



Parish News

September 2020

First United Church of Christ

An Epiphany

Last Sunday was our second Sunday back in our church home, I had missed the first Sunday as I was out of town. Upon entering our church I had the strangest feeling as I saw all of that caution tape. We found a space where we could sit and I noticed there were no hymnals in the pews, a plate was placed in the rear of the sanctuary where we could place our tithe upon leaving. There was very little talking and what there was not easy to understand. In general it was a very somber feeling. I longed for our good old days of back slapping, hand shaking, conversation and big smiles.

This was not the mood I needed to head off all of the doldrums that the past three or four months had left me with. There seemed to be no escape from this pessimistic "Chicken Little," syndrome. "The Sky is Falling!" We must go tell the King.

I did what I always do when feeling less than splendid, I looked at our two wonderful stained glass windows. I could begin to feel the welcome of a homecoming. At the first sound of Rev. Gammon's voice it all started to come back. It was reassuring, that rich mellow voice we are all familiar with.

A little later a second bolt of reality struck me when Karen and Barbara played a beautiful duet on the keyboards. I found myself humming a familiar tune and I didn't have a hymnal. On the second verse I found myself singing the lyrics to the old melody from days gone by. "Now is the Hour."

Now is the hour, when we must say good-bye soon you'll be
sailing, far across the sea. While you're away, Oh please
remember me. When you return you'll find me waiting here.

The crowning moment came with the last song of the day, "He's Got The Whole World In His Hand." What a wonderful way to end the service. I left feeling in a much better mood than that I had upon first entering our beautiful sanctuary. I really think it was the music that really turned my mood around. We are so lucky to have these two wonderfully talented Christian ladies in our flock and such a truly caring Pastor.

The sky is not falling and we must thank our King, our heavenly father and his only begotten son, our savior Jesus Christ.

God speed, Bill Paxson

A Note from Your Pastor

The year 2020 has been a challenging year. Personally, as a community, and as a nation, we have faced a lot of difficulties. With the COVID-19 virus we have been relegated to minimal social contact, financial difficulties, and loss. As a church we have experienced the absence of celebrating together in our Sanctuary, the loss of friends, Howard Mats, Jerome Stephens, and just recently Kay Fisher.

Our cities are occupied by protestors and in some cases rioters. Our nation seems more divided than ever. I guess if I were to sum up the year in one word it would be pain.

We have all experienced some pain on some level. But what we all have also experienced is grace. God has seen fit to get us through all that is going on around us. While it may be hard to recognize or realize at times, He is making us stronger. Maybe not in the physical sense, but in the spiritual sense. Most of us have come to the realization that we cannot face the happenings of today without God, which in the end will make us stronger than anything that comes our way.

I truly believe that our faith must be tested from time to time. It is in this way that we exercise it and strengthen it. Life is hard at times, but God's grace makes things much easier. When we learn to hand things over to Him our burden is lessened. This year of challenges has been a great test period. We need to ask ourselves are we stronger in our faith? We need to ask if we have let God have control? We need to identify where we get in the way and let go and trust in the Lord.

Our faith community, though hampered by the restrictions of the virus, remains strong. We get together when we can, following protective guidelines and when we cannot get together, we celebrate our faith at home. We share prayers for one another, we reach out to one another through telephone call, cards, letters, emails, recordings, etc. We are more focused in our efforts to remain a faith community which builds up the Body of Christ.

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Yes, there has been a lot of pain this year. But there has been a lot of love this year too! I'm sure the last few months of this year will continue to have many challenges, but with God we can face them all and prevail.

Not that doing so will always yield the answer we seek, but if we learn to lean on God when times are hard, we can appreciate the good things more. Earlier I spoke of the pain of losing three of our dear people. It is painful, but it is also a reason to rejoice. Three of our loved ones have reached their heavenly father and are truly citizens of His kingdom. They suffer no more, they are happy, they are with He that loves them abundantly. They have obtained the goal of every Christian! Glory be to God!

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A Note from Your Pastor (continued)

As we have learned to be a more stay-at-home society, we have learned the value of solitude, family, and an appreciation for our homes and belongings. Our busy life before the COVID-19 virus restrictions often acted as blinders to the value of these things.

God bless you all,

Pastor Gerry

Baptism (June 21, 2020)



Lee Edward Hartman, Emily Lynn Hartman, & Sullivan were present along with grandparents, etc. to witness the baptism of Everly Lynn Hartman. Pastor Gerald Gammon baptized Everly on Sunday, June 21, 2020 at a private service.

Property Committee Report for August

Hidey Ho fellow newsletter readers! How's everyone doing? You can answer out loud. It's okay. I do it all the time!

I will start this month's report with projects that include contractors. Then I'll get into the projects I took on myself.

First off is the brick repair at the front of the church. I have in the past called these "brick structures that flank the stairs." I have found out by talking to a contractor that the official term for these structures is "Cheek Walls"! Who knew? Now we all do! Anyway, I contacted four companies to get quotes for the repair of the "cheek walls" and got a response from one of them. This seems to be the trend. New Life Masonry responded with three different quotes all doing different work. The quotes ranged from \$1,250 to \$13,000. The lower quote was to clean and repoint the brick. Although this would have made them look nice, it wouldn't have stopped the deterioration. The second option is for \$5,500, which will replace all of the brick that is visible or the veneer brick. You see, there is a structure behind the veneer brick that is actually supporting the capstones. The veneer is just for looks, it has no supporting role! The contractor doesn't feel there is anything wrong with the supporting structures. He feels it's all age related deterioration of the bonding material used on the veneer. He will replace all the brick so that it will all be new and hopefully last another 108 years. Now comes the "what if!" If once the veneer is removed, and it is discovered the interior structure is in fact damaged, they will have to be rebuilt from the ground up. He said he will support the capstones in place and rebuild from the ground up to them. This is the \$13,000 option. Hopefully we can get away with the \$5,500 option. If that is the case, we have donated funds to cover the expense. If it is the higher option, we will have to dig into the church funds. Unfortunately that won't be known for sure until the veneer is removed.

I emailed these options to the Property Committee members who have email addresses and for the three members that don't, I mailed copies via US Mail. All that responded chose option #2, the \$5,500 option. It was also my choice based on my conversation with the contractor. On August 3rd, I brought these options and recommendations before Consistory. It was voted to approve the request of \$5,500 with the balance of the \$13,000 in contingency... just in case it's worse case. The \$5,500 amount will hopefully be the expense for this project. I notified New Life Masonry on the 4th of August. He will let me know when he is getting close to a start date to let me know for sure the day he'll be there to start. He told me up front it would be a month before he could start based on his current job load. It will take two week to complete once started.

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Property Committee (continued)

The second project that I'm still trying to get going is the electronic door striker on the East entrance door. I contacted a company who was highly recommended. The gentleman met with me at the church on the 16th of June. He told me he would be back the following week on Wednesday with his electrician so they could give me a quote. You see, typically a company will use a lighted "EXIT" sign usually positioned above the door. This is a constant source of power and in proximity of the door. We however don't have one of those, so they would have to figure out a way to get power to the door. I waited six weeks for a call from him. I called him on two occasions during that time and was told he would be there before the end of that week...and still nothing. So I looked up the company on the BBB website to find out who the owner of the company is so I could complain. It turns out the gentleman I met with is the owner. So I have written that company off. I have contacted Buckeye Lock recently. He will call me when he can meet with me. I talked to him again just recently to get an update. He said I am very close to the top of his list of jobs to check out. His wife is expecting a child anyway so he isn't straying too far from home right now. He's hoping the end of this week or the beginning of next. Just for context, I am writing this on Tuesday, August 11th.

In the meantime, I took it upon myself to find a power source that is uninterrupted (isn't turned off by a switch) and got power above the door and installed a lighted EXIT sign. This was a two hour project (in my mind) that turned into a two day project. It's a good thing I don't have to give estimates! I would have been way off on that one! Anyway, there is now a lighted EXIT sign above the East door so whoever comes to give me an estimate on an electronic striker will have a power source. Although I did spend some funds for supplies, I'm confident this saved us a large amount of money by not having to pay to get electricity to the door.



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Property Committee (continued)

My other little project was to paint two items outside that could cause safety issues (trip hazards). If you recall, in my last report I told you about mounting the downspout to the building so that rainwater would flow out to the parking lot. In watching people walk through that area, I realized the end of the downspout could be tripped over. So I painted it safety yellow so hopefully people will see it and not trip over it. Another issue is the post to the right of the door when you walk out the West Entrance. I'm thinking some people don't know it's even there. But since we are using that door for exiting the building after our services, it needed to be visible so no one would walk into it or trip over the corner of it. It had at some point been painted white, and now it's safety yellow.



Well folks, that's all I have to report at this time. I hope by the next report I'll be able to tell you the cheek walls are completed, the door striker is complete, and that I can raise my arms above my head again. (Exit Sign project, ouch) Until then please be happy, healthy, and find strength in God to carry on during these times.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

Mark Gammon



Prayer List

Kathy Basaran
 Donna Beaver
 Melanie Burger
 Bella Goehring
 Kevin Fumerola
 Don Howren
 Betty Jamison

John Kunkel
 Marilyn Leiby
 Candy Lemasters
 Betty Mark
 Lloyd O’Keefe
 Melissa Rein
 Sue Torno

Cindy Vale
 Gayle Vidovich
 Karen Wrightsman
 Mary Kate Zweidinger

 Kay Fisher’s family
 Bill Bode’s family

Emergency Fund

In July 2009, the Floating Five Committee decided to start an emergency account to help those in the church having an unexpected need for money such as a car repair, medical bill, or legitimate need as recommended by church members or staff, etc. Please speak with Judy Fabian, Keith Burger, Karen Schoch, or Rev. Gammon should you have such a need. This is a confidential service available to any church member, staff member, or anyone who attends regularly. This is not intended to be an ongoing source of income but rather for emergency situations which one might encounter.

Sunday School

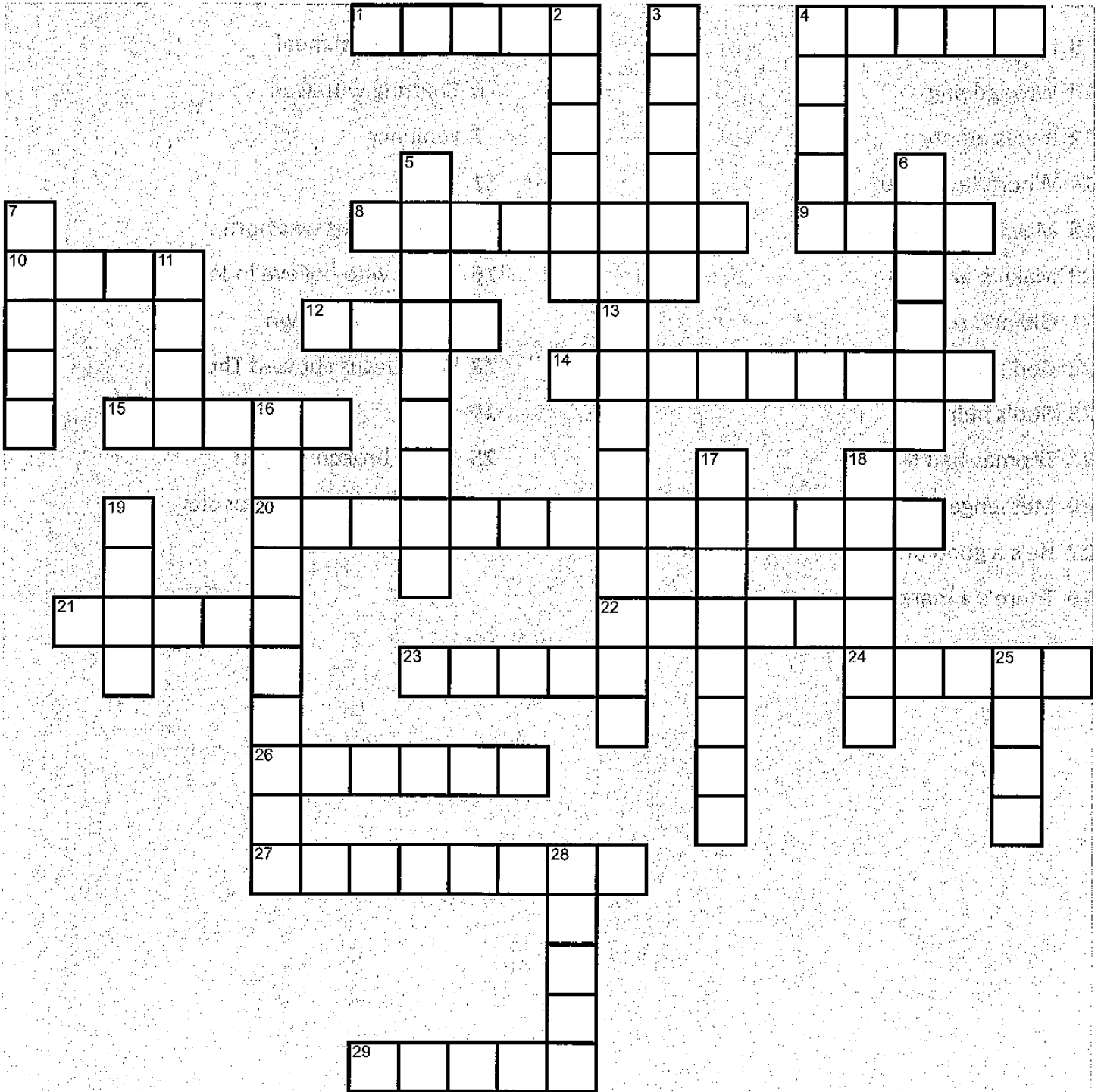
Sunday School will commence on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Due to social distancing, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall until further notice. We also will be foregoing Opening/Coffee Hour for the time being. See you on the 13th!!!

Back to School!!!

It’s that time again! We are collecting school supplies. A list of suggestions has been provided in the lobby (please take one). Please bring in items as you acquire them and put them in the container provided. We thank you for supporting this effort.



Blessings



Across/Down

Across

- 1 Savior
- 4 Its in the blood of Jesus
- 8 What we are because of Jesus
- 9 His mom
- 10 Wrongdoing
- 12 It was empty
- 14 Where Jesus died
- 15 May it be with you
- 20 Making amends
- 21 Old and rugged
- 22 God's home
- 23 God's help
- 24 Thomas had this
- 26 Messengers
- 27 He's a good one
- 29 There's a mark for this

Down

- 2 Third person of God
- 3 First person of God
- 4 Old Testament song
- 5 Our paschal meal
- 6 Chatting with God
- 7 Leniency
- 11 Agape
- 13 Where Jesus was born
- 16 Those who believe in Jesus
- 17 Jesus's hometown
- 18 What Jesus showed Thomas
- 19 God
- 25 It was broken for you
- 28 The hand where Jesus sits

Prayer Chain/List

The Prayer Chain has been slightly revised. As a reminder, names of people for the Prayer Chain with specific messages are prayed for regularly for that person for seven days. Be sure to begin your request by calling the church office or by filling out a prayer request card.

Names on the Prayer List in the weekly bulletin will be carried for that month unless requested it be continued on or removed prior to the end of the month.

**If anyone would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, do not hesitate. There is always room for more. Just notify the church office (330) 394-4741 or fill out a prayer request card.



First United Church of Christ

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The church with the “golden dome”

website
www.firstuccwarren.org

Pastor:

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Pastor Emeritus:

Joe Doran
Everett Gould

Elder Emeritus:

Al Conklin
Nick Fabian
Ed Gilbert
Don Howren
Glenn Mark
Sylvia Moyes
Bill Paxson
George Schneider
Bill Schoch
Charles Weller
Ken Wright

Deacon Emeritus:

Dick Layby

Consistory

President:	Bill Paxson	Elders:	Jim Desavigny	12/31/21
			Craig Cozad	12/31/20
Vice President:	Ron Schoch		Donny Longworth	12/31/20
			Ron Schoch	12/31/21
Secretary:	Nancy Hamrick			
		Deacons:	Emily Burkett	12/31/22
Treasurer:	Donny Longworth		Sheryl Cozad	12/31/22
			Marian Gammon	12/31/22
Financial Officer:	Craig Cozad		Mark Gammon	12/31/21
			Brenda Hibbard	12/31/21
Bookkeeper:	Sheryl Cozad		Candy Remasters	12/31/22
			Debbie Wimer	12/31/21