Central Southeast Ohio Association, Ohio Conference
November 28, 2018

The Association Office is open Tuesday from 10:00a - 1:00p or by appointment. 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 debras@ocucc.org by Friday at 4:30p. Submit photos in jpeg, png format please.

Quick Links

CSE Authorized Clergy and MID Directory
CSE Pulpit Supply List
CSE Church Directory

2018 Calendar of Events

CSEOA Council Meeting
Saturday, January 12, 2019
9:30a-12:30p

DCAM Meeting
Saturday, January 12, 2019
1p

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
CSE Departments, Council and Committees

2018 Calendar of Prayer

MESA COM & MOM Information and Manuals

MOM/COM Zoom Training Registration

2018 Online Training for COM

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

December 2, 2018
Trinity UCC, Thornville

December 9, 2018
CSEOA Personnel Committee

December 16, 2018
Westerville Community UCC, Westerville

December 23, 2018
Zion UCC, Delaware

December 30, 2018
Zion Reformed UCC, Thornville

You're Invited to..
Nicole Pickens
Ordination to Ministry

2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018
at Radnor Congregational Church
4407 State Route 203
Radnor, OH 43066

Clergy are welcomed to robe and process; please arrive by 1:30 p.m. for preparatory instructions and prayer. All are invited to wear red to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit.

Please RSVP by Dec. 2 by email, nicolepickens1@gmail.com or call (419) 677-8999.

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
Creating a Soulful Life
Presented by:
The Burkhart Center
The C.G. Jung Association of Central Ohio
The Older Adult Ministry of First Community Church

First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Blvd., Columbus OH 43212
Mr Moore will be our Key Note Speaker on Friday, November 30th and a Workshop will be available on Saturday December 1st

His Friday evening keynote address, 7 – 8:30 pm in the Grandview/Marble Cliff church’s sanctuary is entitled “Creating a Soulful Life,” based on his life’s work of reintroducing the meaning of “soul” as a path toward living a more human life in the world. Moore will also present an interactive workshop on Saturday, December 1, from 9 am – 1 pm, on "Ageless Soul: The Lifelong Journey Toward Meaning & Joy,” the title of his most recent book.

Read More
Register HERE

Job Posting For Position of Registrar for Central Southeast Ohio Association

Pastors and Colleagues,
Attached is the job description for Registrar of the Association. The Personnel Committee asks your help in making this position known to your congregations. We trust there is someone in our CSEOA midst that would find it a good opportunity for them.
Thanks and Blessings,

Jill Dunlap
Personnel Chair
Resumes and inquiries may be directed to:

Jill Dunlap
740-862-4222
jdunlap@rrohio.com

View Job Description HERE

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

Oberammergau - Passion Play and Holy Lands
- June, 2020 - Can you join us?
There are still 10 seats open.

Dear Friends,

There is still time to join us

The Passion Play is performed in a small village in Germany once every ten years. It is an all-day event. We would take 9 days to see the Holy Lands (the early itinerary in attached above). On Day 10 we would fly to Munich and see the city and Dachau Concentration Camp. Day 11 would be the Passion Play with Day 12 being a trip to Ettal Abbey Linderhof Castle. We return to the USA on Day 13.

Are you interested in going? Please email me back – tahrens@first-church.org, or call with questions, 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

I hope we can travel together.

Love and blessings,
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 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,

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
UCC The Christmas Fund 2018
(Veterans of the Cross)

For over a century, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God’s love and light in the world. Year after year, United Church of Christ (UCC) members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.
General Synod Nominating Committee calling for candidates for UCCB and Synod Moderators; deadline - November 9, 2018

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
Conference Minister
Rev. David Long-Higgins
Words of Reflection

A Compelling Question...

....When we are saddened and maddened, what is the call for gladdening the heart, not only personally, but vitally in the wider communities of which we are a part? Toward what vision is God through Christ Jesus calling us in this season of the life of the world, local and global? I believe that much of how we live is shaped by the definitions we carry either consciously or unconsciously. I have been contemplating much about what we mean as followers of Jesus Christ when we use the word justice. I would like to suggest my working (as in unfinished and always in refinement) definition to encourage you in your thinking about this dimension of the Christian life.

Here goes: Justice is the work toward an arrangement of life where all God's children can live into their full human humanity and empowered by God's agape love may freely use their gifts without fear for the upbuilding of the common good and the good of the whole creation, so that all may flourish, sharing in God's abundance and joy!

What would it look like in our personal, local, association, conference, national and global settings of the church if we were to engage the world with this kind of heart and mind? An equally important question, it seems to me, is this one: "What kind of encouragement is needed to foster this kind of loving motion in ourselves, in our local congregation and other settings of ministry and in the life of the world?"

It seems to me this is where God's gift of covenant relationships in our various settings is and can be even more vitally important, especially in a cultural season of polarization and parochialism. In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to forming with you a new clarity of response to these questions (and many more, I am sure). I am especially interested in knowing from you what your compelling questions, hopes, and dreams are for the way in which you sense God leading you to be agents of Christ's love in the world.

READ MORE HERE
Camp Templed Hills
NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR 2019
Brochure HERE

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

United Nations International Affairs Seminar
For Christian Youth
February 22 - March 2, 2019
The United Nations International Affairs Seminar for Youth challenges youth to learn about international affairs and U.S. foreign policy through study, discussion and presentations in the United Nations Center in New York City and Washington, D.C. It seeks to encourage faith-based critical thinking and reflection through prayer, worship, discussion and community building. Application Deadline is December 12th.

**Churches Currently in Transition....**

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

"**Leaning Into the Dance**

a devotion by, Kaji Dousa

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."
- Luke 18: 9, 14b

Wikipedia claims that the UCC is "liberal-leaning."

I wonder what this means.

Some would say that it implies a certain party affiliation on the blue/red divide.

But I wonder if the Wikipedia contributor has visited many of the UCC churches I've served, where the community learns how to dance carefully around divisive political terminology so that certain things just aren't mentioned. I wonder if they've seen just how practiced, how cautious so many of our communities are in ensuring not to alienate one another because we know that there are people in the room who disagree with us politically.

Is this what it means to "lean" liberal?

How is it "liberal" to affirm that trans people exist and are beloved of God?

Why is it "liberal" to celebrate love that builds up and does no harm, in its many forms?

I'm not sure what, exactly, constitutes a "liberal" church.
But I do have an idea of what it means to follow Jesus and to embrace each other as created in the image of God. We cannot "trust in" identities that separate us from our call to love in the name of Jesus. But loving means noticing and setting aside the things that harm.

In following Jesus, I believe that we are called to lean, yes. But to lean into the tough places, to notice our collective shortcomings so that we can, for the love of God, do better.

We live in a world that requires transformation. That transformation will come not dancing around, but rather, dancing with—when we can. Even with the ones with two left—or right—feet, I guess.

**Prayer**

Bless our faith, for you are the Lord of the Dance. Amen.
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

Reverend Patricia E. H. Battle,
Association Pastor
Office Hours by Appointment
Email: patriciab@ocucc.org
Call or Text: 614-531-8240

Reverend Melodie Rezac,
Designated Administrative Minister
Office Hours by Appointment
Email: melodier@ocucc.org
Call or Text: 740-503-4803

Joan Davidson,
Association Registrar
Email: joand@ocucc.org
Cell: 419-934-3713

ABOUT THE NEW LOGO
All UCC LOGOs are Available Here