Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to Serve God by Sharing Compassion, Hope and Love

E-Mail: secretary@cumcalliance.org  Web Page: www.cumcalliance.org

Happy Mother’s Day
Is COVID Over?

Our Easter Sunday worship service had a better attendance than in 2019. This year’s official count was one hundred and three years ago it was ninety-three and attendance at our Easter Vigil service was three more than the last time that we were able to have one. Does that mean that our worries about Covid -19 are over, and our church is “back to normal”?

Well, no.

At the very least, it’s too soon to tell.

Yes, we do seem to be past the worst of it. And yes, many of our members and friends do seem to be finding their way back to in-person worship. But I’m not ready to say that we’re completely out of the woods and our concerns about Covid-19 are behind us.

While the war in Ukraine has pushed Covid out of the daily headlines, the pandemic, and the virus that caused it, is still causing trouble around the world. Most recently, China has been dealing with multiple outbreaks in several places, locking down entire cities, shutting down businesses, closing ports, and creating more disruption to the supply chain which, in turn, causes problems for people, and businesses, around the world. And China isn’t the only country that has had problems. Several European countries have had surges in their case counts, health officials in the United States have seen spikes in several areas and are still warning that we might see additional problems in some places. So, it may be too soon to throw away our supply of masks, although we can all hope that we won’t need them.

The good, even extraordinary, news is that things are getting back to some sort of normal. Many, though not all, of our members and friends are returning, in-person, on Sunday mornings. And, more importantly, although attendance hasn’t quite returned to where it was, it is getting better. Moreover, using Easter attendance as a benchmark suggests that we’re doing pretty well. Some churches have suffered significant declines during the pandemic that look as if they may be permanent, but indications are that we seem to have weathered the storm... so far.

At this point, we have returned to doing most of the things that we were doing before. Our committees are all meeting, we’re holding most of our activities, and we’re almost back to “normal.” And the good news is that the necessities of the pandemic taught us some things, such as Zoom, that we continue to use to allow increased participation and save some of us from extra trips into Alliance. But we aren’t yet where we want to be.

“Almost” isn’t good enough.

While our Easter attendance is certainly encouraging, and our weekly attendance is getting better, we aren’t yet back to where we were. And, honestly, where we were still isn’t where we want to be. Some of our members still don’t feel safe going out in public, and that’s okay. After worrying for more than two weeks while Patti was in the hospital last fall, I completely understand why being in a large group, like in church, might concern some folks. And, knowing that the virus is still spiking in some places suggests that it could happen here, again, too.

So, what should we do?
First, have hope. With the arrival of effective vaccines, things are much better, and, over the course of the last two years, our doctors and hospitals have become much better at treating this illness, survival and recovery rates have increased, and promising new Covid-specific antiviral medicines seem close to approval.

Second, stay safe. We understand that all of us are different. Each person, and each situation, is different. So, do what you need to do to stay safe, and to feel safe. We will continue to offer online options for those of you who are unable to get here in person and we will welcome you back when you are ready.

Third, don’t stop being who you are. Christ Church is an amazing and awesome place that is filled with amazing and awesome people. We are known in our community for our outreach and love for our neighbors and that is an incredible reputation so don’t stop doing the things that we’ve always done.

And fourth, don’t stop inviting people to Christ Church. What we have here is great, but people won’t, and can’t, know how wonderful it is unless someone like you points it out to them. Every time it comes up in conversation, and sometime when it doesn’t, invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, hairdressers, barbers, classmates, and anyone else you encounter to visit us. Carry invitation cards with you in your wallets and purses. Don’t keep our church a secret. Go out of your way to sing the praises of Christ Church everywhere you go. And, since we now have such a strong online presence, and our livestream compares very favorably to other churches, inviting those people to check us out online is a good option.

Because our goal isn’t to get back to “normal.”

Our goal is not to survive.

Our goal is to be better than ever.

And to grow the Kingdom of God.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Threads Reaches Out

Most of our congregation knows about the Threads of Love ministry in our church. A dedicated group of women make shawls as they pray for whoever may receive them.

We noticed that frequently there are names on the prayer list that are not necessarily members of the church. If you have a friend or family member who needs a prayer shawl for comfort and would like to deliver it yourself, please speak to one of the people below. The group only asks that the name of the person delivering it and the one receiving it be written down and given to the person who assists you for our records. Dee Lapp, Dolores Lawrence and Cindi Martin.

CHIMES DEADLINE: The deadline for the June 2022 issue of The Chimes is Tuesday, May 24th. Articles may be placed in the Secretary’s slot outside the church office or emailed to secretary@cumcalliance.org
May 3 – 7pm Unit Meeting is in the Dussel Room and via Zoom
Program: “Radical Hospitality” / Presenter: Carolyn Wallace

Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. And if you’d like to “Zoom in”, contact Nancy Prueter at prueter@sbcglobal.net for an invitation.

The Spring Basement Sale will be held on May 13+14.
Setup is Thursday, May 12.
Won’t you volunteer to help with this worthwhile project?
**A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available in the lounge**
The deadline to bring your donated items will be Wednesday, May 11.
We have plenty of storage space so feel free to bring your donations early. As always, we ask for items that are clean and in good repair.

June 7 – 6:30pm Unit Meeting is in the Dussel Room and via Zoom
Picnic Supper-- 6:30am to 7:15pm
Program – 7:15pm – Zoom begins
**Join us for a prepared supper and fellowship**

Program: “UMW Booklist Reviews” / Presenter: Pat Stone

Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. And if you’d like to “Zoom in”, contact Nancy Prueter at prueter@sbcglobal.net for an invitation.

Coming up:
The **UWF Assembly** will be held May 20 – 22 at the Orlando convention center or via Zoom.
“For such a time as this we will TURN IT UP!”
For more information go to www.assembly2022.org

**There will be no Unit Meeting in July or August**
We’ll see you in September – renewed and refreshed!

**Mission U Zoom** Meetings – July 9+10 / July 16+17
**Mission U In-Person** Retreat at Univ of Mt Union – July 11+23
Contact Jill Greiner for registration form.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 29 – 7pm in Dussel Room.
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Jean Webster and Carolyn Miller
For receiving Special Mission Recognition for your contributions to community outreach ministries.

Victor Lee
For receiving a Gift in Mission for your leadership of the Thanksgiving Dinner project.

You have led us in sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors.
WE ARE BETTER BECAUSE OF YOU!

The Tuscarawas District UWF Spring Meeting was held on April 30
At this meeting we were recognized for:

We gave Gifts in Memory and Role of Remembrance for Virginia Robart and Betty Coleman.
We gave Special Mission Recognitions to Jean Webster and Carolyn Miller.
We gave a Gift in Mission to Victor Lee.
We reached goals set by East Ohio Conference UMW to become a Mission Today Unit for 2021.
We reached goals to become a 5-Star Unit in 2021. This means we contributed in all five areas of general mission giving – our Pledge, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering, Special Mission Recognition and Gift to Mission.
We reached goals to become a Rainbow Unit in 2021. This means our unit increased and met our 2021 Pledge to Mission or increased the sum of giving in the five channels of general mission giving.

THANK YOU to all who faithfully gave of your time, talent and money during 2021.
Look what we have achieved TOGETHER.

UWF Basement Sale
Friday, May 13th, 2022
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 14th, 2022
9:00 A.M.-12:00 noon
$3.00 a bag for most items on Saturday
FREE TABLE BOTH FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Please allow me to offer a gargantuan thank you to everyone at CUMC who has supported my mission trip to Puerto Rico with financial gifts and/or the gift of intercessory prayer! The outpouring of support and energy provided toward this cause has truly been a witness to the heart of this congregation. I am so very blessed to be part of this body of Christ! I can’t wait to come back with a full report on the ministry we were able to do there! And I’m going to try to make some connections to keep apprised of some of their needs going forward.

Please accept my most sincere thanks,

Shannon Sampson

PS: Shannon leaves Saturday (4/30) for Puerto Rico.

Rhiannon Sampson, daughter of Rhys & Shannon Sampson, will be graduating from Southeast High School in Portage County in June. She plans to major in communications at Cleveland State University. CONGRATULATIONS RHIANNON!

There were about 100 items donated by our church in April for the Alliance Community Pantry. Our thanks to all!
PARTICIPANTS FOR MAY
WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MAY

USHERS -
Dick Diser, Captain
Denise Aeling
Dan Feess

Todd Skivolocki
Bob Travis

LITURGISTS
1 Patti Travis
8 Pat Helsel
15 Bill Sol
22 Susan Haddox
29 Victor Lee

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS
1 Kathy Stroia
8 Shannon Sampson
15 Nancy Castellucci
22 Karen Locke
29 Nancy Prueter

SANCTUARY GREETERS
1 Ellen Sol
8 Bill Sol
15 Patti Travis
22 Ellen Sol
29 Bill Sol

TELLERS
1 Bill Prueter/Dick Diser
8 Pat Helsel/Marilyn Ruff
15 Mark Locke/Bruce Helsel
22 Donna Essick/Jill Greiner
29 Jim Greiner/Nancy Prueter

VISITATION MEMBERS**
1 Ruth Partridge, Sebring
8 Mary Aufrance, Alliance
15 Craig Post, North Canton
22 Mary Louise Ford, Sebring
29 Billie Pat Reynolds, Alliance
** If you would like their complete address, please contact the Church Office

MAY BIRTHDAYS
2 Sheryl Lain 14 Ben Bolog
2 Sheryl Dean 18 Paul Helsel
5 Ben Castellucci 18 Philip Helsel
5 Craig Starkey 18 W. Keith Reed
8 Victor Lee 20 Becky Gard
10 Todd Skivolocki 22 Kayla Heskett
11 Paul Black 22 Aerien Starkey
24 Phyllis Messenheimer

MAY ANNIVERSARIES
William and Nancy Prueter
May 1, 1976
Tyler and Jenni-Jo Kinser
May 17, 1997
Eric and Chrissy Shields
May 18, 1996
Charlie Manypenny and
Cynthia Carlin
May 27, 1993
Patrick and Lori Heddleston
May 30, 1987
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<td>1 3rd Sunday of Easter Native American Ministries Sunday</td>
<td>2 7:00p Scouts</td>
<td>3 5:30p Comm. Dinner 7:00p UWF Unit Meeting</td>
<td>4 3:30pm Staff Meeting 6p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7p Chancel Vocal</td>
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<td>8 4th Sunday of Easter *Communion Sunday</td>
<td>9 7:00p Scouts 7:00p Christian Outreach</td>
<td>10 5:30p Comm. Dinner 6:30p Finance 7:00p Admin. Council</td>
<td>11 6p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7p Chancel Vocal</td>
<td>12 9a Basement Sale Setup 11a Prayer Shawl</td>
<td>13 9a-4p Basement Sale</td>
<td>14 9a-12p Basement Sale</td>
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<td>15 5th Sunday of Easter</td>
<td>16 11:30a Dorcas Circle 7:00p Scouts 7:00p M&amp;M Circle</td>
<td>17 5:30p Comm. Dinner 7p Susie Buckel Circle</td>
<td>18 7:00p Chancel Vocal</td>
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<td>22 6th Sunday of Easter Heritage Sunday</td>
<td>23 7:00p Scouts</td>
<td>24 5:30p Comm. Dinner 6:30p Trustees 7p Worship Comm.</td>
<td>25 7:00p Chancel Vocal</td>
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<td>29 7th Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday</td>
<td>30 Memorial Day</td>
<td>31 5:30p Comm. Dinner Hosted by CUMC</td>
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