



1158 Cleveland Rd.
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

NOVEMBER 2021



From the MINISTER

With November comes warm thoughts of Thanksgiving - time spent with family and friends counting our blessings and enjoying all kinds of delicious food! In the church, November also signals the time of our stewardship campaign. The campaign, however, does not usually generate warm thoughts. In fact, it usually gets a cool reception.

I think our reluctance to embrace this season of planned giving stems from the tradition most churches have of linking giving with meeting the upcoming budget. We are encouraged to give generously so we can cover next year's expenses. Who gets excited about paying bills? I sure don't.

But I do get excited about "thanksgiving," my word for living a life of gratitude to God for the many blessings I have received, and for the assurance I have that God is always with me, even during those times when life seems anything but blessed. I try to live out my thanks by giving generously of my time, talent and treasure. This takes me beyond just saying "thank you" in a prayer, or giving to the church out of a sense of responsibility to pay my share of the bills and brings me great joy!

It's no secret that I tithe, giving 10% of my income, and urge you to do likewise, but I know how difficult it is to begin such disciplined giving. So I suggest you make tithing your long-term goal and slowly move toward it by increasing your giving each year.

I'd be happy to talk with you about your giving, if you wish, but be warned, you might get help similar to that of the man in this story: A businessman came to his pastor seeking help in determining what to pledge for the upcoming year. "I have always tithed 10% of my income," he said. "When I first started working I only made \$50 a week, but gave \$5 to the church. When I became more successful and my income increased to \$500, I gave \$50. But now that I'm making \$5000 a week, I just can't bring myself to give \$500 to the church every Sunday."

"I understand your dilemma. Let's pray over this," the pastor said. He then began, "Dear God, please make this man's weekly income \$500 a week so he can tithe..."

Shalom , Rev. Kure



Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 7th. Be sure to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed the night before. Days grow shorter, but God's love never decreases. Nights lengthen, but God's light outshines all the world's darkness.

NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

You recently received a pledge card for your financial giving for 2022. Please return it by Stewardship Sunday, November 21st. The importance of making and keeping a pledge cannot be stressed enough. It's impossible for our Treasurer, Scarlet Berry, to compile a budget for the new year without knowing how much income we will have. PLEASE pledge generously and return your card a.s.a.p..

On All Saints Sunday, November 7th, we will remember our family and friends who passed away during the last twelve months with candles on the altar. They include Ruth Asmus, Barbara Biermann, Jacob Coy, Iretta Gast, Alvin Gast Jr., Thomas Lilje, Ruth Maier



Supper Club will meet Tuesday, November 16th at Olive Garden (5205 Milan Rd.) at 6:00 p.m.. If you plan to come, please sign up on the back bulletin board in the sanctuary.

Rev. Lenore will be on vacation with her family November 23-30. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please call Rev. Bob at 419-271-0086. Chaplain Don Clark, one of our Shoreline speakers, will be preaching on November 28th.



Santa Baby will be the featured film for **Movie Night** Tuesday, November 23rd. Starring Jenny McCarthy who plays Santa's daughter, this 2006 movie is about what happens when her father falls ill and she takes over for him. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.. Popcorn provided. Please bring your own beverage.

GETTING READY FOR ADVENT



In preparation of Advent beginning November 28th, we will decorate the church after worship on November 21st. Please stay and help.

Special Gift

Carrie Scheufler made a donation to the organ fund in honor of Rev. Lenore's 25th anniversary of ordination. In the note that came with it she said, "I so look forward to hearing Charles play the new organ when I return from Arizona after Easter."



Ron & Punky Porto	11/2
Jim Negrey	11/3
Charles Scroggy, Trinity Petersen	11/04
Halley Leffler	11/05
Ron Porto	11/11
Tim Work	11/19
Kaitlyn Nemeth	11/26
Kim Thomas, Andrew Kure	11/29



Carrie Campbell, Chuck, Ed, Meredith & Sam Greenman Sr., Corvid & the Griggs Family, Linda Hanck, Debbi Keller, Gail Puckrin, Gina Rogers, Sheryl Sockman & Family, Butch Sissler, Tim Sprouse, Kay Stauffer, Rylan Stockham, St. Paul Lutheran congregation, Helen Wobser and the Bonfiglio, Lilje and Maier Families
Homebound members & friends: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Marv Keller, Elemeda Schwartz, Christine Vroman, Jacki Warren

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kim Nemeth and Steve Thomas were married October 23rd in front of surprised guests at a Halloween party they hosted in their home. Rev. Lenore, wearing a nun costume, officiated!



Emily Yates received a bible from the congregation October 24th.



The American Red Cross recently sent a letter of thanks for our \$350 donation to Disaster Relief.



Along with a letter of thanks, Church World Service sent us an Honor Certificate for our donation to their Blankets Program.



It's time to order Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Plants may be purchased in memory of a loved one or to honor someone. Following the Christmas Eve service, they may be taken home, or left to decorate the sanctuary.

The cost this year is \$10.00 per plant (6" pot).

Place this form and payment in the offering plate, or return it to the church office by **November 28th**.

My Poinsettia is in memory / honor of: (Circle One)

Do you plan to take your Poinsettia home?

Yes No (Circle One)

Number of Poinsettias @ \$10.00 per plant:

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____ Glitter ____

Total Amount _____

Your Name _____



The Church Life Committee met October 12th and discussed many items including:

September's fund raiser. Everyone agreed the Chicken Dinner was a wonderful success with a profit of \$2600 thanks to Tracey Kerston's generosity in donating the food and her time. Next time we will be paying her, so in order to reach our goal of \$2000 for fund raising for the year, we will need to have two dinners. A ham dinner in the spring was suggested.

Contacting absent members. A letter and return, postage-paid post card was approved to be sent to members we haven't seen since we moved. They will be asked if they plan to be active in the new year or want to be removed from our membership list.

New Organ. The organ company informed Charles they may receive a shipment early - mid-December. Since it was hoped to have the organ in place by mid-November, he will be asked to check out e-bay and other companies to see if they have what he wants and can get it to us sooner.

Stewardship Campaign. The materials have been ordered. Rev. Lenore will write the stewardship letter. Scarlet is recruiting speakers. Several names were suggested.

Promoting the Church next year. The possibility of renting billboard space was discussed, as well as advertising in the *Serving Our Seniors* magazine.

Handicap Accessibility. We need to make improvements to the curb and parking lot area in front of the building for the safety of our handicapped members. This will be a priority for next year's budget.

Christmas Banners. The decision was made to purchase two new banners for Christmas. Glenn & Robin will pick them out.

Leadership 2022. Now is the time to recruit members for all the Boards so we can return to our pre-COVID leadership structure next year. In encouraging people to take leadership responsibility, it needs to be stressed that stewardship is about more than money. It includes donating time and talent.

The next Church Life meeting will be Tuesday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m.. All members are welcome to attend.

HAPPY NEW (CHURCH) YEAR!

Do you pay attention to this poster of the Church Year on the bulletin board in the church entranceway? If so, you are probably aware that on the first Sunday of Advent (November 28th this year) we begin a new Church Year. If not, check it out next time you are at church. You will learn a lot about the seasons of the Church and gain an understanding of when and why the color of the altar cloths changes periodically.

Christians around the world and throughout history have shaped their faith and marked their lives by the days and seasons of the Church Year. The Church Year revolves around three great festival days - Christmas, Easter and Pentecost - and the seasons that connect them - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Pentecost or Ordinary Time.

Each season has its own color and theme. We begin with Advent (purple), which is the four weeks before Christmas, ending on Christmas Eve. Advent focuses on preparation for the coming of the Christ child. As part of a special ritual, each Sunday we light a candle in our brass Advent wreath in anticipation of his birth. First is the love candle. Then comes peace, joy and hope. On Christmas Eve we light the Christ candle in the center of the wreath. The next day the Christmas season begins.

