

**Central Southeast Ohio Association,
Ohio Conference
December 19, 2018**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

CSEmail Newsletter

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Hello! Debbie Smetts, our Office Administrator, is leaving us and Mary Plumley will replace her. Debbie has been a great resource to the Central Southeast Association of United Church of Christ.

Our new office hours are:

Tuesday, 10 - 3

Wednesday, 1 - 5

Thursday, 10 - 3

Friday, 10 -3

The Association Office will be closed December 24, 2018 thru January 2, 2019. Merry Christmas to you and your family!

The next issue of our newsletter will be Wednesday, January 9.

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 maryp@ocucc.org by Friday at 4:30p

Submit photos in jpeg, png format please.





Family of God,

*According to Henri Nouwen, in his book, *The Heart of Henri Nouwen*, "Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing — sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war or even death — can take that love away." In this Holy season, may our hearts overflow with JOY in such a way that we are compelled to share it and the Good News. After all, it is the most precious gift we can give.*

Advent Blessings...

Rev. Patricia Battle - Your Association Pastor

Staff Changes for 2019

Members of Central Southeast Ohio Association,

This year has seen a lot of changes in the staff keeping the Personnel Committee quite busy. I want to thank the members of the Committee for their commitment and diligence.

I also want to update you on the most current changes. Debbie Smetts, our Office Administrator, and Joan Davidson, our Association Registrar, made the decision not to renew their contracts which expire at the end of 2018. Both Deb and Joan have been with us since our new model was initiated and have

served us faithfully – and patiently – throughout the initial transition. We are grateful for the gifts they have brought to their positions and offer them our heart-felt thanks.

And now to introduce you to our new staff persons. Upon recommendation from the Personnel Committee Rev. Melodie Rezac was affirmed by the Association Council to serve as our Designated Term Association Administrator. Her responsibilities include nurturing the association's official link to the wider church, facilitating the search and call process, and supporting/collaborating with Rev. Patricia Battle, our Association Pastor. Melodie brings much experience and knowledge to this position, her skill at organization, and, most of all, her love for CSEOA. She is available to you by appointment.

And, we welcome Mary Plumley as our new Office Administrator. Mary most recently served as Coordinator/Registrar for the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure, a position she held for 13 years. We are excited that she has agreed to become part of Central Southeast! Beginning January 2, Mary's office hours will be Tuesday 10:00 – 3:00, Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00, Thursday and Friday 10:00 – 3:00. It certainly has been a year of flux; but with movement there is always life. Both Melodie and Mary are signs of that new life stirring in CSEOA.

Blessings,
Jill Dunlap, Personnel Chair

Quick Links

2019 Calendar of Events

**CSE Authorized
Clergy and MID
Directory**

**CSE Pulpit Supply
List**

**CSE Church
Directory**

**CSE Departments,
Council and
Committees**

**2019 Calendar of
Prayer**

MESA COM &

CSEOA Council Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 2019
9:30a-12:30p

DCAM Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 2019
1 - 5 pm
Grace UCC Lancaster

DPAM

Wednesday, January 9, 2019
9:30a-3:30p
David's UCC, Canal Winchester

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:
January 22, 2019
at 11:30 at
the Ikea restaurant (I 71- Gemini Exit).

Calendar of Prayer

**MOM Information
and Manuals**

**MOM/COM Zoom
Training
Registration**

**2019 Online
Training for COM**

**CSEOA
Website**

December 23, 2018

Zion UCC, Delaware

December 30, 2018

Zion Reformed UCC, Thornville

January 6, 2019

CSEOA Association Staff

January 13, 2019

Advent Community Church, Columbus

January 20, 2019

Dublin Community UCC, Dublin

January 27, 2019

Congregational UCC, Belpre

OCWM Contributions

Just a REMINDER:

Contributions received through January 10, 2019 will be credited to year 2018.

Contributions after January 10, 2019 will be processed into year 2019.

Thank You

Steve Flenner

Treasurer

Share Your Story



You and your ministry share God's love in profound ways, especially this time of year. Whether it's Christmas caroling with your congregation, sharing a meal with a neighbor, or collecting food for food pantries, we want to hear your story!

[Details here](#)

NEOSOM, Winter 2019 Classes

The Northeast Ohio School of Ministry (NEOSOM) is offering two classes for Winter 2019:

- *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Part 1 Genesis through 2 Kings)*
- *Hosea (Biblical Elective)*

The classes are open to students of the program and *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* is available for audit to non-students.

[Learn More & Register by January 2](#)



WISDOM CONVERSATIONS: Our Narratives of Aging

United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging will host the annual Wisdom Conversations event for all those who work in ministry with older adults in January at Parkvue Community, Sandusky.

Pre-Event Sunday, January 6th 7-9p
Workshops Monday, January 7th 9a-4p

[READ MORE HERE](#)

[DETAILS AND REGISTER HERE](#)

"Exodus: Moving through the Transitions of Life and Faith"



you growing together in faith on our journey of life.

I'm offering a class which begins in eight weeks. I hope you can join me. I would love to be together again with all of you. Below you will read the name of the class, the dates and location of the class, and a small introduction. There is also a sign-up link for you if you choose to join us. If you are able, I hope you join us beginning Monday night, January 7, 2019.

"Exodus: Moving through the Transitions of Life and Faith" will be offered on the first Monday nights of January, February and March from 7-8:30 p.m. at Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. Those dates are January 7, February 4, March 4.

The class is open to all people of all faiths who are facing transitions in life. I define transitions as "the psychological acceptance of change." What are you facing? What changes are happening in your life? The birth of a baby? The death of loved one? The loss of health or the loss of a job? The end of a dream? What transition are you facing?

Using the Exodus story as our grounding, we will look at the transitions of our lives. If you are interested in signing up, please go to this link and do it.

Keep in touch.

Many blessings to you,

Dear friends,
Grace and peace to you in the name of God.

I hope this email finds you well. I have missed the opportunity to teach and to learn with you. Moving through the autumn season this year, I felt a missing piece. That missing piece was all of

[Click here to register](#)

If you have questions, call 614-228-1741, ext. 13 or email me - tahrens@first-church.org.

Sign up now and Save the Dates!

Take care,

Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Give the Gift of Camp!



"With 10 days left before Christmas, are you still struggling to find that perfect gift for the camper in your life? How about Camp for Christmas? Check out the many options for summer campers at Templed Hills in 2019 and choose the event or events that are just the right gift for your campers!"

[View Summer Camp schedule here](#)

[Register here](#)



SAVE THE DATE
June 21 - June 25 2019

<http://synod2019.org/>
[Register Now!](#)

When the 16 members of the General Synod Nominating Committee begin reviewing a field of candidates to join the United Church of Christ Board of Directors in January 2019, they hope to select people with great minds and skills, and a passion to serve, no matter their age and experience level.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

The Faith Formation Task Force of the Ohio Conference UCC, Presents

Learn It, Live It, Share It
February 27 & 28 2019, Columbus Ohio
Come Experience Lillian Daniel

[DETAILS HERE](#)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

Calendar of Events
What's Happening Now and in 2019

[See News and Events HERE](#)

[A letter to the UCC Family of Faith: We can't let evil prevail](#)

Clergy Compensation Guidelines 2019 **Ohio Conference UCC**

The clergy compensation guidelines for 2019 are in. They were approved at the conference meeting in September. We include them here for your budgeting process for

next year.

[Download Guidelines HERE](#)

Churches Currently in Transition....

- **Heidelberg UCC, Stoutsville** is in the process of searching for a new minister.
- **David's UCC, Canal Winchester** is in process of beginning their search for a new minister
- **Grace UCC, Lancaster** is in the process of beginning their search for a new minister.

"The Time is Ripe" a devotion by, Vince Amlin



December 14, 2018

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that Messiah is near, at the very gates." - Mark 13:28-29

As I write this (months before you will read it), it's hard to conjure up the sights and sounds of December. It's much easier to connect to these words from Mark.

There are nectarines softening in a brown paper bag on my kitchen window sill. The gardens in the church courtyard are just coming into fruit. Ripeness is the order of the day.

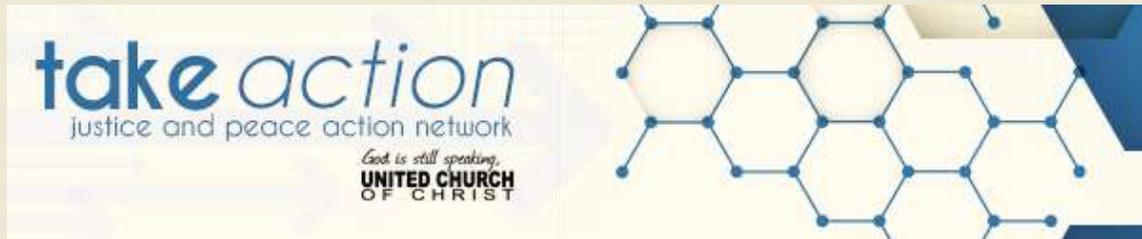
And it's exacting work. To recognize the rich shade of yellow that says a cherry tomato should be popped directly into one's mouth and to do it before the squirrels determine the same. To claim a zucchini when it is long enough to be worth the effort but hasn't yet bloated up into the shape of an overfilled water balloon. To try to forget about those incredible nectarines just sitting on the window sill ... but not for too long.

Ripeness requires vigilance. And recognizing the presence of Emmanuel – of God-with-us – is not different. God's realm is ripening, in some places already good enough to eat, in others barely a bud.

Advent is our certification course as Master Gardeners. It teaches us to heed the signs of the Spirit's presence, the spots where God is oh-so-close. To know when to water, when to prune, and when the moment is right to pluck the fruit and offer it to a neighbor who has never tasted such sweetness.

Prayer

Even in the depths of December, earth is ripening with your sweetness. Show me.



[Click Here to view December/January Newsletter](#)

From Climate Reports to Moral Imperatives

Join us for Environmental Justice webinar on January 9, 2019.

Rev. Jim Antal, Katherine Hayhoe and Naomi Oreskes will be featured.

[Details and register here](#)



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...

[December](#) - Getting to Know Our Neighbors

[January](#) - Defining Church Vitality: Let Me Count The Ways

[February](#) - What Is Contemporary



[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](#)

Worship?

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

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

[NEW UCC Ministerial Code](#)

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ABOUT THE NEW LOGO

All UCC LOGOs are Available Here

