

# KENT



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

*An Open and Affirming, Accessible to All Congregation*

### A Message from Our Pastor, the Rev. Amy Gopp



Beloved of God,

Do you have “Pandemic Syndrome”? Yes, apparently this is a real thing. And therapists are no more equipped to cope with it than anyone else, as they too are experiencing it. Like Brené Brown recently said, “This is everyone’s first pandemic!” As your pastor, your spiritual health and wellbeing, and that of congregation collectively, is always my utmost concern—and especially so right now. I constantly pray for God’s guidance as I strive to channel the Divine Spirit’s care and sustenance for our church family, and I pray for all of you who do the same. I would ask that you pray for me, for each other, for our staff, and for our congregation as a whole. Pray for those on the margins of our community most at risk of this virus and the societal viruses of injustice and oppression they have fought for so long.

With COVID cases and deaths on the rise in Portage County and across our country and the world, I invite us all into a deeper prayer life. We are entering yet another dark, dreary and dismal period during the winter months. In addition to the public health crisis, we also have a mental health crisis. Our mental and emotional needs have increased dramatically during this time as we have had to physically distance ourselves from one another, creating an even more severe sense of isolation and loneliness. For those of you living alone, this season has been particularly challenging and will continue to be as the daylight lessens and the cold winter sets in. I remain deeply concerned about how to care most compassionately for those of us experiencing anxiety, depression and social isolation. Please know that **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**. While we cannot connect with one another in the ways we are so used to, we *can* connect in other ways—with creativity, intention, and discipline. If you’ve found a particularly helpful way to do so, please let us all know. We *can* connect in our so-called isolation, trusting that this Great Slowing Down has also offered us the gifts of quietude and stillness. As countercultural as this is, it is perhaps what we need most. But that doesn’t make it any easier.

In my conversations with you, I know that your deepest desire is to remain connected to your church family. We are all scratching our heads trying to figure out what else we may be able to

do to maintain our fellowship and care of one another and the wider community. Remember this: **It is not our work to do alone.** We are part of a collective, the body of Christ, the Church. And it is God who sustains us by the love and compassion of Jesus the Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. There is a light in the darkness that the darkness, no matter how dark or how long it lasts, can overcome. It is that Light we seek, that Light we see even if dimly at times, that Light which continues to shine even in our darkest days and will guide our next steps forward.

May we hold one another to that Divine Light—tenderly, lovingly and with great compassion as we adapt to an uncertain future with an unknown ending. As we prepare for an unusual but possibility-filled Advent and Christmas season, we will usher in that Light in new ways so that we may never forget that WE ARE NOT ALONE.

As I've expressed before, if your faith is faltering, that's OK. If you need to tap into mine, it's there for the sharing. I am here for you. We are here for one another. We are in this together, all of us invited to surrender to God and God's ability alone to hold, sustain, comfort and connect us.

With faith in the Light and all my love,  
*Pastor Amy*

### **Moderator's Message – Jaime Baughman**

Dear Friends,

Last March, after our wonderful Social Justice concert in the Sanctuary, Kim Redman and I were closing things up after our guests had gone. The problem was, we could not turn off the Sanctuary lights. The regular controls in the narthex did nothing. We called someone who was knowledgeable about the audio/visual desk, knowing that the lights can also be manipulated through those controls. No success. As it turned out, the only option was to flip the breaker.

We have a lighting issue.

Our lighting system is 26 years old, and parts of it have failed over the past 18 months. The Property Ministry has met with lighting consultants and has determined that we should replace the lights with LED lighting and more modern equipment. The fixtures themselves will also be replaced with a similar design. The ministry is currently receiving quotes and expects them to be in the range of \$46,000 for equipment and \$10-15,000 for installation.

If we are going to that expense and trouble, it makes sense to also consider something Pastor Amy and our Director of Music Corey Fowler have suggested for some time. We could possibly expand the project to include specialized lighting that would enhance our own services and performances and would, in turn, expand the use of our building to others as well.

What are the positives? First of all, the update to LED lighting would result in annual savings of over \$2,000. That adds up. The expanded project could possibly result in additional rental income for concerts and performances. Our Property Ministry is currently researching the details to see if the specialized lighting can be added at a reasonable cost.

The bottom line is we need a new lighting system. Once we have a firm quote and plans for financing, we will have a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the project. The preliminary thought is to secure a bank loan to finance the expense which would be covered by a capital campaign or series of fund raisers.

Given our current circumstances, the congregational meeting will be done via Zoom on December 6 at 11:30am, although if there are members who are unable to participate in that way, we will seek to provide alternative measures so everyone can be involved. Please give this your prayerful consideration. I'll be in touch when we are ready to have that meeting.

### **Introducing Our New Financial Administrator, Heather Cronin**



Heather is a Graduate of Cuyahoga Community College. She has her Associate of Applied Business in Accounting, and also received her Bookkeeping and Payroll Certifications. Her previous experience is in Customer Service, Office Management and Accounting. Heather grew up with a love for numbers and followed up with a career using numbers! She loves to use her knowledge and help others. Heather and her boyfriend currently live in Brady Lake with a combined total of 5 kids and their dog named Boujee. In her free time she enjoys spending time with family. On the weekends they are usually somewhere off-roading. Some of her interests include cars, food, animals, and the outdoors.

Heather joined us this past month and is working Tuesdays and Thursdays. She can be contacted at [hcronin@kentucc.org](mailto:hcronin@kentucc.org). Any phone call requests will go to her email as well. We look forward to working with her, and I'm sure you will too. Please welcome her to Kent UCC!

### **Stewardship News - Karen Carmany**

Our ministry has been very busy over the past few months preparing for our *Faithful, Hopeful, Loving* 2020 mission campaign. On October 23rd and 24, packets of information were delivered or mailed to members' homes.

Beginning Sunday, October 25 and the next three Sundays, you will hear more about how we as a congregation are responding to God's invitation to bring our best before God. We invite you to "tune in" to our Sunday worship services in November for Pastor Amy's message and to hear from our community partners and members about how Kent UCC is helping to change lives. We are transforming lives while we are being transformed by the love of God at the same time! We are discerning what it means to be *Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving*, thinking deeply about the invitations that God has placed before us to be generous with all our resources!

Our emphasis theme this year of *Faithful, Hopeful, Loving* encourages us to take time to be intentional about the decisions we make with our resources and gifts. God is working through us and the things we do to accomplish positive change in the world. Every time we give that gift becomes ministry and mission.

On **Sunday, November 22** we will commit our gifts to God's service.

**Thank You** for your part in the life-changing work of our Kent UCC Spiritual Community.

### The Blue Box!

Did you know we have a blue box outside our front office doors? It's large enough to accommodate a great many things. Currently, it's holding devotional materials. Would you like a copy? Stop by and pick one up! It also works the other way. Do you have Acme receipts? Drop them off in the blue box. If you have several receipts, try to paper clip them together or put them in an envelope, clearly marked as Acme receipts. Our Women's Fellowship collects and tallies the receipts for the community cash back rewards.

Finally, we've been talking about collecting items for our time capsule. Do you have things you would like to have included? A photo? A newspaper article? Drop them off to the blue box. Please include your name and contact information, in case we have any questions.

### Time Capsule Project Begins – Jaime Baughman, Bicentennial Chairperson



You are invited to participate in our time capsule project!

What speaks to you about this unique and challenging time in our history? Maybe it's a newspaper article or a photo... or even a mask. Please save the items for our Kent UCC time capsule. You can put them in the "Blue Box" mentioned in the previous article.

### Heartland Conference Annual Meeting – Highlights from Stephanie Phillips

It was my pleasure to attend and represent KUCC at the Heartland Conference Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 26. It would be difficult to address all that went on in the three-and-a-half hour conference, but I will attempt to hit the highlights. Please note, I have given the 75-page agenda and information packet to Pastor Amy. Vice Moderator Jeff Roeger also attended the Zoom meeting and had input for this message.



While I have attended a few of these annual meetings, this one was special because there was a memorial dedication for Dr. Rev. Ralph Quellhorst, father of our own Pam Quellhorst. The Zoom meeting had about 150 attendees. The entire meeting was filled with a sense of spiritual love, hope, faith, music, and prayer. Overall, it was uplifting and had a sense of positive optimism. Rev. David Long-Higgins gave a nice review of the topics for the day. Some may remember that Rev. Long-Higgins was a guest preacher a couple of years ago. It was really nice to see a familiar face from our Rev. Kim Nagy, Minister of Faith Formation. She gave an excellent message regarding children and youth during this difficult time in our nation.

Many of the churches shared many new ways of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and the many wonderful ways to continue to reach out to those in need. Some churches discussed how grants were being used during this time of uncertainty, including installing and

modifying building to be more accessible and expanding opportunities to feed the hungry and clothe those in need.

Among many of the topics discussed and mentioned were:

- Accounting Partnership with United Church Homes
- Moving to a “Virtual” Conference Office on December 1
- Anti-Racism Network
- Faith Formation Working Group
- Finance Committee
- Generosity Working Group
- Ongoing Work: Schools of Ministry, Boundary Training, Anti-racism Training, Periodic Support
- Disaster Response Working Group
- Council of Conference Ministers/National Setting
- Ecumenical Relationships
- Relationships with the Global Church
- Southern Asia Initiative
- A few concluding thoughts on: Worship and Preaching, Heartland Name Change, and a final Word of Thanks

We heard that Summer Camp 2.0 2020, a Virtual Camp, was an overwhelming success, with a total of 274 campers. We also had an update of the Temples Hills Camp, including “The Hills are Alive” Campaign, updates to the facility, financials on upcoming activities, and expenditures. This camp is a wonderful resource for our church community, just waiting for us to plan events there.

For further information about this gathering or other Conference happenings, check out the [Heartlanducc.org](http://Heartlanducc.org) website or Facebook page. The conference offers many great resources. Again, I am grateful to have been able to attend this annual meeting and represent Kent United Church of Christ at this event.

### **UCC Congregations for Mental Health Fall 2020 Webinar**

We, the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, invite you to [REGISTER](#) for our FIRST online WISE Conference, sponsored and hosted by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. The conference will be via ZOOM on **Friday, November 13, and Saturday, November 14**. It will include a panel discussion during Saturday's lunch hour that will address intersectionality - mental health with the queer community, mental health with disabilities, and mental health with People of Color. For more information and registration, [CLICK HERE](#). *\*ASL interpreters will be available upon request\**

## UPCOMING DATES (DETAILS WITHIN THIS MESSENGER)

**November 1:** All Saints Day

**November 4:** PFLAG Meeting (virtual)

**November 6:** “Sleep in Your Car” Fundraiser to benefit the Haven Shelter of Portage County

**November 7:** Living Water Association Annual Meeting and KUCC Fall Clean-Up morning

**November 8:** UYF Transgender Day of Remembrance (via Zoom)

**November 11:** All-church book discussion on *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

**November 12:** UCM “Dinnerless” Dinner Virtual Fundraiser

**November 13 & 14:** UCC Mental Health Webinar

**November 15:** Community Meal—please sign up to contribute food!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4AA5AA2DAAFF2-november1>

**November 21:** Church Book Group

**November 22:** Stewardship Dedication Sunday

**December 6:** Special Congregational Zoom meeting regarding the lighting in the Sanctuary

### Faith Formation News – Rev. Kim Nagy

At the time of my writing this article (mid-October), over 217,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States. At the time of my writing this article (mid-October), 31 transgender or non-binary people have been killed in the United States. This year marks the deadliest year for transgender people on record. Throughout much of 2020, we have been obsessed with numbers, particularly related to COVID-19. How many new numbers tested positive today? How many have been hospitalized? How many have died? Often, I have been overwhelmed as new hotspots pop up each season, threatening to surge the numbers even more. This is what happens during a global pandemic.

There is another epidemic threatening record numbers this year, too, and that is the murdering of our transgender siblings, 26 of whom were black or Hispanic.

On **Sunday, November 8 at 7 p.m.**, our United Youth Force youth group will memorialize each of our transgender siblings who have been killed this year with our first Transgender Day of Remembrance service on Zoom. We invite you to join us as we say their names, memorialize their lives, and call them beloved children of God in this moving service. A link to join the Zoom will be sent in the weekly update on Friday, November 6.

To learn more about the national Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20), education materials around transgender awareness, and ways to help, check out [glaad.org/tdor](http://glaad.org/tdor). Learn more about the United Church of Christ’s commitment to the transgender community at [ucc.org/transgender\\_day\\_of\\_remembrance](http://ucc.org/transgender_day_of_remembrance).

### Adult Education

We will engage in an all-church discussion of *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by Rev. Dr. James Cone on **Wednesday, November 11 at 7 p.m.** via Zoom. A link will be sent out to the church prior to the discussion. Please get your own copy of this book to be ready for the discussion.

### **Children's Education**

We continue to connect with our children through a weekly children's church video on our Video KUCC YouTube page and a weekly email sent to families with additional activities for the week. If you'd like to be added to these weekly emails, please reach out to Kim Nagy.

Our Sunday school teachers and Christian Education Committee members have been involved this fall in our videos! Eileen West shares a monthly Bible verse, Sue Hetrick shares a prayer, and Becky Dunlap has been creating postcards each month with the Bible verse on it for Kim to send to families. Rhuna Wall, our Children's Director of Worship and the Arts, has been including monthly songs and is beginning to think about what a virtual Christmas pageant might look like!

Kim has also created an interactive Google classroom for our Sunday school students. This interactive classroom can be accessed [HERE](#).

### **J-Walkers (Middle School Ministry)**

Our J-Walkers have met twice virtually this fall, once to think about some plans for the year and the second time to play a game and talk about mental health during Mental Health Month in October. On October 11, you may have recognized a few familiar faces during worship, as our J-Walkers led Access Sunday worship as the Access Team at Kent UCC.

We want to celebrate our own Natalie Roeger, who was named Student of the Month at Stanton Middle School this fall! All of our students continue to work hard academically and participate in sports and extracurricular activities as best they can. Their commitment to their studies and other groups while also being safe has been admirable!

The J-Walkers have great ideas for gathering outdoors in the back parking lot when it is safe and appropriate to do so. **We will meet virtually if it is raining and/or if Portage County is in the red zone or above for COVID-19.** The best way to know what is happening from week to week is to join our Remind 101 text alerts by texting @jwalkers2 to 81010. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we continue to navigate ministry during a global pandemic!

### **United Youth Force (High School Ministry)**

United Youth Force is finding joy and meaning in helping our community these days, especially since they can only meet outdoors when the weather is nice and Portage County is not in a red zone or higher. In October, our youth began collecting winter gear for our November community meal guests. This is something they usually do in November by going door to door. However, they thought it would be safer this year to collect items earlier and at the church. We've collected many items but can always accept more. Reach out to Kim Nagy if you have some items you'd like to contribute to keep our community warm this winter.

On October 11 the group met virtually to check in and talk about ways to improve our mental health, especially in these times. We made a plan of three things we can do individually to

improve our mental health, three people we can talk to, and three places we can go when our mental health needs a little help. It was a great gathering!

A few of our UYF members and families provided desserts and volunteer hours at our October community meal. Gayle Wall has been instrumental in continuing this important ministry in a to-go fashion during this time.

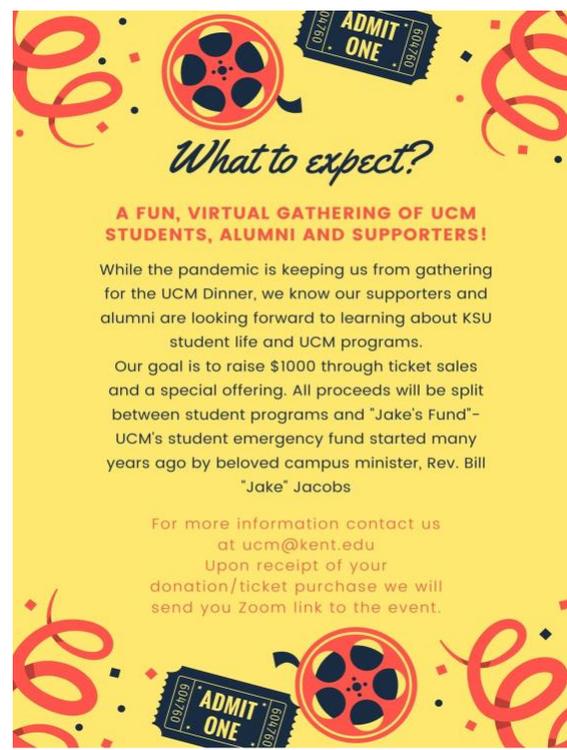
Like the J-Walkers, UYF has an extensive plan for outdoor activities when it is safe to gather. **We will not gather in-person if it is raining or if Portage County is in the red zone or above.** To keep up with regular UYF updates, join our Remind 101 alert system by texting @uyf3 to 81010. Check our Kent UCC Facebook page for upcoming activities that our UYF group has planned when it is safe to gather, such as a canned food drive and a meal to raise funds for Sleep Out America.

**College Students**

Several of our Kent UCC college students have been attending classes in person, online, from home, and in dormitories. We ask that you keep our college students in your prayers, as COVID-19 has had several outbreaks on college campuses.

Our Sunday school families are packing college care packages to send or deliver to our college students in the coming month. We encourage you to think of our college students by sending them a note or care package during this tough time in their educational journey. It is always a comfort to know your church family is supporting you and praying for you.

United Christian Ministries, the Kent State University college ministry we support at Kent UCC, has been adapting and supporting college students during the pandemic in many new and exciting ways. In the fall, they traditionally hold a fundraising dinner, which will be virtual as a "Dinnerless Dinner" on November 12 via Zoom. To learn more information or simply to donate to the ministry, visit [www.myucm.org](http://www.myucm.org).



**Hungerford Scholarship 2020 Recipients**

This year, our Christian Education Committee was ecstatic to offer two \$500 scholarships to college students in our congregation from the Hungerford Scholarship Fund. Savanna Wills and Samuel Madden each received one of these scholarship awards.



Savanna Wills is the daughter of Jeanie and Jason Wills. She is a junior at Kent State University studying fashion design. Next summer, Savanna hopes to intern in New York City as part of her school requirements. She has been very active in her faith at Kent UCC, participating in many mission trips as a youth and serving as a UYF co-president. More recently, Savanna has participated in our college student worship over Christmas break. Her community work is also vast, including helping with Girls on the Run and helping plant flowers in downtown Kent with her family.

Samuel Madden is the son of Leslie and James Madden. He is a junior at Youngstown State University, where he is majoring in Business Administration and is a member of the ROTC program. Samuel anticipates taking additional courses at Florida Atlantic University to broaden his experiences and studies. After graduation, Samuel will serve 8 years in the Army. Samuel has also been very active in his faith at Kent UCC, becoming a confirmed member as a teenager and also serving as UYF co-president. Last year, Samuel was a confirmation mentor to Ryan Rickelman. When Sam is home over breaks, he helps many people in our church community and the wider community by doing home projects and landscaping.

Congratulations, Savanna and Samuel! We are more than excited to offer you the Hungerford Scholarship and wish you continued success in all you do. Your church family is always here to support you in your journey of life and faith.

**Community Meal: Thanksgiving Meal Help Needed! – Gayle Wall**

We continue to serve our fellow neighbors in need every third Sunday with our Community Meal. We have served the following meals over the past few months: July- Grilled Chicken Breasts, August- Sub Sandwiches, September- Grilled Hamburgers and fries, and October the ever popular, breakfast for dinner (Egg Sausage Bake and muffins/breads)! Our guests are very appreciative and thankful to still receive TO GO style meals, and many tell us how much they miss the social hospitality of eating inside as a group! (ahhhh, someday!!!).

We have been putting these meals together with volunteers cooking at home and dropping their food donations off the day of the meal. We are very thankful that people are donating the food (we have used only a minimal amount of the Community Meal Budget) and also are

appreciative that people are cooking at home so there are no groups of people gathering at church to cook.

A big shout out goes to Kim and Faye Ann Sebaly who donate enough yogurts every month for every TO GO bag!

Kim Nagy and the UYF and J-Walkers kids/families have been helping with the donations and also working at church (in very small numbers distanced with masks) the day of the meal to help package the meals up and pass them out!

We want to make Thanksgiving a very special traditional meal for our community friends. **We will need LOTS of families to cook all parts of the Thanksgiving Meal at home and bring them to church on November 15.** Please look for a Community Meal Note in the Weekly Update the week of October 30. In the note there will be a SIGN-UP Genius LINK to click and sign up to be home chefs, preparing dishes for Thanksgiving at home! Think of this as a practice run for your family Thanksgiving dinner. The Sign-Up Genius will have specific food items and instructions as to what we need and how it should be brought in so we can easily pack it up TO GO!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Community Meal in any way since COVID began in March. Please consider signing up to help make this Thanksgiving Meal very yummy and special for those in need. It is such a great way to reach out and help others, even if it can't be in person!

### **Outreach Update – Terri Silver**

**The Bob Clark Turkey Fund** benefitting Kent Social Services will be November 1 through 15 and will look a little different this year. Your Kent UCC Council members have contributed \$1,100, and we will add \$1,000 from Outreach funds. **Our hope is that the congregation will match this amount (\$2,100) to assist Kent Social Services throughout the upcoming holiday season.** Checks should be made payable to Kent UCC with Turkey Fund in the memo line.



This is a year unlike any other. Nationally, we have more than 13.6 million (8.6%) unemployed as of August, and government stimulus programs have run out. Local food banks and charity kitchens are overwhelmed as people struggle to feed their families. Food insecurity, described as “the disruption of food intake or eating patterns due to lack of money and other resources” has been an unspoken public challenge for years, but the awful reach of COVID-19 is now bringing the matter firmly into the country’s consciousness. Without an end in sight, these numbers will increase and those who are most at risk will suffer the greatest.

This is our last collection for Kent Social Services for 2020. Our community partners know that Kent UCC does our best to help our neighbors. Help us take care of our brothers and sisters in their hour of need.

Our special Neighbors in Need offering raised \$920. Thank you for your generosity!

Kent UCC was a major sponsor of the recent Safer Futures Domestic Violence Shelter “Hope in a Handbag” virtual fundraiser which raised roughly \$25,000. Good news, indeed!

## Property Ministry Update

### Fall cleanup



Come join the Property Ministry at the annual Fall Cleanup on **Saturday, November 7**, from 8:30 a.m.- noon. We will gather at the picnic table next to the lower main entrance. All activities will be outdoors and will involve trimming trees, hedges and ornamental grass; raking leaves; and culling unwanted vegetation. Please bring gloves and any tools appropriate for the cleanup as our tool supply is limited. Our rain date is Saturday, November 14.

**Also remember to bring your mask and social distance. Hope to see you there!**

### Other Property Highlights

- 1) Six cracked windows (lower classrooms and Corey’s office) were replaced along with two failed Sanctuary door windows.
- 2) Panic Bars have been added to the Sanctuary exit doors.
- 3) A study of the Church’s computer needs was authorized in preparation for the 2021 Budget requests. Paul Sellman will lead the study.
- 4) The Sanctuary Lighting Project has requested quotes for the replacement of the existing incandescent system. The Committee is working with the Finance Ministry to look at financing options.
- 5) A dusk-dawn light has been installed at the upper level office entrance.

## Hospitality and Membership Update – Eileen West and Gayle Wall

Did you let Gayle Wall know that you’re interested in participating in our small group game opportunities? If so, you should be hearing from someone in the near future to organize those gatherings.

Please keep your eyes out for a request in mid- November to submit your nomination for Kent UCC favorite Christmas Hymn. Your Hospitality and Membership Ministry is creating a DECEMBER MADNESS Kent UCC Christmas Hymn bracket!! Our goal is to identify our congregation’s favorite Christmas carol. All members will be asked to vote each week until we narrow our bracket down to our favorite hymn. What will it be??? In December, Corey Fowler will lead us in an hymn sing to reveal the winning hymn.....and we will sing it together virtually.

Your Hospitality and Membership committee may have other ideas to help us celebrate and rejoice in this Advent and Christmas Season. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, we have been helping the Prayer Shawl Ministry with deliveries during these challenging times. We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving filled with gratitude.

**Fellowship News – Julie Wallace****Support Equal Exchange**

Missing coffee hour after church? We may not be able to meet in person, but you can still brew a cup of Equal Exchange coffee at home. We are encouraging you to help the small coffee growers from around the world who grow the beans used by the Equal Exchange company. The sales of their coffee beans have been greatly reduced because of the pandemic and churches not doing their regular purchases. Here's how you can help. Go to shop [equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop) and buy directly. Besides many varieties of coffee, Equal Exchange has teas, fabulous chocolates, dates, nuts and more. Most products are sold by the case, but cases are not large. For example, a case of coffee might be only 6 bags. You can split your order with someone or give the products as gifts. With the holiday season around the corner, please consider ordering Equal Exchange for delicious and meaningful presents. Also, when ordering, make sure to use the drop-down menu so that profits can be awarded to the United Church of Christ.

**Advent**

You have an opportunity to help decorate a Christmas tree at church this year! We will have an outdoor tree (next to the main front doors) strung with lights and ready for every family to place one or more weatherproof ornaments on it. Your ornament can be of any size or shape, and edible ones that the birds can eat are also encouraged. (Take a pinecone, tie a jute string around it for hanging, smear with peanut butter and roll in bird seed.) Just because we cannot rejoice in the season of Advent in the usual ways, doesn't mean we can't share in some new and innovative traditions!

**Book Group – Kathy Robinson**

We will be reading *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd for November 21. Jackie Peck will set up a Zoom meeting for 7 p.m. If you choose to opt out, please let me know so I don't bother you with the link. If you're new to the group and would like to join us, just email me at [kathyarobinson@gmail.com](mailto:kathyarobinson@gmail.com).

**Adult Small Groups**

We have several small groups that are a great way to build meaningful relationships and have fun! Given the virus outbreak, our groups generally will not meet in person, although some are meeting via Zoom. Look for future meetings for our women's fellowship groups, men's breakfasts, Men Baking Bread, book group, Bagels and Books, Mahjong, yoga, and more. We will all be so glad when it's safe to resume our gatherings!

**Social Justice and Advocacy Ministry News – Barb Hanniford**

The past few months have brought wonderful opportunities to join with others in "brave space" to consider our own racism and privilege. I've been fortunate to participate in two book studies facilitated by Jen Case. We first read *So You Want to Talk About Race* (Ijeoma Olou), followed by *Me and White Supremacy* (Layla Saad). We dug deep to learn more about ourselves, share our experiences and feelings, and make commitments for the future. These are both terrific books, and you'll benefit from working through them if you haven't read them already. As you saw elsewhere in this newsletter, November 11 brings a discussion on our all-church read of

*The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (James Cone). In December, a new book study will begin on *How to Be an Anti-Racist* (Ibram X. Kendi). We hope you'll join us!

### **Stephen Ministry – Sue Otterson**

Hurting people are everywhere, and our Stephen Ministers can offer care to those with need outside of our own congregation. This expands our church's outreach and ministry. If you know of anyone in need of someone to walk alongside them in grief, sadness, or overwhelming situations, please let Pastor Amy, me, or a Stephen Minister know. We are here for you.

### **PFLAG – November Meeting**

The next PFLAG meeting will be held virtually on **Tuesday, November 4** at 6 p.m. through Zoom. Dr. Scott Hamler, Staff Doctor from the Summa Pride Clinic will be speaking about the Clinic. Anyone wanting to attend should contact Michael Spayd at [euchre1@roadrunner.com](mailto:euchre1@roadrunner.com) for login information. Any general questions about PFLAG can be forwarded to Michael Spayd or Pastor Amy.

### **Goodbye Message from Michael Spayd**

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

Many of you have already heard that I have relocated from Ohio to Florida. Because of COVID, I did not have the chance to say goodbye to most of you. While we are still worshipping from home, I will continue to worship virtually with you, but you won't know that I am there. So I had to take this opportunity not to say goodbye but to try to explain in a few words what you have meant to me.

The year was 2015, and my mother had just passed away. As a gift to her spirit, I made the decision to find a regular church after leaving the Lutheran church in 1995. It just so happened that I visited a church in Kent the previous couple of years on Christmas Eve (Thanks, Kevin and Doug). I decided to give that church a little more time to see if it might be the one to call my new church home.

What I got was so much more. I didn't just find a new church to call my own. I didn't just find a place to spend my Sunday mornings. I found a new family. A place that accepted me as I was (faults and all). A place that didn't just talk about helping the needy.....they lived it. A place that didn't just talk about opening their doors to the ones that traditional religion had forgotten.....they opened their arms. I can't begin to tell you how much love, laughter and even a few tears from time to time I got from being in your midst these past five years.

Thank you so much for welcoming me into your midst and making me feel like I belonged there. But more than that, please do remember what you do for so many others in our church, in our community and in our county. There are so many more than need to experience the kind of extravagant Christian hospitality that KUCC does so well! Once COVID is managed and we can gather in groups again, I pray that KUCC will return to their "business as usual." There are many that need you.....they just don't know where to find you.

For those wishing to keep in touch with me, you can do so at:

**Michael Spayd**  
**635 Capon Street NE**  
**Palm Bay, FL 32905**  
**(330) 284-8062**  
[euchre1@roadrunner.com](mailto:euchre1@roadrunner.com)

**Rev. Jerry Barker**

It is with deep sadness that we share with you the news that Rev. Jerry Baker has died passing on to the life beyond. Reverend Baker served as our interim pastor many years ago. Our condolences to his family and loved ones. Please keep them in prayer and heart.

**ACME Community Cash Back Program 2020**



The Kent UCC will once again participate in the Acme Cash Back Program this year. The church will receive 5% cash back on qualifying purchases made starting Thursday, August 6 through December 26, 2020.

Members and friends are asked to save the entire receipt in an envelope or a plastic sandwich bag and deposit them in the Blue Box by the Office entry on the

30<sup>th</sup> of each month until we are able to gather for worship in the Sanctuary. Last year we received \$376 to be used for various church programs. Thank you for your continued support.

**Treasurer's Report - Kay Hansford**

<u>October (as of October 22)</u>		<u>Year to Date (as of October 22)</u>	
Income	\$47,506.98	Income	\$412,447.25
Expenses	\$27,682.68	Expenses	\$319,767.31
Difference	+ 19,823.80	Difference	+92,679.94

Approx. \$10,000 will come out at end of the month for payroll. We have not yet used the budgeted \$28,000 from the Endowment Fund.

**November Birthdays**

01 Brett Baughman 04 Harold Hight, Michael Spayd 08 Anne West  
 11 Madeline Brady, Shawn Gordon. 12 Joan Eshler 13 Rachel Saurman 14 Karen Kaulen,  
 Megan Snyder 15 Sandy Evangelist. 16 Mark Holzapfel, Eileen West 18 Becky Dunlap  
 19 Bill Hoover, Kim Redman 22 Jordan Jones 25 Taylor Dunlap, Dick Leppo  
 26 Molly Cowperthwaite. 29 Chelsea Lehman, Lucas Porcelli 30 Brooke Baughman

**Sundays in November**

**November 1: All Saints Sunday**

**Sermon by Pastor Amy**

**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**November 8: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon by Pastor Amy**  
**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**November 15: Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon by Pastor Amy**  
**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**November 22: DEDICATION SUNDAY/Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**Sermon by Pastor Amy**  
**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**November 29: First Sunday of Advent**  
**Sermon by Pastor Amy**  
**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**How to Reach Us**

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Phone: 330.673.9534 | Fax: 330.673.8828  
[office@KentUCC.org](mailto:office@KentUCC.org) | [Facebook @ KentUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/KentUnitedChurchOfChrist)

**Office Hours: Staff are primarily working from home during Covid-19 crisis. Regular hours are 9am-4pm.**

**Staff Contacts**

**Rev. Amy C. Gopp**  
**Senior Minister**  
[PastorAmy@KentUCC.org](mailto:PastorAmy@KentUCC.org)

**Corey Fowler**  
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**Financial Administrator**  
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**Leah Davis**  
**Admin. Assistant**  
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*The Messenger* is published monthly and circulated online and in print. Articles and other items for publication in this newsletter should be submitted to the church Administrative Assistant by e-mail to: [LDavis@kentucc.org](mailto:LDavis@kentucc.org). The deadline for the December issue is Friday, November 20 at noon.

**OUR MISSION:**

Enlivened by the grace of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kent United Church of Christ does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly with our God to serve and transform lives, our community and the world. (Micah 6:8)