

Parish Visitor

Web Edition

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First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Ecumenical Congregation in the Congregational Tradition

200 NORTH MAIN STREET • MOUNT VERNON, OHIO • 43050

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www.mvucc.org



September

2026

Hours

Monday — Thursday

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Contact Us

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From the Moderator

I've been thinking a lot about "community," mostly because I'm excited about what we have planned for *Adult Forum* (check out the details later in this newsletter). As a church, we have created an amazing community where we help each other, laugh with each other, and comfort each other. I'm also proud of how we show up in the greater community. Our *Mission & Service Committee* serves as a conduit to help community organizations and has brought us together for Coffee House events and other gatherings.

Perhaps coincidentally, I listened to a podcast last week that also talked about community. "*The Curiosity Shop*" with Brene Brown and Adam Grant had author John Green as their guest. Brown and Grant tend to talk a lot about organizational communication, and their podcast is one of my favorites. In this episode, they were talking about the sense of community that occurred during the World Cup. I must admit, I'm not a big sports person, so I almost turned off the podcast; but I love Brown, Grant, and Green, so I kept listening--and I'm so glad I did. They talked about how in sports, when we build community with other people who love the same team, we tend to build our own community by creating an "us versus them." We have comradery with others who like Team A, and we build on that love for Team A by trash talking about the rival Team B. We talk about how great we are and how the other team is terrible.

The "us versus them" may be fun in sports, but it leads to unproductive emotions in other situations. For example, what if we have such a strong community that we exclude or vilify others? Brown, Grant, and Green asked an interesting question: Can we have an "us" if there isn't a "them?" They weren't sure. They thought in most cases, if there is an "us," there is usually a "them."

Perhaps they have forgotten John 13:34, which says, "I give you a new commandment. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (NRSV) This can be hard sometimes. I don't know about you, but there are some people that I struggle to love. But if we try to live by those words, and love one another, then our community gets stronger. If we focus on loving everyone, then the sense of "us" should be strong, and yet, there wouldn't be a "them."

I think this idea of loving one another is a strength of our church. We have love as our center, which means we can build a community that has an "us" but not a "them."

Becky C. — Moderator

What's Happening

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Regular Worship Service	Sundays 9:30 am	Sanctuary
Social Time	Sundays Following the morning service	Social Hall
Adult Forum	Sundays 11:00 am Beginning September 13th	Chapel
Youth Group	Will resume in the fall.	Youth Room
Youth Choir Rehearsal	Will resume on October 4th at 11:00 am to 11:20 am..	Youth Choir Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Thursdays 7:00 pm Beginning September 3rd	Choir Room
Council Meeting	September 20th 11:45 AM	Front Parlor

Quotes for Christian Life



*"If you want to change the world, go home and love
your family*

- Mother Theresa

Community Night

HopeNow Furniture
Bank

EVENT INVITATION

HopeNow Community Night

Saturday, September 12th from 3:00-6:00 PM

Food trucks, live music, 50/50
raffle, and guided warehouse tours

1201 S Main Street, Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Join our staff and volunteers for a wonderful night of memories, delicious
food, and community fellowship!

We hope to see you there

Quotes for Christian Life

"When you count your blessings, don't forget to include your funny moments!"

- Rachel Adams

Adult Forum Schedule

We have something special planned for Adult Forum! Beginning September 13, we are having a series of speakers from various community organizations. The speakers will talk about their organizations and how they help the community. We will also have discussions about ways that we can be involved with these organizations. The series allows us to bring the goals of Christian Education and Mission & Service together. Adult Forum is Sundays from 11-11:45 am in the chapel.

Here is our current schedule (subject to change)

September 13: Interchurch Social Services

September 20: Hope Now Furniture Bank

September 27: The Winter Sanctuary

October 4: The Freedom Center

October 11: Lil' Free Pantry

October 18: Habitat for Humanity

October 25: Pride Alliance

We hope to see you at Adult Forum!

Quotes for Christian Life

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." - C.S. Lewis

Volunteer Opportunity

Christian Education is looking to expand its list of volunteers. Youth and Children's programming needs volunteers to lead children's classes, help with youth choir, provide child care during service and other times, lead youth group — basically all programming with children.

A short synopsis of FCUCC's policy is that we need two adults with background checks supervising children during church activities. While we would like to offer more age specific programming, it's not possible without more background checked volunteers.

Getting a background check is at your convenience. The paperwork to complete is available in the Document Center outside of the church office. You then call the number on the forms to arrange a time at the Sheriff's Department. The cost is \$32 and you can either bring a receipt for reimbursement to Jennifer or Becky to submit or you can arrange with Jennifer or Becky to have a check written for you to take. The results will be sent directly to the church. Or if you hold a professional license that requires a background check, you can submit a copy of that certificate.

The times volunteers are needed are both during and after services, so choir members, liturgists, ushers, etc. can still be a part of children's ministries.

If you have further questions, please reach out to Jennifer or Becky.

Lost and Found



Here are the most recent additions to our Lost and Found. You can find them in the *Lost and Found* box by the Church Office.

Christmas Cantata



Christmas seems far away, but we're already thinking about our Christmas Eve service. This year, we will have a cantata! The cantata is not limited to chancel choir members. All singers are welcome! If you are interested in being part of the cantata, we'd love to have you join us. More details about the theme, practice times, and how to participate will be announced in our October PV.

Pulpit Schedule



As the Search Committee continues their work, Dr. Rev. Robin Knowles Wallace will be our guest preacher for the next few months.

Robin Knowles Wallace is an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ. She has two adult daughters and a young granddaughter. Rev. Robin has degrees in theology and music, and served as

Professor of Worship and Music at Methodist Theological School in Ohio from 1997 to her retirement in 2021. Prior to her doctoral studies, she served as a church musician and as a music teacher for preschool through eighth grade. She is a published author of books, chapters, and articles, and she enjoys reading, quilting, and writing.

Quotes for Christian Life



*"Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember,
Moses started out as a basket case."*

- Anonymous

on the lighter side...



Music and Church Choirs!



THE PASTOR WAS WELL INTO HIS SERMON BEFORE HE REALIZED HE ACTUALLY WAS PREACHING TO THE CHOIR.



"Writing hymns is harder than I thought! I can't think of anything that rhymes with 'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya' and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"



He's here to hit the high notes.

On a serious note, kudos to our choir for the fantastic job they do, and to Christa for her great work as Director of Music and Pianist!