



# Community of Faith

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICE HOURS:  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday

Ms. Joanne Maki  
Office Administrator

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

**September 2024**

*“Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary...” --Isaiah 40:28*

*“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”  
—Isaiah 43:18-19*

Change is in the air! When I walked into church this morning, it was cloudy and warm and threatening to storm, but when I left church several hours later, the weather had turned cold and windy—unusual for summer weather, especially after a hot and steamy weekend. What a dramatic turn, I thought. Ah, fall is coming! Even though there's still a month until the calendar says it's autumn, today's weather hints that the seasons are turning, once again.

And as I considered the approach of fall and tried NOT to think about winter coming on its heels, I remembered a story I read several years ago about King Solomon, who is known from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) as the wisest of all the kings of Israel. The story does not come from Hebrew Scriptures, but has circulated for centuries within Jewish folklore. You can find several versions on the internet.

As the story goes, King Solomon summons his highest royal ministers on a quest, commanding them to bring him a treasure that has the power in one moment to make a sad person laugh, and in the next moment, to bring a happy person to tears. He gives his ministers a year to fulfill their quest.

The royal ministers travel the world searching for this unique treasure, bringing back one prize after another, but failing to deliver the desired object. Finally the year is one night short of coming to a close, and one last royal minister travels the narrow back streets of Jerusalem, desperate to fulfill King Solomon's request. He happens upon the ramshackle shop of an old jeweler and tells him about the quest for King Solomon.

"Ah!" the old jeweler responds. "Wait here." The old man shuffles back to his work bench. And just when the sun is about to set, the old man returns to the royal minister, and places a simple gold ring in his hand. The minister examines it and exclaims, "This is it!" He pays the jeweler for his trouble, and heads back to King Solomon's palace.

The next morning, the last royal minister enters King Solomon's court, bows before the king, and says, "Your Royal Highness, one year ago you sent your ministers on a quest to find a treasure that has the power in one minute to make a sad person laugh with joy, and in the next minute cause a happy person to weep with sorrow. Here is that treasure.

The royal minister places in King Solomon's hand the gold ring. King Solomon looks closely at the ring. As he reads the inscription engraved on the inside, his eyes light up with delight and he bursts out laughing. And then, as he ponders its message more fully, he starts weeping. "It's true! This is the treasure!" he confirms to the royal minister.

The other royal ministers look at each other in puzzlement. What was in that simple gold ring that could bring King Solomon to laughter and tears so quickly? King Solomon understands their unspoken question: "My royal ministers," he says, "the ring says, 'This too, shall pass.'"

"This, too, shall pass." This, too, shall pass—words of hope spoken in times of suffering—this, too, shall pass—also words reminding us to cherish the joy of the present moment. This, too, shall pass—understanding that everything in life has its season and will come to a close.

The American church of the 21st century is undergoing a season of change—a time of transition and transformation—in its mission and organization. No longer can the church assume that by simply promoting the "right" beliefs, or by offering the "right" programs, or by playing the "right" music in worship, it will attract throngs of people to its services. No longer can the church assume that people will know the hymns, the "churchy" language, and the stories of the Bible. No longer can the church assume that Sunday is a sacred "church day" for families, schools, businesses, or communities. No longer can the church assume that people even understand why having a relationship with Christ and belonging to a faith community can make all the difference in their lives and the world. No longer can we assume. For five hundred years since the Great Reformation in 1517,

we have held these assumptions with some degree of certainty (the church undergoes great shifts approximately every 500 years). That's the way the world was. But church scholars agree. A time and season in the life of the church is passing, and many of us grieve the church we have always known.

The good news is, although times have changed—God's love for us hasn't changed! God is constant in loving us, abiding with us, comforting us, forgiving us, healing us, restoring us, calling us, believing in us, and delivering us to new life. God is with us in comfort during this time of change, and offers us hope for a new day. We can count on God no matter what.

And even though times have changed—our need for God hasn't. We still need to know that we are precious and loved beyond measure—and that everyone has a place at God's big dinner table—and that God is working every minute with us to transform this world into God's reign on earth, as it is in heaven. And although times have changed, people still need a community of welcome, affirmation, connection, hope, meaning, and purpose in their lives. In a world overwhelmed with an epidemic of loneliness, the church is very much needed.

But because times are changing—the ways we share and live out Christ's love need to change. We can't assume that folks will seek us out. We can't assume that people will understand and embrace Christ's values and way of life without experiencing for themselves those life-changing truths. So we need to go and show them. We need to seek people out, and live Christ's love for them outside the walls of our church. We need to be the church and live as Christ's body out in the world.

As Jesus instructed his disciples, "Go. Go and make disciples. Go and cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Go and proclaim the good news of the kingdom of heaven. Go." (Matthew 10: 5-8, paraphrased) So we will go! We trust God's presence with us to guide us on these new paths of discipleship. We trust the Holy Spirit to inspire us with words and actions of compassion, justice and peace. We trust Jesus Christ to bring new life to hurting people and the world. We trust that although a time we remember in the church is passing, the church—the living body of Christ—is still very much alive and needed, and God is still speaking, and Jesus Christ is still making all things new. The church our grandchildren and families will find hope and life in, is the church we hand on to them. Although one way of "doing church" is passing, another way is springing forth!

(continued next page)

And although the world is changing, God's love for us never does! Behold, God is doing a new thing! Let us go and walk hand-in-hand with Christ, and do this new thing, together.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Delisa Buckingham-Taylor

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**We're ready to go! We're starting a new year of Sunday School! Rally Sunday, September 8, 10:30 a.m.**



**With a special skit in worship called “How Mr. Lurch Stole the Church,” and Blessing of the Backpacks (and all involved in education), and Fellowship luncheon after worship**

Please invite your friends, family and their children to join us for worship on Sunday, September 8, as we begin a new year of Sunday School for our children. It will be an uplifting day in worship, filled with laughter, gratitude, blessing, good music, and joy! We will bless our educators, students, educational paraprofessionals, and our backpacks in worship. And we'll delight in the return of the “Community of Faith Players,” with their performance of “How Mr. Lurch Stole the Church.” Our children will kick-off another year of growing in faith and discipleship in Sunday School, under the leadership of Ms. Sheri Buckingham, Director of Christian Education. After worship, we'll share a luncheon hosted by the Christian Education Team. You don't want to miss it!

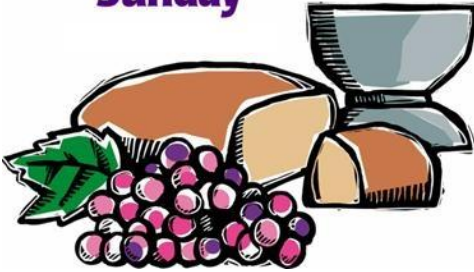
If you have questions about Sunday School or the luncheon, please contact Sheri Buckingham ([education.cofucc@gmail.com](mailto:education.cofucc@gmail.com) or 440-668-5269). All other questions may be directed to the Church Office (440-322-3781).

**P.S.--We return to a 10:30 a.m. worship time on September 8!!**

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## World Communion Sunday, October 6

### World Communion Sunday



In 1933 during the Great Depression, Rev. Hugh Thomson Kerr, a Presbyterian pastor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, recognized the need for Christians to unite in hope. He endeavored first to unite churches in Pittsburgh, which then became a movement within the Presbyterian Church in the United States. By 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) endorsed World Communion Sunday, and began to promote it around the world.

On October 6 we have the blessing of celebrating our unity with Christians the world over, by sharing the bread and cup of the sacrament of Holy Communion. This year we will observe Christ's Last Supper (Holy Communion) in the Community Room (Fellowship Hall), by sharing breads of the world, grapes, juice and wine.

During September, we will make a sign-up list available to bring breads of the world (for example, rice cakes, Irish soda bread, tortillas, pumpernickel, etc.), which will be cut up for sharing, and bunches of grapes. Perhaps you have a cherished family bread recipe you will want to prepare and share! It will be a day of thanksgiving for the grace of Christ which makes us one body.

Please watch the weekly bulletins for more information, invite your family and friends, and plan on worshipping with us on October 6!

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### News from the Transition Team

The Transition Team has wrapped up its phase of interviews and research in the community, and is planning a survey and a series of conversations with the congregation this fall. We will be seeking your input as to the days and times that will work best for these gatherings. Our hope is to offer these gatherings beginning in October. Please watch the bulletin for further news about the process. These are the questions we will be first discussing together:

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- 1) In your life in our church, what has been most meaningful to you, and what keeps you coming back?
- 2) What are the most effective parts of our church's ministries and programs?
- 3) What are the least effective parts of our church's ministries and programs?
- 4) What do you think the mission, or aim, of our church should be?
- 5) How might our church better accomplish this mission?

Thank you for your support and prayers in this process! The Transition Team is working hard and prayerfully for bringing our congregation together in hopeful expectation for celebrating our gifts and blessings, and discerning God's call to us for the future! If you have questions about the Transition Team or its work, please speak with Team members Jayna Anderson, Mike Chappo, Bob Harold, Peggy Kobelka, Jan Preston or Sandy Vancs.

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## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Calling all animal and pet lovers! Community of Faith will be hosting a "Blessing of the Animals" service on September 22nd at the 10:30 am worship service. Whether fur, scaled, or feathered, your animals are welcome....and so are photos of your beloved pets!

We will be creating a photo display in the Community Room showcasing one of the wonders of God's Creation- your pets, your blessings! We will begin collecting photos for this display beginning September 1st. Turn your photos in to the church office, place them in the collection box in the Narthex, or give them to Jennifer Trakas. All photos will be returned! Be sure to include your name and your pet's name with your photo. More than one pet? No worries! Submit more than one photo!

We are looking forward to sharing the love and the many blessings our pets bring to our lives! Please contact Jennifer if there are any questions!

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## **In Our Prayers:**

**Please keep our homebound members in your prayers:**

Mary Bazar	Nancy Horvath	Carol Pongracz
Annie Fulmer	Anna Huber	Dorothy Schmidt
Janet Hartman	Pat Longbrake	Pam Sears
Shirley Heldt	Vicky Nye	Margaret Stubner
Elizabeth Holman	Bev Pandy	Elsa Walker

**Please keep these people in your prayers this month:**

Linda and Scott Borthwick   Ted & Sandy Vancs   Marilyn Brand  
Ruth Harrod   Mary Ann Kloss   Roger Fuller   Nancy Horvath  
Pat Mueller Family   Janet Haag   Brad & Jeff Rea   Jerry Augustine  
Suzanne Grady   The People of Haiti   The People of Ukraine & Russia  
The People of Sudan   The People of the Middle East  
People Impacted by Heat & Wild Fires

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## **From the Heart...**

Dear Church Family,

A much belated and heartfelt thank you to you all. Know that you made our journey with Ed's cancer diagnosis easier to bear and gave me some peace. I am so blessed to have such a caring family. Thank you for all your prayers and offers of support.

Your compassion and expression of sympathy has been a source of comfort and warmth to me and my family these last few weeks.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Pat Mueller

Community of Faith Church Family,

Thank you for your loving hearts and your helping hands. The Seed of N.A. who meet here on Sunday evenings: “We really appreciate all of the goodies that you grace us with, they are wonderful!” Thank you all again for all that you do. May God bless all your ministries.

With Love, prayers and smiles,  
Marilyn and the Seed of N.A.

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## Christian Education

Sheri Buckingham  
Director of Christian Education  
[Education.cofucc@gmail.com](mailto:Education.cofucc@gmail.com)  
Text: 440-668-5269



### Curriculum Corner:

#### September Curriculum

#### **Theme: Let Grow/Water Wonders**

September 1	Jubilee (Leviticus 25)
September 8 (Rally Day)	Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-15:21)
September 15	The Promised Land (Joshua 1:1-9; 3-4)
September 22	Cast Your Nests (Luke 5:1-11)
September 29	Wedding Wonders (John 2:1-11)

\*Note: Dates of each topic are subject to change based on attendance.



**Let It Grow**  
**Things to try at home with your children  
or grandchildren!**

**Under Her Wings**  
**Ruth 1-4**

*May our God shelter you as a bird shelters her young under her wings.*

**CREATE**

Make a birdfeeder. Search online for easy do-it-yourself bird feeders for kids to make.

**ENJOY**

Go outside and listen to the sounds of birds. What birds can you see and hear? Watch a YouTube video of the world's most beautiful bird songs.

**PLAY**

Pretend to be a bird. Take turns spreading your "wings" (arms) over every family member.

**SING**

Sing these words to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*: **Where you go, I'll go, go, go  
go,go,go go,go go, Where you stay I'll stay, stay, stay, stay, 'cause you are  
my special friend.**

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**Fundraising**

The Fundraising Team is proud to announce that we are planning a Chicken Paprikas/Cabbage Roller Dinner to be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Tickets will go on sale September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 18<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$20.00 prepaid per ticket. Look forward to seeing you at the dinner!

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**Hospitality Happenings**

Our next meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup> after church services

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## **Missions and Outreach**

Noisy Coin this month will be collected on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Your generous donation this month will be given to our Girl Scout Troup 50242. Community of Faith is proud to support our troupe!

Our meeting will be September 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 right after worship. Come and see what we are planning!

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## **Women of Faith**

Welcome to September and another busy month. Our Noodlers will begin working diligently Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am and every Tuesday thereafter. Crafters will meet at 10:00 am beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> they will meet again on the 25<sup>th</sup> and every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Women of Faith have been collecting school supplies for Elyria Schools. We are so grateful for the donations coming in. Our congregation is very generous. The children of the Elyria Schools as well as the staff will be very happy to receive some beautiful backpacks, school supplies and even underwear, socks, and sweatpants. Thank you all for your kind donations.

Our next meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am followed by a potluck lunch at noon. Our guest speaker, Dr. Mary Halkovich, will be sharing the history, jewelry, and fashion of the Ohio Presidential First Ladies. Please join us for fellowship, food and conversation.

Ginney Baker

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## **Worship and Music**

### **CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS!**

Regular weekly Chancel Choir rehearsals will begin on September 1, 2024. Since we worship at 10:00, the choir will rehearse at 9:15am. We will be rehearsing in the

sanctuary. The time for worship will change back to 10:30 am on September 8<sup>th</sup> with choir rehearsals beginning at 9:30 am. The Chancel Choir will return to singing in worship on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who is interested in joining the choir should contact Jennifer Trakas at [jennyruthtrakas@gmail.com](mailto:jennyruthtrakas@gmail.com) or through the church office at [communityoffaithucc@gmail.com](mailto:communityoffaithucc@gmail.com). You can even call the church office and leave a message at 440-322-3781.

## Ring for Joy!

Do you enjoy Handbell Choir music? If so, consider joining the Handbell Choir. The main requirement is that you are able to read music. The Handbell Choir will start rehearsing on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 9:00am. If you are interested in joining the Handbell Choir, please contact me. My phone number is 440-353-3362 and my email address is rebert1974 @gmail.com. Lets help the bells ring!

Bob Ebert  
Handbell Choir Director

### SPECIAL MUSIC THANKS!

Heartfelt gratitude and praise to all our church musicians who provided Special Music during the summer months! Your willingness to share your beautiful gifts enhanced our worship services this summer. There was such a variety of musical offerings! We are truly thankful! Hats off to our Special Music musicians: Paul Eaton, Elaine King and Jennifer Trakas; the Birthaversary Choir; Mary Lou Burnside and Steve Fogarty; the Women's Ensemble including: Amy Chizmar, Martha Crowell, Marcia Ebert, Bev Ross, Cindy Johnson, Deb Uehlein, Marilyn Hamilton, Mary Lou Burnside, and Ginney Baker; the T-Birds, including Bryan Bird, Bill Bird, Jared Trakas and Terry Trakas; Dennis Veverka; the Men's Ensemble including: Steve Fogarty, Terry Trakas, Jared Trakas, Paul Eaton, Jim Mosher and Dennis Veverka; Cindy Johnson; Marcia and Bob Ebert; and Terry Trakas. Special thanks go to Bryan Bird. Your faithful service as accompanist for not only our Chancel Choir, but for all our Special Music is greatly appreciated! Community of Faith is truly blessed! Thank you, again, for sharing your gifts and your faith through music!

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Bruce and John Smith	09/14
Andrea and Jesse Grabowski	09/14

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## **Birthday Wishes for September**

Pat Mueller	09/02
Cindy Johnson	09/06
Janet Bird	09/07
Norbert Larkey	09/08
Mary Lou Burnside	09/09
George King	09/10
Barb Berkel	09/12
Ann Simonson	09/14
Halena Bliss	09/16
Brady Cook	09/16
Chris King	09/18
Kalen Dougall	09/18
Elsa Walker	09/21
Nichole Gregory	09/25
Jan Preston	09/26
Dennis Veverka	09/28
Terri Matthey	09/30

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## **Executive/Leadership Team Meeting Minutes August 13, 2024 - 6:30pm** Subject to Approval

### **In Attendance:** **Executive Team**

- Don Beckett (President)

- Annette Blackshire (Vice President)
- Mary Lou Burnside (Secretary)
- Karen Ennes (Finance Team Chair)
- Linda Collins (At Large Member 1)
- Carol Struck (Nominations Chair)
- Terry Trakas (At Large Member 4)
- Dan Hall (At Large Member 3)
- Reverend Delisa Buckingham-Taylor (Pastor Ex-Officio)
- Andy Behm (Endowment/Investments Team Chair Ex-Officio)

### **Absent**

Greg Vrona (At Large Member 2)

### **Staff**

- Bryan Bird (Organist)

### **Team Leadership Representatives**

- Ann Simonson (Care Team)
- Ted Vancs (Fundraiser Team)
- Amy Chizmar (Mission and Outreach)
- Ginney Baker (Women of Faith)
- Jared Trakas (Worship & Music)
- Don Beckett (Emergency Response Team)

### **Guests**

Jayna Anderson (Transition Team)

Ted Vancs (Fundraiser Team)

Rev. Nayiri Karjian (Association Minister)

Jan Preston (Transition Team)

Sandy Vancs (Transition Team)

### **Call to Order 6:30 pm:**

Pastor Delisa Buckingham-Taylor opened the meeting by leading the team as we recited *The Prayer of St. Francis* in unison.

### **Introductions**

Each person in attendance was asked to introduce themselves, share their responsibilities in our church and what we love most about our church.

### **Next Step in Time of Transition Presentation (Rev. Nayiri Karjian)**

Reverend Nayiri Karjian shared and discussed the search and call process of the United Church of Christ. She distributed, and discussed at length a document titled “Job Description for Search Committees.” This document consisted of: How to choose a search committee, Qualities and gifts of those who serve on the committee, Commitments for search committee members, and Tasks of the search committee. She addressed, for clarification, all questions from the team. She commented she is very fond of our church and sees we have gifts and spirit. She wishes us the best in our search for a new pastor.

### **Leadership Team Meeting (7:20pm)**

Pastor Delisa opened our Leadership meeting with prayer. All Leadership Team members and Staff were welcomed to attend any Executive Team meeting, the only exception would be if there is a confidential matter for an executive session, such as an issue with a member or staff.

### **Team Reports**

Voluntary Ministry Team reports were requested and shared in writing via e-mail prior to the meeting. Team Leaders present gave a synopsis of their report. Leaders were open to questions, discussions, or concerns regarding their reports.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Missions and Outreach**

Amy Chizmar indicated the Burger Bash was a fun event and thanked everyone for their participation in making that a success

#### **Woman of Faith**

Ginney Baker indicated noodling will begin September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Worship and Music**

Jared Trakas indicated an inquiry was submitted to the Finance Team regarding the purchase equipment to be used for the Blessing of the Animals Service (which will be held outside) and the World Communion Service (which will be held in the CommunityRoom). After reviewing that request, the Finance Team suggested the request should be presented to the Endowment Team for those funds. Jared Trakas will follow up on that advice.

#### **Fundraising**

Ted Vancs indicated orders for the Paprikas Dinner will begin September 1 (\$20.00 per ticket). The dinner will be held September 28 from 4:00pm till 6:00pm. He will

put a clip board in the Sign-Up Central requesting volunteers to help with the project.

### **Emergency Response Team**

Don Beckett indicated the team will be having their second meeting on August 27. A gentleman came to our church and approached Don about his mission in life which is providing churches with an emergency plan. Don is pleased about that, with his assistance, very detailed report was provided to the emergency team as well as the computer word files, which can be revised to meet Community of Faith 's specific needs.

Pastor Delisa Buckingham-Taylor distributed a document addressing phishing scams, which have become prevalent recently. A discussion wash held regarding ways to protect against all types opf phising scams.

### **Executive Team Meeting (8:10 pm)**

Pastor Delisa opened the meeting with prayer.

**Quorum for Executive Team was established.** (6 of 9 members in attendance required)  
8 Executive Team Members were present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Karen Ennes, seconded by Terry Trakas and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, including sub reports such as the Treasurer's Report.

### **Finance Team**

Karen Ennes shared a meeting was held August 12. A few adjustments needed were identified in the Treasurer's Report which will be modified soon, and a new report will be forthcoming. The new report will be submitted for approval at the next Executive meeting.

### **Nominations**

Carol Struck indicated the Team plans to meet Thursday, August 15 to begin the process of finding individuals who would be willing to be nominated and then elected to serve in the positions needing to be filled for 2025.

### **Old Business**

Don Beckett continues his work on the updates of the ministry teams' descriptions on the Ways of Work document. Both the written document and the website team descriptions

should align. All documents being revised or updated will have a date / revision code on the lower left-hand side of the footer of the document indicating the most recent update. The team is considering inserting appendices at the end of the Ways of Work, which could include supporting documents related to individual topics. Don asked for and received recommendations from the Executive Team.

Topic of considering a Membership Clerk has been tabled for discussion at another time.

Topic of considering Air Conditioning in the Sanctuary has been tabled for discussion at another time.

### **Annual Staff Evaluation Review Team**

The team (Pastor Delisa Buckingham-Taylor, Annette Blackshire, Don Beckett, Mary Lou Burnside) will be meeting on Monday, August 19 to prepare and begin the process of Staff Evaluation.

### **Safe Church Response Team**

Andy Behm reported the results of his Background Check that was submitted last month, which contained minimal and isolated information. Thoughtful and lengthy discussion was held regarding the need for Background Checks and their privacy. By law, we are required to have background checks on Staff and individuals in direct contact with children and/or vulnerable adults. The Executive Team will have exclusive responsibility of implementation. Continued discussion included the possibility of background checks for individuals involved with finances, and Executive Team Members, with the responsibility of the cost to be covered by our church. A motion was addressed, but later withdrawn after further discussion. A decision was made to approach the congregation to obtain more information to help decision making.

A motion was made by Terry Trakas, seconded by Dan Hall and unanimously carried to expedite a questionnaire to be distributed to the congregation with the intent to explain implementing background checks will protect members of our congregation, as well as the church. The questionnaire should address the question, “Would requiring you to have a background check deter you from running for an elected office?” Terry Trakas will create the questionnaire, and Don Beckett will present it to the congregation. This is a project we are doing to protect our volunteers, not prying for information. All information will be held in the strictest confidentiality.

The Safe Church Team will continue working on the document to ensure all items are in compliant with UCC Policy.



## **New Business**

An early draft of a document to be used for resolving disagreements within our church, entitled *Community of Faith United Church of Christ Ways of Conflict Resolution* was distributed by Pastor Delisa. She, Jared Trakas, Terry Trakas and Don Beckett met to create this document using information the Executive Team has discussed in our previous Team Building Lessons. This document is a policy for us to use and will be included in our profile, which indicates what we would do if a conflict arises in our church. It will, also, be a supporting document for the *Ways of Work*.

## **Building and Grounds**

Terry Trakas distributed and explained documentation of the process of securing a vendor to repair the Driveway Apron. Three quotes were obtained and discussed at length. A motion was made by Linda Collins, seconded by Dan Hall and unanimously approved to accept the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Team to enter into a contract with Griffith Paving for the repair of the driveway apron on East River Road at a cost of \$11,475.00. This quote will be presented to the congregation for approval at a Congregational Meeting to be held on September 8, 2024.

Terry Trakas made a motion, seconded by Dan Hall and unanimously approved to submit a request for the congregation to help offset the cost of the driveway repair (\$11,475.00). Requests for the donated funds will be made via special offerings on two separate Sundays, September 15 and October 13. Any funds needed to cover the cost, after the congregational contributions, will be requested from the Endowment/Investment Funds.

The church has experienced a break-in of the USPS mailbox. Several solution options were discussed, which led to a decision to purchase a more secure replacement mail box.

## **Endowment/Investment Fund**

Andy Behm indicated we received a request from the Asbury Pantry in the amount of \$483.00 to help cover their utility costs. However, that request has been withdrawn as the as the food pantry received the funds they were expecting from the Methodist Association. Should there be a need to help the food pantry in the future another request could be submitted in the future.

Next Executive/Leadership Team Fun Event is scheduled at Denny and Debbie Uehlein's home on August 17.

**Executive Session** Not Necessary

## **Executive Team President's Comments**

Don Beckett apologized for the lengthy meeting. He felt there was good discussion and good input. He, again, thanked the team for all their service and help.

## **Adjournment 9:20 pm**

Meeting was closed by reciting The Lord's Prayer together.

Next regular meeting will be held on September 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Burnside

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by Bob Harold

You know I saw the twinkle  
in your eye  
Did not have to look twice  
Was it you  
Was it I

The smile and gesture that  
keeps on giving  
The church that shares the  
living

With open arms to comfort  
and hold  
Like Christ interaction  
A fellow parishioner  
Praise God for us smiling  
So many precious moments  
That keep compiling!  
Amen.

# Blessing of the Animals

**Worship Service Starts at 10:30a.m.  
Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Hosted by Community of Faith U.C.C.  
at our church pavilion

**9715 East River Road Elyria, Ohio 44035**

*Whether fur, scaled, or feathered your pet is welcome  
at our special worship service to celebrate  
the wonders of God's creation.*

## **Details:**

- *All animals need to be on-leash or in an appropriate carrier for the safety and enjoyment of all*
- *If your pet isn't comfortable around other animals and folks please instead bring a picture or memento of your pet to be blessed*
- *Please bring a lawn chair for seating*
- *Feel free to bring water or any other necessities with you for the comfort of your pet*



## **Contact Us:**

cofucc.org  
(440) 322-3781

communityoffaithucc@gmail.com



Community of Faith United Church of Christ  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Community of Faith

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST