and the sky is coated with fire smoke from the west coast fires, I know that God is still speaking, the Spirit is moving, calling me to listen.

What does it mean that God is still speaking? Didn’t God already speak and we are to follow?

God spoke through the prophets to a time and place, to a people that needed God and God needed them to hear, to a people that needed rules in order to know whom they belonged to.

God spoke through Jesus, when God sent God’s own son to live among the people, and to be truly human, and to die a horrible death on a cross, and then to rise again, to take all of our sins away.

God spoke through the disciples and the apostles as they lived and were changed and told the stories of Jesus and brought people to faith.

God spoke through Paul in a conversion as Paul wrote letters to a certain people at a certain time.

God spoke through our parents and grandparents as they too tried to figure out what God was saying to them at a certain time in a certain place. God is speaking to us through scientists who are studying, researching and learning about COVID-19. God is speaking through those who are standing up, showing up, and speaking out.

God speaks to us, helping us to hear God’s voice in the world that we live in.

God speaks to us today in new and different ways. And God will continue to speak to our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

God is a God of justice and love. God is a God of compassion and spirit. God is a God who isn’t quiet in our world. God is a God who isn’t stagnant in our life. God is a God of peace and justice, mercy and grace.

I am so glad that God continues to speak, that God loves us enough to keep speaking.

One way we continue to show that we are listening to our still speaking God, is to give out of our abundance in time, treasure and talent. Treasure is about giving off the top, giving to UCCC, but also to the wider church. When we give to the wider church it is giving to OCWM.

OCWM monies, helped to bring profiles and the Living Water Association staff to UCCC to help when you called me. OCWM monies are used for continuing Education programs for Clergy and others. OCWM monies are used by our Living Water Association staff to be the pastor to me and my family, when we are in need of pastoral care. OCWM monies are used to help bring about programs and speakers for learning, for growth, for figuring new ways to BE the church in this time and place. OCWM monies are used to do ministry with us, among us, and for us. Some monies are sent on to the Heartland Conference where programs are conference wide, and some is sent to Cleveland to the National Offices. I wish more could be sent on to the denomination, so that ministries of justice and hope could grow.

God is still speaking…. Are you listening to our still speaking God??

[Signature]
The annual Neighbors In Need offering, which we will receive this Sunday, October 4, supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors In Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors In Need helps make A Just World For All possible!

For this to occur, it needs your support. Please give generously. Contributions to Neighbors In Need can be made online this month thru tithe.ly on our church website or by mailing in your donation with Neighbors In Need written on the memo line. You may also donate anytime at ucc.org/nin

Thank you!
Prayers & Positives

Tracy Davis
Bryan Davis
Dave Munger
Michael Paetzold
Jennifer Smith
Carolyn Strittmather
Floyd Work

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

In Loving Memory

Tom Roberts
September 22, 2020

May we hold fast to the promise of the resurrection for Tom and prayers of hope for his family.
WORLD COMMUNION DAY IS OCTOBER 4th!!
Please send Pastor Mindy (revmql@gmail.com) pictures of you breaking bread, any kind of bread, by Oct 1 ... you can be sharing bread with your family, or by yourself, even with your pets! (doggy biscuits, cat treats, bird seed...) We will be putting together a collage for October 4 worship.

BLESSING OF THE PETS - Sunday, October 11 @ 4pm
Due to COVID restrictions, our annual Blessing of the Pets will be done differently this year. Bring photos, stuffed animals, even that infamous donkey! While you may bring your pets, Pastor Mindy will not be blessing each pet individually. Please bring a chair, wear your mask & keep a physical distance between family groups. The service should take about a half hour.

SPIRIT DAY - Thursday, October 15
LGBTQ youth disproportionately face bullying and harassment because of their identities. Each year, millions pledge to “go purple” on Spirit Day! It’s a way for everyone - companies, world leaders, celebrities, neighbors, parents, classmates, and friends - to visibly show solidarity and take part in the largest LGBTQ anti-bullying campaign in the world. This year, our LGBTQ youth have unprecedented crises including isolation from support groups, legislative attacks on protections for LGBTQ students, COVID fears, and the challenges of distance learning. They need to hear from you! TAKE THE PLEDGE HERE

CROP WALK - Sunday, October 18 @ 2pm
Walk for those who are hungry! Gather a few friends and walk in Amherst or in your own community. Pledges and donations will be used to feed needy people in our community and around the world. As in the past, we will be registered to walk together with other local churches. Due to COVID-19 limitations, online donations will be gathered. The CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 18 at 2pm. Plan on walking and reconnecting with some friends or relatives. Walking and talking are a good mix! Meet in the center of town (5 points) at the park. Funds raised will be divided between local food pantries and Church World Service, the sponsoring organization. Help us BE the Church during these difficult times.

Register / Donate here: https://www.crophungerwalk.org/amherstoh/
Women’s Coordinating News

Louie & his friends at Mill Manor enjoyed the cake thoughtfully provided by Women’s Coordinating in celebration of his 90th birthday!

The annual Fall Peterson Nut Sale will be held virtually during the entire month of October. Click on the link below to look over the Fall catalog and call Diane (440-967-4493) by October 31 to get in on the goodies! If you can’t access the brochure, call the church office (440-967-5212) to pick one up or have one mailed to you. Orders will be available for pick up and payment at the church on Saturday, November 14 from 10-1 & Monday, November 16 from 5:30-7. Enjoy these nuts and chocolate items for snacks and gifts. The holidays are approaching quickly! Thank you for your support of our only fundraiser.

CLICK HERE FOR THE BROCHURE

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Stewardship Committee

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee! In the midst of an entirely new experience for all of us, it is comforting that God is still speaking, and is present in our lives and in the community of our church. And though we don't worship in our familiar fashion, the work of the church continues. This includes promoting the spiritual life of our members and friends, as well as providing for the needs of our neighbors in many ways.

Our stewardship campaign this year is Beloved, Love ... Love of Children, Love of Creation, Love in Action & Love Your Neighbor. We are given an opportunity to reflect on the ways God has loved us and how we are to respond. What does it mean to be a church in this place at this time? How do we try to live into the commandments to love God and love our neighbor?

In October, our online worship services will include members of our community sharing their story about our church and its influence in their lives. These are our neighbors who have felt loved in our church and who are sharing with others. Our commitment to our neighbors has taken on different appearances and ways of communicating this year, but sharing God's love remains our focus. Throughout the next several weeks, please prayerfully consider your pledge for the upcoming year. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure makes our church's work possible. Our Faith Pledge for 2021 will be offered on November 8.

PS - CHECK YOUR PORCHES FOR A LITTLE SURPRISE ON SATURDAY!

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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. All you need to do is click the link below & click SUBSCRIBE. Thanks!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ilxQOMqB-OEJ2SorcBQHA
MONEY MATTERS

This year has been an unusual one not only for the world and our country but also for our church. Preschool went to on-line learning in March and delayed the opening of a new school year until safe to do so; we continue to worship online until safe to return to the sanctuary, the staff worked from home.

But we have been blessed to be able to also continue many of our programs and ministries. We have also been blessed by the continued giving of many of our church members.

Review of August Financial statements:

Total Income $11,214 ($ 9,736 from member giving. Thank you!)
Total Expense $18,356

**Member giving**, although ahead of last year, is falling behind the amount budgeted ($140,000) year to date by $2,626. Total income from all sources is $-917 short of budget year to date budget. Currently, our income stream is member giving and the rental income from the house next to the church. Quarterly we receive earned income as beneficiaries of the Ritter Trust and from our Endowment Fund.

**Expenses** are $12,039 under budget which says we are not spending as much as was budgeted. So we are being very prudent in our spending but cash flow remains difficult. A draw on the General Endowment for $10,000 was needed to meet expenses and cash flow needs in August.

General Endowment balance as of 9/13 $558,824
Sunset Shores Outreach Fund as of 9/13 $524,585

Our General Endowment currently continues to do well. Even though we have taken two $10,000 draws to meet cash flow needs and the market was down in March and April, our account is growing.

As we enter our virtual Stewardship campaign for 2021, Beloved, Love, the Finance committee hopes you will join us each Sunday morning to hear individuals share their personal stories about our church. Each week in the e-news read how our church Loves Creation, Loves our Neighbor, Loves Children and puts all of our Love into Action.

In other Finance Committee news, we are happy to announce that our church has been awarded $1500 from the UCC's Justice and Local Church Ministry COVID-19 Relief Microgrant Program. We applied for this grant in early September. Our award will be used to complete the purchase of the equipment and installation costs that will allow us church to "live stream" sanctuary worship services and other church programs/activities into the homes of our members and friends of our church. Our continuing goal is to provide for the physical, mental, spiritual health and safety of our church family.

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Missions Committee donated to the following charities in August & September:

- Doctors without Borders - $333
- Feeding America - $333
- Helping Hand Fund UCC (our church) - $334
- UCCC Disaster Relief Fund (hurricane relief) - $333
- Vermilion Boys and Girls Club - $333
- Washington UCC Soup Kitchen/Homework Club - $334
UCC officers support call for justice for Breonna Taylor

September 24, 2020

After a Louisville grand jury decided not to charge any police officers in the killing of Breonna Taylor, indicting one former detective instead on three counts of “wanton endangerment” for firing shots into her home, the national leaders of the United Church of Christ released this statement of support for the continued call for justice.

We, the Elected Officers of the United Church of Christ, write to affirm our support for the leaders and clergy of the Louisville Churches and the Indiana Kentucky Conference as you call for justice for Breonna Taylor.

Our hearts are broken as we acknowledge the grief and immeasurable pain of all who knew and loved Breonna Taylor. Her light was extinguished too quickly and with violence. We pray for all who continue to love her and celebrate her life. We too will continue to hold her memory and say her name: Breonna Taylor!

We are a people who continue to wait for justice that never seems to come, and yet we wait in hope believing that justice will indeed prevail. Justice and equality linger, sometimes at a distance, compelling us to hold valuable every life. As we wait, we pray, knowing that as people of faith, we believe that God hears and answers prayers.

We understand and we share the collective grief, anger, frustration and deep disappointment you feel because of the apparent unwillingness and inability of the justice system to respond fully to the tragic and cruel death of Breonna Taylor. When the law is said to have been fully and correctly applied and justice still is not available, we know that laws must change. That will and can only happen when enough people rise up and demonstrate a capacity and a will to call for that change. It is a matter of faith for us as disciples of the risen Christ that we join with the oppressed whom the law does not fairly and fully represent and ally with them in their cries for justice.

We appreciate the clarity of your calls for justice. We stand in solidarity with you and with the Kentucky Council of Churches as you seek to find new pathways to full justice for Breonna Taylor. We pledge our own support to this effort, knowing that wherever racism continues to affect unjust outcomes, we all suffer and none of us can rest.

We thank you for your ongoing work for justice. You remain in our thoughts and prayers. We stand ready to support your efforts in ways that you find meaningful and helpful.

May the arc of history continue its unerring bent towards justice, a bending that no enemy of God’s shalom can long delay. Let your justice roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. And may the Holy Spirit of the living God and the risen Christ sustain you in what remains the work of the faithful: building a just world for all.

Faithfully,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson
Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries and Operations

The Rev. Traci Blackmon
Associate General Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries
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
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