

October 2023

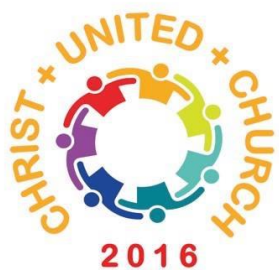
The Good News

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.



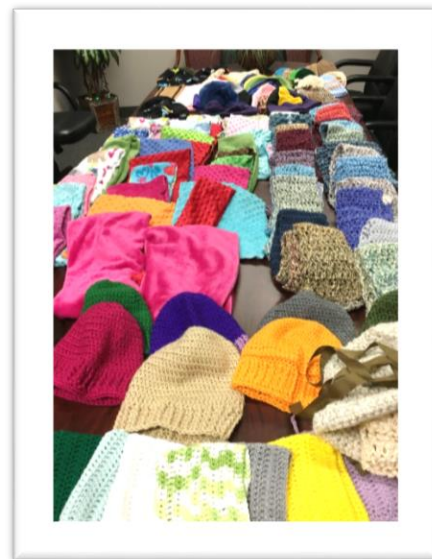
Everybody Needs a Home: Scarves, Hats, Mittens A message from Pastor Janis

Our knit-off starts this month! So, if you are participating work hard on those knitted, crocheted, or woven items! Every mismatched scarf, hat, mittens would be very much appreciated by those who receive these gifts.

This ministry that can be done from our homes and using materials that you already have. So, you can use up and also have and the joy of giving your gifts and talents to the people of North Church and Second Mile Outreach who might not be able to purchase new items this year. Every item is a gift and a blessing, so please show off the talents that God has given you.

What a wonderful way to keep your hands busy and your hearts full!

In Christ,
Rev. Janis Montgomery



A New Initiative

The Governing Board has proposed a new initiative that has emerged from our meetings this past spring and many meetings of the action team that involves a change in our pastors' positions. This initiative was introduced at the Congregational meeting on September 24. There will be several opportunities to ask questions about the proposed changes before the November 12 Congregational meeting when we will vote on the changes. There are meetings for the question and answer meetings on October 1 and October 22 after worship. On October 22, we will try to have a Zoom option available for those who cannot attend in person. We may also have a meeting scheduled at the Renaissance. Watch your email for more information about these two additions. †

Save the Date

Favorite Women in the Bible

Christ United is hosting the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW/PWR) on **Saturday, November 4 from 9 AM until 1 PM**. Come for a wonderful morning with other women of faith. The program is titled *Favorite Women in the Bible* with featured speakers Rev. Janis Montgomery and Elder Judy Mitchell. Be thinking of which Bible woman is your



favorite.

For our Service Project we will be collecting non-perishable food goods, diapers and feminine hygiene items. Thank Offerings will be dedicated and lunch is included. The cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. All Christ United women are welcome to make a reservation with Gladys Kershaw. The deadline for reservations is **Monday, October 30**.



Fellowship and Discuss

For October 2023

The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out. Proverbs 18:15

Fellowship and Discuss will gather for study at the Crall home on Thursday, October 12, at 7 pm.

Marcia Karchmer is presenting the study which on the Marcus Borg book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time."

Inform Bonnie if you plan to attend, allowing her the privilege of arranging sufficient seating and printed material for the study: by phone (440-234-2202) or email bcrall@ameritech.net. A Bible is a helpful resource to look up scripture related to the study; be sure to bring it.

The Crall's home is located at 6459 East Vancey Dr., Brook Park. ☪



Fall Faith Formation Offering

As part of the worship series *Come to the Table*, the Discipleship Team is offering a book study on *The Spirit of Soul Food* by Christopher Carter. The study begins **Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 pm** in room 5 and continues for the next 3 Wednesdays. Meeting via Zoom will also be an option. Please let Regina or Joel know if you will participate that way.

The author examines the relationships between food justice, racism, and inequality through a Black American lens, exploring how experiences of Black American community and history are expressed through culinary creativity and tradition. Rev. Dr. Heber Brown III describes *The Spirit of Soul Food* as "part history book, part cookbook, part call-to-action and resource for spiritual formation."

If you are interested in joining Pastor Joel and Regina Wolfe for this study, please let Regina know at rwbereacats34@gmail.com or 216-509-9262. Regina will order the books if preferred. ☪

Support the 2023 Farm Bill to Promote Food Security

One of the ways we can support those who need food is to ensure that the programs that provide it for them continue to exist. **You are encouraged to contact and urge your U.S. Senators and House of Representatives member to quickly reauthorize the five-year Farm Bill**, which expires in 2023 and provides Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other anti-hunger initiatives to millions of residents as well as support to the nation’s two million farmers.

Writing legislators to prioritize anti-hunger programs in the 2023 Farm Bill, which can be done [here](#)* is a powerful tool. This is a PCUSA site that allows you to quickly and easily write to your senator and representative. It does not identify you as being any particular denomination.

In addition, people of faith can pray for farmers, transporters, consumers and for those who use government nutrition benefits, the Action Alert states. They can also educate themselves using resources including the “Eater’s Guide to the Farm Bill,” which was produced by [Food in Neighborhoods](#) and the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) and can be downloaded [here](#).

After mentioning some of the difficulties and uncertainties involved in producing food in the United States — including how difficult it now is for farmers and other food producers to make a living — the Eater’s Guide also contains good news, such as the growing movement of farmers and eaters working to rebuild local food systems and putting more of the consumer food dollar directly into the hands of small and medium-scale farmers. “In addition to direct consumer support of local farmers,” the Eater’s Guide states, “we also have the opportunity to fix food policy at the federal level.”

The Eater’s Guide suggests a handful of principles for reforming the Farm Bill, including:

- Protect and strengthen programs that reduce hunger and improve nutrition.
- Promote investments, loan programs and policies that strengthen rural communities and combat rural poverty.

- Ensure that farmers in the U.S. and around the world receive fair prices so they can sustain their farms and their livelihoods.
- Ensure that crop insurance and other programs include payment limitations and rules giving equitable access to small- and medium-scale farmers.
- Strengthen policies and programs that promote conservation, reduce carbon emissions, and protect Creation from environmental degradation.
- Promote research and incentives related to clean and renewable forms of energy that do not negatively impact food prices or the environment.
- Safeguard and improve international food aid in ways that encourage local food security and improve the nutritional quality of food aid.

Supporting anti-hunger programs and nutrition benefits, including [SNAP](#), is a highly impactful legislative act for us to take as a way to show our continued commitment to eradicating systemic poverty and ensuring all have access to affordable and nutritious food. †

Happy Birthday October

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 4 | Sandy Dipko |
| 4 | Kathy Reyes |
| 4 | Noah Reyes |
| 9 | Cathy Green |
| 16 | Bill Allen |
| 19 | Oliver Reyes Jr. |
| 23 | Brian Rickel |
| 26 | Janet Winzenburger |
| 30 | Gladys Kershaw |



Mission and Outreach Initiative:

North Church

North Presbyterian Church is located at 4515 Superior Avenue, Cleveland. Since 2015, the congregation and its half-time pastor have shared space with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries. Most participants at North Church have experience with substance abuse, homelessness, and poverty. In some ways North does not look like nor function like a typical Presbyterian congregation. Its members may be more focused on experience and relationships to interpret their place in the world and in their expressions of faith.

North Presbyterian has developed ongoing relationships with other partner churches in the Presbytery. Christ United will now be one of these. The partner churches provide financial support and/or send volunteers who provide lunch and attend worship on Sundays. There is vital interaction between the partner-church volunteers and the congregants in the after-worship Sunday meals. It is a time when the volunteers can learn first-hand about the struggles of those living in the grips of poverty as they share stories and build relationships. Vitality is further enhanced when North Church music leaders are invited to attend partner churches to assist in leading worship and to share in fellowship. We plan to invite members of North Church to worship with us in November.

The interaction of ministry and service speak to the theme of dismantling structural racism. A portion of North Church's worship service is dedicated to raising awareness about social injustices occurring locally and abroad and to teaching Black history. The goal is for North Church to become an effective voice in the community because its congregants are experiencing structural racism firsthand.

The after-church meals provide a vital service to North Church. They are not just about enhancing vitality and community but also meet a direct need. These hands-on experiences are raising awareness within partner churches and creating a desire to become more involved in local issues such as food access and equity, adequate and affordable housing, job training and opportunities, and criminal

justice and re-entry. Through advocacy, policy, and direct service work, the entire Presbytery grows more attuned to the needs of the impoverished and the systems that too often work against them.

Christ United will prepare meals and worship with North Church for three Sundays in December. Look for more information coming soon.



CUC Cash Mob:

Month Seven

Wild Birds Unlimited

Thanks to all who supported Dick's Bakery in September. The tradition continues!

October is here and the time for bird feeding is upon us. With that in mind, October's Cash Mob store is **Wild Birds Unlimited**. These stores are all locally franchised and owned. There are two in our area: 26791 Brookpark Extension in North Olmsted and 14178 Pearl Road in Strongsville. Wild Birds Unlimited vision is to bring joy into customers' lives by sharing their passion for birds and knowledge about the hobby of backyard bird feeding. They support sustainably-produced products whenever possible and support local and national bird and wildlife habitat conservation organizations and educational programs. Even if you don't have a location to feed birds or other wildlife where you live, they have a great variety of nature gifts as well. ✚



Two Black Clergymen Transition

Wider Church News:

By Don Michaelsen

On June 18, Rev. William J. Barber II, D. Min, 59, gave his retirement sermon at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, NC where he has been the senior pastor for 30 years. This fall, he will devote his time and energy to training future pastors as the founding director of the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT.

Barber proudly hands over leadership of the congregation to its assistant pastor for several years, Rev. G. Shyrl Hinnant-Uzzell. Rev. Barber also relinquishes his servant role in Repairers of the Breach (ROTB), an organization he founded in 2015, to the Rev. A. Kazimir Brown. Both are women. ROTB, headquartered in Goldsboro, combats immoral and illegal policies on labor rights, voting rights, LGBTQ+ rights, healthcare, criminal justice, etc.

As he was accepting the call to Greenleaf in 1993, he learned of his diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis, a disease that causes the vertebrae of the spine to fuse together and has resulted in a hunched back and a halting gait. He walks with a cane. "God's grace and God's glory is more evident when we are weak," he said. Barber has staked his life on speaking for the weak and lowly ever since.

On July 15 at the end of the annual convention of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition that was held at the Apostolic Church of God in Woodlawn, IL, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, 81, made an announcement: the Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes III, D. Min, 62, becomes the organization's new president effective immediately. Jackson made his decision to step down due to an ongoing diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

Over the last four decades, Rev. Haynes, a native of Dallas, TX, has helped to grow the Friendship-West Baptist Church there from 100 to 13,000, a Black megachurch. Rev. Haynes will continue his role as senior pastor as he leads the non-profit organization for social change. Over those years, he has also preached as well as

protested for justice and equality for all oppressed people.

Rev. Jackson founded PUSH (People United to Save (later changed to Serve) Humanity in 1971. In 1996, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition formed from the merger of PUSH with the National Rainbow Coalition. It continues to be headquartered in Chicago. †

Sources: Religion News Service, June 19, July 17 & July 21, 2023.

Thank you

How surprised and pleased I was when I started to listen to the September 17 service. I've never had such a special and lovely 'Happy Birthday.' Many thanks to my wonderful church family!

Claire Spooner

The Good News

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