

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY AT EMANUEL UCC aka “The Mud Church!”

Emanuel UCC in rural Upper Sandusky (also known as “The Mud Church!”) celebrated New Member Sunday on Pentecost, June 5. Because of the pandemic, new member celebrations in 2020 were not feasible, so the congregation went all the way back through two years to present a membership blessing on 40 people who have joined the church during that time span.

Pastor Jay Scott says The Mud Church has worked hard to brand itself as a neighborhood church that is making a difference in the community. “We have had a period of Pentecost in our church the past few years,” Scott said.

Scott says Emanuel started a few years ago with prayer for the church. Then, with everything bathed in prayer, the congregation has worked hard to apply the tactics of marketing and public relations to outreach and evangelism.

“We like to refer to ourselves as ‘located at the corner of corn and beans,’ in reference to our rural location in the middle of farm country. Once we accepted our location and used it to our advantage, it became our identity,” Scott said.

The church determined a specific area that it considered to be its neighborhood, and began communicating with people via a quarterly “neighborhood newsletter.” The newsletter is a large reason why so many from the neighborhood have come to the corner of corn and beans to make Emanuel their church home.

“The best part of our growth is that we’re not stealing sheep,” Scott noted. “Most of our new members either did not grow up in a church, or had lapsed in their church attendance,” he said.

As part of the New Member Sunday celebration, everyone was asked to bring in bags of groceries for local food banks, with a goal of collecting 75 bags. The final total was 106. The church received help with its project from 1st National Bank of Sycamore, which donated \$500 to help buy groceries.

To learn more about the growth at The Mud Church, contact Pastor Jay Scott at jayscott1981@yahoo.com



Emanuel UCC members work to bag up groceries purchased with a donation from First National Bank of Sycamore. A total of 106 food and paper products collected on New Member Sunday were distributed to local food banks. The food drive was part of New Member Sunday at The Mud Church. The church formally blessed the membership of 40 people on Pentecost Sunday.

Emanuel UCC members form a "food bag brigade" to send 106 bags of groceries out the door to be distributed to



local food banks. The groceries were collected as part of New Member Sunday on June 5th as 40 people who have joined the church over the past two years were formally blessed into membership.