

**Central Southeast Ohio Association,  
Ohio Conference  
July 25, 2018**



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking,

**CSEmail Newsletter**

[Subscribe to the CSEMAIL Newsletter Here](#)

The Association Office is open on Tuesdays from 10a - 1p or by appointment.  
I will normally respond to your phone/email messages  
within 24 hours of receipt Monday through Thursday. Messages are not checked Friday - Sunday  
If you have news or photos to share and/or dates you would like to add to the calendar to be included in  
our next CSEmail, please submit to me by Friday at 4:30p  
Submit your articles, photos (jpeg, png format please) and attachments to  
[debras@ocucc.org](mailto:debras@ocucc.org)



**Quick Links**

**2018 Calendar of Events**

**CSE Authorized  
Clergy and MID  
Directory**

**CSE Pulpit Supply  
List**

**Council Meeting**

Saturday, August 11th  
9:30a-12:30p  
Location TBD

**DCAM Meeting**

Saturday, August 11th  
1p  
Grace UCC, Lancaster

**DPAM Meeting**

Tuesday, September 11th  
9:30a-4:00p

**CSE Church  
Directory**

**CSE Departments,  
Council and  
Committees**

**2018 Calendar of  
Prayer**

**MESA COM &  
MOM Information  
and Manuals**

**2018 Online  
Training for COM**

**CSEOA  
Website**

MTSO

**Department of Vitality**

Monday, August 20th  
6:30p  
Advent UCC

**Ohio Conference  
Annual Gathering**

September 28th and 29th  
Westerville Community UCC

**CSEOA Annual Fall Meeting**

Saturday, October 27th

**Female Clergy Lunch**

(We invite female clergy in the Ohio Conference to meet monthly for lunch, fellowship, sharing of resources and support.)

We plan to meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Columbus area.

Our next gathering is:

August 28th  
at 11:30 at  
the Ikea restaurant (I 71- Gemini Exit).

**Calendar of Prayer**

**July 29, 2018**

North Congregational UCC, Columbus



## **Central Southeast Ohio Association welcomes Rev. Jim Nolan as our new Administrative Minister**

Please welcome the Central Southeast Ohio Association's new Administrative Minister, Rev. James Nolan! The Personnel Committee and the Association Council are excited about the gifts and energy Jim brings to this position.

A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, he is happily married to his high school sweetheart, Cami. Between them they have seven children and 18 grandchildren. Jim is a graduate of Indiana University (and still a diehard Hoosier basketball fan) with a bachelor's in journalism, an MBA from Colorado State and a master of divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.

He spent nearly four decades as an award-winning journalist/editor and publishing executive at big city newspapers (Miami, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Denver) before trading in pen for pulpit as a United Church of Christ pastor. Before relocating back to Columbus, Jim served churches in Fairview Heights, IL and Wadsworth, OH. Between his experience in business, his love of the church and his eagerness to take on new challenges Jim has much to offer the Association. We are grateful his journey has led him here.

Jim started with us on July 16<sup>th</sup>. During the week, Jim will be available Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. He may be reached by email at [jimn@ocucc.org](mailto:jimn@ocucc.org), through the main Association number, 614-885-0722, ext 212 or on his cell, 614-716-8519. After he settles into his new duties, Jim plans to be available for guest preaching requests.

## **Meet our New Transitional Conference Minister: Rev. David Long-Higgins**

Dear Friends,

Your Board of Directors held a special meeting on June 11 in which we approved Rev. David M. Long-Higgins as our new Transitional Conference Minister. He will begin his ministry with us on September 1.

Rev. Long-Higgins graduated from Heidelberg University, in Tiffin, and from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He is currently the Senior Pastor at David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio, where he has served since 1996. He has been active in the wider church, most notably serving on the Global Ministries Board for the past nine years, three years on the Wider Church Ministry Board, and two years on the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ. He has also been active within Central Southeast Association and the Ohio Conference.



The Search Committee was impressed with Dave's passion, spirituality, and a deep understanding of the current reality within the Ohio Conference. It was also impressed with his communication skills, both in person and in writing, and felt these would be critical as the conference considers the recommendations from the Vision Team.

Please join me in welcoming Dave to this new role within the Ohio Conference!

Grace and peace,

Cathy Green  
Moderator, Ohio Conference



**Soon to be Ordained!**

**Council has approved  
DPAM  
recommendations to  
ordain...**

**Nick Knoblauch**

Sunday, September 9th at 4 pm  
St John's, Columbus

## **Joanna Samuelson**

Saturday, October 20th at 2p  
North Congregational, Columbus

## **Beth Staten**

Saturday, September 22nd at 10:30a  
Sponsored by Move United  
at Zion UCC in Delaware

## **Congratulations!**

## **CELEBRATING JEFF July 28, 2018**

Please join us as we remember the life of Jeff Thompson, site manager at Pilgrim Hills and Templed Hills.

We will gather at Templed Hills on Saturday, July 28, at 3:00 in Skipper Lodge. A Memorial Service will be held at 3:30 with time afterwards for people to visit with one another, share stories and memories, and contribute to a scrapbook that will be shared with Carolyn and Greg. People will also be welcome to walk around camp and see the work that has been done since reopening. We will serve a cookout style dinner at 5:30.

There will be no cost for the dinner, however, we need a count to be adequately prepared. Please register by [clicking here](#).

If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute to the scrapbook, please send your contribution to:

Ohio Conference  
6161 Busch Blvd, Ste 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Attn: Jeff Thompson Scrapbook

All contributions should be received by August 15, 2018.

## Run for a Reason: Help Crossroad Children



Join us for a 5K Run/walk fundraising event to benefit Crossroad Child & Family Services!  
October 13, 2018

The event will be held on Crossroad's Campus, 2525 Lake Ave, Fort Wayne, IN. We also encourage virtual participants if you are unable to attend in person.

No registration fee required! Incentive awards for individual fundraising at levels \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Register as an individual or team at:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2018/18725/run-for-a-reason/leaderboards/overall?aff=ULUFL>.

We also need volunteers! Contact Kristi Geiger at 800.976.2306 x 2003 or [kgeiger@crossroad-fwch.org](mailto:kgeiger@crossroad-fwch.org)  
IT'S FOR THE KIDS!



## United Church Homes, Friendship Village of Columbus Seeking a Chaplain

[View Position Requirements Here](#)

## Ohio Conference Visioning Team Update





### **New Vision Team Documents**

The Wider Church Visioning Team has released a brief update of its work following the Conference-wide listening sessions. You will find the update and a draft of a purpose, vision, and mission statement on the Ohio Conference website under the tab "A New Vision." The new documents are listed near the top of that page (also linked below) under "Association Meeting Documents."

[Click Here to View](#)

[View Vision Team Proposal HERE](#)

## **Your Vote Counts**



### **A Reflection from Interim Conference Minister John Gantt**

Here is a link to explore:

[http://www.ucc.org/ucc\\_constitution\\_and\\_bylaws](http://www.ucc.org/ucc_constitution_and_bylaws)

It leads to the Constitution and by-laws of the United Church of Christ. Delegates and authorized ministers will vote to approve - or not - changes to the Constitution of the denomination.

The vote will be requested at the Ohio Conference Annual Gathering September 28-29, 2018. Here's the process:

[Read More](#)

## **Ohio Conference Bylaws Information for Annual Gathering**

Delegates to the Ohio Conference Annual Gathering have a unique opportunity on September 28-29, 2018.

There will be an opportunity to vote on amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and on amendments to the Ohio Conference Constitution and bylaws.

Members of the Eastern Ohio Association and the Western Reserve Association have worked patiently and diligently for several years to reshape the ministry of the two Associations. In those years they have combined staff, office location, and adjusted policies and practices so that administration and services of the two Associations function as one Association.

[Read More](#)



## **National Youth Event Nomination Deadline: July 31**

The United Church of Christ is committed to planning and hosting a meaningful and inspirational 2020 National Youth Event (NYE) on the campus of Purdue University. We are excited to invite nominations and self-nominations for the Youth Leadership Table (YLT). This group will be made up of approximately 12 youth from across the country who will work with the wider planning team to give shape to the programming aspect of NYE. We will be working to ensure that the YLT is a diverse representation of youth in terms of race, gender and geographic regions.

[READ MORE and Nomination Form Here](#)

## **Ohio Conference Annual Gathering September 28-29 Westerville Community UCC Invitation From Ken Medema See and Hear more from Ken at the Gathering!**



## Churches Currently in Transition....

- **Heidelberg UCC, Stoutsville** is in the process of beginning their search for a new minister.

 **UCC RESOURCES**  
the hub for all things UCC



### **UCC DESK CALENDAR 2019**

One free calendar is shipped to each church and all retired clergy.\*

This popular, 18-month (July 2018 - December 2019) planning calendar for the UCC is 8.5" x 11" and spiral-bound. Includes:

- Complete lectionary readings for every Sunday
- Special mission offering dates
- Special observances
- Directory of national staff

Pre-Order your 2018-19 Desk Calendar [Here](#)

\*Retired clergy: please check with your Conference if you don't receive one.

## **UCC Series: History, Theology and Polity for Congregations and Committees**



Each learning session includes a facilitator guide, video, resources, and activities to help folks explore the unique history, governance structure, and theological commitments of the UCC. You can access all the lessons and resources through this site, as well as download any files you need.

The complete facilitator guide is also available for purchase.

[Click HERE to Explore](#)

# "Everyday Virtue" a devotion by, Richard L. Floyd



*"Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things." -  
Hebrews 13:18*

People frequently conflate religion with morality, as if they were the same thing. When we are children we imagine that if we are good, God will reward us. But the Christian faith insists that God loves us as we are. As Paul put it: "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Those who are honest before God in prayer know their flaws and foibles, their various sins of commission and omission. As comedian Steven Wright so eloquently put it: "A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory."

Still, we humans are capable of great kindness, decency and noble acts of courage. And, though religion isn't morality, religion can and should foster it.

For a society to function humanely there needs to be widespread commitment to what I call "everyday virtue." To "act honorably" towards others is needed now more than ever. One only needs to read the comments section on practically any post in social media to know how viciously mean we can be toward one another.

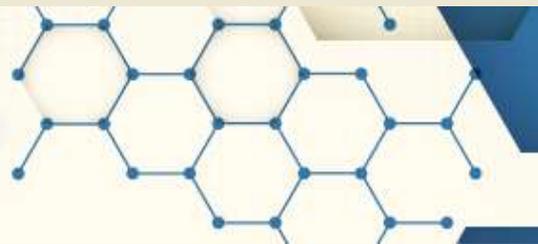
New information technologies make communicating around the globe easier, but with them have come a coarsening of public discourse. It is easier to fling harsh and hurtful words anonymously across an electronic medium than it is face to face.

The world would be a better place if we all tried to exercise everyday virtue: to watch our words, to tell the truth, to do the right thing and to strive to have a clear conscience.

## **Prayer**

**Forgive us, O God, for all the coarse and unkind words and deeds we have done. And guide us to act honorably in all things.**

**take action**  
justice and peace action network  
*God is still speaking.*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



[Click Here to view July Newsletter](#)



**Have you read the PARISH PAPER?**

The Parish Paper is a wonderful resource to which the Ohio Conference has subscribed on behalf of all Ohio Conference churches. Each issue stands alone as a topic of interest and importance to being a living and growing congregation. Check it out...

**July - Inviting Informing and Including Newcomers**

**August - How to Raise Money for Your Community Projects**



[COM Training online](#)

[Constitution and By Laws Adopted 10-25-14](#)

[CSEOA Vision - Future Story 2020](#)

[CSEOA Strategic Plan 2013-2020](#)

[Ohio Conference Website](#)

[Outdoor Ministries](#)

[Member In Discernment Manual Rev. 7 10-9-2013](#)

[How Do I Transfer My Standing?](#)

[NEW UCC Ministerial Code](#)

## Staff Contacts

**Debbie Smetts,**  
**Association Office Administrator**  
**Central Southeast Ohio Association**  
6161 Busch Blvd., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-2547  
614-885-0722 Ext. 218  
Toll Free: 800-282-0740 Ext. 218  
Fax: 614-885-8824  
Email: [debras@ocucc.org](mailto:debras@ocucc.org)

**Reverend Patricia Battle,**

**Association Pastor**

*Office Hours by Appointment*

Email: [patriciab@ocucc.org](mailto:patriciab@ocucc.org)

Call or Text: 614-531-8240

**Reverend Jim Nolan,**

**Association Administrative Minister**

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30a-2:30p

Email: [jimn@ocucc.org](mailto:jimn@ocucc.org)

Call or Text: 614-716-8519

**Joan Davidson,**

**Association Registrar**

Email: [joand@ocucc.org](mailto:joand@ocucc.org)

Cell: 419-934-3713



**[ABOUT THE NEW LOGO](#)**

**[All UCC LOGOs are Available Here](#)**

