

Crystal Park United Methodist Church Newsletter



September/October 2021

Crystal Park United Methodist Church
2219 Mahoning Road NE
Canton, OH 44705-1911
330-455-0009

Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

*The mission of Crystal Park UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the community and beyond.*



Words from Pastor Steve

But, who do you say that I am? – Matthew 16:15

Dear Crystal Park Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that already we are transitioning from summer to fall! Pastor Jake and I feel blessed to be in ministry with you, worshipping with you and getting to know you.

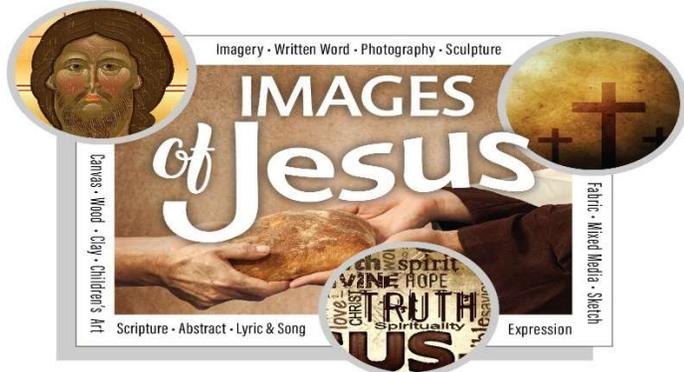
While our Cooperative Parish is still a very new thing, I am moved by the way God is working in our midst. I have heard positive feedback about our guest preachers, and I know they have been blessed to have the opportunity to preach. Sarah volunteering to play the piano and sing is a response to the Holy Spirit stirring in her heart. Many have expressed their appreciation for having live music in worship again. On August 1st, we celebrated communion together for the first time with freshly baked homemade bread. I saw Christ on your faces as we each received the bread and grape juice. Paul White, Louise Howenstine, and the church leaders have been faithful in their “behind the scenes” ministry to keep the church running well. At their

meeting on July 22, the church Board took decisive action to get the parsonage cleaned up and rented again. Crystal Park United Methodist Church is living into its mission to “be, make and mature disciples for the transformation of the world!” So much has happened in just two months! I am excited to see where God will lead us in the months ahead.

More than 2000 years ago, Jesus asked his followers “who do you say that I am?”. That question and how we answer it shapes all that we do. Indeed, it shapes how we see the world and how we process our life experiences. This fall, my prayer is that each of us and others in the community who decide to worship with us, will meditate on this question and come to know Jesus in new and expansive ways. To that end, I am excited to share with you that on August 29th we will start a new six-week worship series called “Questioning Jesus”. This series is inspired by the book “Freeing Jesus” by Diana Butler Bass who reflects on Jesus as friend, teacher, savior, Lord, way and presence, drawing from her own life experiences. How would you describe who Jesus is to you? What images of Jesus come to mind from different times in your life? Can you think of someone you know who does not have a church home who would like the opportunity to question Jesus alongside a loving congregation? Let’s all get the word out and see what God will do!

As part of this worship series, I invite you to consider sharing an image of Jesus for an exhibit at Faith United September 19 – November 14. We are now

accepting image submissions in many mediums. You can submit an image of Jesus that you have at home, or you can submit a new or existing creation of your own. Images of Jesus include any image or metaphor that has meaning to you. In the Bible there are many images of Jesus including mother, son, child, baby, friend, teacher, king, way, helper, healer, light, rock, leader, prophet, servant, miracle-worker, storyteller, savior, God and more. I'd love to see a new image each week at Crystal Park in worship! Contact me for more details.



I am looking forward to growing in faith at Crystal Park UMC with you this fall.

Sincerely,

Pastor Steve

Updated COVID Guidelines



With the delta variant of the COVID causing Stark County to be in the red zone for number of diagnosed cases our Crystal Park UMC has returned to asking both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons to wear masks while in the church building. We also recommend continuing to practice good hygiene in washing of hands and hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the church entrances. Please honor the safety and preference of others with appropriate save distancing.

We will continue to monitor the virus and the CDC guidelines and make changes as may be recommended or necessary.

Make sure you test positive for faith, keep your distance from doubt, and isolate yourself from fear.

PREACHER

September & October Preaching Schedule

- September 5 - Rev. Jake Heskett
- September 12 - Rev. Jim Skinner
- September 19 - Rev. Steve Stultz Costello
- September 26 - Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Pam Wig
- October 3 - Rev. Steve Stultz Costello
- October 10 - Mr. Butch Ransom
- October 17 - Rev. Jake Heskett
- October 24 - Ms. Jessica Stroia
- October 31 - Rev. Paul White



Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Mary Binkley
- Bud Poland
- Gary & Linda Conley
- John Pore
- Dorothy Belles
- Ted Smith
- Bob Raymond
- Our Crystal Park UM Church



We express our sympathy to Bob & Nina Raymond on the death of Bob's stepsister, Janet Harlamert, who died June 29.

We express our sympathy to Lois Golden and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, Clarence Stefl, who died on July 22.

Sympathies are also expressed to Dick & Sue Williams who lost Sue's cousin, Iva Lind, at 101 years of age on August 6.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of Jenny Norris who died August 7.



Thank you to everyone who supported the special offering for the "Teach, Reach, Bless" campaign of Bishop Tracy S. Malone to build a women's dormitory at our United Methodist Africa University. With the support of the offering and matching gift we raised \$800.



The office will be closed on Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day. If you have an emergency, please call the office as Louise will be checking messages.

Our Cooperative Ministry



As we continue in our Cooperative Ministry with Faith United we are invited to participate in activities as both Crystal Park and Faith United Churches. Even though our Crystal Park newsletter focuses much upon activities at Crystal Park UMC we want to be sure you are aware of activities in which you can participate at Faith United. Some of the activities at Faith United include:

- **Walk & Talk with Pastor Steve** – Fridays 8:30-9:30 a.m., August 27, September 3, 10, 17, October 1. Join Pastor Steve on Friday mornings for conversation and a walk around the church neighborhood. Meet in the Gathering Area at 8:30 a.m. for this half hour Friday morning walk.
- **Pursued: God's Relentless Love for You** – Tuesday PM Women's Group, Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 7. Facilitators: Sue Bell and Sue Schillings, Parlor & Zoom.
- **Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi** – Wednesday Women's Group - Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. beginning September 8. Facilitator: Linda Reynolds, Parlor & Zoom.
- **The Minor Prophets Monday Night Bible Study** – Mondays at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 27, in the Parlor. Facilitator Ron Luikart.
- **Sewing for Missions** – Join us this Fall on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Coordinator: Sue Bell.
- **Discovering Jesus in Art: A Study of Modern Iconography** – Fridays at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 1. Facilitator: Pastor Jake, Parlor & Zoom.
- **Book Discussion Group** – September 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. We will meet to discuss *Sunflower Sisters* by Martha Hall Kelly.

- **Common Ground** – Wednesdays, October 13, 27, November 10, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. Facilitator: Kathy Schmucker, Parlor & Zoom.
- **Thursday Afternoon Group Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Coordinator: Mike Flechtner.

For more information or to sign-up for any of these opportunities visit [Adult Programs/Groups – Faith United Methodist Church \(myfaithunited.org\)](http://myfaithunited.org) or call the church office at 330-499-6040.



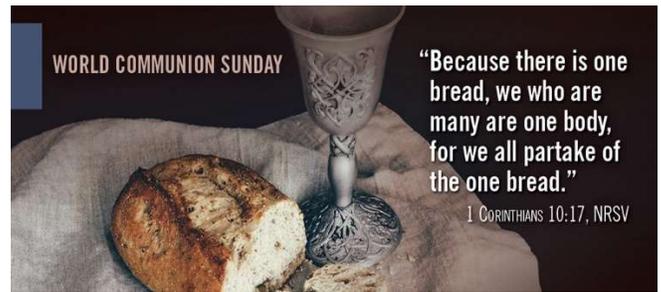
The Administrative Council will meet on Friday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m. All members are encouraged to attend as we prepare for our annual Charge Conference. We ask members to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Faith Kitchen



Our monthly outreach will be Saturday, September 25, and Saturday, October 30, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. These will both be Grab-n-Go food give away in the parking lot. Food delivery and packing of bags will be on Fridays, September 25, and October 29 at 10:00 a.m. Please save your grocery bags and donate them to the church for this ministry.

**Only God can turn a mess into a message,
a test into a testimony,
a trial into a triumph,
a victim into a victory.
God is good all the time!**



On the first Sunday in October, United Methodist congregations join many Christian churches across the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which included all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday.

Historically, World Communion Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. The offering supports ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college and people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible.

Please plan to give generously as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 3.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September:

- 1 Sue and Richard Williams Anniv.
- 2 Jack Gottscheck
- 9 Shawn & Tim Deitrick Anniv.
- 12 Mary Pore
- 14 Frank Smith
- 18 Bob Raymond

- 25 Vickie Fox
- 27 Becky Shimek



October:

- 1 Fran & Perry Bickel Anniv.
- 6 ZaMya Summers
- 7 Scott Binkley
- 12 Alma Gottscheck
- 14 JaVon Summers
- 16 Debbie Greene
- 26 Clay Smith Jr.
- 29 Jim & Debbie Greene Anniv.
- 30 Jim Greene
- 31 Dorothy Belles



- 6 Labor Day – Office Closed
- 16 Cooperative Parish Leadership Team –
1:00 p.m. at Crystal Park UMC
- 17 Admin. Council Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
- 24 Food Delivery & Packing for Faith
Kitchen – 10:00 a.m.
- 25 Faith Kitchen 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Church Attendance & Finances:



**Our
Gifts
and
Tithes**

The average Sunday morning worship attendance for July was 28 and for August (through August 22) the average attendance was 27.

In looking at the financial picture of the church
 July Income = \$3,382.00 which includes sale of motorized scooter.
 July Expenses = \$2,116.57
 August Income (as of Aug. 25) = \$3,427.00 which includes \$800 for the “Teach, Reach, Bless” special offering.
 August Expenses (as of Aug. 25) = \$3,972.88

We pray you will continue to give generously to support our church and the needs of our community.



- 3 World Communion Sunday Offering
- 21 Cooperative Parish Leadership Team –
1:00 p.m. at Faith United
- 29 Food Delivery & Packing for Faith
Kitchen – 10:00 a.m.
- 30 Faith Kitchen 10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline



The next newsletter will be for the months of November and December 2021. If you have articles or information for the newsletter please put it in the newsletter box in the office by October 24. If you submit an article from another source for the newsletter please note the author so we may comply with all copyright guidelines.

Do You Know Your Hymns?

- Dentist's Hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns.
- Weatherman's Hymn There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
- Contractor's Hymn The Church's One Foundation.
- Tailor's Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy.
- Golfer's Hymn There's a Green Hill Far Away.
- Politician's Hymn Standing on the Promises!
- Optometrist's Hymn. . . . Open My Eyes That I Might See.
- IRS Agent's Hymn I Surrender All.
- Gossip's Hymn Pass It On.
- Electrician's Hymn Send The Light..
- Shopper's Hymn Sweet Bye and Bye.
- Realtor's Hymn I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
- Massage Therapist's Hymn. He Touched Me.

The Breath Prayer

Written by Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your **love** & release my **insecurity**

I receive your **joy** & release my **unhappiness**

I receive your **peace** & release my **anxiety**

I receive your **patience** & release my **impulsiveness**

I receive your **kindness** & release my **indifference**

I receive your **goodness** & release my **ungodliness**

I receive your **faithfulness** & release my **disloyalty**

I receive your **gentleness** & release my **severity**

I receive your **self-control** & release my **self-indulgence**

Artwork by @jodiewsss