

faith

in action

SEPTEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER
Edition 263



**We are a Community,
seeking to be in stride with Christ.**

Pastor's Corner ~

We enter the fall of 2023 with gratitude for what we have been given to be and do by Christ. We have received generous gifts of time, talent and donations of goods and money to make our ministry possible.

You will read in the Highlights from Session in these pages, and you may have seen the video presentation about Tools for Schools and Haircuts that Rich prepared. Numbers of volunteers, stylists, and the number of students served to help make a great beginning to the school year. We received generous monetary donations and can use what remains and the inventory we will store to begin the new push in 2024. We have volunteers ready to help next year from all over the community!

We will have a few new helpers for Coats for Christmas this season - year 36! This has been a community ministry we instigate and host for generous donors to participate and serving 400-500 people each year.

I believe that our call from God in Christ described in our mission statement, "Walking Together, we are a community seeking to be in stride with Christ" means that we have been instigators of work in our community to share what we can for the sake of Jesus Christ. We will continue to spearhead these projects. With the enthusiasm we experienced with partners in serving we can make these true community-driven projects.



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~ Pastor's Corner ~

A big thank you to Mike Peffley for getting our garden going this year and to all of you who come by to check on it and harvest, as well as to all of you, including our neighbors, who share from your own gardens. Our neighborhood puts the garden to good use. No sooner is produce added than it finds a home. Thank you!

We are getting ready to say goodbye to 2 sets of good and giving people.

Lou Ann Begley is retiring at the end of September after 6 plus years of being our church secretary. She and Max now live in Hicksville and both are discerning new ways to serve Christ in retirement with family and their church.

As many of you know, Pam and Rich Reid are making a transition to move to Columbus to be the in-town grandparents- a plan they have had in mind for some time. Needless to say, we will miss them terribly and will need to pick up some of the leadership gaps we will have. Consider how you can contribute to our ministry needs in leadership. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. God has plans for us to continue to seek to walk in stride with Jesus Christ in the days ahead. I am humbled by the enthusiastic support we have received for Tools for Schools and the new volunteers to help us with Coats for Christmas.

Pastor Ann

Worship Notes:

Sunday Sept 17, we will spend some time at the end of worship in discussion about: What's Next?" for our church. The Session has used this question and theme this past year to explore who we are, what we have and what we do, to ask questions, and look at some models for pastoral ministry in our future. The Session wants to bring the congregation into the discussion.

It's Fall Program Time again: Remember Worship begins at 10 am year-round! We move back to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 10.

September 10 at worship we will celebrate the new season of school, WeKirk, Youth Group. If you want a new tag and daily prayer for a backpack, satchel, purse, those will be available. Stay after church for a special coffee hour.

Sept 13: Church Dinner planned by the Deacons; WeKirk and Youth begin!

Sept 17: We will spend some time during worship talking about the "What's Next" discussions the session has been having this year; sharing ideas.

Sept 27: Pizza & Program begins with discussion of the next phase of our ministry with the Yucatan.

Mark your calendar: Sunday Oct 8: worship & picnic with St John UCC at Auglaize Village. Then you can stay to enjoy the Johnny Appleseed Festival

Can you help prepare meals for YOUTH & WEKIRK on a Wednesday this Fall? There is a signup list by the chapel and sanctuary for the weeks we don't have church meals. Our leaders come directly from work so this is a service to them as well as to the children and youth. Prepare for 15, no dessert or drinks needed. We will keep those supplied!

September is “A Season of Peace” as we prepare to receive the Peace and Global Witness offering on World Communion Sunday, October 1.

This is the first year we are a 4 x4 church! We will have taken up all 4 Special Offerings. Next up is Peace and Global Witness- the theme comes from Psalm 23 “You are with me”. How can we find our peace without the presence of God? How do we spread the news that God is always with us in Jesus Christ? How do we demonstrate that in our daily living- showing the peace of Jesus Christ?

Half of the offering goes to the national church for work on peacemaking and global witness project like those addressing human trafficking in places like Madagascar with the Church of Jesus Christ there, one of our World Mission Global partners. 25% goes to our presbytery for regional work and 25 % stays with our church. What project promotes peacemaking in our area? How can we help?

Lord Jesus, our good shepherd, as we declare that “you are with us”, help us remember that you are with all your children all around the world. Give us the wisdom and direction we need to be with them in love, prayer and service as you are with us all. In Christ, through Christ and with Christ, we pray. Amen.

Be Sure to Read the highlights from the Session for details about Tools for Schools and other activities.

Can you help around the place? We have some repairs and clean up to do inside and outside. Curtis Richards, our Property elder will be planning a couple of work nights this fall for ceiling tiles and wall repairs. Prior to those dates, we need a few people willing to move books and materials and dust up cobwebs in preparation for the harder work. Listen for announcements at worship. There is a clipboard with all the details.

Presbyterian Women & Friends ~ our first meeting is Monday September 11 at noon. Lunch is catered for \$5 each. We will look at the year ahead & try out some **Chair Exercises**.

September Birthdays

01 ~ Helen Reineke
02 ~ Sigrid Emerling
04 ~ Sheron Lee
10 ~ Jane Barber
11 ~ Lauren Smith



11 ~ Jim Straley
14 ~ Kara Retcher
18 ~ Meredith Peffley
19 ~ Norm Wasson
22 ~ Jennifer Bates

September Anniversaries

03 ~ Peter & Karen Barber
29 ~ Jeremy & Margaret Smith

Thank you to **Roger and Sigrid Emerling** for sponsoring the **September** newsletter. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

Highlights of the Session Meeting August, 2023 ~ Your Session at work

On Saturday, Oct 7 from 9 -3, a seminar will be held at the Presbyterian church in Sandusky, OH. The topic of the day will be Tod Bolsinger's book *Canoeing the mountains, Christian Leadership in Uncharted Waters*. The cost is \$30 or \$35(after Sept 30). The concept was based on the Lewis and Clark expedition, when they traversed the west via river, but suddenly came to the mountains and had to figure out a new way forward. We can let the rivers of the past go and look to the mountains ahead, asking "Why do we exist? What would be lost if we ceased to be? What purposes and principles must be protected as central? What are we willing to let go of for the sake of the mission?" All are invited to attend. Let Pastor Ann know if you are interested.

The sympathies of the congregation go out to the family of Nancy Jehanyar, officially a new member, who passed to the church eternal on August 4, 2023. The family plans a graveside on September 16 in Napoleon Cemetery and a meal back at the church. Michelle & Joe's aunts want to cook the meal.

The Session met with St. John United Church of Christ Consistory on July 17. Pastor Ann shared information about what it could look like to share a pastor. She will initiate a conversation with the congregation on Sept. 17th and a steering committee will be formed.

The letter asking for support for the Mexico scholarships has been mailed.

Leadership changes are coming. We will need a new clerk in 2024. (Pam will finish the year end and will be available to assist/train someone.) Ann will check the list of signatories for the bank accounts and we can ask someone on that list to work with Marsha to sign checks as needed. Pam will ask designated people to serve as counters. Marilyn and Jim will train them.

Ann will be on vacation Sept 21 – 26 including Sunday, Sept 24, then November 20 – 27 including Sunday, Nov. 26, and also occasional days here and there.

Marsha provided the financial reports. Pam mentioned that the required minimum distribution from an IRA can be directed as a charitable gift tax free and is a great way to support the church.

There has been great turnover of product in the garden. Neighbors are bringing produce to share. Again we received the gift of canned goods. This is a wonderful ministry in the neighborhood.

Tools for Schools was an amazing experience of joyful service. 58 different workers served over 290 kids of Defiance for 2 days of Tools for Schools supply distribution. The volunteer pool came from our church, St Mary, Zion Lutheran, UCC, St John's Catholic, GIVES from State Bank.

24 organizations gave funding via grants and/or school supplies to support the event.

The Back-to-School haircut program had 7 stylists, 6 workers and 89 kids who got fresh haircuts, had a chance to play games while they waited and loved Justin the Clown and his balloon art.

Adnan Assaf from Sam's Ristorante offered gift certificates to the stylists after the event as a thank you.

Ann, Pam and Rich took the requested supplies to Defiance Middle School after the event to serve 20 students. The principal reports that there are always students who come with no materials. Rich put together a slide show of photos from both events. It was shown in worship and will be used to report to the Synod and MVP.

Ann will bring together a steering committee for next year in January. The Reids will leave all the documentation and files and will gladly consult/help.

There is funding left over that will be start up funds for the next couple years. It is important to request grant money for various groups before March of 2024, in order to meet their deadlines.



Highlights of the Session Meeting August, 2023 ~ Your Session at work

Property ~ Charlie Bates and Curtis Richards

Ann encourages us to move forward on some of the projects this fall.

- Curtis suggests that we need a couple work days to help clean up and get spaces ready for projects, like in the vestibule and the craft room. Beth will talk to her daughter in law about plastering. Bethany has recently completed some projects successfully.
- The window area in the East Entrance needs work.
- The interior doors in the south entrance need work—the closing mechanism isn't functioning.
- Light at the top of the stairs to the chapel needs to be replaced. It was flooded.

Craig Richards used his dog catching skills to capture the bat in the kitchen, and saved the day for the Tools for Schools distribution.

Beth has someone coming later in the season to get rid of chimney swift bodies and seal up the chimney in the Ensign house. An outside spicket was broken, spewing water on the inside: plumbing work done.

Charlie refreshed the tape on the stairway to the chapel.

Kristal and Curtis and Cara shared plans for their respective groups. Lilith Seiple (Lily) will be welcomed into youth group during the Sept 10 worship service. Bag tags will be available for church members on that day too. Perhaps there will be a coffee hour after worship. Kristal has plans to engage the children in church. Curtis and Cara will continue to lead the youth in helping with projects, such as setting up Coat racks and making detergent to hand out on distribution day. There is a need for volunteers to prepare a simple child and youth friendly dinner on Wednesdays on the nights when there is not a whole church gathering.

Marsha Karr and Mike Winner have used the choir CDs to develop special music.

The praise band will get back together for rehearsal on Sept. 6.

We are planning to worship together with St. John UCC on October 8 as part of the Johnny Appleseed Festival, contributing \$150 per church to the Village and having free entry for all who come to the church service in the morning. We can use the shelter in case of inclement weather and can gather together afterward for a fellowship meal.

There is a suggestion to worship by the Zonta fountain with a picnic.

Creative concepts will continue to host a pizza dinner and program on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Pam will order pizza and pick up, and do dessert and a side for Sept 27th in Beth and Susan's absence. Program that evening will be a meeting about a possible trip to Mexico next July.



Other potential topics for programs are a fraud specialist from the police and the Nooma videos and discussion.

The next meeting of the MVP will be September 19 at 3 pm in Tecumseh. Pam will attend as elder commissioner.

The next meeting will be September 26 at 7 pm.



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 10:00 am Chapel Holy Communion	4 <i>Have a safe Labor Day</i> 	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship ~ 10:00 Sanctuary Coffee Hr. Christian Formation Study	11 AA ~ noon PW&F 12pm \$5 lunch	12	13 Church Dinner WeKirk & Youth Begin	14	15	16
17 Worship ~ 10:00 Holy Communion Conversation What's Next	18 AA ~ noon	19 Presbytery @Tecumseh 2pm	20	21 Deacons 6pm	22	23 
24 Worship ~ 10:00 Nooma video discussion	25 AA ~ noon	26 Session 7pm	27 Pizza & Program Mexico Trip Deacon Calling	28	29	30



1st
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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