**Official Board Minutes**

United Church of Christ (Congregational)

**March 27, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Moderator Bill Schneider at 6:34 p.m. Rev. Heidi Denman-McDougall led the group in prayer. Present were:

Jennifer Barry

Ted Bickley

Adria Bond

Judy Carte

Betty Craig

Greg Dickson

Tom Gaumer

Jim Heinrich Sharon Heinrich

Irene Joyce

Lori Kovatich

Rev. Heidi

Linda Plain

Bill Schneider

**Minutes of the 2/27/18 meeting were** approved in a motion by Betty Craig, seconded by Sharon Heinrich, with the following correction: Betty Craig moved to appoint Kenn Oerkfitz to the board of Trustees, seconded by Sally Herzog. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report as of 3/27/2018**: Balance: $6,008.82. Income: $ .33 in interest; $1,662.00 from the Pork Dinner ticket sales; $159.50 from food sales, $8.00 from a redeposited item. Disbursements: $133.67 for the Free Lunch Program from the Swiss Steak profits; $784.52 for Pork Dinner expenses; $8.00 for redeposited item fee. Irene Joyce moved to approve the report, seconded by Betty Craig. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Adult Social Club:** Linda Plain presented a list of activities for the year including Brunch at Perk Up in April, Hard Rock Casino in May, Cleveland Aquarium in June, Picnic in July, Botanical Gardens in August, Dinner & show at Carrie Cerrinos and Jilbert Winery & Brewery in September, Ohio Mart & Stan Hywet in October, Country Christmas show in November, and Downtown Holiday Lights tour in December. Contact Linda for reservations.

**Advertising/Technology Committee**: Tom Gaumer reported that the ad for Holy Week services was in the *Strongsville Post*. Website, Facebook, and tv screens are being kept up to date.

**Sunday School:** Irene Joyce reported that March’s Penny Sunday collection brought in $116.45 for St. Malachi’s Metanoia Project, which helps the homeless. The Sunday School kids voted on the Strongsville Food Bank for April. *Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock* was a hit on Palm Sunday and an Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Easter Sunday. Thanks to Sue & Gina Gigliotti for donating and filling the eggs and to Jamie Trinckes for overseeing the activity. Confirmation is scheduled for May 20th, Pentecost. Sunday School sponsored Caroline in India for March.

**Dinners/Free Lunch:** Betty Craig reported that Dinners are on hiatus until November. The Roast Pork Dinner made $1,036.98. The Free Lunch Program had to be cancelled due to a snow day on March 21st. New roasters are too small to be used at the Turkey Dinner.

**Diaconate:** Jennifer Barry reported that Wing Night is May 4th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Grindstone Tap House in Berea. Tickets are $25 and are on sale now; raffle baskets will be needed. Preparations for Holy Week are underway. They will meet after Easter to deal with the Christmas decorations upstairs. They will be providing kitchen help for the Ashforth baby shower on April 22nd, and are planning a surprise send-off on April 29th. Looking toward Confirmation in May and Graduate Recognition Sunday in June.

**Fit Club:** Irene Joyce reported that Fit Club will be off for Holy Week and the week after Easter. As always, all are welcome!

**Church Treasurer/Financial Secretary**: Lori Kovatich and Adria Bond reported that offerings are down about $2,000 from last year this time, and expenses are over $4,000 higher this year from last year. The church needs solutions for this shortfall. The Stewardship Committee will meet with church leaders to prepare a Stewardship Moment in church to make the congregation aware of this situation, to explain how each church organization ties into the bigger church’s budget, to remind the congregation to keep their pledges are up to date, to give more if possible, and to remember that stewardship is an ongoing task all year long. In addition, as mentioned at our 2018 Annual Meeting, Official Board will work on increasing membership.

**Mission Outreach:** Judy Carte reported that they continue to transport donations to the Strongsville Food Bank. The April Penny Sunday collection will go to Strongsville Food Bank. The committee has no fundraisers planned and will not to the CROP Walk this year.

**Music Committee:** Ingrid Dickson sent a report: Our prayers and deep love go out to our Karen Morgan. Our March 3rd Concert raised $866 which was donated to the Organ Restoration Fund. Our next concert in the series will be Sunday, May 6th at 3pm. Many thanks to all who support these concerts. Bell Choir got some new music, gifted by Linda Ponstingle and are looking forward to playing it.  We are still in need of ringers, especially with Karen out for the season.

Holy Week music is set. Mike Elkins will provide music on April 8th while Elena is away.

**Organ Restoration Committee:** Jim Heinrich sent a report that some donations have come in to complete the final phase of the project, but a little more is needed. A Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for April 15th. Tickets are $8 for adults, $5 for kids.

**Search Committee:** Sally Herzog sent a report that they continue with due diligence. Receiving more profiles is on hold.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sharon Heinrich reported that the committee is exploring themes for next year’s campaign. Barbara Bridle will be departing from the committee in May when she and Lloyd move to California. They will be missed.

**Thrift Shop:** Lola Millhoane sent a report that the final bag sale is March 29th. They are looking into ways of hanging artwork for sale that would be better for display. The Thrift Shop will be closed on April 5th &12th for spring/summer changeover.

**Trustees:** Greg Dickson and Jim Heinrich reported that Dedication of Windows April 8. Last six windows to be installed after Easter on April 2nd. Painting and carpeting will commence after completion of window installation. Kenn Oerkfitz appointed to Trustees, replacing Lloyd Bridle. Pomeroy House behind three months in rent for parking lot. In process of updating invoicing. New church copier lease signed and is now in use. Parking Lot sealing will continue when weather gets warmer. Upstairs Christmas decorations need organizing. Thrift Shop art display methods being discussed. Job description and review needed for Nursery attendant. Church gutter downspouts being checked for underground leaks (clay drains). Prayers to Clerk Karen Morgan as she undergoes an operation on March 30th.

**Women's Fellowship:** Claire Wills and Rosemary Bechtel sent a report that they will meet on Wednesday, April 4th, then enjoy the Free Lunch Program. They will read and discuss Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu. They will also have a Tea Party on May 2nd to celebrate May and spring. Rosemary Bechtel is the new Women’s Fellowship chairman. Betty Craig reported that after Easter, Women’s Fellowship will begin collecting for tote bags. Betty would also like our church to continue the $5 Christmas gifts for Strongsville Food Bank recipients. (We did this project last year as a 200th Anniversary Outreach.)

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Heidi reported that the Lenten Study on *The Shack* has concluded. About 20-25 people attended the study each Sunday. From now until May 20, Pastor Heidi will meet with the Confirmation Class after worship. Pastor Heidi and Chuck are happy to be at Strongsville UCC. She updated us on A.J. from the window company and his family.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The church calendar (in an improved format) was reviewed. The service time for Ash Wednesday 2019 is tentatively

7 p.m. Pastor Heidi would like to do the Interfaith Passover Seder again in 2019. The Garage Sale date of September 8th is not yet confirmed. The date of the Women’s Retreat in the fall is unknown as of this writing. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 2018 is at our church at 7 p.m. Veterans will be recognized on Sunday, November 11th —this date will be added to the calendar. Diaconate will inform us of their dates for fall and Christmas decorating.  Strongsville Methodist Confirmation Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall, May 6, 2018, 7:45-10 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Irene Joyce moved to appoint Jim Heinrich and Greg Dickson as interim Clerks while Karen Morgan is convalescing after her Good Friday surgery. Betty Craig seconded and the motion was approved.

Linda Plain mentioned having the Church Picnic on July 22nd at either Volunteer Park or #19 City Park. She is researching the sites and the Adult Social Club will coordinate.

Betty Craig motioned for adjournment at 7:57 p.m., seconded by Judy Carte. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Official Board will be **Tuesday, April 23, 2018, at the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m.**

Irene Joyce, Secretary and Sharon Heinrich