June 2026

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.**

Finding Roots in Sabbatical

As the weather gets warmer and folks get ready for summer weddings, camping trips, and graduations. I am preparing for my sabbatical. While we have been working through the favorite scriptures of the church body and reminding ourselves that we are rooted in faith and in each other, I have been looking forward to getting back to my own roots.

Starting July 1, I will be taking time to get back to the roots of my family and why I feel called to being a pastor. I will be reading books that are centered around being grounded and rooted to the earth. The family and I will be traveling to visit my mom's family for a big family reunion in Maryland where we hope to spend time in DC and to see where my dad grew up. We will then go to Syracuse where I grew up so that the kids will see where I spent my formative years. This will include a visit to the camp I attended while a youth. I will be returning on October 1 to finish our *Rooted in Faith* series.

While I am gone, we will have members from the congregation who will lead services and a seminary student working with us to gain experience in a federated church. Heather Ferguson will join us June 22 and will preach and join in with a variety of the activities that will happen over the summer, so she has a chance to see how a medium-sized church runs.

I know that you will be in excellent hands and that when I return rested, we will continue to grow together into a new season of Christ United.

Walk in Balance,
Pastor Janis

Important Dates to Remember:

Friday, June 5 – Leadership Gathering/Training: 6 pm

Saturday, June 6 – Pride Parade: 11am downtown (arrive between 10 & 11)

Sunday, June 7 – Installation of Leadership: during worship

Meet Heather Ferguson

Seminary Student

My name is Heather Ferguson, and I am delighted to spend this summer with Christ United Church as Student Pastor. I am entering the final year of my seminary studies after just completing my field education at Avon Lake United Church of Christ in the United Church of Christ tradition.

Before seminary, my professional life included teaching, work in the social sciences, and many years owning and operating a coffeehouse — experiences that deepened my love for conversation, hospitality, community, and the stories people carry with them.

Much of my passion for ministry centers on teaching, spiritual growth, thoughtful reflection, and creating spaces where people can ask honest questions and explore faith together with openness and compassion. During this past year at Avon Lake UCC, I have enjoyed leading Bible studies, facilitating discussion groups, preaching, and sharing in the life of congregational ministry.

This summer I look forward to getting to know you all — in worship, conversation, service, and shared ministry. I am excited to learn alongside you, hear your stories, and discover together where God is still speaking in and through this congregation.

Grace and peace,
Heather Ferguson

Outdoor Worship Planned

Save the date! Our annual outdoor service and picnic will once again be held at the Coe Lake Pavilion in Berea on **June 21.** The service will begin at 10 AM as always, and the picnic will immediately follow. We are very blessed to be able to worship in such a beautiful setting. Bring a dish to share, Beverages will be provided. If a picnic table is uncomfortable, please feel welcome to bring a chair that works for you. Strong volunteers will be available to bring things from the parking lot to the pavilion. See you there! ✞

Pride Parade

For anyone wishing to walk in the Pride Parade in downtown **Cleveland on Saturday, June 6**, you have two options.

The Presbytery will meet on the steps of First Church Cleveland on Public Square between 10 & 11 am.

UCC folks do not have a designated meet up location but you can go to Public Square between 10 & 11 am and look for other UCC churches. All are welcome!

It is a FUN event! Taking the Rapid is a great way to get downtown. See Judy Mitchell if you have questions.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will not meet on the usual Wednesday this month. Instead, in June all are invited to participate in our service project, to help Member Care with the Strawberry Festival on June 20. (see article elsewhere in the newsletter)

There are many ways to help from cutting up strawberries, set up, serve, and cleanup. Speak to Wendy or Corky to take part.

Congregational Meeting Summary

The nominated slate of 2026-2027 leaders was elected at our May 17 Congregational Meeting. Presentations included a summary of our finances & funds and plans for both a growth strategy and long-term funding. Our **Governing Board wants your input for that ongoing planning**; a few of the member ideas shared on Sunday include the online submission of prayer requests, fun social events with games like Family Feud, and a return of dinners together. The charts from the meeting are available here.

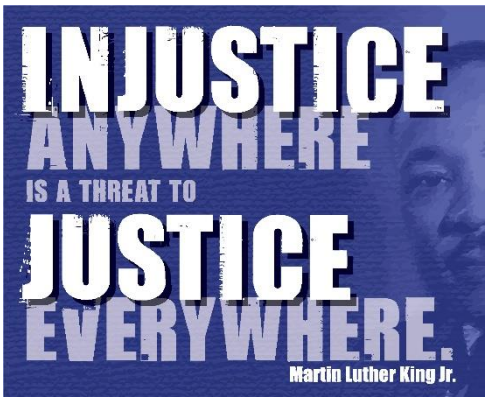
Calling for Justice

LGBTQ+ Rights Focus

On Tuesday, May 19, 11 members of the congregation gathered at the church for a light supper. They watched a brief video explaining the widespread devastation of gun violence in our country – and learned among other things that it is the number one cause of death of children. This was all in the days following the attack on the Mosque in San Diego, the shooting at the Strongsville Costco and a toddler who was killed by gunfire in Eastlake.

The folks attending each downloaded an app that provided an easy to follow script and the phone numbers of our representatives and Senators in Washington, DC so we could encourage them to take action for gun registration, background checks and safety courses.

The Calling for Justice Event will happen again on **June 16 at 6pm**. The focus is LGBTQ+ legislation that hurts our siblings in Christ in that community. Bring food to share, your mobile device, and a friend!!



Community Outreach Task Force

After a busy March, requests slowed down in April. Here's a list of the people we helped in the past month. Once again, thank you for supporting us again with your vote to fund this effort.

Last month, we said that we were investigating a situation where a Berea woman's bedroom ceiling collapsed due to a leaking commode. Her home will have to be sold based on what the Probate Court decides. She needed to make sure everything is working to sell the home. Rich, Terry and a couple of our friends were able to find a fix for the commode issue. We agreed to pay for the ceiling replacement if she would do the mudding.

Many of us were shocked by the Olmsted Falls downtown fire that affected not only the businesses but the employees. We decided to donate some of our Community Outreach funds to help them out. If you are able to help as well, please go to the Olmsted Falls Chamber of Commerce page and look for the GoFundMe link.

We had another request for rental assistance that was referred by Second Mile Outreach. However, we have helped this person several times in the past two years, so we decided to not offer further assistance.

With the way inflation is increasing, we are expecting more requests this summer. Thank you for supporting this Community Outreach Fund. ✞

Mission Opportunities

There are two mission opportunities in June. On **June 6**, you can march with Christ United and many of our Christian siblings in the Pride parade. (See the Pride Parade article earlier). Meet other CUC folks in Public Square after 10 am. March steps off at 11 am.

On **June 29,** it is our turn to distribute food for families in need whose students won't be getting breakfasts or lunches during the school year. Distribution takes place here at the church between 5 and 6. ✞

Happy Birthday

June

1	Stan Wares
2	Katie Walker
4	Bernie Gerecke
9	Caleb Montgomery
10	Rick Hilberg
12	Margaret Bilchik
15	Judy Van Zante
16	Kathy Patterson
16	Regina Wolfe
17	Cathy Spinner
19	Earl Crall
21	Chris Landers
25	Bob Norton
26	Nathan Cole
26	Tom Dipko
29	Peter Szabo
30	Wendy Mercier

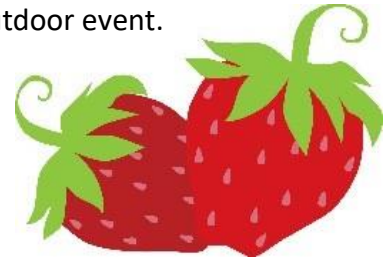
Presbytery Day at the Ball Park

Presbyterian Day at Akron Rubber Ducks is official. It's **June 19,** 7:17 pm @ 717 Credit Union Park in downtown Akron. Tickets are $18.83. All tickets must be purchased through the ticketing site below prior to June 12. Come enjoy a fun afternoon of baseball and fellowship with fellow members of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve and Eastminster Presbytery community.

This special offer allows you to purchase discounted tickets and sit together as a group while cheering on the Akron RubberDucks. Bring your friends, family, and fellow church members for a great day at the stadium filled with baseball, food, and time together outside the church walls. For tickets click here. ✞

Strawberry Festival

Inviting all to attend the **2026 Strawberry Festival** on **Saturday, June 20th from 1:30-3:30 pm.** We will offer the usual, strawberries, ice cream, angel food cake, beverage, fellowship and music by Berea's own *Front Porch* group. No charge but free-will donations are accepted. Bring family and friends to share in the fun. If weather permits, we plan to make it an indoor/outdoor event.



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