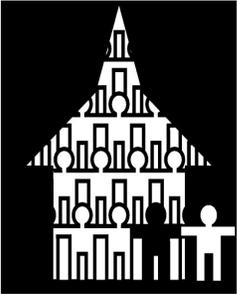


November 2021



**Welcome!**

ALL church gatherings are now back in the building and open to ALL people. Masks are required of those not yet vaccinated.

**Sunday Worship Services**

**8:00 am and 10:15 am**

Our 8:00 morning service is perfect for those with plans later in the day.

A slightly shorter service and very casual.

Our 10:15 service is not only back in the building but also live streamed.

**Pray Together With Live Stream at 10:15 Sunday mornings.**

**Go to [www.RicfieldUCC.com](http://www.RicfieldUCC.com)**

on your smartphone, computer or iPad.

Click on the button that says:

**Live Stream Sunday Service**

That will take you to a page that says:

**View Church Services Online**

Click on **View LiveStream** about 5 minutes before the service is to begin.

The service bulletin is available to download by clicking on the link below the live stream button.



Bulletins

**OPEN M Christmas Projects**

**Christmas Basket Collection**

200 individually wrapped bars of soap

The WPM Board has been asked by OPEN M to collect 200 individually wrapped bars of soap for their Christmas baskets. Our collection will be delivered to OPEN M by

November 29. A collection container is at the back of the sanctuary.



**OPEN M Christmas For the Children**

We have committed to sponsor 25 children for the OPEN M's Children's Christmas Project. Each child will get 2 gifts, each at a price of \$25, with one a toy gift and one a clothing gift. Congregation members can choose to sponsor one gift or both. Watch for a sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall during November to pick a child's name and send them some Christmas joy.

**Election Day Bake Sale  
Tuesday, November 2**

Help support church fundraising by

**\*donating baked goods**

**\*help to package and price**

**\*be a shift worker**

Help fill the tables with cookies, brownies, cupcakes, breads, cakes and pies.

Gluten-free items are often asked for.

Baked goods should be brought to church on Sunday, October 31 or Monday, November 1 for packaging and pricing.

Packaging & pricing will take place in the church kitchen on Monday, November 1, starting at 5:30.

Shifts start on Tuesday, November 2, at 6:00 am and change every two hours. Two are needed for each shift.

## From the Pastor



*EMILY: "Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every, every minute?"*

*STAGE MANAGER: "No. Saints and poets maybe...they do some."*

*— Thornton Wilder, Our Town*

When my mother died last summer, my family came together. I feel closer to them than I did before. We all knew, intuitively, that we had to be there for each other. Any past rivalries between siblings over who did what when... dispel like morning mist beneath a rising sun. Priorities look very different through the lens of loss. Grief focuses the light of the spirit. We have, it seems, become more grateful for one another.

It's been a while since I lost a member of my immediate family. The lessons need to be relearned. The blanket she knitted, the picture she took, the pillow she used all seem more important than before. If we allow, loss illuminates priorities and leads back to thanksgiving.

Gratitude is a funny thing. It is always within our grasp, yet we tend to look right past it. Then someone or something is gone, and we realize how blessed we were all along. We don't seem capable of feeling gratitude for the blessings we have, until they are gone. But it need not be that way. We can make a choice to be a people of thanksgiving.

I can talk, see, hear, remember, drive, create, do the laundry, brush my teeth, laugh, cry, take a walk and drive to a store. I can hike, breathe fresh air, and catch frogs with my son. I have a bed to sleep on, food in the fridge and a roof. Should some terrible event deprive me of any of these I would feel awful; and how grateful I would feel to have them restored. So, why? Why should it take a disaster for me to feel grateful for ordinary things? I am, in fact, surrounded by reasons to feel grateful.

Greg Easterbrook writes in The Progress Paradox that average middle-class people in the U.S. and Europe live better than 99.4% of all homo sapiens who have ever lived. We're better off than King Louis XIV, if only for vaccines, antibiotics and indoor plumbing and flush toilets. Robert Frank, professor of economics at Cornell University, writes that gas station mini-marts sell wines "far superior in quality to the wines once drunk by the kings of France." Here's mud in your eye, your majesty.

So, could we be grateful every day for what we have today? What if we walked the Earth feeling truly grateful for such abilities – to see, walk, remember, do the laundry and catch frogs? If we offer thanks for ordinary things, would people think we've lost our minds? Or would we simply be happier people? I think the latter. But even those questions miss the real point. The real question is, are we grounded in reality? If in fact, we are surrounded by myriad blessings, thousands of reasons to be grateful, then why do we spend so much time complaining?

It's often said that our feelings are neither right nor wrong. Our feelings simply are what they are. Granted. However, our feelings will follow our thoughts like ducklings after their mother. If our thoughts conclude that things are worse than ever, our feelings will follow. But what if that thought is wrong? Arrive at a different thought and you arrive at a different feeling. This is the premise of cognitive behavioral therapy.

Thanksgiving is also foundational to our worship. Why do we praise? God is not a narcissist in need of sycophants to bow down in worship to boost God's poor self-esteem. Rather, we offer praise and thanksgiving because it is right – God is indeed good. And we offer praise as a practice of mindfulness. As we retreat from complaints to recognize blessings, it drives away despair and lifts our spirits to joy.

Some might feel it is unrealistic to feel such gratitude all the time. I propose that it is not unrealistic but hyper-realistic. We are, in fact, blessed. We do have, in fact, so many reasons to be thankful. Perhaps spiritual enlightenment means being mindful of this cornucopia of blessing, while we have it, not merely when it is gone.

Happy Thanksgiving to you, my family of faith. Indeed, we are blessed. So let us give thanks.

Rev. John D. King

*Pastor John is ready to visit any time you like. Please don't hesitate to notify the pastor that you would like a visit, especially if you are sick or in the hospital. Please do not assume that Pastor John knows you want a visit without notification. Pastor John is committed to responding to all requests promptly, usually the same day.*

Email: [JKingUCC@gmail.com](mailto:JKingUCC@gmail.com)

Phone: # 330-475-4206

# Moderator's Moment

Dear Church Family,

My Columns article was already submitted when I had the joyful opportunity to witness our confirmands making their first adult, public promise to our Lord and Savior. The ceremony was beautiful and felt uplifting. Our youth truly are our future. When you become discouraged, watch the Confirmation Celebration service from September 26th. I'm certain it will bring a smile to your face and a sense of relief to your soul. We are going to be okay. Rev. King shared this quote from Liz Gilbert and I'm still feeling inspired almost one month later. *"Today's American teenagers are the most sensitive, least violent, least bullying, least racist, least homophobic, most globally-minded, most compassionate, most environmentally-conscious, least dogmatic, and overall kindest group of young people this country has ever known."* Right on, Liz Gilbert!

Thank you to Scott Luther and Rev. King for their work with our youth in the name of Jesus. The parents of our youngest RUCC members are to be commended for their leadership, guidance and love. The members of our church, boards, committees, and numerous volunteers continue to make this a verb church. Thank you for all that you do. In case you missed Rev. King's sermon, we are encouraged to be a verb church by thinking of faith as a verb. What do we do? How do we live our lives? Thankfully, we do a lot with many smiles, kind gestures, encouraging words, handshakes and compassion for others.

I give thanks to each of you for allowing Jesus to live through you every day. Keep on making our RUCC a verb church. Wishing each of you a Thanksgiving filled with thankfulness.

With love, Dawn Schilling

## STEWARDSHIP & ADMINISTRATION BOARD NEWS

### SUPPORTING RUCC

Kathy and I have been members for over 40 years. We love RUCC because of Becky who keeps all the office duties running smoothly, Lew who keeps the ushers ushering, Pieter and Betty for their continuing Mission Group leadership, for Cindy on the music keyboards and Greg on the video keyboards and because of you who are reading these words. We have fond memories too of the many who have passed on leaving a legacy of participation, leadership, and love for this church. Their dedication built the walls that surround us as we come together in fellowship and worship. Lets keep the flame of their love and stewardship burning brightly.

### DEFICIT REDUCTION UPDATE

In the three weeks following the September 28<sup>th</sup> letter sent to all members appealing for extra giving to help reduce our Operating Fund deficit we have so far received 22 contributions totaling \$6,670.00. Please remember when making your donation to mark the amount as "deficit reduction".

### PROBLEM SOLVED

Just in case you wanted to walk around in the front yard of the church, you can now do so without fear of falling into two massive craters caused by years of rain water erosion. Our thanks to Pastor John's nagging and Lew Monegan's efforts to find a contractor to fill the holes with large stones, re-grade and seed.

### OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN

After attempts to get an election bake sale fundraiser organized seemed to be failing, Jean Krankowski rallied the three boards with an email saying, "I vote to have the bake sale but will need many people to help". Board member email replies quickly followed offering help. Thanks Jean for the "can-do" spirit.

### COMING UP

November is the start of our 2022 stewardship campaign, *"Rooted in Love."* Congregation members will be sharing their comments on why they choose to contribute and pledge at our Sunday services.

Dave Hakos, S & A chair.



### Chili Cook –Off Results

Our thanks to the ten chefs who entered their delicious pots of chili at our October 24, Chili Cook-Off luncheon. The results are in. Congratulations to our chefs.

- 1st place - Larry Harsey
- 2nd place - Marilyn Scarbrough
- 3rd place - Rosemarie Sprague

Our free-will offering donations were over \$200, which will be split between the Youth Group and the WPM Board's outreach programs.

## Third Quarter Giving Statements



Our treasurer, Amy Shepker, has prepared the third-quarter giving statements and you should be receiving them in the mail shortly.

Thank you for your support of Richfield United Church of Christ.

# Christian Education News

## Sunday morning classes

Nursery: (infant-3-years-old) 10:15-11:15

Elementary ages: (preschool-5th grade) 10:30-11:15

Middle school-high school: (6-12 grade) 9:15-10:00

**The Adult Sunday School class** has been temporarily paused. Time constraints, scheduling conflicts, health issues, family commitments and concerns about Covid 19 have made it difficult for many members of the group to attend. If there is enough interest at a later date, we will explore the possibility of starting a new class.

## Coming soon!

The Christian Ed board has decided to continue the Sunday school take-home packs again this fall! We understand that many of our families are hesitant to send their unvaccinated children to Sunday school and we do not want them to miss this time of learning! These packs will start in November. Our December home packet will be full of Advent craft fun. Please remember that all of our teachers have been fully vaccinated and we hope to see you in the classroom soon! Stay well and stay safe!

## Advent Sunday With A Twist!

The Christian Ed board would like to invite you to our "modified" Advent Sunday workshop on December 5th. Due to covid concerns among our youth we are changing our traditional Advent workshop to a social event to welcome in the holidays. We will have appetizers, Christmas music and a few adult crafts for those interested. This event will be following the 10:15 service. Hope you can join us for a little holiday merriment. A raffle drawing will be held for Advent Log Centerpieces with the proceeds donated to the Barb Simmons scholarship fund.

**Advent craft packets** will be delivered in December to our younger church members.

# Youth Group News

## November 2021

The Richfield UCC Youth Group dragged themselves out of bed on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> to volunteer at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. While many other kids were still asleep due to a day off, our youth headed down to Akron and helped sort lunch box items such as crackers, pudding, and juice boxes. They inspected the items for damage and expiration dates, and if the items were still good, they were moved to another bin. After we inspected all the items, we helped box the food for various agencies to pass out to individual families. All in all, we sorted and boxed over ONE TON of food - that's a lot of crackers! The food will help feed 1,983 kids in need. I'm so proud of our youth!



We have some activities coming up in November and are always looking for newcomers to join our group. The Youth Group is open to kids in grades 6 through 12. If you or a youth you know is interested in joining, please contact me at [YouthDirectorRUCC@gmail.com](mailto:YouthDirectorRUCC@gmail.com) or talk to me after church.

God Bless,  
Scott Luther

**Youth Group Meeting**  
Sunday, November 7  
4-5:30 pm  
in the Youth Group room.

# The Just Peace Committee

## Just Peace Weekly Action Alert

Watching or reading the daily news coverage of poverty, sickness, climate change and the world's many injustices can be overwhelming; it can make us feel angry, sad or powerless. It is easy to tune it out, to forget that we can make a difference, especially when we work together.

At the national level, the United Church of Christ is continually researching and facilitating actions we can all take. For example, the UCC recently posted information on [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) about protecting Americans' voting rights along with a fast way to contact our senators about the issue.

The UCC's Justice & Peace Action Network (JPANet) issues frequent calls to action; Rev. King has made it easy to access them through the **Just Peace Weekly Action Alert** tab, found on the Richfield UCC website, [www.richfielducc.com](http://www.richfielducc.com). When we combine our efforts with those of congregations across the country, we can make a difference.

## Caring for Creation — Your ideas needed

The Just Peace Committee continues to explore the many ways in which RUCC can be a robust caretaker of God's creation. Recent changes include the use of recycled paper in our office and the establishment of the compost bins.

Do you have an idea for how our congregation can enhance its environmental stewardship? Please contact Kathy Hayes 330-659-0417 or the church office.



## Meetings This Month

In the Gathering Room at RUCC

- \***Christian Education Board:** Tuesday, November 2 @ 7 pm
- \***S&A Board:** Wednesday, November 3 @ 7 pm
- Retirement Village Board:** Thursday, November 18 @ 7 pm
- \***WPM Board:** Monday, November 8 @ 5:30 pm
- \***Church Council:** Monday, November 8 @ 7 pm
- Men's Discussion Group:** Wednesday mornings, 7-8 am
- \***Meetings available to join via ZOOM**

## November Ushers

Chuck Ellis Jane Scharff

## Book Club

Book Club will be taking November and December off due to their meeting dates falling during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks.



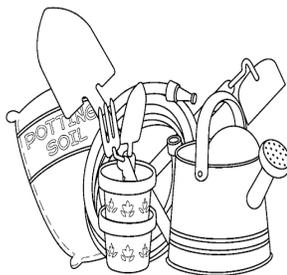
## Hanging of the Greens



**Sunday, November 21**  
**following the 10:15 service**  
 Your help is needed as we decorate our church for the Advent season. Join us as we set up and decorate the Christmas trees, hang the wreaths and banners and set out the nativity sets. Something for all ages to help with.

## Thank you Karen Butera

Karen has been our garden manager for several years. We appreciate her hard work in planning, preparing and planting our lovely garden whose proceeds go to help support Carolina our sponsored child through Children International. Karen was given a gift card to Olesias to enjoy a night out for her hard work. Thank you Karen for your garden knowledge and expertise!



## ACME STORES COMMUNITY CASHBACK FUNDRAISER

*Eight weeks until the deadline remain to save your Acme receipts.* Acme shoppers, help Northeast Ohio Shetland Sheepdog Rescue again this year. Shop Acme Fresh Market, use your Acme card and collect receipts dated from August 5 - **December 25, 2021.** Your receipts can be put in the offering plate or put into the box outside of the office.

## November Birthdays

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11/1 JoAnne Cowden     | 11/13 Anne Gill         |
| 11/3 Barbara Hayes     | 11/13 Tim Hnath         |
| 11/3 Donna Nelson      | 11/14 Kathy Brown       |
| 11/5 Rosemarie Sprague | 11/14 Staci Lindsey     |
| 11/6 Allison Ellis     | 11/17 Jim Davis         |
| 11/7 Robyn Patrick     | 11/19 Newt Heston       |
| 11/9 Jeff Duricko      | 11/24 Marian Stertzbach |
| 11/9 Corey Linek       | 11/23 Dawn Ward         |
| 11/9 Lenore Smith      | 11/27 Laura Benedict    |
| 11/12 Kate Holan       | 11/28 Patricia Worton   |
|                        | 11/29 Elaina Weber      |

## November Anniversaries

- 11/29 Richard & Kevan Hudak



## Scouts Goodwill Turn Day Saturday, November 6

Scouts will be at the Richfield United Church of Christ parking lot to collect Goodwill donations and transport them to the Goodwill store on Saturday, November 6, from 2:00-3pm. This is the first grade Tiger Scouts service project.

### Gently used items in good shape:

Clothing, shoes, boots, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, jewelry

Books, records, CDs, videotapes, DVDs, games, toys, sports equipment

Housewares: dishes, glassware, kitchen utensils, lamps, small appliances

Collectibles, antiques, knickknacks, other giftware

Hand tools, small power tools,

Domestics: linens, curtains, blankets

Electronics: flat-screen monitors (no CRTs), hard drives, laptops, cell phones, VCRs, DVD players, TVs working flat screen (no CRTs)

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of Christ**

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## November Activities

**November 1:** Package & price Election Day baked goods at 5:30 in the church kitchen

**November 2: Election Day Bake Sale**

Christian Education Board meeting at 7 pm in building and on ZOOM

**November 3:** S&A Board meets @ 7 pm in building and on ZOOM

**November 7:** Worship Services 8:00 am in-building and 10:15 am in-building and online / Communion Sunday / Sunday school

Youth Group meeting at 4:00-5:30 in the Youth Group room

**November 8:** WPM Board meeting at 5:30 pm, in building and on ZOOM / Church Council meeting at 7 pm, in building and on ZOOM

**November 10:** Hobbits Board meets at 1:30 pm

**November 14:** Worship Services 8:00 am in-building and 10:15 am in-building and online / Sunday school

Court of Honor for scout Anthony Torma at 2 pm

**November 18:** Retirement Village Board @ 7 pm

**November 21:** Worship Services 8:00 am in-building and 10:15 am in-building and online / Sunday school

Hanging of the Greens after the 10:15 service

**November 25:** Happy Thanksgiving (office closed)

**November 28:** First Sunday of Advent / Worship Services 8:00 am in-building and 10:15 am in-building and online / Sunday school

Men's Discussion Group Meetings  
each Wednesday at 7-8 am at RUCC