

October 2018

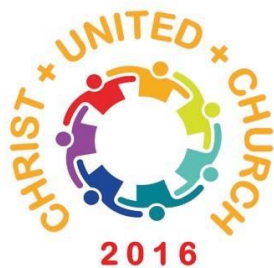
# The Good News

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.**



## A New Thing

*A Message from Our Congregation's President*

*See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it?  
I am making a way in the  
wilderness and streams in the  
wasteland.  
Isaiah 43:19*

This an exciting passage!  
Doing new things, finding new  
ways, exploring new ideas are  
energizing. Jesus came to the  
world with an entirely new way of  
thinking and being and loving.  
Christ United Church is on the  
verge of doing a new thing. The  
pastor search committee is  
working diligently to find the  
person to lead us into the future. I  
believe God is preparing the right  
pastor for us at this very moment.  
However, we need to trust the  
committee as they work through  
the process of discerning who our  
next spiritual leader will be.

The members and friends  
of CUC also need to be doing the  
work of preparation. As the  
Vision Team worked to discover  
who we are and what is important  
to us, we heard over and over  
again the hope that more young  
people and families come to join  
us. It was clear we want this  
church to be a viable presence in  
the community for years to come.

Given that hope, the first  
question is: How do we become  
more inviting to the younger  
generation? In one of Richard  
Rohr's daily devotions, Dr.

Barbara Holmes writes about how  
the Gospel is being re-envisioned  
by young people: "To reconsider  
your circumstances using the  
perspectives of a new generation  
is a difficult and contemplative  
act. It is contemplative because it  
requires the recognition that the  
world as we know it is not of our  
own making. Another generation  
has its hands to the plow; they  
will not engage the world as we  
did; they are singing a new song."  
Dr. Holmes continues: "If  
Christianity is to survive and stay  
relevant, we must welcome new  
songs, new expressions of the  
sacred through beauty,  
celebration, lament, defiance, and  
calls to repentance and action."  
The next question is: What  
changes are we willing to make to  
appeal to this next generation of  
workers? I have heard this  
referred to as mission. For those  
who value a more traditional form  
of worship, new ways of  
worshipping are a mission to  
those who find spiritual  
nourishment in more  
contemporary ways. And for  
those who like more  
contemporary worship, traditional  
ways are also a mission to those  
who find solace in the way church  
is as they remember it. We need  
to be aware that people are fed  
spiritually in a variety of ways.

Continued on page 2

# More than Peace

## Pastor Allan's Message

"Stand up and pass the peace." That's what we do every Sunday just before children's time. We move about among our fellow congregants and we say to them, "the peace of Christ be with you."

It's an ancient ritual. It probably comes originally from the Gospel According to St. John, chapter 14, verse 27: Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

In the Middle Ages, the Latin-speaking monks continued the practice, and would greet each other with a similar phrase: "*Pax vobiscum*", "peace be with you." And so it has gone through the ages, with the Christian community wishing each other peace.

But it struck me recently that this was rather odd. Why did we choose the peace of Christ as the most important thing to share? Surely there are other qualities of life in Jesus Christ which are just as important as peace, maybe even more so.

Why don't we share the love of Christ with each other? "The love of Christ be with you, brother! The love of Christ be with you, sister!" That would be just the word that someone who was feeling alone, left out, forgotten, unlovable, needs to hear. That's a word that Christian communities would do well to remember when we're dealing with each other and with visitors among us. No matter what happens, we are the family of God, the people of Christ, and we say to each other, "The love of Christ be with you." That's important!

Or why don't we share the forgiveness of Christ with each other? "The forgiveness of Christ be with you, sister! You are forgiven. The forgiveness of Christ be with you, brother! Your sins are forgotten!" That would be a powerful word to those who are feeling guilt-plagued, who are overpowered with memories of things done, or said, or left undone, or unsaid when they needed to be. Forgiveness is hard to come by in this world, and congregations that offer forgiveness to each other offer a real blessing. Sometimes the word we need to hear is, "The forgiveness of Christ be with you!"

In reality, of course, we need all of them: the peace of Christ, the love of Christ, the forgiveness of Christ – not to mention the mercy of Christ, the grace of Christ, the acceptance of Christ, the gifts of

Christ, and the presence of Christ. And that doesn't even begin to exhaust the riches which are ours in Christ Jesus our Lord!

So today I offer you more than peace. Sisters and Brothers, the love and forgiveness and mercy and grace and acceptance and gifts and presence of Christ be with you, now and always. ✚  
Amen

## A New Thing

continued from page 1

I encourage each and every one of us to open our hearts and minds to this new thing God has in store for us. This will require us to open our hands and let go of some of our traditional ways of doing things. With these open hands and hearts, we can receive the gift God has for us, a gift that surpasses our imagination. ✚

God bless us, everyone,  
Regina Wolfe, CUC President

## A Double Thank You

The Mission Committee sends the first thank you for all the first-aid supplies collected in July. They were gratefully received and went to good homes. The second thank you is for all the hygiene supplies that were collected for St. Malachi's. They were taken there recently, and the attendant said they were running low on soap. God helped us put these items in the right place at the right time. Thank you! ✚

## We Get Letters

Jeff and I were overwhelmed at the support we received at our daughter, Joanna D'Agostino's installation service at Lakewood Congregational Church. We would like to extend a thank you and blessings to all of those who attended. We felt the love from our church family and know that Joanna felt blessed as well. ✚ Kathy Smith

## A Fond Farewell

James Alfieri joined St. Andrew's Presbyterian in September 2015 as organist and keyboardist and, when St. Andrew's and First Church combined, James became the founding organist and keyboardist of Christ United. Two years ago, James completed his master's degree in sacred music with the hope to eventually secure a full-time position in church music. After a long search, James has accepted a full-time position as director of music at a church in his home state of Pennsylvania; his last Sunday at CUC is September 30. We are thrilled for James but sad he is leaving the Christ United family.

For three years, James has led our congregation and shared his many talents with us. Among his many contributions include performing as a member of the CUC Baroque Trio and planning and performing a special recital commemorating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the Ruggles organ.

A search is underway to find James' replacement. Please join us in prayers for James during this time of transition as well as for the CUC keyboardist search committee. ☩

## Dates to Remember

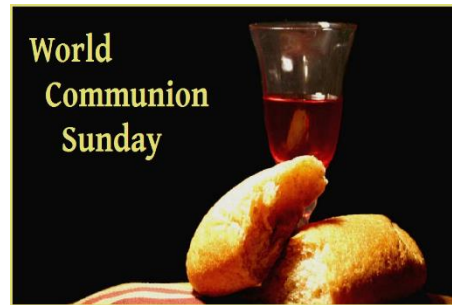
October 7 – World Communion Sunday  
 March 23 – Rise Against Hunger  
 March 25 – Hosting PWR

## Dinner Out with Forks and Friends

Forks and Friends is a monthly gathering of church folks at a local restaurant on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 PM. Each month someone needs to contact a restaurant, make a reservation, and put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the Office. Let Betsy know so she can put it in the weekly announcements. We need someone to arrange this for the month of October. The date is Friday, October 12. Contact Nancy Wares with any questions. ☩

## Worldwide Communion Sunday

On Sunday, October 7, 10:00 AM, we will mark Worldwide Communion Sunday as we celebrate our unity in Christ, ecumenical partnership and shared ministry. The tradition originated at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, was adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the National Council of Churches endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide. In a time where globalization often



undermines peace and justice – and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth, we will take this day to

celebrate our oneness in Christ, in the midst of the world we are called to serve – a world in need of peacemaking and reconciliation. ☩

## Dollars and Cents

	August actual	Y-T-D actual	Y-T-D budgeted
Congregational Giving	\$ 22,427	\$ 198,129	\$ 196,741
Building Use/Misc.	\$ 463	\$ 7,262	\$ 8,050
Total Income	\$ 22,870	\$ 205,391	\$ 204,791
Total Expenses	\$ 25,375	\$ 197,332	\$ 208,923

As you can see, our giving is up, and expenses are down through August. Two months in a row. Thank you to everyone! ☩

# Special Offerings to be Received on October 7

## Peace & Global Witness and Neighbors in Need

Our next special offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 7. All gifts received for these special offerings will be divided with 50% going to the Peace & Global Witness Offering and 50% to Neighbors in Need. You may put your offering in either of the special envelopes that will be in the pews by mid-September, or simply include it in your normal envelope. If you use your regular envelope, indicate the amount and write "Special Offering." Please give generously!

**Peace & Global Witness - Create a World of Peace** A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. **CUC will be forwarding its share to [Dougbe River School](#).**

Our presbytery retains an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. To learn more, visit

[specialofferings.pcusa.org](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org)

**Neighbors in Need** (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the NIN offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. To learn more, visit [ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin) †

# Buy Fair Trade

Use your purchasing power to express your belief that everyone should be treated well and should earn a fair wage for their efforts. Fair trade products are certified because they guarantee fair pay for those who produce them and environmentally-friendly methods of production.

As part of our mission, Christ United Church serves fair trade coffee and tea. We also encourage our members to do the same. Fair trade products probably cost a bit more than



the mass-produced products you would otherwise buy, but they are high quality, organic products, produced with sustainable farming practices and they provide livable wages for growers. They also make wonderful gifts for holidays, birthdays, etc.

Christ United sells fair trade products including coffees, teas, cocoa, chocolate, and olive oil. They can be purchased in individual packages or by the case for a lower price. Coffees can be purchased as whole bean or ground. We will have the products on display during coffee hour on the second Sunday of every month and at certain other times, but they can be purchased any time. For more information, contact Kathy Keck or any member of the Mission Committee.

We will have a coffee and tea-tasting event at a coffee hour in the near future. Please plan to try these special products, select your favorites and make them a part of your daily life. Support the people who produce our food and beverages. †

# Children's Moment

The Faith Formation and Worship committees plan to once again include lay people in the Children's Moment. We will use a schedule of alternating Sundays. Pastor Allan will give the children's message one Sunday and the lay person will give the message on the following Sunday. We would like to begin this sometime in October. If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our children, please contact Regina Wolfe. †



## In Search of...

After a brief rest, our Pastor Search and Nominating Committee is back at work. The Ministry Information Form for the PCUSA and the Local Church Profile Form for the UCC have been completed and are now available for potential candidates to consider. This process will take some time to find the person who God is calling to serve with us. We remind the congregation again, that by the rules of both of our denominations and the agreement made when hired, Allan cannot become our settled pastor.



We encourage you to keep your eye on the posters of progress outside the sanctuary. And as always, we seek your prayers as we continue our journey. ☩

## 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, October 4 at 7:00 PM at the Crall home in Brook Park. The discussion will be Listening for God's Call. We will learn the call stories of several major biblical figures and formulate thoughts about God's call to people and what a call is in the present. We welcome any and all individuals interested in Bible study. Study topics vary from month to month.



**Continuing Our  
Steps Toward  
A Godly Walk**

Contact Bonnie by phone (440-234-2202) or email [bcrall@ameritech.net](mailto: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.) ☩

## Happy Birthday

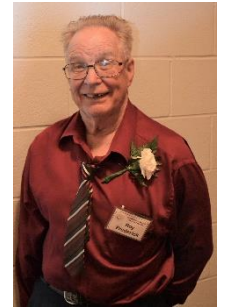
### October

4	Sandy Dipko
4	Kathy Reeves
4	Noah Reeves
9	Cathy Green
13	Joan Whitney
15	John Spooner
16	Bill Allen
19	Patty Matthews Fouse
19	Oliver Reyes Jr.
23	Brian Rickel
25	Benjamin Wiborg
26	Janet Winzenburger
27	Gloria Bauman
30	Gladys Kershaw

## Meet Our New Members

### Roy Frederick

This month, we introduce you to our new member, Roy Frederick. As the husband of Dalene, we have seen Roy for many years, but he finally decided to become a member this past year. Roy grew up in Cleveland on the East side near East 55<sup>th</sup> & St. Clair, and eventually graduated from Max Hayes High School on the west side.



He worked for a couple of years in various jobs before he found his passion in driving trucks. He spent a total of 32 years driving for Cook Motor Lines and Cleveland Express Trucking. Now retired, he spends time as a part time auto mechanic working on his vehicles and helping others with minor repairs.

Roy was married for 13 years and had four children before he met Dalene to whom he has been married for 32 years. Together, they have three children. Combining both households, they have 15 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Roy is very quiet and let's Dalene do all the talking, but if you get a chance to converse with him, you will find a person with a wonderful dry sense of humor. Take a few minutes to get to introduce yourself and get know him at Friendship Time. ☩

Wider Church News:

## UK Churches Put Their Faith in Clean Energy

by Don Michaelsen

In January 2016, former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams and current chair of *Christian Aid* helped launch “Eco Church.” It equips congregations to become eco-friendly by integrating environmental care through worship, management of church buildings and land, community and global involvement and personal life styles of church members.

On August 3, 2018 to combat climate change, *Christian Aid*, a UK charity, announced 5,500+ congregations, small parishes to Anglican cathedrals, have converted to 100% renewable electricity. This has become an ecumenical effort. Congregations of the Church of England (CofE), Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Quaker and Salvation Army have become participants. This includes 15 famous cathedrals like Salisbury, Bristol, Southwark, St. Albans, Liverpool, Coventry, Sheffield, and York Minster [your writer has toured this one].

With an estimated average annual church electricity bill of 1,000 pounds (\$1,300), British congregations have diverted more than 5 million pounds (\$6.5 million) from fossil fuels to clean energy providers. *Christian Aid* states that often the renewable energy rate is cheaper than the fossil fuel power one they were previously on. A range of bulk-buying initiatives enable congregations to have competitive rates for gas and electricity: *Parish Buying* is CofE’s procurement group; The *Big Church Switch Campaign* is run by Christian charities *Christian Aid*, *TearFund* and CofE’s Environment Programme. Parishes sign up to the scheme run by *2buy2* which then combines buying power to negotiate the cheapest possible rates.

Some religious buildings are generating their own clean energy. In 2016, Gloucester Cathedral installed 150 solar panels on its roof.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, CofE’s lead bishop on the environment said, “Climate change is one of the great moral challenges of our time. It is an enormous injustice and is hurting the poor first and worst.”

The Church of England (with 16,000 parishes in the United Kingdom) has publicly agreed to sell its shares in fossil fuel companies. †  
*Sources: Aug. 3, 2018, TheGuardian.com; Aug. 3, OneWorld.org; Aug. 29, The Christian Century.*

## Join Us in Ireland!

On July 8, 2019, Linda Short and her sister, Robin Kaiser, will be leading 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](mailto:9short28@gmail.com).

This is a great trip to take with friends! †

### The Good News

The monthly publication of

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Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Fellowship Time 11:00 AM

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