



Church Chatter

AUGUST 2021



Can you imagine a church free of racism and a world where all people live without fear of violence or systems that harm God's human creation?

The United Church of Christ invites you to Join the Movement toward racial justice as we answer God's call to be an anti-racist church. Here, we will share stories and grow together, learning from one another to build a just world for all.

"When love is the lens through which we see the world, justice is possible." - Rev. Traci Blackmon

Visit our website for links to worship videos, upcoming events, and ways we serve as well as news of our Association, Conference and Denomination

<https://www.vermilioncongregational.org/>

August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Missions 6pm AA	2 AA	3 Membershi p 3pm - GS	4	5 Boy Scouts AA	6 Hiroshima Day of Remembrance AA	7
8 Quellhorst Life Celebration Heidelberg @4 Finance 8:30am - FFR AA	9 Bridge noon - GS AA	10 Reopen Team 5pm - GS	11 Faith Formation 6pm - GS	12 Boy Scouts AA	13 COUNCIL DOCS DUE AA	14
15 Random Acts of Kindness Day noon-2 Church Lawn AA	16 AA	17	18 COUNCIL	19 Boy Scouts AA	20 Pantry 9-12 AA	21
22 Family Fun Night Romp's 6:30-8pm AA	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE All Staff 10am Bridge noon - GS AA	24 Stewardship 5:45 - GS	25	26 Boy Scouts AA	27 NEWSLETTER AA	28
29 AA	30 AA	31 DNS OPEN HOUSE				

FFR - Faith Formation Room (formerly Conference Room); FH - Fellowship Hall; GS - Gathering Space

Birthdays

2	Jerry Kruszynski	11	Christine Ruetenik
	Miranda Lacefield	15	Sally Fox
4	Sophia Flemister	16	Jon Reising
	Megan Toth	19	Dave Eberhard
6	Ginger Cutcher	21	Glenn Coleman
	Annie Rossi	24	Judy Williams
7	AJ Lacefield	25	Danny Lehky
8	Cathy Zimmerman	26	Ian Cutcher
9	Mary Scott Clark	29	Kim McGuinn
10	Madelyn Cleaver	31	Debbie Schwensen
	Kevin Hanley		
	Kalynn Smith		

Anniversaries

4	Dianna & Jon Clark '84
	Kirsten & Michael Hormell 2007
5	Gayle & Ken Farschman '61
6	Morgen & Jake Baker 2011
9	Courtney & Terry Traut 2003
11	Gara & Jim Jones '68
13	Mindy Quellhorst & Jeff Davis 2016
15	Kim & Steve Lewis '87
	Cindy & Frank Weeks '81
17	Sana & Tom Orphan '95
	Karin & Dave Rathbun '61
19	Karen & Larry Howell '72
	Julie & Brian Wilson '89

From the pastor....



When I was 15 years old, General Synod 11 was in Washington DC. I was a youth timer, which meant I timed the speeches and signaled when the time was to be cut off. I also marched in my first organized march for justice. We marched for the Wilmington 10, who had been falsely accused because of the color of their skin. Since that Synod, I have attended many as a delegate, visitor, and volunteer. I have learned, dialogued, met new and old friends, been challenged, worshiped, laughed, cried, prayed, sang. There are special things that have brought me much joy in almost every Synod. In Atlanta, General Synod 25, I was a delegate and so was my cousin Tom, from rural Ohio. This was the General Synod that the UCC stated that LGBTQI+ people could get married. My cousin disagreed, at that time, with this resolution, I disagreed with my cousin Tom. I love him, and even though we disagreed we ate every meal together, we shared God's table of love. At General Synod 26, AJ was a youth delegate. He and our conference minister served me communion, God's meal of love, as I had tears streaming down my face.

General Synod 33 was a bit different. It was virtual. I was the vote coordinator for Synod, which meant I set up the votes, and opened the votes, and made sure we had the 2/3 needed, or a simple majority. It was stressful, exciting, and I was honored to have this volunteer role. I represented our church, because of the covenant that we have as the UCC. When I was installed here, we promised to be the church together in this time and space, and the church includes not just Vermilion United Church of Christ Congregational but the whole United Church of Christ.

Some important learnings from this Synod, "Rooted in Love". I listened to activist Valarie Kaur share about the "revolutionary love compass" — a guide to help the nation transition "into a multi-racial democracy". Another keynote was by Sojourners leader Adam Russell Taylor. He talked about the "beloved community" as an antidote to the "twin viruses" of "systemic racism and toxic polarization." In the eight days of the 715 voting delegates and almost 2,000 visitors, I saw budget discussions, nominations and an election of Associate General Minister Traci Blackmon, eleven resolutions in which the governing body lent its voice to theological and social issues. One resolution was continuing decades-long advocacy for fairness in society by declaring racism a public health crisis and speaking on other churchwide and worldwide issues.

The UCC has asked us, as a church, to *Join the movement toward racial justice*. In recent years we have experienced a resurgence of racist vitriol globally, and it would be easy to attribute such diatribe to one person or one group of people, but such assertions are untrue and unhelpful. Structural racism pervades every institution and every aspect of our society. It has so distorted our biological, sociological, anthropological, and theological perception of "the other" that most people cannot even imagine the anti-racist church and world that we work to bring into being. We are invited to explore the intersections of race with every justice ministry we uphold; and doing our own work to examine ourselves and continue learning the ways we may be complicit in upholding the structures that allow racism to thrive.

I invite you to check out [UCC.org](https://www.ucc.org) and look at the articles and resolutions from General Synod 33. I invite you to ask questions and to challenge yourself to grow in justice. I am so honored to have volunteered and served the wider church in this way.

May we continue to be the church in this time and space.

Blessings abound,

Pastor Mindy



Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying...

JoAnn Bard, Jim Estle, Matt Greiner on his deployment, Mike Haynes, Diane & Fred Hesse, TJ Irons, Gara Jones, Lori Kious, Connie & Lenny Knam, Nancy & Lou Konery, Shirley Lehky, Barb Matuska, Randy McCaugherty, Dave Munger, Gretchen Neiding, Michael Paetzold, Zoey Seiling, Shirley, Carolyn Strittmather, Olive Van Detta, Ginny Wilkes, Leah Woodings-Ruble

Shirley Lehky sends out a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has sent cards or phoned or visited. She wants you all to know just how much it has meant to her that she's being prayed for and cared about!

Along with her thanks, Shirley would like everyone to know she's now back at home! If you would like to visit with her, please call ahead as her PT schedule can change daily. You will need to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask for the duration of your visit.



Cards & notes continue to be appreciated by

Gara Jones
6728 Cliffside Dr
Vermilion, OH 44089

Shirley Lehky
13909 Mason Rd
Vermilion, OH
44089

Matt Greiner
7 Windrider Rd
Unit 219
Kodiak, AK 99615



Celebration of life of the Rev. Dr. Ralph C. Quellhorst
August 12, 1937-June 23, 2020

We would love for you to join us to honor our dad.

We know he mentored many. He loved deeply.

We are celebrating with a celebration, service and meal

Heidelberg University, Wickham Great Hall, located in the Campus Center, Tiffin, Ohio.

August 8, 2021 4 PM service followed by a reception outside

Following the service, our family will greet guests outdoors on the Campus Center lawn (Campus Center 220 in case of inclement weather). A meal will also be served on the lawn following the visitation (Hoernemann Refectory in case of inclement weather).

Please RSVP, so we know how much food to fix:

https://www.alumni.heidelberg.edu/s/1897/bp19/interior.aspx?sid=1897&pgid=882&gid=2&cid=2430&ecid=2430&post_id=0

Please note that Heidelberg University continues to follow CDC guidelines with regard to COVID-19. We kindly request that those who are not fully vaccinated continue to observe masking and distancing protocols while on campus for the Celebration of Life ceremony.

Mindy, Jeff, AJ, Andy, Miranda, Charlotte

Cindy, Harry, Brad, Rob

Pam, Chris

From Jeff Davis, Faith Formation Director

When I was nine years old my family lived in a small town in Pennsylvania. It was the kind of place everyone knew each other and pretty much saw each other on a daily basis. All the kids were in 4-H and scouts together. Our neighbors became our surrogate parents so we all felt like family. It was a place where I was nurtured and challenged and where the seeds of faith were planted. My family attended a small Methodist Church where two saints of the church changed my life. Mrs. Smith was my Sunday School teacher and Mr. Raycroft was our pastor. He insisted on being called "Mr. Raycroft" as the title of reverend, he said, should be reserved for Jesus. He was a humble man who knew Greek and Hebrew and could preach for hours without missing a beat. This might sound daunting for a nine-year-old, however, he was graceful and loving and he saw something in me. On several occasions he would invite me to be a "worship leader" at our church and the yoked church he served ten miles away. I read scripture or read a prayer and I felt like I was part of something special.

Mrs. Smith taught stories using a flannel board, the ancient precursor of the iPad. She would share parables and teachings of Jesus. At times she was so involved in the story she would accidentally hold the figures upside down. We would laugh, however, she went right on with the story. When my family moved away from this town she gave me a bible which I still have. Most importantly, I left town knowing that these two saints had sparked something within me. I wonder what they would have thought about me, years later, attending seminary, being ordained, and serving churches in several states. I imagine they would have been proud and humbled to be part of my journey. These are just two persons in my life who helped me in my faith formation.

I am excited to be returning to a role I know well as our congregation's new Faith Formation Director. I have served churches, small and large, urban and rural, vibrant and struggling. I have worked as a Christian educator and camp director in Ohio and Michigan. I have mentored new pastors and have learned from folks of all ages and experiences. I am still learning. I am still growing. I am still in awe of what God is doing in my life and yours. Over the next few months you will start to hear a lot from me. I will be offering invitations and challenges to participate in a variety of experiences which I hope will enrich all of our spiritual lives. You are not too young or too old to engage in this adventure. We are family! Let's do this new thing!

General Synod is something that, before this year, I hadn't thought much about. I had it in my head that it was mainly for pastors and officers of the church. Since this year was virtual and therefore a lot more affordable, I decided to register. I am so glad I did! The workshops were informative and lively, the children's lessons were joyful, and the three worship services were amazing! It was a wonderful experience to "meet" so many different people doing God's work in so many different ways.

Inclusivity permeates Synod. Races, colors, nationalities, LGBTQ+, languages, worship styles, music ... proof positive that "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" I could write so much about the entire week but I decided to focus on the opening and closing worship services as they brought so much emotion and were an incredible learning experience as well.

Opening worship was centered on soil, of being one with the earth. We were invited to reflect on the ways we can let go of the old ways that are painful to us, to others and to the earth and replace them with new ways for new and stronger growth; we need to take care of what gives life and everything that is rooted in God's love. We were reminded that wherever we were gathered, it was on Native land. We learned that in the past, Native American children were forbidden by the government to dance in the way of their ancestors. It was a way to erase Native American culture - more and more would be lost from generation to generation. We were taught a Zulu saying: A person is only a person with and through other people. An often-repeated phrase was used: The struggle of the people and the struggle of the earth are one.

Closing worship centered on our shared roots - how our stories are individual but connected in Spirit; so different yet so similar; based on the love of children, community and creation. We learned the significance of the Native American teepee, also called a lodge: the 4 sticks represent the 4 stages of life (child, adolescent, adult, elder) as well as the 4 races (red, black, yellow, white) and the 4 seasons. The remaining poles represent family and life virtues. The chief pole has the canvas attached, held together with pins representing the strength of the eagle's talons. The stakes represent the badger's claws, a sign of security and stability. The base is round to represent the medicine wheel, a circle that includes family, community and the nation. A ceremony called Beacons of Hope was performed where 1500 painted rocks were placed around 7 lodges in 7 different colors and the lodges were then illuminated. The rite was done in remembrance of those lost to the pandemic and promoted the healing of the grief and trauma that stemmed from it. Gerald Grey of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council said "When the teepees go up we all unite, we are one, we are a family, everyone."

All three Synod worship services are available online and accessible through ucc.org or the UCC YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/uccvideos>. I'm looking forward to attending Synod in person and hope you check out all that General Synod 33 had to offer.

Peace,
Judy Brizzolara



Rooted in Love



Family Fun Night at Romp's Putter Port and Dairy Dock!

Join your church family and invite your friends for a fun evening of putt-putt and ice cream on **Sunday, August 22nd from 6:30-8:00pm**. Come a few minutes early to pay and get your putter, ball and scorecard. Cost is \$7 per person, which includes \$4 (2 - \$2 tokens) for each person for the Dairy Dock!

RSVP to the church office by Thursday, August 18th via email (vermilionuccc@gmail.com) or by phone (440-967-5212). Please provide your full name, contact phone number and how many folks will be participating in your group.

This event is being hosted by the Faith Formation Team. Please contact Diana Pierson, Chair, with any questions. (dianapierson03@gmail.com)

See you on the course!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kirchegelmeinschaft Forum - September 10 & 11 - Virtual forum with our partner church in Germany

Heartland Conference Annual Gathering - September 24 & 25

Living Water Association Annual Meeting - October 30

Confirmation meetings will be starting for anyone 8th grade & over. Please contact Pastor Mindy for further details.



KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have adult children who would like to be on our contact list please send their info to the office!

Sunset Shores Outreach Committee Grants

What opportunities we have had this first half of our first granting year! All of you are part of this wonderful use of the money we have available because of the sale of Sunset Shores. During the first year 2020, we paid off the costs of the Gathering Space and paid the church's pledge to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission).

In 2021, the SSOF Committee completed the SSOF Policy and began taking grant requests. This year the church has \$57,009 to give; after paying OCWM, we have \$51,009 to give as grants. Half of this will go or has gone to large projects and half to individual or smaller projects.

During this second year, on your behalf, the SSOF committee has granted 3 large grants totaling \$12,844 for the first granting cycle. As you may recall the beneficiaries of these 3 grants were: DNS for equipment to meet COVID licensing requirements; Angel Closet, a clothing ministry of Berlin Heights UCC; and United Church Homes to supply senior resident centers with robotic pets. The second grant cycle will be awarded after August 1, which is when the next grant deadline comes. We already have 2 grant requests for this cycle.

We have also given 5 individual grants with a sixth in process totaling \$12,407. You have helped individual families with medical bills, rent, motel bills due to flooding, moving expenses because of black mold, utility bills, insurance, food cards, and many other types of expenses. The balance of this fund for the rest of 2021 is \$13,097.

We have received joyous letters from all of the main projects and most of the individual families thanking us for our generosity. When the final letter is sent to the grantee, we always invite them to worship with us. If you have any questions about what your committee has done, please feel free to talk to any committee members: Fred Rossi, Rich Ozmun, Julie Strittmather, Judy Klucas, Anne Stock and Jim Estle. We would welcome conversations with you.

Anne Stock
July 2021



CALLING ARTISTS OF ALL AGES!!!

Come join the fun on Saturday, August 7 at 10am and
CHALK IT UP!

Our church is once again sponsoring a 30" x 40" area to be filled with colorful artwork. We'd love to have our members, especially the kiddos, involved! This year's theme is perfect for us as sharers of God's light and love -

Lighthouses: Let Your Light Shine!

Please contact the office as soon as possible to sign up for this super event!!

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|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What: | Random Acts of Kindness Day |
| When: | Sunday, August 15th from 12 to 2 |
| Where: | Church front yard |
| For Who: | Our community |
| How to Help: | Bring all kinds of school supplies (pens, paper, tissues, ziploc bags, markers, crayons, folders, hand sanitizer, binders, bookbags, etc.) to the church M-F 9-2 or on Sunday before worship by Friday, August 13 so that the items can be prepared for giving! |
| | Don't like to shop but still want to help? No problem! Drop your donation in the box in the Gathering Space or send it to the church office! |



Come have your face painted & grab some free popcorn on the 15th!
Contact the church office with any questions.

Thank you!!



No matter who you are
Or where you are on life's journey
You are always welcome here.

vermilionuccc@gmail.com
Office: 440-967-5212
Developmental Nursery School: 440-967-5230
Worship: Sunday 10:30
Office Hours: M-F, 9-2

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Pastor

Morgen Baker, Developmental Nursery School Director
Jerry Boros, Treasurer
Judy Brizzolara, Administrative Assistant
Jeff Davis, Faith Formation Director
Jim Innes, Financial Recorder
Corey Knick, Organist
Dr. Ted Williams, Music Director

United Church of Christ, Congregational
990 State St
Vermilion, OH 44089



Build on the Love,
Join the Movement

