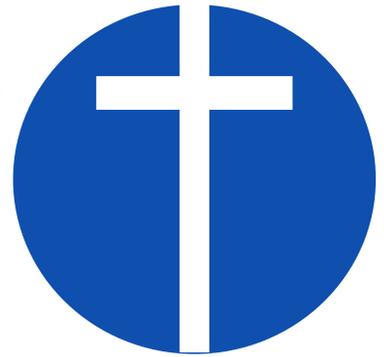


Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ
515 East Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402

June 2019



I'll let you in on a little secret: sometimes being a pastor drives me nuts. The schedule is never predictable, people are –very often– very difficult to love, everyone is pretty sure they know how to do what you do and probably do it a little bit better than you in some respect, and then there are the other fun pieces of the puzzle, like a building that seems set to self-destruct at any moment. Believe me when I say, “my job does its part to keep the aspirin companies in business.”

But then...then there are weekends like this weekend.

This weekend is something of a whirlwind for St. John's; it's Dayton LGBT Pride and also the UCC Disaster Ministries Cookout for Old North Dayton...and St. John's is knee-deep in both of these events. For Pride we cooked, served, set-up, tore down, passed out waters, talked, listened and a whole host of other things. In fact, a group of 15+ people –most working multiple shifts- were required to make all of our activities come off without a hitch—which, they did! (Thank you: Isaiah Ashba, Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Anita Hedeker, Bill Smith, Susan Kolze, Shirley Keller, Jill Johnson, Ethel Burns, Carl and Lisa Robinson, Nicholas Schumacher, Nathan Compton, Pat Kern, Pat Goudy, Chris van Breukelen, and Ed and Judy Humphrys.) For most churches, one big event in a weekend is more than enough! At least, that's what I thought when Carl Robinson said they needed volunteers for the Disaster Cookout—but I was wrong! Over a half-dozen folks from St. John's are heading to Shiloh to serve, Christian Nurture has donated funds towards supplies for the cookout, and a great number of folks have committed to pray for the venture; that those affected by the recent tornado and the destruction it wrought would know that there are so very many folks who are ready to love and care for them. In fact, it was like you'd think I'd been preaching a sermon series over living –out our faith in this Easter Season! (Oh, wait! Haha!) Kudos, St. John's, for your big hearts, willing hands, mobile feet, and giving souls.

I am very grateful to be your pastor!

~ALW



LOFTY WORDS from Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Minister of Worship

PENTECOST

Pentecost is Sunday, June 9. It is the third part of the Church's "Triple Crown": Christmas, Easter, Pentecost. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. In celebration, WEAR RED if you are able. Invite someone to church with you!

HOLY TRINITY

The Holy Trinity is celebrated this year on Sunday, June 16. The mystery of the Trinity is to be celebrated and gives us a reason to praise. We, of course, will sing ***Holy, Holy, Holy!***

NOT-SO-ORDINARY TIME

fter those two festival Sundays we head in to what is often called "**Ordinary Time.**" But Sundays or any day at St. John's are anything but ordinary.! There's always something exciting Happening and we try to make each week's meaningful and powerful. This summer we hope for musical guests at many of our services. We will sing some great hymns. We will hear some good and challenging preaching. We will get to spend time in the presence of God with our Church family,.

CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendar for our Church picnic on Sunday, July 21. We will again have our service in the Fellowship Hall followed by a wonderful carry-in picnic!

MILWAUKEE BOUND

I am honored to serve as a delegate from Ohio at the UCC General Synod Convention in Milwaukee June 21-25. I will let you know how it goes!

A LOVE AFFAIR

I have said this before and I am saying it again: I LOVE our choir and each person in it. I want to thank them for their faithfulness and their patience. I count each one as family. I can't wait to start up again in the fall, maybe with YOU joining us! However, I am enjoying not arriving at Church until 9:30 each week!

Hello St. John's Family,

Grace and peace to all from our Lord Jesus Christ!

For the last couple of months, I am in conversation with various members about the significance of prayer and the need to have a PRAYER-GROUP in our church. Thank God there are members who committed to take part of the said group. But still looking forward for the group to have the first meeting after two cancelled scheduled meetings. Apparently at this early stage we're now facing some sort of obstacle that may cause discouragement among us to come together for united prayer.

Brethren, we need to pray as a church because God has commanded us to pray. If we are to be obedient to His will, then prayer must be part of our life in him. Prayer should not be our last resort, but our first response. Prayer can clear any obstacle out of the way in order for God to work. It is not that God can't work without our prayers, but that God has established prayer as part of His plan for accomplishing His will in this world. Therefore, let us not be discouraged, instead let's remain steadfast and immovable and patient to overcome every trial that come our way for we cannot settle for less without prayer as the forefront of our ministry.

Blessings to all

Hector

Starting in June we will be sending out updates to the church directory in the Tower Times. On June 9, 2019 we will have available hard copies of pages 3 and 4 to be inserted into your directory. In the following months I will advise updates in the Tower Times that you can then manually revise your personal copy. I would like to ask if you have a phone number change, address change to please send to me via email (dgoudy52@yahoo.com) or simply hand me a note with the update. By doing this we hope to make the 2020 addition more timely.

~Doug Goudy
Council President



Vice President's Report – Tower Times – June, 2019

Congratulations to our Graduates!!

Logan Van Bibber – Stivers School for the Performing Arts.

Ilanah Guzman - Northmont High School.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

We are in the process of re-structuring our Council/ Committees into Ministry Teams.

If you have interest in the teams, please see a member of council.

More details are available on pp. 36-38 of the Annual Report.

ESOL Students – Police Week:

This was an excellent opportunity for the Police & Students to have a positive interaction.

WOMEN of ST. JOHN'S – Thank you for making fellowship time so very nice!

FLOWERS & HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1840

Thank you to Rev. Adam, Marlene Miller, & their team for making the grounds look so very lovely. Please notice the Historic Landmark Plaque below the "1840" Cornerstone in front of St. John's.

Please mark your calendar:

Wed., July 3 – 5-10:00 – Riverscape Fireworks (I believe)

Fri-Sun- July 26-28 - Dayton Celtic Festival

GermanFest – Downtown - Aug. 9-11

We are requesting the help of St. John's, just as last year. St. John's members – please wear your t-shirts to help with St. John's publicity.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen, VP





The Budget & Finance Committee met on Monday, May 6, 2019. The meeting was called to order.

Present at the meeting were Patty Staley, Chair, Ron Duckson, Vice Chair, Nicholas Schumacher, Secretary, Isaiah Ashba, Treasurer, Norm Neubauer, Debbie Watts and Reverend Wirrig.

Minutes for the April meetings were reviewed and approved with minor corrections notated.

Isaiah Ashba started presenting the Treasurer's reports for March and April. For the March Report, Giving was less than last year by \$218 and Year-to-date by \$9,318 (this is and will continue to be due to a large contribution that was made in 2018) but looking at prior years, we are tracking ahead. Expenses were kept pretty minimal with the primary expenses being the salaries and related expenses and utilities. Committee spending was just Building and Property for maintenance supplies. The \$1,000 contribution to cover the purchase of the chairs for the Chapel was noted on this report as was the sale of \$20,000 to cover operating expenses for the quarter. The deficit for the month is better and we continue to work on this issue. A question was raised concerning the balances in the Percy Jones (Stivers) Fund – this will be rechecked to make sure all funds have been properly entered. The checking balance is at \$23, 880.06 which includes the funds from the sale of assets to cover expenses for the quarter (hopefully longer).

For the April Report, Giving for the month is less than last year by \$432 and year to date by \$8,750. Operating expenses included salaries and related costs, utilities and approximately \$2,500 in Committee expenditures which includes approximately \$850 for the Organ Tuning for Easter, maintenance and supplies, \$450 for Guest Musicians for the month, as well as \$218 for airfare (booked now give much more discounted rates) for attendance General Synod in Wisconsin in November. It was noted that the Church Windows software is difficult and doing qwerky things which is making it difficult for the Treasurer's report. We are looking into how it can be fixed and/or hopefully eventually replaced with something more compatible to our needs.

Reverend Wirrig addressed the Committee with information from his recent SONKA Meeting specifically in the areas of the Church's financial operations. Much of what he brought to the Committee falls in line with our working towards better financial accountability, including a recent purchase of the 2018 General Accepted Accounting Procedures Handbook (GAAP). The Church needs to move from its current methodology of accounting to a more structured business accounting including better tracking and data management, more security for accounting records, bookkeeping versus money handling, better compliance with IRS guidelines for Churches and 501(c)(3) entities including annual issuance of 1099's and other tax requirements. This was made more of a concern as a requirement of the loan application was for current financial account statements. It was necessary to have an outside accountant assist with putting together financial statements that could be submitted. These were not official audited financial statements which will become necessary as we apply for various grants and funds in future. A positive from SONKA is that for purposes of local grants and private funds we can use the UCC 501(c)(3) tax id for applications, but only for local and private funds. However, we will continue to work on the Form 1023 as having our own Tax ID certified as a 501(c)(3) electronically will allow us to apply for federal monies and tax credits/grants. There have been changes to employees reporting, withholding options, housing allocations and how these items are or can be handled which will be reviewed by the Committee as we work on the budget for 2020. Parking was detailed in that all funds no matter how collected must be reported as Unrelated Business Income and is taxed currently at a 21% tax rate. Patty is however looking into a possible loophole with the fact that we are not operating the lots for income but ABM is and giving funds to the Church after their costs and percentage. The reasoning from the UCC and IRS is that if we are getting income from the lots we are in direct competition with for profit businesses/lots therefore we must be taxed on those funds as are the for profit lots.

In Old Business, Parking is moving along our first funds should be coming in soon but we need to remember that the first month was a learning month for people using our lots as well as management fee coming off before our percentage. Grants & Fundraising, ADA Compliance/Accessibility and related business will now be able to look at again utilizing local and private grant possibilities with the availability of the UCC Tax Id until we receive our approval on our Form 1023.

In New Business : Stewardship was discussed and the campaign focus will be to try to incorporate all the growing immediate needs of the Church including the incorporation of the construction loan and other giving needs not limited to funds but time and talent needs as well.

The card reader is in and WiFi has been upgraded to include the entire first floor in preparation for this. We will be acquiring a tablet to function with the card reader and setting up the

location for the kiosk. Nick and Isaiah will be working together to get the software and accounting set up for the Website and card reader station/kiosk.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Staley, Chair,
Budget & Finance Committee



A man builds a fine house; and now he has a master, and a task for life: he is to furnish , watch, show it, and keep it in repair, the rest of his days – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Leaning Spire on West Tower

The spire on top of the west tower (the shorter of the two) is leaning and needs repaired. It is the one on the north east side of that tower. We are in contact with company to have repaired.

A SPIRE is a tapering structure on top of a building/tower (typically a church). It has no structural purpose. It could serve as a lightening rod. "In its mature Gothic development, the spire was an elongated, slender form that was a spectacular visual culmination of the building as well as a symbol of the heavenly aspirations of the pious people in the building." – Encyclopaedia Britannica

Church Exterior Painting

There is a contract in place between CertaPro Painters and St. John's. Originally, painting was to begin on April 22. The Painters notified the Church that it was unable to gather a crew to begin painting. The problem is the height of the bell tower and the lack of experienced aerial painters with this company. We have a relationship with CertaPro developed and B&P feel comfortable that the project will be completed satisfactorily. The project will be complete this summer.

Other Repair and Renovation Work Scheduled

Roof repairs are completed. Sturgill Roofing has completed work. There is no evidence of further interior water damage. We have experienced several rain storms to test the repairs.

Midwest Maintenance (exterior brick work) and Korrekt Plumbing (furnace renovation) are waiting for the word to go with the Church. We are anticipating contracts to be signed and work scheduled this month.

Specifications are being developed to request estimates for interior repairs. The plan is to have information out to potential companies by end of July.

Chapel Renovation Complete and being used.

The Chapel is finished thanks to the time, effort and support of many members and friends. Lightening has been improved to LED bulbs and more will be replaced over time. The Chapel is currently being used for worship and meetings.

Dishwasher - Part of a Bigger Project – Creation Justice

B&P will meet with Women's of St. John's (WOSJ) before end of summer to discuss a proposal to move to a "Green" church and improved carbon foot print. A major part of the initiative was reusable service ware and dishes. Attempting to reduce the amount of non-recyclable usage would immediately impact the church's environmental impact. Thus, discussions about replacing the dishwasher.

United Church of Christ Creation Justice Churches

Whether it is taking on climate change or addressing the lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now. If the followers of Jesus today care about the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the world in which we live, then environmental justice ministry should undoubtedly be an integral strand in any church's DNA. The UCC's Creation Justice Church program aims to help you do just that. Here are some of the tremendous features and benefits of doing the program:

- Congregations collectively discern their high calling to care for creation and seek justice for the oppressed.
- Congregations make a commitment so serious and so sacred that it necessitates talking about God's covenant with us and with all of creation.
- Congregations not only become recognized as "green." They become a part of a larger network of churches and a larger movement to change the world.
- Congregations engage in critical thinking about the socioeconomic dimensions of environmental justice such as race, class, and global inequality.
- Congregations foster a deeper sense of connection: connection to God, to each other, and to the world in which we live.
- Congregations unleash their imagination and creativity as a sense of purpose propels them to make a difference.

United Church of Christ terms – Creation Justice. For more information please see: www.ucc.org or www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries.

WORSHIP REPORT

PENTECOST the birthday of the church is June 9. To celebrate the occasion, the color red will dominate St. John's sanctuary that morning. Paraments, flowers both altar and red geraniums honoring or in memory of loved ones will add to the beauty of our worship space. We're asking those in attendance that morning to wear something red as well. The Christian holy day of Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. .."the rush of a mighty wind and ... tongues as of fire rested on each of those gathered there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit ..." Check out Acts 2 for the complete recounting of the story.

Choir's last Sunday to sing was May 19. Jeff has plans for summer music in hand. A word of 'thanks' to Jeff as our choir director and organist for making practice and singing fun. Thanks also to Chris van Breukelen for serving as our accompanist each Sunday. And thanks to Susan Kolze who is posting choir's music on Facebook. We can hear what we sound like! Might YOU consider joining choir in the fall?

Lest I forget, we have openings for liturgists, greeters and ushers available. If you are not on our list and would like to serve, contact Dottie Norton or Worship folks.

Pat Kern

RED GERANIUMS for altar display on Pentecost -- 4-1/2 " red foil wrapped pot can be ordered until June 4. Order blanks in Sunday bulletin. You may designate "in memory of " / "in honor of". Take home following the service.

GOOD GRIEF meets Saturday June 15 at 4:30 o'clock. The group was polled by email and responses received have us going to Ray's Wine Spirits Grill, 8268 N. Main Street (Englewood). This is an open invitation to anyone interested in joining us. Just let me know (435-5515) if you are planning on attending.

Pat Kern



Council Minutes
St. John's United Church of Christ
May 9, 2019

Present: Adam Wirrig, Douglas Goudy, Ballard Yates, Patty Staley, Bill Smith, Karen Clark, and Pat Kern.

Guest(s): Norm Neubauer

The meeting was called to order by President Douglas Goudy at 06:09 p.m.

Devotions: Bill Smith presented the opening devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: Ballard Yates had e-mailed and distributed the minutes of the regular council meeting of April 11, 2019. As there were no additions or corrections requested for the April minutes he asked they be approved. President Doug Goudy declared them approved.

Financial and Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report for April, 2019 had been distributed in the normal fashion to council members prior to today's meeting. In the absence of Isaiah Ashba, Patty Staley, chair of the Budget & Finance Committee made the following comments:

Total General Offerings for April, 2019 were \$9,985 which is less than April, 2018 by \$432, and less than April, 2018 by \$8,750. The year to date number, while accurate, is misleading for analysis purposes as there was an unusually large gift made during February, 2018.

Operating expenses included salaries and related costs, utilities and approximately \$2,500 in committee expenses.

Primary committee expense included \$850 for organ tuning (Easter season), maintenance supplies, and \$450 for guest musicians.

She spoke of the fact that the church was considering moving to different accounting software. We think we may be able to find a package(s) that would better fit our requirements and be easier to use. In view of our loan application efforts it has become apparent that we will need to expand some of our reporting in order to provide more detailed statements. We also need to increase our compliance with I.R.S. requirements using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

An added benefit would be to acquire a cloud based system which would make the system available to our Treasurer off site from the church location. In this way he would be able to work on church reporting while not being required to physically come to our church building.

She reported that St. John's can use the UCC 501 (c) (3) tax ID but only for local and private funds, but that we will continue to work on our own number in order to apply for any federal funding or tax credits.

Ballard Yates made a motion to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Karen Clark and approved by vote of the council.

Old Business

Building of Committees

This item will be an ongoing monthly item. Chris van Breukelen, who was unable to attend tonight, submitted a report on the status of nominations for officers and various team chairs to be updated by Rev. Adam Wirrig and Doug Goudy. The following have agreed to serve if nominated and elected.

Officers: President- Doug Goudy; Vice President- Chris van Breukelen; Treasurer- Isaiah Ashba.

Council Members:

External Ministry- Ethel Burns; Building-Bill Smith; Grounds-Marlene Miller; Finance-either Nathan Compton, or Patty Staley; Funding-either Nathan Compton or Patty Staley.

There have been suggestions of names for the other positions, but these people have yet to decide, or have not as of this date, been contacted.

Rev. Adam Wirrig indicated that he hoped to have a leaders meeting in early June, and perhaps to hold the ministry fair on June 30th.

New Business

Parking Update

Rev. Adam reported that our lots are being used and that he anticipates usage will increase as the Webster Station activity continues to increase and demand for parking continues to grow. There have not been any serious problems to date.

Office door knob/lock

In an effort to increase security, Doug Goudy reported that the lock to the office door had been changed. New keys have been issued to those requiring access. Records are now being kept of keys that have been issued. Over the years there have been so many keys issued, that our church was not sure who had access to the church office. Any member requiring access should contact Rev. Adam Wirrig or himself.

Finance, doing right/doing wrong, what needs to be done?

This was discussed as part of the Treasurer's Report which as presented by Patty Staley and under Items for the Good of the Order.

Adam's e-mail of May 8th

A copy is included as a part of the minutes as it was included in the agenda. The majority of the email comprised updated information. The council, by consensus, approved the Dare 2 Defy production request.

Cornerstone Update

See item #1 of Adam's e-mail of May 8th as indicated above.

Directory

Doug Goudy indicated that there were errors in the first part of the 2019 St. John's Directory. He has made corrections and reprinted the sheets as necessary. These will be available at the entry to the sanctuary. Our members can either remove the pages in error and substitute the new pages or just place the corrected pages in the front of their directory.

Committee & Other Reports Received:

The following reports had been distributed electronically prior to the regular monthly council meeting.

President's Report:

A written report had not been submitted.

Vice President's Report:

A written report had been submitted.

Budget & Finance Committee:

A written report had been submitted.

Building & Property Committee:

A written report had been submitted.

Christian Nurture Committee:

A written report had not been submitted.

Worship Committee:

A written report had been submitted.

Minister's Report:

A written report had been submitted.

Items for the Good of the Order:

There was further discussion concerning necessary financial accounting changes. Among them are the following:

The requirement to have an outside independent audit of our accounting system at least once a year. Most funding resources demand such an audit.

How do we secure our information?

Acquisition of our own 501 (c) (3) tax I.D. number.

Insurance Issues.

Bonding of Officers, and a Hold Harmless clause of officers when acting in Good Faith.

Tax Liability for parking lot income. The only possible exemption would be to demonstrate that ABM operates the lots, and make contributions to the church. It is unknown whether this approach would be legal and acceptable.

Issuance and reporting of 1099 tax information statements.

Bill Smith inquired whether we need to establish a special council meeting to grant approval for the appropriate officers to sign the contracts for the deferred maintenance items after we receive the loan funding. It was decided that this was not necessary as there was full disclosure at the congregational meeting to authorize the loan application. As this process was approved the church officers were given authority to proceed with the plan.

Adjournment

Patty Staley made a motion that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Rev. Adam Wirrig and approved by vote of the council.

Closing:

The meeting was closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ballard Yates, Council Secretary

Next regular meeting Thursday, June 13th, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. Devotions and opening prayer by Pat Kern.

June Celebrations

Birthdays:

04—Christine Mandelik

15—Douglas Norton

16—Brian Watts

17—Lee Singleton

24—Brian Dunkle

24—Anne Pepiot

28—Isaiah Ashba



Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers for the altar in the sanctuary can be purchased each week to help beautify the worship service and then take and enjoy in your home. Sign ups for the flowers are on the corner by the coat rack beside Reverend Adam's office, and priced as follows: one bouquet is \$13.75 and two bouquets are \$27.50. Flowers can be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one or event. Checks can be made to the church with indication that they are for flowers. Thank you for participating in this tradition.

Fellowship hours are open for sign up as well. Please contact the church office if you can help supply snacks and refreshments for our weekly fellowship hour here at St. John's. A new sign up sheet is in the basement fellowship hall for your convenience.

Flowers

6/2—Ed and Judy Humphrys

6/9—Rev. Dr. Adam Wirrig

6/16—Pat and Doug Goudy

6/23—Open

6/30—Open

Fellowship Hour

6/2—Steve Boggs

6/9—Pat Goudy and Pat Kern

6/16—Father's Day (No Fellowship)

6/23—WOSJ

6/30—Martin and Clark

In
Loving
Memory

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of

Edie Jenkins by: Rusty Staab

Dieter Munker by: Chris and Wilfred van Breukelen

Tim White by: The St. John's Building and Property Committee and Patsy
Goin

Debra and Bob Baily by: Diane Peters

Phyllis Francis by: Diane Peters

Billie Madden by: Chris and Wilfred van Breukelen

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 26 ● 10:30am Worship S	27	28	29 ● 8:30am Breakfast C	30 ● 7pm Prayer Group	FRI 31 ● 11am Staff Meeting	SAT Jun 1
2 ● 9am Building and P ● 10:30am Worship S	3 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	4 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	5	6 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	7 ● 11am Staff Meeting ● 4:30pm Simonelli R	8 ● 4:30pm Simonelli W
9 ● 10:30am Worship S ● 4pm Spirit(s) Bar Cl	10 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	11 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	12 ● 8am Job Fair	13 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy ● 6:30pm Church Cou	14 ● 11am Staff Meeting	15 ● 4:30pm Good Grief
16 ● 10:30am Worship S	17 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	18 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	19 ● 4:30pm Rettig Rehe	20 ● 8am World Refugee ● 5:30pm Rettig Wed ● 7pm Dare 2 Defy	21 UCC General Synod ● 11am Staff Meeting	22
23	24	25	26	27 ● 6pm Dare 2 Defy	28 ● 11am Staff Meeting	29
UCC General Synod ● 10:30am Worship S						