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!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ilxQOMqB-OEJ2SorcbQHA
# September 2020

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**BIRTHDAYS**

- 3  Danny Dean
- 5  Nicole Bertoni
- 8  Emily Innes
- 13 Jim Ickes
- 16 Louie Bertoni
- 17 Francesca de Capua
- 19 Laura Daniels
- 20 Rachel Hormell
- 21 Frank Weeks
- 25 Beth Eberhard
- 26 Janet Buchanan
- 27 Mary Ann Brizzolara
- 29 Judy Brizzolara
- 28 Bill Romp
- 28 Kevin McGuinn
- 29 Ross Lewis

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2  Georgi & Rich Tarrant ‘72
- 18 Diane & Eldon Langham 2001
- 24 Polly & Gene Todd ‘83

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or if any changes are needed, please let the office know!
Based on Romans 12:1-8

(the first two verses are written by Al Carmines, from the hymn God of Change and Glory,
I wrote the rest as a way to share some thoughts about God's love and grace)

God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.
Many gifts, One Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days. For the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.
Many gifts, One Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days. For the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many missions, God of timeless years,
You have taught us love and caring through laughter and through tears,
As we worship and transform, give us grace to grow.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of transformation, God of renewing minds,
You have given gifts to share and use, though many different kinds.
As we grow and minister may we have the gift to share
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of life and service, God of things unseen,
Help us live our lives glorified to service that is not mean
As we learn and live, may we be a living sacrifice in your name
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!
God of understanding, God of loving action,
As we live our lives in faith to you, living for your satisfaction
Help us Worship and be transformed, using gifts that you have given
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many members, God of One body in Christ
When we praise and worship, and use the gifts of the Spirit,
Then we live and work together as a community of faith.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of total commitment, God of loving care,
Help us worship you every hour, everywhere
So that we may be renewed and give ourselves completely over to you
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of renewing minds, God of changing ways,
Give us grace to live the gifts you have given and challenge us to pray
So we may worship and adore Christ our Redeemer, God our creator,
    and the Spirit our comforter as our way of life.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, One Word, One Spirit, One God known in many ways,
Hallowing our days, for the giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Blessings,

[Signature]

Pastor Mindy
In keeping with the UCC’s “Our Faith Our Voice Our Vote” campaign, we will be available to help folks prepare for the upcoming election.

Drive up and stay in your car to check your status as a registered voter, register to vote or update your registration if you have moved or changed your name. About a quarter of a million people in Ohio were purged from voter registration rolls last year, nearly 20% were removed in error so checking your status is important for everyone!

You will also be able to fill out an application for an absentee ballot. Applications will be available free of charge.

You will need to bring just one of the following:
- current Ohio driver’s license; or
- current photo or military ID; or
- copy of a current utility bill, bank statement or paycheck showing your name and address.

Once your application is completed & signed, you may mail it or have the volunteers hand-deliver it to the proper County Board of Elections. The applications must be received by the Board within 10 days of the date of signature. Absentee ballots will be mailed to you beginning October 6. **ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE SENT ONLY TO REGISTERED VOTERS WHO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS. A NEW APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH ELECTION.**

In Ohio, there are three ways to vote:
1) Go to your regular polling place on Tues, Nov. 3
2) Early Voting - Go to your county board of elections office (Erie County - 2900 Columbus Av, Sandusky; Lorain County - 1985 North Ridge Rd East, Lorain) to fill out a ballot between Oct. 6 and Nov. 2
3) Submit an application for an absentee ballot before Saturday, Oct. 31 at noon to receive your ballot in the mail. You may return it in person or mail to the board of elections office in your county. The board recommends ballots be dropped off in person because of expected high volume at the post office.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the board of elections office no later than 7:30pm November 3. Volunteers will deliver completed ballots for anyone who asks, to either county board of elections.

Volunteers will be at the church
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>11am-1pm</td>
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In Loving Memory

Lucile Clark
October 23, 1924 - August 14, 2020

May we hold fast to the promise of the resurrection for Lucile and prayers of hope for her family.

In Loving Memory

Ruth Smith
December 11, 1929 - August 19, 2020

May we hold fast to the promise of the resurrection for Ruth and prayers of hope for her family.
Congratulations to Jillian Weeks on receiving her Doctorate in Neuroscience! She has accepted a position with Northwestern Medical in Chicago as a cancer research coordinator. Best of luck!

A big THANK YOU goes out to Melanie Haynes, Judy Williams & Gayle Farschman. Your hard work weeding & planting is much appreciated!

Rally Day will be Sunday, September 13th. Since we can’t get together for our usual Rally Day picnic luncheon, I thought it would be a fun idea to share with each other our favorite cookout/picnic recipes. This way, after the Rally Day service, though we'll be apart, we can still enjoy fellowship through making some of each other’s favorite dishes. Whether it’s a dessert, side, salad, or main dish, send your go-to cookout recipes to Shelly Innes at ekinnes@centurytel.net. A list of the recipes will go out to everyone on September 11th. When you make a recipe on Rally Day, be sure to take a picture of you and your family enjoying the dish that you made. Send your pictures to Pastor Mindy so that she can use them in the next worship service!

From Our Missions Committee:
We have been overwhelmed by the positive response to the signs! Missions has distributed almost the entire order of 220! If you'd like one, please call Karen Rossi (440-223-5982) or the church office soon!
Your donations to help defray the cost are appreciated! It's not too late to help, you can mail or bring a contribution to the church office. Please be sure to write "Missions Committee - Signs" on your check or the envelope.
Thank you for your support!

The Property Committee would like to thank everyone who has pitched in to make our church look beautiful! A reminder that when any trimming or digging is being done to be aware of wires, pipes, etc. Don’t forget your masks, physical distancing & sanitizer! Safety first!

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE!
Pastor Mindy is so grateful that you have been so receptive to 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/UC6ilsQOMqB-OEJ2SorcbQHA
Be a Pal! Send a note or card and make a difference in someone’s life!! Even though our church building is closed, our ministries in the community continue. We are in search of volunteers willing to become a pen pal and send a card or write a note once a month to a resident at neighboring Mill Manor Nursing home. What a simple way to brighten someone’s day and let them know we care! When we have enough volunteers, each will be assigned a “pal” along with a few suggestions or guidelines. Periodically, items will be purchased (from donations) for the volunteers to fill little gift bags that will be delivered to their Mill Manor pal. If you would like to make a difference in someone’s life please email or call the church office.

MONEY MATTERS

On behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you to everyone for increasing our monthly July member giving $3,000 above June’s total of $5,920. Cash flow continues to be a challenge. Our on-line giving app (found on our website, just click on the donate box) offers members an easy way to give. Checks may also be mailed to the church. Our Endowment Fund is doing very well after the market reacted to the Pandemic in March and April. The December 2019 balance was $569,205, and dropped as low as $509,643 April 2020 (which also includes a $10,000 draw taken in late March). Current balance is shown below.

Review of July Financial Statement:

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<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>$19,147</td>
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<td>($8,858 from member giving)</td>
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<td>Total expense</td>
<td>$20,253</td>
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Giving for the month was $3000 higher than June. Year to date giving income, $80,971 was short of the budgeted amount by $696. Total monthly income included a $8000 interest check representing 2 years of interest on an investment account at UBS.

Expenses included the normal overhead costs of the church including the property insurance on the church and the rental house next door and the property taxes on the house next door. Our expenses year to date are under budget by $9,557. We have not taken a draw on the Endowment for operational needs since March.

- The General Endowment balance as of July 31: $560,604
- Sunset Shores Outreach Fund balance as of July 31: $517,019

The committee will begin the 2021 budgeting process in September. It was decided to draft two budgets, one for normal operations (DNS in session) and one “COVID” budget in the event it is needed. We are also applying for a $3000 grant from the Pandemic UCC Microgrants program and will be reviewing a loan opportunity from the UCC for a 2.5% operational loan if it is needed.

As always, if there are questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a committee Member! We are here for you!

Judy Klucas, Chair
Tim Fenton, Peter Hart, Judy Kernell, Jim Peters, Anne Stock
Prayer Requests

John Beggs
Deirdre Butti
Gail Cordy
Tracy Davis
Marcia Dobias
Dave Munger
Michael Paetzold
Tom Roberts
Jennifer Smith
Carolyn Strittmather
Marsha Woods
Floyd Work

If you would like to add anyone to the prayer request list, please contact the office.
From the Reopening Team

We, like you, are looking forward to the day we can worship together in one place. But we also feel a very strong commitment to keeping everyone healthy. Below is how one man with COVID attended an Ohio service on June 14 & in less than 3 weeks, the virus had spread to 91 more people. Stay masked, stay sanitized, stay safe!
Last week I suggested that questions that have no answers should be changed. Continuing to ask the same question when there is no answer wastes precious energy that redirected can become a fruitful quest through which we can learn, explore, discover and grow.

So the question “when do we reopen?” which has no answer at this time, I believe should be changed to a quest to discover what God is calling us to do today so we can learn, grow, serve by directing our energy and curiosity to viruses we can do something about. It is time to accept the things we cannot change, such as COVID, and focus on the things we can change, such as racism and other social wrongs. It is time to embark on the QUEST in the QUESTION.

The words quest and question come from the same root query. Question literally means an utterance meant to elicit an answer, while quest is the act of seeking, hence quest is a journey, a walk, an adventure.

Instead of asking “when do we reopen?” ask “what is the spiritual quest in this moment?” Embark on a quest to learn about racism and the social ills that plague us, that divide and alienate us. We cannot safely travel at this time but we can certainly embark on a quest learning through books, educational online resources, conversations, discussion, etc.

The Biblical story is uninterested in race. The word race, especially as defined today, did not exist then. The Biblical world was more interested in heritage, ancestry, lineage, offspring, ethnicity, often using words such as seed, descendent, gene/genealogy/generation, origin, tribe, clan, kin. I cannot find words in Hebrew, Greek, Arabic or Armenian that mean race as “understood” today. The interest then was in ancestry, lineage and heredity, all important during biblical times only to the extent that they provided identification for legal purposes, for establishment of rights to social positions such as nobility, proof of kinship, inheritance and priesthood.

The question then was, whose child/offspring are you and what is your lineage? We see this in Jesus’ Genealogy in Mathew and Luke compiled to prove Jesus’ lineage to King David. For the Messiah was to be of royal bloodline.

We also find in the Biblical story the words gentle and pagan, which literally mean of different tribe, nation, country, basically anyone who is not of the same tribe as the speaker/author. This makes sense because the Bible is the tribal story of the Hebrews whose world was ethnically diverse with an assortment of cultures, nations, languages, customs, not races.

Race is a modern, social construct not biologically shaped or divinely decreed. There is no evidence that “races” have distinct, unifying genetic identities. The blood that gives us life has no distinctive racial characteristics. It is “ancestry” that reflects human variations tracing them to geographical origins of our ancestors.

I believe that our still speaking God is inviting us to walk the quest in the question, directing our energy and attention to introspect, explore and learn, all acts of spirit toward growth. I believe that since we cannot gather in person, we can direct our energy to examine our hearts, dig deep and probe our attitudes and convictions about racism and other social issues that oppress and harm. We are called to discover a faith/spiritual perspective, so we can continue to become one human race as God has created us to be. I will pray for a meaningful and adventurous questing for us all.

As to COVID—Do what you can, wear your masks.
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

BE THE CHURCH
Stay Home. Social Distance. Wash Your Hands.
Check on the Elderly. Live Stream Worship.
Give electronically. Support each other.
Love God. Flatten the curve. Pray Daily.
So we can all enjoy this life.

Content Credit: Julia Roberts,
LCSW, Philadelphia, PA