

# KENT

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

*An Open and Affirming, Accessible to All Congregation*

### A Message from Our Pastor, the Rev. Amy Gopp



Beloved of God,

Though we may try, none of us can make sense of a novel coronavirus that has wreaked havoc on all our lives. Almost every aspect of our daily lives has changed. We have adapted and adjusted, twisted and turned, compromised and converted. Uncertainty and confusion have led to anxiety, stress and depression. While some of us are isolated in our homes, all of us are isolated from the life we once knew. Mentions of a so-called “new normal” seem premature as we can only continue to navigate uncharted and very dangerous waters.

I honor the range of emotions you are experiencing. And I hope you allow yourself to feel what you are feeling—no judgment, no critique, no denial, no repression. Just feel what you feel by giving yourself permission to ride this roller coaster range of emotions we are all on. Find comfort in knowing that we are all strapped into this roller coaster ride together—even if apart.

Our COVID Advisory Team, comprised of health care professionals and a member of our Safety Committee, is to be greatly commended by the diligent, thoughtful and conscientious work they have done to ensure the safety, health and well-being of our community. They spent months tracking data, monitoring statistics, consulting other churches and organizations and praying for the wisdom to make recommendations in the best interest of everyone. Their recommendations were unanimously approved by our Council.

Thus, we forge ahead, dear friends, worshiping, studying, serving and gathering online, grateful for the technology that enables us to do so. As the summer comes to an end and the daylight lessens, the heat of the sun softens, and autumn ushers in a new season, let us enter it with wonderment. Let us begin this fall with a renewed sense of all that just may be possible in what feels like an impossible time. As resurrection people who expect life after death, don't we see the light, even dimly, at the end of this seemingly endless tunnel? As recipients of the Holy

Spirit, do we not also recall that “we are not mandated to live within the confines of modern rationality” as theologian Walter Brueggemann puts it...?

For even at such a time as this, we are called to bear witness to what is, but also to what will be. We live in the now *and* the not yet. And I invite you to sit with God, right now, and listen for God’s voice. Be still. Listen for all that is possible in this season of wonderment. For even in the midst of the difficult decisions, the confusion and chaos, the risks and deep fear—God is here, present, inviting us to be still and know that God is with us.

Let us bear witness to the power of God to sustain and connect us—no matter how far apart we may be or feel. In this season of both sorrow and hope, my prayer is that we continue to feel what we need to feel while also exploring the possibilities within us and within all of humanity for what could be. Beloved, God is with us and God is for us. And through it all, know that I am here for you, too.

With all my love,

Pastor Amy

### **Moderator’s Message – Jaime Baughman**

Dear Friends,

It’s difficult to comprehend we have had more than five months of Pandemic-enforced separation. Now, fall is in the air! The end of summer certainly forces decisions for our schools, our community and our congregation.

I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am to our COVID-19 Advisory Team: church members Josh Case, Jim Dunlap, Heather Lohman, Felicia Lumpkin and Kim Redman. Their counsel proved critical as they reviewed risk-assessment charts and our own building limitations, CDC guidelines, Ohio’s case numbers and recommendations from our own UCC Living Waters Association. Especially valuable has been their own personal experience as many work on the front lines of this health crisis.

The Advisory Team presented their recommendations to council at a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, August 18.

Based on their report and recommendations, **Council voted to continue virtual worship service through Sunday, January 3, 2021**, barring any significant change to Ohio’s numbers. I know this may come as a disappointment to many of you. Trust me, there is nothing I would like more than to see us all together in the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning. However, the safety, health and well-being of our congregation is our first priority.

We are blessed to have the tremendous leadership and spiritual guidance of Pastor Amy, who amazes me each Sunday with creative and meaningful worship services delivered safely via the

KUCC's YouTube channel. What's also amazing is the number of people tuning in. Since June 6, we have averaged 197 viewers for each summer worship service.

We have proven through the previous months we can continue to be the church – even when we are not worshipping together in a building. Our care for each other and those in our community is ongoing. And, thanks to Pastor Amy and Kim, Minister of Faith Formation, there have been a variety of spiritual and educational opportunities for all ages, with more to come. I never thought I would say this but, thank God for technology!

A Phase 2 plan of reopening also was approved by Council and will take effect when Ohio's daily case count has decreased consistently over a two-week period. Until then, we will continue to operate under the guidelines identified in our Phase 1 of reopening in which the building remains closed to all regular activity with the exception of weddings or memorial services for 10 or less people. Under Phase 1, groups are encouraged to continue to meet via zoom, or in socially distanced outdoor gatherings.

Phase 2 will allow for general indoor gatherings of 10 or less, scheduled through the church office and coordinated by a designated group leader. A written contract between the designated leader and the church will spell out the COVID protocols and responsibilities that must be followed while inside the church building. However, groups that are able are encouraged to continue to meet via zoom.

Council also voted on a few exceptions to our Phase 1. We will allow voting in our building on November 3, and have granted some limited, designated bathroom use for approved groups currently meeting on our lawn. Our staff will continue to work primarily from home, accessing the building when necessary.

So, let's do our part in reducing Ohio's daily case count. Please wear your masks, and practice social distancing. Be safe my friends.

We *will* worship in person together again.



### **Congratulations!!!**

Heartfelt congratulations to **Pastor Amy** on her 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on August 1 as our senior pastor. We could never have anticipated how challenging her third year with us would be, but she has met the challenge beautifully, and we are so grateful!

Congratulations are also in order for Faith Formation Minister **Kim Nagy**, who was ordained as a UCC minister on August 29 in St. John's UCC, her home church in Dover, OH. Many of us watched her ordination via Zoom. Like Pastor Amy, Kim has had to pivot creatively since March. We are blessed by both Pastor Amy and Kim's ministry with us!

## Hungerford Tapestry Update



*Last summer, Ellen Hogarty invited Professor Melissa Campbell to inspect the deteriorating condition of her grandmother's tapestry created in 1974 to cover the center section of organ pipes for the church's new Holtkamp organ. Following approvals of church committees, Melissa was invited to clean and restore the "Hungerford Tapestry." The task could not have been in better hands. Melissa is an internationally recognized fiber artist and currently serves as a faculty member of KSU's School of Fashion. Her weavings and textile designs have been exhibited in different venues in Europe and Asia and the U.S. Her brief report on the meaning of Irene's work and the process she followed in restoring it reflects her deep appreciation for the creative work of a fellow textile artist and its place at Kent UCC. We look forward to enjoying the renovated tapestry when sanctuary worship resumes!*

It has been my pleasure to perform some 20 hours of conservation work on the Hungerford Tapestry. When Ellen Hogarty first contacted me regarding the tapestry, I was not sure I would be able to be of assistance, but after spending some time with it and learning more about Irene, I could see it was a work that had been carefully designed for that specific place by a person who was much loved and fondly remembered and that the repair work it needed fell within my specific area of fiber art knowledge.

As I became more familiar with the tapestry my admiration for the skill and creativity of Irene Hungerford grew. The space within the organ needed a very specific type of installation, and it was clear to see that Irene had put a great deal of thought and planning into the project. She engineered a piece that could be installed within that space's unique restrictions and limited accessibility. She also took into consideration the surrounding materials, the beautiful wood, metal and stone and designed a tapestry with a pattern that complemented those elements. Irene's main challenge was to create a piece that had to play several parts; it had to blend well with the interior of the chancel, hide the inner workings of the organ, and hang in a very high profile position right behind the cross without pulling all of focus to itself. Her design had to be one that could play all its roles and quietly, just hold the space.



My first impression of the tapestry took place in August of 2019, and it left me with the impression that it would only need a deep cleaning and some tension adjustments. Over the next 10 months permissions were obtained to begin repairs. Subsequent inspections showed that in addition to years of dust buildup there was damage from some mishandling and a need to completely replace all the gold threads that were rhythmically distributed throughout the piece. During the months of June and July this year, 20 hours of cleaning, thread replacement, and tension adjustments returned the tapestry to its wonderful self. In addition, with an eye to keeping costs at a minimum, this project relied heavily on the enthusiasm and generosity of a crew of volunteers: Kirk and Shawn Gordon, my husband J R. Campbell, John Hetrick, Pat Ray, and Kim Sebaly. As a crew they climbed ladders, slung ropes, and crewed fantastically to safely remove and then re-install Irene's beautiful work.

### **Time Capsule Project Begins – Jaime Baughman, Bicentennial Chairperson**

We are living in challenging, changing and interesting times, and it comes on the heels of our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Thus, as a final "bicentennial" project, we will be creating a time capsule of this year's events for our future congregation. Everyone is invited to participate.

Over the next few months, think about what you would want to have in a time capsule. A newspaper article about COVID-19? A photo of the "Black Lives Matter" sign in your front yard or of our UYF members participating in a protest in downtown Kent? A mask? When we come back together, we will collect these mementos and bury a time capsule.

I'm extremely excited about this project and I hope you will be too. This is certainly a project for the ages!

### **Faith Formation News – Kim Nagy**

On Saturday, August 23 I attended the "Can Money Be Sacred" Stewardship Festival, hosted virtually by the Living Water Association. This four-hour session flew by with incredibly engaging conversations with Rev. Michael Piazza. He encouraged all participants to consider stewardship as something that happens year-round, and it covers a broad range of topics, not just money.

It got me thinking about the broad terms of stewardship in our lives. We tend to prioritize and take great care of those things which are of utmost importance to us. What are those things for you? During the COVID-19 pandemic I have been increasingly aware of the construct of time--how days might crawl by, but somehow we are already into the month of September. Many of us have shifted from overcrowding our schedules with extra-curricular activities, in-person meetings, and gatherings with family and friends to trying to figure out how to work full-time and school kids and youth at home. What we do with our time these days is of utmost importance, and we must be good stewards of that resource.

As we enter the fall season, I encourage you to prioritize faith formation into your time, whether that's joining one of our fall adult education classes, committing to attending weekly youth group meetings, memorizing verses from the Psalms or some of your other favorite books, or simply reading your Bible every morning before the day begins. Our relationship with God is of utmost

importance during this time--it sustains us, it refreshes us, it calls us to action, and it comforts us. May we be good stewards of the time we have been given.

#### Children and Youth Grades PreK-7th Grade

While our church will continue to meet virtually this fall, we will continue to offer weekly videos for our children on our Video KUCC YouTube page.

We will also continue to send home weekly emails with resources to incorporate faith formation into your weekly (or daily!) routine at home.

Kim will be personally delivering a book of Bible stories that our children and youth will be reading the entirety of this program year in conjunction with our weekly videos. Please reach out if you have not been receiving these faith formation resources and would like to!

#### J-Walkers

Our J-Walkers have been on a summer hiatus but will have their first meeting of the school year via Zoom on Sunday, September 13 at 11:30 a.m. to plan the program year. Any student in grades 6-8 are welcome to join us! To receive more information and the Zoom link to our September meeting, please reach out to Kim Nagy at [knagy@kentucc.org](mailto:knagy@kentucc.org).

#### Confirmation

We are so excited to *finally* confirm our Confirmands from the 2019-2020 school year on Sunday, September 13! Our congregation will celebrate Ryan Rickelman, Grant Smith, Kathryn Mudrak, and Ethan Wills and mark this next step on their journey of faith as we welcome them as full members of Kent United Church of Christ. Praise God!

Our 2020-2021 Confirmation class will begin in October. It's not too late to join in! If you are in grades 8-12 this year, please reach out to Kim Nagy, and she will send you a packet of information for the coming year. We have so much fun and learn a lot! Join us!

#### UYF

As many of you know, United Youth Force generally kicks off the school year with a lock-in at the church filled with special games and rituals to welcome our freshmen. This year, we participated in a lock-OUT! Instead of going out to pick up our freshmen, we excitedly welcomed them as they drove through our church parking lot. Our UYF officers introduced what UYF is and means to them and organized socially distanced games for the group to play. All 19 youth wore masks and enjoyed time together on August 22. We finished with our candlelit welcome liturgy and with our seniors decorating the rock at Kent State.

This fall, our officers are planning many hybrid activities for our high school youth, knowing that many are still not entirely comfortable meeting in person. We are following all mask-wearing and social distancing guidelines and will continue to make UYF a warm and welcoming place for all youth. We welcome anyone in 9-12th grades to join us! Please reach out to Kim Nagy for a 2020 fall schedule.



Adult Education

We are pleased and excited to offer the following virtual opportunities for adult education. Please reach out to Kim Nagy to sign up and receive the Zoom information for any of these classes.

**Sunday Morning Film Series:** Pastor Amy and Kim will continue to lead a film series on Sunday mornings from 8:55-9:55 a.m., much like the summer Covenantal Restoration series.

**Thursday Book Studies:** Jen Case is leading a book study on *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. (it's not too late to sign up!). The book study will run through October 15. After that, a book study on *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi will begin.

**All-Church Read:** Stay tuned for an all-church read that will take place this fall with a Zoom discussion to follow.

United Christian Ministries

United Christian Ministries, the only progressive and LGBTQ+ affirming Christian ministry at Kent State University, is the college ministry we support! They have been very active in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and are looking forward to virtual fall gatherings. To get involved, please reach out to Kim Nagy to get you connected to the group, which is very focused on service and interfaith relationships!

**2020 Census Comes to Kent UCC**

Pastor Amy is a member of the Complete Count Census Committee for Portage County. 70% of households in Portage County have self responded to the 2020 Census. Households can still self respond online, by phone or by paper until September 30. Please encourage everyone you know to respond to the Census. Kent UCC is hosting an outdoor site as our area of Kent has one of the lowest response rates in the county. If you drive by the church and see the census workers set up outside, wave hello or stop by and thank them! They will be there through mid-September (and are only outside--not in our building). We are grateful to be a part of this critical effort to ensure that everyone is counted!

**Outreach Update**

Habitat for Humanity Build – the Hummel-Tucker family has been selected as the future owners. They plan to move in near the end of the year. Good news—our church has two build dates: Saturdays, **September 5 and September 12**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Please bring your own lunch and water bottle. If you are

able to volunteer for a few hours for either date, please contact Linnea Ray at [lkray@kent.edu](mailto:lkray@kent.edu) or (330) 931-2063. Participating in the Apostle Build is a great way to live your faith!

Kent Social Services – Brenda Schneider is on the KSS Board and reports that they have completed their first capital campaign and raised \$240,000. Currently, they are in a good place with food donations. We will continue to monitor KSS needs.

Donations. We've made the following Outreach donations thus far in 2020:

- 3/20 Ben Curtis Foundation - \$500
- 3/20 King Kennedy Center (*in honor of Frank Hairston*) - \$500
- 3/20 PFLAG - \$250
- 3/20 Safer Futures - \$500
- 4/20 Kent Social Services \$500
- 6/20 Kent Social Services - \$1,000
- 6/20 Akron Canton Food Bank - \$1,000
- 6/20 Safer Futures - \$1,000
- 6/20 OCWM Strengthen the Church Donation - \$500



**OCT 3, 2020**

**5K Walk or Run | 25 mile Bike Ride**

**Portage Hike and Bike Trail**

(beginning at the playground)

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Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of  
Portage County Apostles Build. Collect sponsors  
and donations through Oct. 10, 2020.

Raise \$200 or more and get a t-shirt!

Prize for top fundraiser.

## **Social Justice and Advocacy Ministry News**

### Let's Vote!

Are you registered to vote? Have you sent for your absentee ballot if you plan to vote without going in person this year? We can help! A Ministry member can get you a voter registration application and/or an absentee ballot application. Just contact Frank



Hairston at (330) 351-3980 or [bigdaddy3887@hotmail.com](mailto:bigdaddy3887@hotmail.com) or Josh Case at (330) 554-5440 or [caseshua@yahoo.com](mailto:caseshua@yahoo.com).

### Black-Owned Businesses

We've been working with our Outreach Ministry to develop a list of local black-owned businesses and have learned that there aren't many in Portage County. Those we know of so far include the following. We hope you'll check them out and let us know of others!

Kent: **Southern Comfort Kitchen**—food truck, location varies and is posted on Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sococreole/>  
Email: [sococreole@gmail.com](mailto:sococreole@gmail.com) Phone: (330) 469-2024

Kent: **Busy B Bakery** – has desserts at Erie Street Kitchen Tuesday-Saturday, sells at Haymaker Market Saturdays; <https://www.busybkent.com/>; owner accepts private and custom orders; Email [Busybkent@gmail.com](mailto:Busybkent@gmail.com)

Kent: **Magic City**, detailing and intensive car wash;  
<http://www.magiccitycustoms.com/index.php>  
403 S. Water Street, Kent. (330) 676-9880. [magiccitykent@gmail.com](mailto:magiccitykent@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/MagicCityCustoms/>

Kent and Streetsboro: **Leander's Barbershop**  
Kent: 124 East Main Street; (330) 281-9026  
Streetsboro: 9291 State Rt 14, Unit A; (330) 281-7752  
<http://www.leandersbarbershop.com/>

Ravenna: **Classic Auto Care**, 6392 Gladys Street, Ravenna, OH 44266;  
(330) 631-9593

### Racial Injustice Calendar

We recently learned that the Equal Justice Initiative publishes an annual calendar featuring "A History of Racial Injustice." It's a great learning tool, and we plan to feature content in future *Messenger* issues. For example, on September 2, 1885, white miners upset about competition for jobs killed 28 Chinese workers in Rock Spring, Wyoming, causing hundreds to flee and sparking anti-Chinese violence across the west. On September 3, 1901, Alabama adopted a racist new state constitution that sought to legalize white supremacy, prohibited interracial marriage, and mandated separate schools for black and white children. The calendar highlights a history that most of us never learned in school.

### NAACP Nancy and Bruce Hansford Scholarship Recipients

We're pleased to report that two students earned Nancy and Bruce Hansford Scholarships from the NAACP! Congratulations!

Ty'Shaun Caples is attending KSU Trumbull. During his Sr. Year of High School Ty'Shaun earned Kent State College credit and High School credit by

participating in the College Credit Plus Program. He is graduating from Windham High School #9 in his class with a 3.4 GPA.

Connor Lovejoy graduated from Ravenna High School and will be attending Bryant & Stratton College. He wants to pursue a career in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Studies.

Our church is a member of NAACP, but we encourage you to consider an individual membership. Contact Frank Hairston at (330) 351-3980 or [bigdaddy3887@hotmail.com](mailto:bigdaddy3887@hotmail.com).

### **Community Meal Update – Gayle Wall**

The Community Meal continues to run every third Sunday in the TO GO Style. We are doing much of the cooking at home, relying on volunteers to make side dishes and desserts. Please email Gayle Wall ([gayle\\_wall@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle_wall@yahoo.com)) or call her at (330) 221-8001 if you would like to volunteer to make an assigned side dish or dessert. Gayle will let you know what side dish we are serving that month and provide a recipe (if needed) when you decide to volunteer. If you specify that you want to make dessert, you would be asked to make hand-held desserts and put them in individual baggies! We welcome everyone who likes to cook to participate in the Community Meal in this new manner. Our next Community Meal is September 19, Thanks!

### **Stewardship News - Karen Carmany**

The Stewardship Ministry met in August to begin work on our giving campaign for Fall 2020. The theme for this year is Faithful, Hopeful, Loving and is supported by the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:13.

This has been a very unusual year for all of us. Our committee would like to express our gratitude to our members, committees, and staff for engaging in generous acts of kindness and Christian practices that put our Kent UCC mission into action. To quote Pastor Amy, “Our church is THRIVING – even in a pandemic!!!” We appreciate your generosity and support of our mission.

Many members have enrolled in ENGAGE. We encourage you to go one step further and sign up for recurring automatic giving. If you need help with this step, please contact the church office for assistance.

Last, from Bruce Barkhauer, a quote from his recent article in Giving Magazine...

“At its core Stewardship is a message of hope. It is belief in partnering with the Divine to bring the world into wholeness and completeness that God imagined during the creation of the cosmos. It is about the transformative power of resources employed for the Realm of God. Stewardship is the restorative work of justice, the healing work of compassion, the regenerative work of creation care, the reconciling work of the gospel, the vulnerable work of peace-making and the generous work of sharing provision so that no one is without the essential necessities of life.”

### Hospitality and Membership Update – Eileen West and Gayle Wall

Hello from Hospitality and Membership. We hope you all took the time to play and look at the super cute baby photos of our wonderful church members! Many thanks to everyone who sent in pictures and MUCH appreciation goes out to Linnea Stafford for putting the pictures together in such a professional and adorable way. (Check out the baby pictures of your Kent UCC family here: <https://conta.cc/31yDXrg>)

Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 18 at 7 p.m. for a fun TRUTH or LIE ZOOM Social!** Be thinking of one truth or one lie related to your church experiences to tell the group. Participants will weigh in as to whether the fact is true or false. This will be a light-hearted, fun social gathering. All ages are welcome to zoom in and participate.

We will be having folks sign up to participate in small group virtual games. Look for an email about this soon.

Finally, we're also assisting Sandy Roeger and the Prayer Shawl ministry in delivering prayer shawls to members of the church who may need them during this time.

### Rummage Sale Cancelled – Glenn Hanniford

As you read in last month's newsletter, the Rummage Sale Committee decided we should not schedule a rummage sale this year. While we were disappointed, this was the right thing to do. We have tentatively set September 17 and 18, 2021 as sale dates for next year. Hopefully COVID-19 will be a memory! If you have been saving donations for the rummage sale, thank you. If you are willing to store items until next year please do so; otherwise you might want to donate your items to an appropriate local agency for repurposing.

### Open Dates Available for Chancel Flowers

Though we may not be able to gather for worship in our sanctuary during these times, there is still an opportunity to recognize a loved one or lift up a special occasion to celebrate with a small floral arrangement or, for that matter, any simple creative arrangement to adorn our chancel on Sunday mornings. There are still some **open dates** to do so in these fall months ahead: September 13, 20, 27; October 11; and November 29. Contact Nancy Bubenzer at (330) 678-3436 (h) or (330) 671-1014 (c).

### Stephen Ministry – Sue Otterson



Last month, our Stephen Ministers met as a whole team via Zoom. We try to have a couple of whole-team meetings each year, and at this meeting, Pastor Amy led a continuing education session on prayer. She shared resources and ideas for using different types of prayer and praying to use as individuals, groups, and especially with our Care Receivers. We all felt this was a valuable session, and we came away feeling refreshed and more prepared to deepen our caring situations. If you are finding yourself in the need of prayer or a caring partner, please reach out

to Pastor Amy, a Deacon, or a Stephen Minister, and we will gladly address your need. If you are interested in taking the Stephen Ministry training, contact Sue Otterson.

### **A Letter from Al and Debbie Barber**

Dear Wonderful Church Family,

Al and I want to express our most sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, gifts, prayers and support for our family as our grandson, Rudy, battles a very rare form of liver cancer, fibrolamella. He has just begun chemo treatments, which will last four months, followed by additional surgery at a hospital in Chicago. This will be a very long journey, and we continue to ask for your prayers for Rudy and his family. He will turn 13 on August 31, a milestone in his life. If anyone would like to send a birthday card, his address is: Rudy Capece, 3302 Ingleside, Shaker Heights, OH 44122.

Again, thank you for your love and support. We feel your presence as well as that of the Holy Spirit as we travel this road together.

Most sincerely,  
Al and Debbie Barber

### **PFLAG September Meeting**

The next PFLAG meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 1 at 6 p.m. through Zoom. Jacob Nash, Founder of Margie's Hope, will be speaking about the organization. Anyone wanting to attend should contact Michael Spayd at [euchre1@roadrunner.com](mailto:euchre1@roadrunner.com) for login information. Any questions about PFLAG can be forwarded to Michael Spayd or Pastor Amy.

Margie's Hope is an organization dedicated to assisting transgender and nonbinary people in need. Margie's Hope has a number of groups for those who need help, as well as for their families and friends, as well as a group for trans youth. For more information about the organization, please visit: [www.margieshope.org](http://www.margieshope.org).

### **Adult Small Groups**

We have several small groups that are a great way to build meaningful relationships and have fun! Given the virus outbreak, our groups generally will not meet in person, although some are meeting via Zoom. Look for future meetings for our women's fellowship groups, men's breakfasts, Men Baking Bread, book group, Bagels and Books, Mahjong, yoga, and more. We will all be so glad when it's safe to resume our gatherings!

### **ACME Community Cash Back Program 2020**



The Kent UCC will once again participate in the Acme Cash Back Program this year. The church will receive 5% cash back on qualifying purchases made starting Thursday, August 6 through December 26, 2020. Members and friends are asked to save the entire

receipt in an envelope or a plastic sandwich bag and deposit them in the Blue Box by the Office entry on the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month until we are able to gather for worship in the Sanctuary. Last year we received \$376 to be used for various church programs. Thank you for your continued support.

### Update from Kent UCC Endowment Fund

As of June 30, 2020, the Endowment Fund has recovered almost all of the decline it experienced in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020. A summary of the endowment activity for January–June is:

Jan. 1, 2020 balance: \$813,932  
 -Interest/Div.: \$5,167  
 -Donations: 0  
 -Gain on Sale of stock: \$ 12,214  
 -Change in value at UC Fund (60% stock, 40% Fixed): -\$34,890  
 -Disbursements: \$ 180 (Moore Music Scholarship Fund)  
 June 30, 2020 balance: \$796,243

June 30, 2020 balances in individual funds

General Fund -	\$ 569,970
Parsons Music -	48,270
Truog Organ -	71,497
UYF -	34,363
Moore Music Sch. -	27,506
Hungerford Sch. -	23,850
Vaughn Spec. Needs -	20,787
Total -	\$ 796,243

Historically, 5% of the rolling three average of the year-end balances from the funds are available for annual distribution.

Our Endowment Fund helps to support our church's mission each year. Have you considered including our Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan? For more information or questions, please contact Peter Johnson or Ralph Kletzien.

### UCM Virtual Meet and Greet

United Christian Ministries (UCM) at KSU is excited to invite any and ALL KSU students to our virtual meet & greet. UCM students will be on to talk about why they are a part of UCM, what UCM can do for you, and how we can support you during these uncertain times. E-mail us at [ucm@kent.edu](mailto:ucm@kent.edu) for your personal zoom link. Join us Wednesday, September 2, from 7:30-8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!



## Community News

### Hospice of the Western Reserve Virtual Volunteer Training

Are you looking for a way to help individuals in your community? Are you willing to engage with homebound patients and families by phone or by mail? Consider becoming a Hospice of the Western Reserve Volunteer. We are excited to announce virtual volunteer training for new volunteers. We also look forward to the day that in-person visits can resume safely. For more information, contact us at (216) 255-9090 or fill out an online application at: [hospicewr.org/volunteers](http://hospicewr.org/volunteers). Volunteers who complete virtual training will be able to provide in-person visits as soon as Ohio's Stay at Home order is lifted.

### News from the UH Portage Medical Center Pastoral Care Department

The Pastoral Care Department now has a new service available to our congregation; they have made their Dial-A-Prayer line, which has been in service for patients and staff for many years, accessible from outside the hospital. Just call **(330) 297-2545**. The message is changed once a week.

The UH Portage Medical Center Pastoral Care Department is looking to fill a part-time secretarial position. The position is 12 hours a week and requires knowledge of Microsoft Office and general clerical knowledge. The position supports the part-time Chaplain in the Pastoral Care office and also the hospital's Auxiliary Board. If you are interested in this position, please contact Sandy Haskell, Volunteer Services Manager at (330) 297-2592.

### Virtual Kent Area Crop Walk for Hunger October 4

Due to the pandemic, the Crop Walk for Hunger will be virtual this year. The Walk is virtual, but the need could not be more real! As you know, the need is even greater during the pandemic, due to illness, job loss and complications from natural disasters and war.

You can still walk, or not. You can raise money online or for real. The official date for the walk is October 4, but you are free to walk as individuals, families, "teams" anywhere you want or just virtually at **any** time. To register and/or to donate, go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/kentoh](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/kentoh)

IF you want actual walker envelopes for real donations, please contact Becky Brown, coordinator at: 330-626-1838 or [beckydave74@neo.rr.com](mailto:beckydave74@neo.rr.com)

These must be returned to our treasurer Norma Hubbell at 1029 Cottage Gate Dr., Kent by October 25. Online donations should also be completed by then.

Twenty-five percent of funds raised still goes to Kent Social Services. So let's give this a mighty try, folks. We might surprise ourselves and raise even *more* money than before!

Thank you so much for joining in and helping others, around the corner and around the world!

**Treasurer's Report - Kay Hansford****As of August 12:**

Income	\$ 10,866
Expenses	\$ 12,810.59
	- \$ 1,944.59

Year to Date:

Income	\$ 324,422.47
Expenses	\$ 245,367.85
	+ \$ 79,034.62

**We are sad to inform you that our Financial Administrator, Cheri Mikula, will be leaving us mid-September for a new job.** She has been such an asset to our finance office, especially transferring from our previous administrative computer program to our present one. We are sad to see her go but wish her well with her new job opportunity.

In the meantime, Personnel is starting the process of finding a new financial administrator. Cheri will be with us until September 13. After that date, any concerns should be directed to Kay Hansford who will TRY to fill in as best she can! Patience please!

**September Birthdays**

01 Mary Homer 07 Lorelea Allen, Dianne Kuntzman 08 Jaime Baughman 09 Livi Wise  
 11 Steve Boyles, Jill Khol, Felicia Lumpkin, Michael Rusanowsky 13 George Dietz,  
 Kelley Gifford, Peg Hall, Jane Kemp, Emily Roeger 17 Harriet Fisher 20 Susan Braden,  
 Mandi Rhinehart Larson 21 Karen Carmany. 22 Doris Aeschliman, Georgeanne Hoover  
 25 Danyelle Davis 26 Corey Fowler, Kay Hansford 27 Andria Blackwood, Barb Marken  
 29 Karen Clarke, Heather Wise 30 Kenneth Moss, Amanda Nagy

**Sundays in September****September 6: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost****Sermon by Pastor Amy****10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube****September 13: Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost****Sermon by Pastor Amy****10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube****September 20: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost****Sermon by Pastor Amy****10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**September 27: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon by Pastor Amy**  
**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**How to Reach Us**

Kent UCC | 1400 East Main Street | Kent, OH 44240  
Phone: 330.673.9534 | Fax: 330.673.8828  
[office@KentUCC.org](mailto:office@KentUCC.org) | [Facebook @ KentUnitedChurchOfChrist](#)

**Office Hours: Staff are primarily working from home during Covid-19 crisis. Regular hours are 9am-4pm.**

**Staff Contacts**

**Rev. Amy C. Gopp**  
**Senior Minister**  
[PastorAmy@KentUCC.org](mailto:PastorAmy@KentUCC.org)

**Corey Fowler**  
**Director of Music**  
[CFowler1@Kent.edu](mailto:CFowler1@Kent.edu)

**Kimberly Nagy**  
**Director of Faith Formation**  
[KNagy@KentUCC.org](mailto:KNagy@KentUCC.org)

**Cheri Mikula**  
**Financial Administrator**  
[CMikula@KentUCC.org](mailto:CMikula@KentUCC.org)

**Leah Davis**  
**Admin. Assistant**  
[LDavis@KentUCC.org](mailto:LDavis@KentUCC.org)

**Don Deibler**  
**Custodian**  
via [Office@KentUCC.org](mailto:Office@KentUCC.org)

*The Messenger* is published monthly and circulated online and in print. Articles and other items for publication in this newsletter should be submitted to the church Administrative Assistant by e-mail to: [LDavis@kentucc.org](mailto:LDavis@kentucc.org). The deadline for the October issue is Friday, September 18 at noon.

**OUR MISSION:**

Enlivened by the grace of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kent United Church of Christ does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly with our God to serve and transform lives, our community and the world. (Micah 6:8)