

September 2021

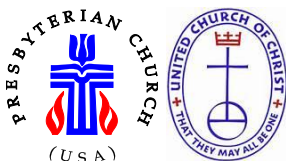
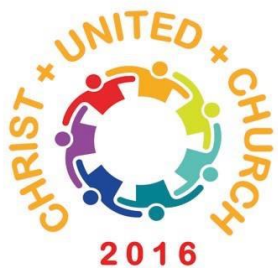
# The Good News

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.



## Continuing to Be Together Again

A message from Pastor Janis

Dear CUC Friends and Family,

As we get into the cooler months of fall, we are busy with making sure our church family connections are enhanced. We will have our campfire gatherings where we will be able to gather around and join in conversation. We will also see a return to our Faith and Film nights and that is just the start! As we have been able to joyfully return to in-person worship, we thank you all for your continued patience as we iron out the wrinkles of making sure we maintain the virtual aspect as we re-enter this world. We have appreciated all of the grace that has been extended as we continue to navigate what being the body of Christ looks like in light of the virus. We are so joyful to be reunited but also want to keep all of us safe and keep all in the embrace of God. So, keep checking your emails to see what different activities are coming and keep checking on your neighbors so that we might all maintain the bonds of family that we have made and continue to strengthen. We are a family, and we will continue to take care of one another in these small ways so that we can all feel safe and secure. ✝

In Christ, Pastor Janis

## Worship Updates for September

It has been a joy to see many of you at our in-person worship services over July and August.

Christ United will continue with its alternating in-person and virtual Sunday worship services during September. In-person services during September will take place the 12 and 26; limited live-streaming of services is available when we offer in-person worship. Pre-recorded virtual worship services will be offered on Sundays, September 5 and 19.

We have received feedback from some of our members who are still attending only our virtual services that our limited capabilities during live-stream of in-person services does not provide a quality worship experience at the level of our fully virtual, pre-recorded services. *Continued on page 2*



## Upcoming Dates

Prerecorded worship – September 5  
Campfire night – September 9  
In-person worship – September 12  
Campfire night – September 16  
Prerecorded worship – September 19  
Governing Board -September 21 (note change)  
Campfire night – September 23  
In-person worship – September 26  
Congregational Meeting – September 26  
Campfire night – September 30  
Campfire night – October 7  
Campfire night – October 14

## Fall Family Campfires

Did you miss getting to camp this summer, and last year too? No problem! Faith Formation has planned for the most beloved activity from camp to happen in our own backyard – evening campfires with s'mores. Beginning **September 9** and for **every Thursday night through October 14**, there will be a fall campfire from 7:00- 8:30 pm on the church lawn. The first campfire will be a kickoff for our fall Christian Education programs.

Bring your friends and chairs, voices and instruments and join in the fun of singing and playing outside. We welcome stringed instruments, recorders, drums, flutes, kazoos, and anything that can accompany our voices. Dress for the weather and bring your own chairs or blankets so we can socially distance but be together. Invite anyone you know that would enjoy our gathering.



## Worship Updates

*continued from page 1*

With this in mind, worship leaders continue to work with professional vendors to expand our capabilities for high-quality live-streamed services; we have quotes from multiple providers and hope to move forward with upgrades soon. Our limited live-streaming capabilities combined with the surging Delta variant and CDC recommendations for caution, led us to determine that continuing to alternate in-person worship services with high-quality virtual services was the best way to serve our church family and focus on the health and safety of everyone.

Our staged return to in-person worship has allowed us to continue to serve those who are uncomfortable or unable to attend in-person worship with high-quality virtual services on a bi-weekly basis while also providing in-person worship for those who are ready and able to attend on a bi-weekly basis. We look forward to expanding our ministry soon when we can offer in-person worship with high quality live-stream allowing all CUC members and friends to participate in worship on a weekly basis in a way that keeps everyone safe and connected.

## July Financials

	Month	Y-T-D	Y-T-D BUDGET
Congregational Giving	\$ 20,304	\$ 133,156	\$ 150,582
Building Use/Misc.	\$ 1,085	\$ 6,550	\$ 5,947
Total Income	\$ 21,389	\$ 139,706	\$ 156,529
Total Expenses	\$ 21,931	\$ 157,500	\$ 170,327

Again, the deficit between income and expenses is all due to a low year-to-date congregational giving of pledges. Please contact Dave Zilch if you need an updated financial statement of your pledge. Thank you. †

# Governing Board News

## August 2021 Meeting

The Governing Board met on August 10 via Zoom. CUC (and its predecessors) has been recognized by the Presbytery of the Western Reserve as one of only four churches in the Presbytery who has supported One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) for twenty consecutive years. GB members commented that it has been far more than 20 years! OGHS is one of the denominational offerings that our church supports. Both of our denominations invite our support for OGHS.

Reopening Task Force (ROTF) – The Governing Board approved an update to the building safety protocols as recommended by the ROTF. Church groups and committees are now permitted to remove masks during their meetings provided that all members of the group agree. It is suggested that the meeting organizer contact expected attendees in advance to determine whether any of them would prefer that masks stay on. This will avoid people being put on the spot at the meeting and feeling pressured to agree. Even if masks are taken off during the meeting, they should be worn when attendees are elsewhere in the church building. The ROTF also recommended that other existing protocols, including those for worship services, stay in place at least through September.

Moving CUC Forward - For more than a year, several CUC members have gathered regularly to discuss the future of CUC. The initial impetus was feedback that suggested that there were still significant divisions between members from our two founding congregations. The team developed a list of questions and used them informally with several CUC groups. As a result of this process and continued observation by members of the ad hoc team, the following conclusions and recommendations were reported to the Governing Board, which accepted them and encouraged the group to continue its work.

Some divisions remain between the two former congregations, but these do not appear to be widespread or rancorous. There are long-standing personal relationships between individuals and families that have naturally endured since our federation five years ago, which means that there

isn't always as much interaction between people from the two former congregations as we would like to see. Most comments suggest that people view the federation positively and that we are better off together than we would have been continuing separately.

To modify the focus of this ad hoc team to look explicitly to the future rather than looking back, the pastors and any interested CUC member is invited to join in an assessment of our current status and identify goals for the future. Many members of the "Moving CUC Forward" team are interested in participating in this process.

Other suggestions were made which will be considered by the expanded group once it meets. (If you are interested, watch for an announcement of a meeting.)

Other business: The Worship Committee has decided to continue the alternating schedule for worship through September. In-person worship services will be held on 9/12 and 9/26 with virtual services on the other Sundays. (*see article pg. 1*)

Congregational meetings for the coming year are scheduled for September 26, 2021, January 30, 2022, and May 22, 2022.

Work continues to update the deeds for the West Street parcels (where the church is) so that they have the name of Christ United Church.

Due to conflicts for several members on our normal meeting date in September, **our next meeting will be held on September 21 at 7 pm on Zoom. Reports are due on September 17 by 2 pm.** All members of the congregation are always welcome to attend if they wish. The Zoom link is on the church calendar on the website. If there are any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [green.cjm@gmail.com](mailto:green.cjm@gmail.com) or 313-580-8072.

Yours in Christ, Cathy Green, President



## Bethany Community Meals Wellness Items

Bethany is still serving meals to its neighbors. Since CUC has not been able to participate in Bethany Meals during COVID-19, the Mission Committee has asked, "How else can we help?" Bethany has a list of desired items called their Wellness List. Please see if there are items you are willing to purchase to donate to Bethany. There will be a plastic bin next to the CSM plastic bin on the picnic table at the West entrance for these items. (These will be separate from the items we save for St. Malachi House.) Thank you in advance!

Wellness items are offered weekly at the Bethany community to assist guests in staying healthy at a time when economic conditions might have them doing without. Many of those attending have come by bus, on bicycles or on foot, so we try to offer them in sizes that are easy to transport.

Following is a list of items that seem to be most needed:

- Toothpaste - travel size or 3-4 oz. size
- Toothbrushes - one or two to a package
- Mouthwash (preferably non-alcoholic) - travel size or up to 16 oz.
- Travel size toothbrush/toothpaste combo
- Dental floss
- Shampoo - travel size or 12-13 oz. size
- Conditioner - travel size or 12-13 oz. size
- Body wash - travel size or 12-13 oz. size
- Bar soap - bath size - bulk pack / wrapped bars
- Hand sanitizers - travel size or personal size
- Sanitary hand wipes - personal size packages
- Body lotion / hand lotion - travel size, or up to 12 oz. size
- Deodorants - stick or roll-ons, - travel or full size
- Disposable razors, - bulk packs (we bag)
- Shaving cream - smaller size
- Toilet paper - bulk packs (we bag)
- Kleenex - travel size or full box size
- Q-tips - travel size or small box size
- Band-Aids - travel size or small box size
- Women's sanitary products - all sizes, must be individually wrapped - pads or tampons
- Hair combs - must be individually packaged
- Nail files / emery boards - individually package

## Happy Birthday!

### September

- 1 Kristen Schroll
- 8 Karen Carr
- 9 Rich Spinner
- 12 Claire Spooner
- 12 Becky Szabo
- 21 Ron Van Ness
- 22 Ashe August
- 22 Kirsten Van Zante
- 23 Bonnie Crall
- 24 Robert Sorg
- 24 Fran Vozar
- 26 Jeff Smith
- 27 Kathy Keck
- 28 Linda Short
- 28 Betsy Clark



## Group Meetings Update

As we move into a time when some groups prefer to meet at the church building in-person, please be sure to inform the church office if you are not meeting over Zoom so when publicizing events/meetings, the location can be included accurately. Informing the office also ensures your room will be available. Going forward, when a meeting is held whether in the building or not, a Zoom link will be scheduled in case there needs to be a last minute change from in-person meeting or if someone prefers to "zoom" in to the in-person meeting. (This option does require someone in the building to have a computer available at the meeting.) Zoom links for all meetings are always included on the website calendar. Click on the event you are attempting to attend, and you will be taken to another page where the link and phone joining information is visible. And as always, if you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the office.



## Special Offerings: Fall 2021

**“Peace and Global Witness-Create a World of Peace”** is an offering that enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This offering is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA. Donations to this are divided in the following manner: 25% to connect with global witness for Christ’s peace through the individual congregations, and 25% retained by mid-councils 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, both here and abroad, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Please consider giving a gift to further the work of both local and global witness against injustices! Learn more by visiting: <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/peace-global.html>

**“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). The remaining two thirds 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. These grants are awarded to churches and organizations that are doing activities to further justice reform in their communities. Funding is provided through donations to the NIN offering. Learn more by visiting: <http://www.ucc.org/nin>

Our Fall Special Offerings are being received on World Communion Sunday, October 3rd, 2021. The Stewardship Committee encourages you to generously support these offerings. All gifts received will be divided equally between the two denominations. Please use your mission envelope or indicate “Special Offering” on your check or regular offering envelope.

The Stewardship Committee gives thanks for each of you helping to improve our world by donating to these offerings.

## Church E-mails

We are attempting to solve issues with our Office@ and Pastor@ e-mail addresses. We have seen that some messages sent from these addresses arrive late or not at all and some messages to these addresses never arrive or arrive late. We hope to have this solved soon. In the meantime, if you send an e-mail to one of these addresses and are expecting a timely answer, please feel free to call the office or the pastors to check on the status of your e-mail. There is a slight possibility your message never arrived in our in boxes. It is also always a good idea to either add these addresses – [Office@ChristUnited.Church](mailto:Office@ChristUnited.Church) and [Pastor@ChristUnited.Church](mailto:Pastor@ChristUnited.Church) to your contact list in your e-mail or to white list these addresses. If you do not know how to do that, Google it. You’d be surprised what instructions you can find on the World Wide Web!!!

### The Good News

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Christ United Church  
23114 West Road  
Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138  
440-234-0150

[Office@ChristUnited.Church](mailto:Office@ChristUnited.Church)

**Sunday Worship 10:00 AM**  
**currently on Facebook and YouTube**

Judy Mitchell, Editor  
Betsy Clark, Associate Editor

#### Church Personnel

Revs. Janis and Joel Montgomery, Co-Pastors  
([Pastor@ChristUnited.Church](mailto:Pastor@ChristUnited.Church))  
Bryan Bowser, Director of Music  
Nichole Fehrman, Associate Director of Music  
Betsy Clark, Office Manager

