

The Good News

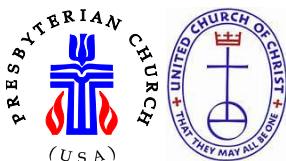
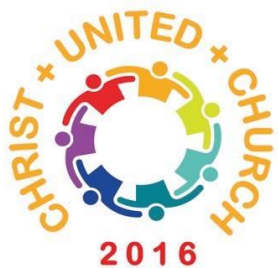
May 2026

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 Note from the Pastor

As Christ United Church approaches its 10th anniversary there is a lot going on. A service is being crafted around this anniversary and the new things that have been happening here. Some of you might have noticed that Pastors Joel and Janis have sported some Christ United polo shirts that are not the Navy Blue that was ordered to celebrate the beginning of the church. These polos were created by Luna using the same logo that we gave them ten years ago. They are able to put the logo on any color shirt that they have in stock and would be happy to make more! So, if you are in need of a new shirt, or just wish for one in a different color, let Pastor Janis know so that an order can be put in. What better time to consider a new shirt but when we are doing a new thing and celebrating the past ten years.

Walk in Balance, Pastor Janis ☩

Calling for Justice Party

May 19 at 6:00 PM

We all have the best intentions to make our voices heard—whether it is calling a U.S. Senator or writing to a representative—but daily responsibilities often get in the way. To help turn those intentions into action, the Governing Board is hosting a "Call for Justice" party.

Please join us for an evening of food, friends, and conversation as we advocate for change together. Our first session will focus on the issue of gun violence. Some statistics and videos will be shared on the number one killer of children in the United States.

Bring a dish to share, a few friends, and your smartphone. We will be using an app called "5 Calls," which provides easy-to-follow scripts for contacting officials. If you do not have a smartphone, we will have all the necessary information available to share.

We look forward to seeing you there and making an impact together. ☩



Annual Congregational Meeting Announced

Sunday, May 17 following worship

Mark your calendars for the next Congregational meeting! This is the Annual meeting of Christ United where we will elect our officers, Governing Board, Team leadership, as well as representatives to Living Water Association and Heartland Conference UCC. The annual reports from our teams and grant recipients on the past year's activities will be available plus other business will be conducted as deemed necessary.

✝

Celebrate Our 10th Anniversary!

Join us on **May 24** as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church and the 10th anniversary of the federation that created Christ United Church. One of the highlights of the service will be the dedication of our new baptismal bowl. This beautiful bowl was hand crafted by the mother of one of Pastor Janis' colleagues and was made specifically for Christ United. ✝



Community Outreach Task Force

Last month, our article said we were off to a slow start. We regret saying that. Here's a list of the people we helped in the past month.

A mother and her 4-year-old daughter had to quickly get out of a bad relationship when her fiancé shot the mother with a BB gun while she was sleeping. She put her furniture in storage and moved from Sandusky to be with her estranged sister in Olmsted Falls. She is dealing with a lot of

issues, but for now, she wanted help to pay for groceries to ease the burden on her sister's family. We provided her with gift cards to Giant Eagle.

A recent Berea widow was caught up in the major windstorms that came through recently. A huge tree fell across her driveway. We paid a company to clear it off the driveway.

A townhouse renter from Olmsted Falls was about to be evicted because she had an income check bounce. She had not been in this situation for years and has a good job. We paid her rent for the month.

A Parma City School employee had to get out of her home when her husband threatened her. She is staying with a friend in Berea. She was in desperate need of medication so we paid for it.

A Berea woman who we helped out two years ago had wind damage to her home. Her insurance deductible is \$2,500. She had to take all her savings to pay for it and needed help with paying her electric bill. We paid for it.

We are investigating a situation where a Berea woman's bedroom ceiling collapsed due to a leaking commode.

Once again, thank you for supporting us with your vote to continue to fund the task force. ✝

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 are 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! ✝



2026 Mission Giving

Christ United is off to a strong start in 2026 with its giving to missions to assist those in need beyond our doors. Our members have generously donated \$1,756 this year to One Great Hour of Sharing. Also \$2,065 was received for the 5th Sunday Mission to support AMIS, the organization that provides help for immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S.

Food and personal care products continue to come in for distribution at Second Mile Outreach.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with others. †

We Get Letters

Dear Christ United Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$840 on 2/22/2026. As a supporter of the The Bail Project, you are helping to transform pretrial justice for generations to come.

For the hundreds of thousands of people sitting in jail pretrial every day, they face a daunting choice: plead guilty to go home or wait behind bars until their next court date. It doesn't have to be this way.

When we met our client Christopher, he had been behind bars for three months because he couldn't afford to pay his \$750 bail. He suffers from an autoimmune immune disorder that affects his lungs, causes unbearable headaches, and leads to memory loss and blindness. It's a treatable condition, but unfortunately for Christopher, treatment wasn't available in jail. After weeks without receiving the care he needed, Christopher's health was rapidly declining.

Once Christopher's son contacted The Bail Project, we quickly posted bail and he was able to return home. But months without treatment while incarcerated met Christopher had a long road to recovery. Today Christopher is grateful for the chance to get his health back on track to be with his family. If not for supporters like you Christopher would have suffered in jail until his day in court. †

Your generous donation will bring people home, connect them with services based on their needs, and work towards lasting systematic reform.

To learn more about how your contribution is making an impact and to sign up for our regular e-mail updates please visit our website at www.bailproject.org Thank you for joining us in this historic effort to combat mass incarceration and transform the pretrial system in the United States. †

Sincerely, David S. Gaspar, CEO

Happy Birthday

May

1	Nancy Lee Bowser
8	Della Barclay
15	Liz Krueger
16	Judy Luff
18	Diana Scudder
20	Barb Silvers
22	David Betts
24	Wiltrud Cornish
24	Rick Kershaw
24	Ed Salzgeber
29	Barry Miller
31	Ron Fleming



Martha Circle

Martha Circle will resume the normal schedule with lunch on **Wednesday, May 13th**. We will be meeting at Jennifer's Restaurant, 14415 Pearl Road, Strongsville at 11:30. Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday May 12, to Corky Wilson, 440-243-2667 or grammacats@cox.net. All are welcome. †

Meet Our Members

Ron and Katie Fleming

Katie was a member of St. Andrew's since it was formed and also a long time resident of Berea. She grew up in Lorain, Ohio, right on Lake Erie. Katie was an elementary school teacher in Berea for several years and a volunteer at Southwest General Hospital for over 25 years. She was married to Neil Fort, a Berea Schools teacher and administrator, for 52 years. They had three daughters. Neil was also a charter member of St Andrew's Church.



Ron graduated from Western Reserve University School of Medicine and was a specialist in Internal Medicine. He lived in Cleveland Heights and Mayfield Village with his wife, Nancy, and three sons. They belonged to Church of the Saviour United Methodist Church. Besides being a doctor, Ron was an avid runner and completed many long distance races including several marathons. He is an amateur watercolor artist and frustrated cartoonist.

Katie, Neil, Nancy and Ron attended Baldwin Wallace College. In fact, Katie and Nancy were roommates. Neil and Ron were Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity brothers and best friends. In the 1950's, they were in each other's weddings. Neil and Ron were each other's best man. Even though they never lived near each other, the two couples and their families remained close friends and took several vacations and trips together.

Neil passed away in 2007 and Nancy in 2008. Katie and Ron remained dear friends and were married in 2012 at St. Andrew's with The Rev. Ogie White presiding. They have lived in a villa on the campus of The Renaissance Retirement Center since 2012. Both Katie and Ron have been involved in The Renaissance musical theater program for the past four years. They will be performing in "The Sound of Music" at BW's Kleist Theater in May. †

Pentecost Offering

Our next opportunity to help our neighbors is at Pentecost. This year, Pentecost is May 24. Although PC(USA) has discontinued the Pentecost offering*, the UCC is still honoring the Strengthen the Church offering. The Discipleship Ministry Team has decided to continue with this special offering. We will accept donations through May 24. For your donation, please use a Strengthen the

Church envelope, which can be found in the



**Strengthen
the Church**

pew rack, or your numbered envelope, always marking the envelope and your check "Strengthen the Church."

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC in its commitment to create a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our children and young adults. Thank you for your generosity.

**(Editor's Note: As of 2026, the PC(USA) no longer has a Pentecost Offering and the Presbyterian Mission Agency is now part of the unified agency of the church called Presbyterian Life & Witness. The work that the Pentecost offering supported has been added to the Christmas Joy Offering). †*

Posting on Bulletin Boards

There have been several instances lately of newspaper articles with political opinions being placed on the bulletin boards. While we understand the feeling of wanting to express your opinions to a wider audience, please refrain from posting articles in the church building. We are welcoming to all and need to be respectful to everyone. †

Easter Egg Hunt a Success

What a joy it was to see so many young people participating in our Easter Egg Hunt! Estimates were between 20-25 visitors from the community, along with our members and grandchildren.

Kudos to Linda Ault and Gladys Kershaw for providing fun activities to keep the crew busy while the eggs were hidden. A big thank you to all who donated candy, toys, and even some coins. And to all who helped fill over 500 eggs, as well as those hiding them. Thank you all! †



Presbytery Day at the Akron Ball Park

Akron RubberDucks vs Altoona Curve



Friday, June 19th at 7:17pm.

Come enjoy a fun evening of baseball and fellowship with folks of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve and Eastminster Presbytery community. (UCC members of CUC are invited as well of course!)

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.](#) †

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