**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**September 25, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rachel Zielinski at 7:09 p.m. Pastor Heidi led the group in prayer. Present were:

Adria Bond

Judy Carte

Kristen Clotworthy

Tom Gaumer

Jim Heinrich

Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Pastor Heidi

Lola Millhoane

Karen Morgan

Rachel Zielinski

**Minutes of the 8/28/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Sharon Heinrich, seconded by Kristen Clotworthy. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 9/25/2018**: Balance of $3,983.45. Income: $.61 in interest; $1,561.61 from the Garage Sale. Disbursements: $50 for E. Taylor’s farewell, $161.04 to K. Paul for outdoor plants; $150 to the Salvation Army for Strongsville Ministerial Alliance project. Irene Joyce moved to accept the report, seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** The club’s upcoming activities include the Ohio Mart & Stan Hywet on October 7 at 10 a.m., and the Country Christmas show at Carrie Cerino’s in November. The Downtown Holiday Lights tour is cancelled. Everyone had fun at the Platters Show and at the Jilbert Winery in September.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer will be working with the ORC to publicize the Organ Festival in the *Strongsville Post* and the UCC newsletter. Irene Joyce will also make flyers to distribute.

**Diaconate:** Kristen Clotworthy reported the Diaconate will provide a cake for new members on October 7th, for the Organ Festival on October 14th, and October 21st for the Church Anniversary. Volunteers are really needed for serving Communion, ushering, and coffee hour. The sanctuary and Gathering Area have been decorated for fall. Two infant baptisms and an adult baptism are planned. Sunday School students will be enlisted to clean up after Communion is served. They are making plans for the Open House.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig sent a report that the Turkey Dinner will be on Saturday, November 3rd with prep on Friday, November 2nd. We will have 2 seatings: 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sharon Heinrich moved for prices to be $12, with $6 for kids 6-10, and under 6 free. Lola Millhoane seconded and the motion carried. The outdoor sign will advertise the Turkey Dinner starting October 15, after the Organ Festival is over. Sharon and Jim Heinrich and Irene Joyce will take care of the sign. Betty will have the dinner helper sign-up sheet up by the 13th and Rachel Zielinski will help Bill Schneider round up volunteers. The Free Lunch for All is still doing well.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Fit Club had a large group of exercisers, including first timer Rick Teagno and some mothers and daughters. Fit Club will not meet on October 10th or 31st. You do not have to be fit to be a part of Fit Club.

**Financial Secretary/Church Treasurer**: Adria Bond distributed the financial reports. Quarterly payments will be due in October and we will temporarily draw from savings to meet expenses, and then pay ourselves back.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they are doing a Veteran’s project collecting items and donations in October with a goal of 100 bags. Each bag costs about $9.50 and contains toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shaving cream, razor, shampoo/body wash, 2 prs. of white socks, and a bath sponge in a drawstring bag. Dedication would be on October 28th. Neighbors in Need collection is also in October and Lora Rung will speak about it.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report that the Chancel Choir has added two new singers: Chuck McDougall and Sharon Maresco.  All the music has been really well received with Director of Music, Tom Foley and Associate Director, Mike Elkins. The Bell choir has started practicing and has welcomed back Karen Morgan from her hiatus and has added a new ringer, Mary Densmore. Bells may be able to play all three octaves if we add only two more ringers. Children's Choir practices have also commenced and will be practicing upstairs. To that end, the upstairs piano will need to be tuned. The tuning will be scheduled. We have quite a variety of ages enjoying the choir. The Band continues to practice and participate weekly. The organ festival is scheduled for October 14th at 3pm.  We are looking for donations of treats for the reception. The Diaconate will provide cake.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich reported that Leek Organ Company will finish its work on September 27th and he, Sharon Heinrich, and Pastor Heidi will be meeting with James Leek. The Organ Festival and rededication is planned for October 14th at 3 p.m. A new treasurer for this committee will be needed because Sarah Keenen is stepping down.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that stewardship letters and estimate of giving cards will be in the Gathering Area for pickup on Sunday, October 7.  Letters left will be mailed on October 8th.  The campaign will begin on October 21st and conclude November 11th.  Each Sunday after the announcements, a Stewardship Moment will involve showing a video; and the choir and congregation will respond with a song composed by Tom Foley, with lyrics by Irene Joyce.

**Sunday School:** Kristen Clotworthy reported that Rally Day went well and all the curriculum has been passed out to the teachers. Thanks to Chuck and Heidi for picking it up. The Sunday School recognized Irene Joyce for her fabulous service as Sunday School Superintendent. Penny Sunday for September goes to help those folks who have been directly affected by Hurricane Florence. The kids will have their Pumpkin Party Oct 28th. The Bake Sale made $432. Kristen will remind teachers and students about Sunday School offering envelopes. Suzi Foley has expressed an interest in working with youth. The post confirmation class will be writing letters to Caroline, our “adopted” child in India.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane reported that the Thrift Shop floor has been painted and is slated to reopen on October 4th. They plan to be open on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for the Free Lunch for All patrons. Thank you to everyone who carried stuff before and after the painting.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson sent a report that Gathering area vestibule and doors are painted. Sanctuary entrance doors to be replaced with similar doors. Other various projects continue such as Pilgrim Hall step and railing, restroom repairs, sidewalk repairs, underground gutter drains. A request to rent 60 chairs and 8 tables for Saturday, October 13 for an outdoor event  was made by Gwen, who cleaned our Royalton Rd. Rental house. Renting our equipment is not feasible on this date because it was determined to be a conflict with the Organ Festival. Royalton Road tenants asking to sell a camper for a friend. Would be a 30 day maximum agreement. A $50 donation would be given to our church. Agreement has not been finalized. Waiting for details regarding camper.

**Women's Fellowship:** Rosemary Bechtel sent a report that the ladies are on hiatus until Wednesday, October 3rd at 10 a.m., when they will resume their regular meeting schedule.

**Minister’s Report:** Pastor Heidi reported that she will be going before the UCC Credentialing Working Committee with Kenn Oerkfitz on October 11th Pastor Heidi had 19 people interested in membership on September 23rd and we will take in new members on October 7th. A grant request has been submitted to the Berea Elks Lodge for the Free Lunch for All program.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rachel Zielinski and Sharon Heinrich are making progress on the pictorial kitchen guide and cupboard labeling.

The Garage Sale made $1,561.61, with $61 and $75 more yet to be added. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, especially to Linda Ponstingle for taking the baby items and to Sarah Hayes for selling larger pieces online. The Salvation Army took three tries to pick up all of the leftover merchandise.

The donation to the Salvation Army via the Strongsville Ministerial Alliance has been sent.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Open House & Live Nativity is November 18th. Irene Joyce moved to contribute $100 towards calendars with the church’s name on them to be given out at the Open House. Kristen Clotworthy seconded and the motion was approved. Rachel Zielinski will ask Linda Plain to take charge of collecting donations for the Live Nativity Animals. The Diaconate will handle the ribbons for the remembrance tree. A sign-up sheet for volunteers and bakery donations will be posted in October.

Thanksgiving Basket collection will start October 14th and continue through the first 3 weeks of November. On Monday, November 19th, the baskets will be compiled. Please let the church office know if you are aware of someone in need of a basket.

Nominating Committee: Bill Schneider (as vice-moderator), Rachel Zielinski, Pastor Heidi, Sharon Heinrich, and Kristen Clotworthy will serve.

Irene Joyce moved to send $594.65 as a deposit for Winter Retreat. Tom Gaumer seconded and the motion passed. Rachel will contact Ted Bickley to get this sent as soon as possible.

Please place all garbage, especially food-rests and discarded bread in closed plastic bags, not boxes.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment via phone at 8:19 p.m., seconded by Sharon Heinrich. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, October 23 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary