

November 2018

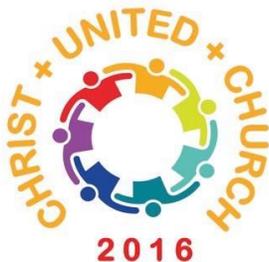
The Good News

The monthly newsletter of Christ United Church

Christ United Church

A federated church
of the Presbyterian Church
(USA) and the
United Church of Christ

With Christ
as our heart
and God's love
as our fire,
we learn, we love,
we care for all
people.



Appreciating the UCC

Pastor Allan's Message

One of the tasks of the UCC History and Polity course that I'm taking is to write up a short summary of what we appreciate about the United Church of Christ. Since I'm sure that the Presbyterian half of the congregation doesn't know much about the UCC, I thought I would share some of the things that I appreciate about that half of our congregation. Next time I'll do the same for the Presbyterian half.

1. An Emphasis on Unity

The United Church of Christ takes Jesus' prayer in John 17 seriously: "that all may be one." This is the only prayer that Jesus made for the church, and we have been woefully bad at fulfilling it. The UCC takes Jesus' prayer and runs with it. The two churches that united to form the UCC in 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the Congregational Christian Churches, were themselves the result of two earlier unions, so the UCC talks about the four streams of their tradition. Our congregation, Christ United, follows in this tradition of the UCC of finding a way to have unity even in diversity. I greatly admire the UCC drive to find a way to live together amidst theological and institutional diversity.

2. A Celebration of Diversity

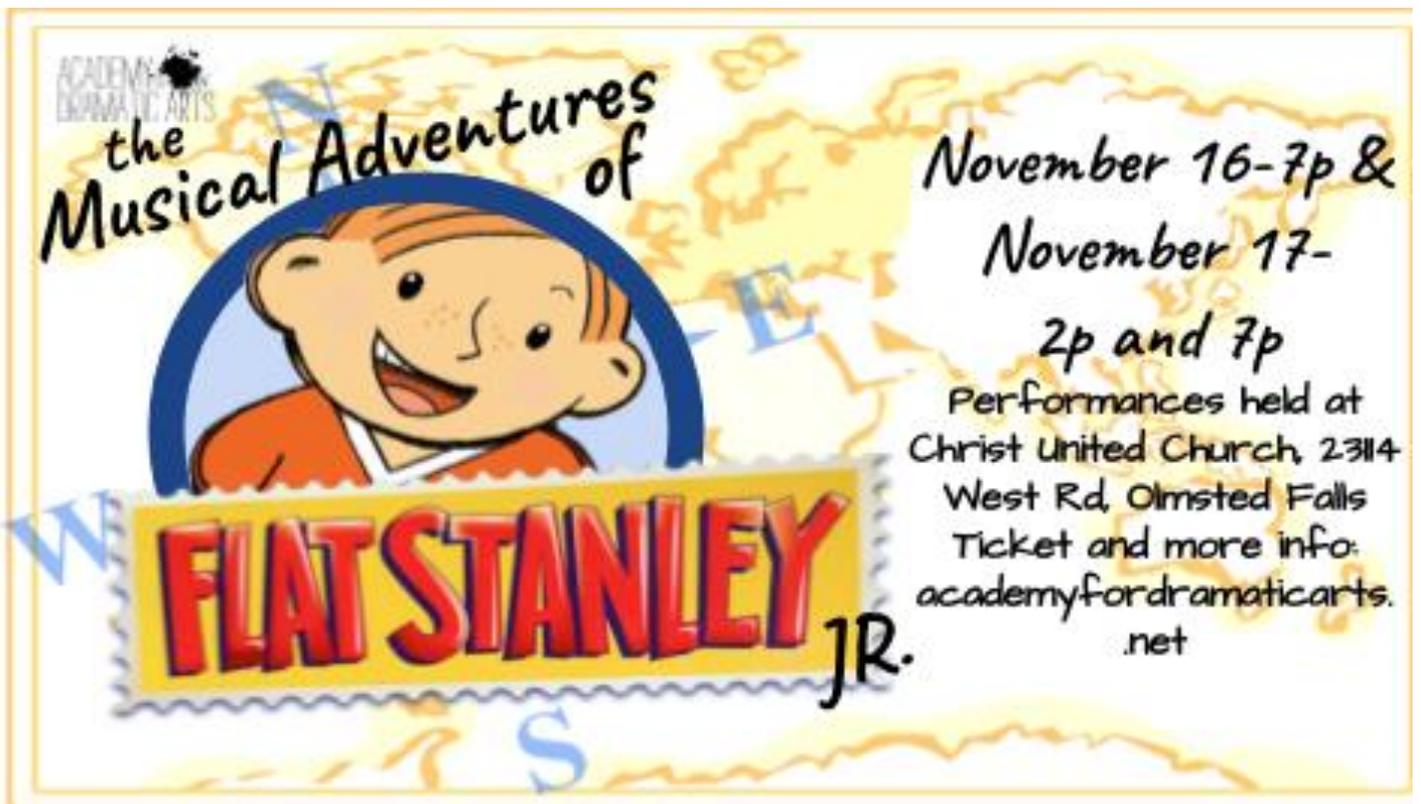
The UCC didn't just find a way to live together in uniting, it found a way to celebrate diversity. Theologically, this works out to an

emphasis on each member and each church being able to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as they hear it. Not only are members expected to give space for others who hear a different voice, but they are encouraged, within the bounds of the broadest Christian tradition, to support others in their alternative path. This is perhaps not a surprise since the church has been composed of people of radically different understandings of church: Synods in control for the Evangelical & Reformed stream, and individual congregations making decisions for the Congregational Christian stream. The churches are held together by the idea of covenant, that is, a commitment to one another no matter what. Christ United has a similar joining of church polities (systems of government) in our founding vision, and a covenantal relationship might be the way we should think about our unity.

3. A strong Social Justice Component

The founding UCC churches can trace their social justice roots into the deep past. Congregational churches protested against slavery, and later sent teachers into the Deep South to teach newly freed African Americans, establishing schools and colleges.

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Appreciating the UCC

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The UCC has stood out in its commitment to justice for African Americans, gays and lesbians, and equality for women. The church insists that all people be treated with equal dignity. Its strong commitment to the proposition that Christ is for everyone, and everyone is welcome in UCC churches has made this church a moral force to be reckoned with. Christ United shares in this commitment to justice and a warm welcome for all.

Those are just a few of the most outstanding traits of the United Church of Christ. I'm proud of this part of our heritage, and I look forward to having official standing in the UCC in early November. Next month, I'll share what I particularly love about the PCUSA. †



Meet with the PSNC

Do you have questions about the Pastor Search and Nominating Process? Meet with the committee as well as Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister of the EOA/WRA and Sharon Core, General Presbyter of the PWR to discuss the search process on **Monday, November 5 at 7 pm** in the sanctuary. Please be sure to read the article **Why Can't the Interim Be Our Settled Pastor?** on page 3 before attending the meeting. †

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Presbyterian Women invite you to join us for our Fall Gathering on **Saturday, November 3 from 9am – 2pm** at Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Road. Our speakers will share their experiences with Dougbe River School and our Global Exchange programs. Contact Gladys Kershaw if you would like to attend. Cost is \$10 per person (\$12 at the door). Make checks payable to PW-PWR. †

Answering the Question:

Why Can't the Interim Be Our Settled Pastor?

The following article is a combination of information from both UCC and PCUSA sources.

Aside from being against both denominations' rules, there are some good reasons for not calling our interim as called pastor, and even denominations which don't have the official rule have guidelines that consider it improper or even unethical for an interim to become pastor.

The Nature of the Interim Time. The interim comes as a stranger (with objectivity) and as a friend (with care), with special skills and experiences to help a congregation in a very special time in its life, a transitional time. There are congregational emotions to which the interim is sensitive. If the interim were open to being called, it would detract from the special nature of the interim time.

The Importance of the Calling Process. The calling process in the PCUSA and UCC is a good process, and it is healthy for the church to go through it. The Pastor Search and Nominating Committee (PSNC) was called by the congregation to the specific task of searching. Let the committee do their work.

Through the PSNC, the congregation is forced to look at its own unique identity, what is "special about us," and to go through all the struggle and work it takes to call the right person. It is not unusual for a church to want their interim to stay. It happens all the time. But the relationship changes as soon a "covenant" is signed, and "marriage" takes place. That is why interims are not "called and covenanted" by a congregational vote but are *hired* by the Governing Board. A new pastor is called by the whole congregation, confirmed by Presbytery and Association, and the call is affirmed by the person as a call from God. The interim, of course, was contracted through a different process: chosen very quickly, by the Governing Board, through a small committee, for a specific task and time. The congregation is called to participate in the search by supporting the search committee and praying for them and the process.

The Potential for Conflict. It could even be divisive. An interim would always have some following, but there are usually also those that feel –

and rightly so – that the church should look at numerous candidates. Thus, there could be built-in opposition from the beginning. And whichever way the decision went – even if the interim got the position – there would be those who felt the decision was wrong.

Ministerial Ethics and Relationships. If an interim were a candidate, he or she would have an unfair advantage over other candidates for the position, who would not have the same visibility and opportunities. Among other things, that raises questions of ministerial ethics, and affects relationships with other ministers.

A Dangerous Precedent. A precedent could be set which could result in ministers seeking interim positions with the specific idea of putting themselves in a position to be called – thus damaging their effectiveness as an interim and damaging the whole calling process.

Opportunities for Better Suitability. By settling for the interim, the PSNC could very well pass over pastoral candidates who were better suited for the particular congregation – with just the right skills and experiences needed.

An Appreciation for Specialized Interim Ministry. Interim pastors today are trained with an understanding of what the transitional time means and have special skills in congregational analysis or development that are especially geared to shorter-term goals. Those skills are transferable to a longer-term call, of course, but to do so fails to fully recognize the richness of this specialized ministry.

The Importance of Preparing for New Leadership. One of the most important tasks of the interim is to help the congregation in its openness to the future: to be ready for the new leadership. And that in itself is exciting! The interim time can be an exciting one in the life of the congregation, because it's not a time to slow down or go into a "waiting stance;" – and that excitement includes the anticipation of the new person who will be called to minister with this particular and special people of faith!

CUC is a living congregation with good promise for the future. Nothing brings new life to a congregation as much the arrival of a "new right" settled pastor. Meanwhile, the interim is here until it happens (or as close to it as the timing will allow, which is sometimes tricky). Give thanks for the gifts we receive from our interim and for the person God will call to serve us in the future. ✠

Proposed By-Law Changes Town Hall Meeting

The Governing Board (GB) offers an opportunity for anyone to ask questions regarding the proposed by-laws change presented at the congregational meeting in May regarding denominational membership for our individual members. After the vote was tabled at the September meeting, the GB decided the best way to do that would be a town hall type gathering during Friendship Time to take place on **Sunday, November 18 after worship**. Cathy Green, Judy Mitchell and Regina Wolfe will be available to answer your questions. There may also be representatives from the offices of the two denominations. Cathy Green and Ogie White are making those contacts. Please plan to attend; enjoy a cup of coffee and treats and bring your questions and thoughts to discuss. ☩

Welcome the Fall

Martha's Circle will meet at Perk-Cup on **Wednesday, November 14 at 11:30 am** for lunch, fellowship, and planning. It will give us a chance to remember Carole Miller and Arlene Suehrstedt, both of whom we lost this past year. All CUC members are invited, including men! Please RSVP to Corky Wilson 440-243-2667 by Sunday, November 11. ☩

Forks and Friends is back!

Nancy and Stan Wares will host the dinner at Perk Cup on Bagley Rd. in Berea on **Friday, November 9 at 6:30 pm**. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the office. Come and enjoy a good meal and get to know members of your church family. Guests are welcome. Call Nancy at 440-235-1162 with any questions. ☩



Worship Opportunities in November

Looking ahead, please “save the date” for these upcoming special worship services and activities:

On **Sunday, November 4**, we will celebrate **All Saints Sunday** as we remember the members and friends of Christ United Church who have passed away during the last year. There will also be a time for those in the congregation to lift up names of friends and family who have also died during the past year. Please make plans to join us in this special time of remembrance and celebration.

The season of Advent is just around the corner and all friends and members are invited to gather on **Saturday, December 1, 10 am to 1 pm** to help with the **Greening of the Church** as we decorate our sanctuary and church building for the season. Donuts and hot chocolate will be provided; all are welcome! We will begin our advent worship services the following day with our **first Sunday of Advent, December 2**.

The church will celebrate the birth of Christ on **Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24**, with a **7:00 pm** family-friendly service including candlelight, Christmas music and choir. An extended 30-minute musical prelude will precede the service beginning at 6:30 pm. ☩

Hurricane Relief

Both the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ provide ways to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. To make donations, go to either the UCC website at www.ucc.org or PC(USA) at www.pcusa.org.

If preferred, checks may be mailed to:

United Church of Christ
% Financial Services
700 Prospect Ave
Cleveland, OH 44115

Make the check payable to United Church of Christ with Emergency USA Fund in the memo line.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Presbyterian Church (USA)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Make the check payable to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and designate it for hurricane relief. ☩

Saints and Sinners Luncheon

Everyone is invited to the Saints and Sinners Fall Luncheon at **11:30 am on Thursday, November 15** at the new Goldie's in Westwood Commons, 13359 Pearl Road in Strongsville, right across the street from their previous location. We will be able to order anything on their new menu. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church office. Please sign up or call Gladys Kershaw (440-238-2363) by Tuesday, November 13. †

Meet Our Artists

The featured artists on the gallery wall in our hallway are Bob August and his children Leah Allen and Ashe Allen-August. We thank them for their participation.

Bob August has had a long-held passion for visual arts. Studying drawing, painting and photography through high school and even taking several non-credit, extracurricular courses for photography at the Cleveland Institute of Art during his high school years. After completing his education, he took a long hiatus from art only to recently find his passion again for the craft these past few years.

Leah Allen is a junior at Berea-Midpark High School. She's been drawing since kindergarten and art has always been an important part of her life. Her favorite thing to draw is her own characters that she created over the years. She is thankful for the artistic influence of her father and the appreciation and support from her mother.

Ashe Allen-August is a sophomore at Berea-Midpark High School. His prime interest is photography and he is entering his second year taking photography at the high school. Developing photos in the dark room is Ashe's favorite thing to do and he's excited to continue his passion through the school year. He uses two 35mm cameras, a Pentax K1000 and a Canon EOS 650. †

Office Assistance Needed

Personnel is looking to expand the pool of volunteers willing to help out in the church office when needed. We also plan to have a training session to go over duties and procedures. If you are interested in volunteering for this important service, please contact Earl Crall, Diana Craig or Don Berkey. †

Our BW Choral Scholars

Welcome to **Bruno Bush** our new BW Scholar. Bruno is a senior Music Education major at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music, studying both voice and conducting. The middle child of an Italian father working in the food business and a Brazilian mother raised near the Amazon, Bruno grew up in the Cleveland area before attending high school in Columbus. Outside of singing, Bruno enjoys playing bass in the BW Jazz Ensembles and directing an a cappella group on campus called Moondaze. He hopes to become a high school choir director after college and is very excited and humbled to be joining the CUC community!

Tia Karaplis has been singing with us since January. You are invited to attend Tia's **Senior Music Theatre Recital on Friday, November 30, 7:00 pm** in the BW Kleist Center for Art and Drama, Mainstage Theater. She will present a 50-minute recital of song, dance and theatre. The recital is free and open to the public; invite your friends and join others from CUC to support Tia! †



A Report from UCC Ohio Conference Annual Gathering

by Diana Craig and Cathy Green

The Annual Gathering of the Ohio Conference was held in late September at Westerville Community UCC in Westerville, Ohio. Diana Craig was our delegate, Rev. Allen Lane attended as our pastor, and Cathy Green attended as the Moderator of the Conference.

Rev. David Long-Higgins, who began as Transitional Conference Minister on September 1, was introduced to the gathering. Rev. Long-Higgins preached during the closing worship. To read a message from Dave, visit the Conference website at ohioucc.org, or click [here](#).

Musician [Ken Medema](#) provided music throughout the two days. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with both heart and mind. Ken has the remarkable ability to compose lyrics and music that summarize what he has just heard. He provided musical reflections at several points during the meeting. A special highlight was the concert by Ken on Friday night.

[Rev. Starsky Wilson](#), President and CEO, Deaconess Foundation of St. Louis, Missouri, was the keynote speaker. His message was titled “Blow the Trumpet” in which he described civil rights and social justice efforts over the past fifty years. He stressed that our Christian faith called us to action.

A significant portion of the business meeting was devoted to engaging with the Conference Vision Team about their proposal to consolidate the existing Associations and Conference structures into a unified judicatory with three Support Centers. The Team sees this process happening gradually, beginning with a focus on collaboration in areas of mutual benefit. The gathered body offered favorable feedback to the proposal. To read more on this process from Cathy Green, visit the Conference website at ohioucc.org, or click [here](#).

Other business at the Annual Gathering included a report from outgoing interim Conference Minister John Gantt, a report on Outdoor Ministry describing the first year back at Tempel Hills Camp, a review of year-to-date financials, and the 2019 budget. The gathering approved changes to the Ohio Conference Bylaws so that the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations could complete their

legal consolidation into a single Association. The gathering also ratified changes to the national UCC Constitution that had been approved at General Synod in 2017. Officers, Board Members, and Synod delegates were elected.

For more information, talk to Diana or Cathy, or visit the conference website. ☩

Dates to Remember

- November 3 – EOA/WRA Annual mtg.
- November 4 – All Saints Sunday/Commitment Sunday
- November 5 – Meeting with PSNC/Denomination Reps
- November 9 – Forks & Friends
- November 16 and 17 – AFDA production
- November 18 – Town Hall after worship
- November 23 & 24 – Church office closed
- December 1 – Greening of the Church
- December 2 – First Sunday of Advent
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service
- March 23 – Rise Against Hunger
- March 25 – Hosting PWR

Dollars and Cents

	September actual	Y-T-D actual	Y-T-D budgeted
Congregational Giving	\$ 23,558	\$ 204,034	\$ 205,491
Building Use/Misc.	\$ 2,845	\$ 9,656	\$ 8,962
Total Income	\$ 28,071	\$ 233,462	\$ 230,264
Total Expenses	\$ 23,001	\$ 110,333	\$ 234,829

As you can see, our Congregational giving is almost 100% while total giving is over 100%. That is great! Thank you. Also, our expenses are down through September.

Special Offerings

Through the second week in October we have received \$915 for the Fifth Sunday Mission Project. The Gleaning of the Fields Mission picks leftover fruits and vegetables from farmer’s fields to provide meals for the hungry. Secondly, we have received a total of \$901 for Neighbors in Need and Peace & Global Witness Offerings. Thank you to all! ☩

Fellowship and Discuss

For where two or three come together in my name there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

Join us on **Thursday, November 1 at 7:00 pm at the Crall home in Brook Park.** The discussion will continue in Listening for God's Call. We covered the call stories of several major biblical figures in the October session. This month we formulate thoughts about God's call to people and what a call is in the present.

Contact Bonnie by phone (440-234-2202) or email bcrall@ameritech.net to let her know if you plan to attend. Bring your Bible, and a light refreshment to share (optional). Beverages are provided. The Crall's home is at 6459 East Vancey Dr., Brook Park (off Sheldon Rd, two streets west of Donte's Restaurant which is located on the corner of St. Rt. 237 and Sheldon Rd.) ☩


Continuing Our
Steps Toward
A Godly Walk

Happy Birthday

November

- 2 Kathryn Montgomery
- 4 Joyce Cristman
- 4 Amy Marke
- 4 Marijo Rickel
- 5 Shirley Gerecke
- 5 Katie Spinner
- 7 Jane Dunn
- 7 Bobbie Perkins-White
- 7 Joan Wiborg
- 8 Diane Phillips
- 9 Christopher Szabo
- 10 Joan Kamper
- 10 Madelyn Schroll
- 11 Rose Farmer
- 16 Beverly Maxwell
- 21 Dale Van Zante
- 24 Mike Walker
- 27 Diana Craig
- 28 Kate Lane
- 29 Sara Barnett

Meet Our New Members

Donna LaMarre

Our new member of the month is Donna LaMarre, although many of those members that came from First Church will not consider her new since she grew up at in that church. Donna attended Oberlin College to receive a degree in English. Her first job was with the American Red Cross at Chelsea Naval Hospital in Boston where she met her former husband, Richard. Her early married life was spent in Maine where she continued to work for the Red Cross as a social worker.



When her father died, she returned to her childhood home on Fowles Road to help her mother adjust to a new life. Since she was back in this area, she decided to go back to school at Baldwin Wallace where she received a BS in Information Systems. This turned out to be a good decision since she worked for American Greetings and KeyBank focusing on information security. She has a son, Ryan, who is also in the IT field in Maine.

Now retired, Donna has several passions. She took a course with the famous photographer, Ian Adams. To see some of her pictures, look her up on Facebook. She also scrapbooks, sews, knits and embroiders. More recently, she is perfecting her skills as a cook specializing in Southwest recipes. She thanks Marcia Karchmer and Sara Barnett for encouraging her to become a part of Christ United Church. Be sure to say hello to Donna the next time you see her. ☩



Wider Church News:

58 Years of Health, Healing and Well-Being

by Don Michaelsen

Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA), an international health care non-profit agency, was formed in late 1960 by a coalition of six faith-based relief and development agencies to build healthier communities in underdeveloped countries. Today its name is IMA World Health. There are nine mission boards and relief agencies that hold membership in IMA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency, American Baptist Churches USA, Disciples of Christ's Week of Compassion, Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Relief and Development, Lutheran World Relief, Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ). In addition to distribution of needed medical supplies (chiefly from pharmaceutical and medical manufacturers and hospitals), IMA provides medical services to people in areas devastated by civil strife and natural disasters.

A 10-member board of directors and member agencies work with Rick Santos, 54, the current president and CEO. Their world headquarters is in Washington, D.C. The last known budget (2016-17) was \$97.3 million. IMA has offices and health projects in: Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Tanzania. It distributes medicine and supplies to 22 more countries in the Caribbean, Central America, East Asia, Southwest Asia and Africa.

IMA's stated mission includes: strengthens health systems; prevent and treat disease; promote nutrition through behavior change communication; promote water, sanitation and hygiene; respond to sexual and gender-based violence and promote maternal and child health.

Recently announced Co-Nobel Peace Prize winner, Denis Mukwege, a surgeon, has partnered with IMA World Health in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has been a strong advocate for human rights and the ending of sexual violence. †

SOURCES: Brethren.org; ImaWorldHealth.org

Join Us in Ireland!

On July 8, 2019, Linda Short and her sister, Robin Kaiser, lead a tour of Ireland. Please consider joining them as they tour most of the lovely and historic sites of Ireland. The tour company, Educational Opportunities, is a nonprofit company dedicated to exposing people to the world of travel and to exploring other cultures.

The basic tour lasts 8 days with an optional extension of 3 days in Dublin. The price includes airfare from Cleveland, breakfast & dinner, first class hotels, deluxe motor coaches, entrance and administration fees and more. Brochures are available on the bulletin board across from the church office or online from Linda. Feel free to contact Linda at 440-785-6047 or 9short28@gmail.com.

This is a great trip to take with friends! †

The Good News

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