



Chimes

Greenmont-Oak Park Community
United Church of Christ



Volume XLIX No. 790

Sept. 21, 2016

Website: www.greenmontoakpark.com

Greenmont Church is called to:

- S—Support families & youth
- E—encourage spiritual development
- R—Reach out with service & fellowship
- V—Voice the hope of Good News in Jesus Christ
- E—Envision a better world through Christ's example

Church membership is based on the affirmation of the

Biblical covenant:

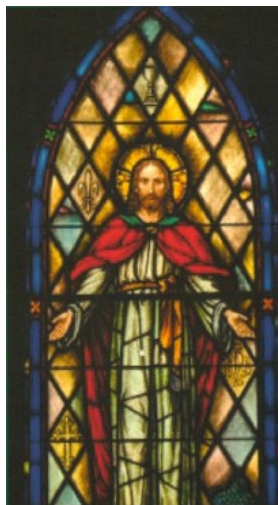
"You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30-31)

Scripture Readings for weeks:

Sept. 18—Jer 8:18-9:1, Ps 79:1-9, Amos 8:4-7,
Ps 113, I Tim 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 25—Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15, Ps 91:1-6, 14-16,
Amos 6:1-7, Ps 146, I Tim 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Oct. 2—Lam 1:1-16, Lam 3:19-26, Ps 137,
Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Ps 37:1-9, 2 Tim 1:1-14



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Office Hours

1921 Woodman Dr
Kettering, Oh 45420
9 AM—3 PM Mon.—Fri.
Telephone: 252-6705



Pastor: Rev. Gabriel Oberholzer
Pastor@greenmontoakpark.com
727—515-6622

Office Manager: Nova Kigar
office@greenmontoakpark.com

Youth Leader:

Admin. Chairperson:

Robert Beall

Choir Director:

Monique Cooper

Organists:

Shelley Outlaw

Chapel Worship: 8:45 AM

Morning Worship: 10:45 AM

Christian Education: 9:30 AM

Bible Adventure: 10:45 AM

Ushers:

8:45 AM **10:45 AM**

Gary Etter Jerry Archer

Arlene Uldrich Bob Berk

Linda Oxley

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Sept. 25—Ron Lyttle

Oct. 2—Paul Marcum

Oct. 9—Helen George

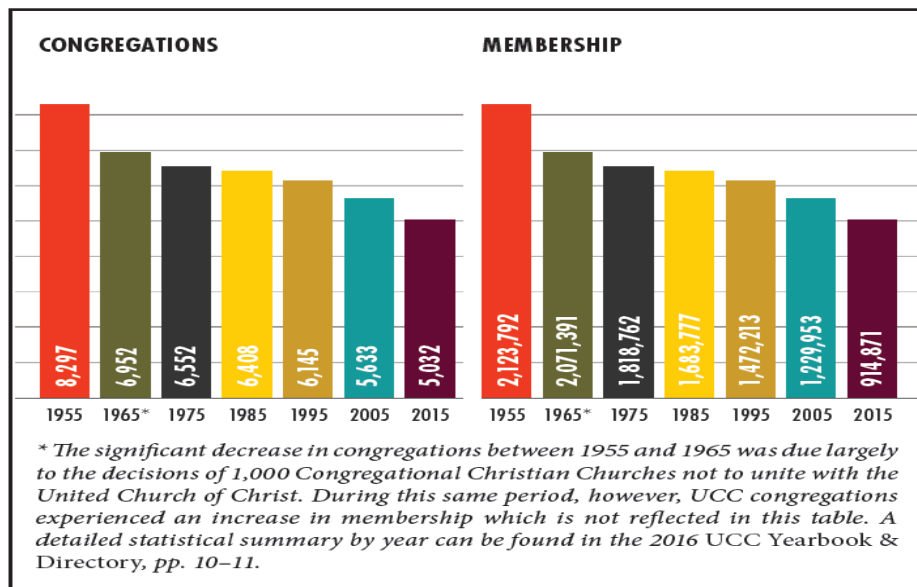
GREETERS:

Toni Bailey

Dear GOPC(UCC) Family and friends,

Today I would like to bore you with some UCC statistics. The UCC released the 2016 statistics - and it is worth looking at.

UCC CONGREGATION AND MEMBERSHIP CHANGES BY DECADE (1955-2015)*



Similar to other Protestant denominations, the UCC has experienced a decline in the numbers of congregations and members in recent decades.

From 2000 to 2010 alone, the UCC encountered a net loss of 696 congregations and 318,897 members. Some of this decline, however, began prior to the formation of the denomination in 1957, as the number of congregations steadily decreased despite membership increases in the UCC's early years.

In the past five years (2011-2015), 195 congregations were removed from denominational records. Congregational decline has slowed in recent years, however. In 2006 and 2007, the UCC experienced a loss of nearly three congregations per week on average; but from 2008 through 2015, only one congregation was eliminated from denominational records per week on average. In total, 100 congregations received standing and were added to the UCC over the last five years. On average, a new congregation (a church that received standing, affiliated, or merged with another congregation) was added every 2 1/2 weeks.

Attendance - Sept. 11 & 18'16

| | | |
|---------------|----|----|
| 8:45 service | 14 | 19 |
| 10:45 service | 75 | 58 |
| Sunday School | 19 | 18 |

Offering—operating income

(Monthly budget need is \$14,687)

| | Income rec'd | +/- Amt. |
|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Nov. '15 | \$23,591 | +8,633 |
| Dec. '15 | \$14,476 | - 482 |
| Jan. '16 | \$13,404 | -1,283 |
| Feb. '16 | \$11,748 | -2,939 |
| Mar. '16 | \$12,057 | -2,630 |
| April '16 | \$10,988 | -3,699 |
| May '16 | \$18,489 | +3,802 |
| June '16 | \$9,888 | -4,799 |
| July '16 | \$18,847 | +4,160 |



Happy Birthday

- Fred Foskuhl—Sept. 26
- Sarah Goodner-Gard—Sept. 26
- Bonnie Foster—Sept. 26
- Kylie Janzow—Sept. 27
- Jim Coleman—Oct. 1
- Becky Northern—Oct. 4
- Jane Lovett—Oct. 5

In Our Prayers

- Kevin Bader
- Glenda Boddie
- Ginny Breckler
- Charlene Brown
- Nolan & Dorothy Butts
- Kristi Carr
- Nancy Carter
- Jim Coleman
- Robert Davis
- Leigh Davis
- Allen Dicks
- Larry Earwood
- Laura Etter
- Joe Farren
- Fred & Marilyn Foskuhl
- John George

- Jamie Geswein
- Gary Gillett
- Chris Heine
- Crystal Hudson
- Lori Keltner
- Betty Lingg
- Bob McCray
- Steve McCray
- Susan Mills
- Delbert Newhouse
- Sheri Parrett
- Bill/ Judy Price
- Cindy Romano
- Deb Richey
- Jane Simmons
- Diana Smith
- Joe Trevan
- Gloria Van Camp
- Larry Van Camp
- Sue Wagner
- Pat White
- Diane Yost
- Kim Hinely
- Edna Holland
- Sean Humphrey
- Dustin Knowlton
- Kelly McRonney
- Phyllis McCray
- Steve Mills
- Jim Murphy
- John Parnell
- Joyce Pratt
- Jack Reger
- Calire Riccos
- Andrew Sayers
- Beverly Smith
- Wayne Stolich
- Lynn Uldrich
- Gina Van Camp
- Chloe Wakefield
- Mark Webb
- Larry Wilson



Those in Nursing Care

- Angie Brooks—St. Leonard Center
- Ginny Hambrick—Walnut Creek
- Betty Hine—St. Leonard Center
- Verdena Mardis—Brookdale

Military

- Adam Reeves
- Casey Ryan



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Christian Education Schedule

The schedule :
 9:30 AM—High School/College
 lead by Bob Colvin/Meg & Dave Roalef
 9:30 AM—Adult Bible class
 lead by Gary Etter/Mike Robinson/Joe Von Holle
 9:30 AM—Adult Contemporary
 - lead by Laura Von Holle
 10:45 AM—Nursery (babies to 3yrs)
 10:45 AM Bible Adventure—4 to 10 ages

Chimes Article Deadlines are:
Oct. 3 & 17, 2016
Bulletin Announcement deadline is: Wednesday of each week.

Contemporary Adult Sunday School: The Old Testament

We have begun to review a DVD course series about the Old Testament. Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School is the Lecturer. The lectures, will not only probe the content of the biblical books, but will also explore debates over their meaning, the historical and cultural situations they reflect and address, and the critical methods by which they have been interpreted. She discusses how the Old Testament appears against the larger background of the ancient Near East as revealed by research in archaeology, cross-cultural studies, and comparative religion. The goal of an academic course in biblical studies, Professor Levine maintains, is to use the best available knowledge and research to give believers richer insight into the writings that form their spiritual bedrock. Please join us Sundays at 9:30!

The "Think, Act, Be Like Jesus" Bible study group will resume their study this Fall beginning late in Sept, on Tuesday, Sept. 27th at 7 PM. Contact Loretta Liesch about the study location, call 436-3513.

This is a study we began last winter, we are working through the book by Randy Frazee, "Think, Act, Believe Like Jesus"



The Crop Walk will be held at Island Park, October 2, 2016. You can sign up after church on Sunday. If you can't walk and are able to make a donation, please put in the plate and mark for the Crop Walk/CWS.

Church World Service has worked for seven decades with one goal. Building a world where there is enough for all. They affirm the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future. CWS meets them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain – and build on. That means a refugee family who is able to start a new life. Of someone rebuilding after disaster finds safety with dignity.

Right now., more that 60 million people around the world are currently displaced and we can help.

A certain percentage of the money collected in the local walk goes to the local food bank.

Please think about joining us in the walk if able.

Social Action Ministry

We can try to figure out why and what happened. As a whole the church tried to find answers why we lost two generations of our youth. But - the big decline happened in our time; we made it happen. There is nobody else to blame than us! The irony is that people will rather let a congregation close its doors than change their way of doing. I know this, because I have to constantly hear people say: "this is not the way we used to do it back then." My answer to that is that the demographics have changed. What worked well yesterday, does not appeal to the people of today. The ways of "back then" worked well at the time; but the society have changed. We (the church as a whole) did not keep up with the changes in society. Maybe that's why the church is in such a steep decline. But - we want to keep doing things the same way over-and-over and expect a different outcome! I invite you to go have a look at a YouTube video in this regard. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLQfhxDld7E>

Our attendance for the two services is slightly little higher than the average for UCC congregations. But, our average income is about \$60 000 less than the average of all UCC congregations. That means that we shall have to find alternative sources of income. Some people might not like to see a car for sale in our parking lot. If you have a better idea to generate more income, I am sure we would all like to hear your plans!

Please go have a look at http://www.ucc.org/research_statistics-and-reports Here you will find more interesting statistics.

Let us continue our Hope in God and work to bring our church to the next generations.

My best to you,

Gabe

Remember Pastor Gabe's Q & A sessions will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month following 10:45 AM worship.

Dear Greenmont Oak Park Church,

Please know that you are what makes Pine Mountain Settlement School Thrive in these uncertain times. Your gift of \$350 give us the capacity to not only maintain our core work, but also deepen and expand our impact across the region.

With your support, we have been able to:

- * Relaunch the Little School, providing early childhood education experiences and nutritious meals to 20 young children and their caregivers.
- * Develop new courses in food sustainability and water quality for our Environmental Education program, serving over 3,000 students annually.
- * Expand our Summer Reading and Day camps.
- * Double the number of families served in our Community Agriculture program, helping more than 300 people grow, market, and eat healthy organic produce.

Again, thank you for all you do for Pine Mountain Settlement School. You are changing Children's lives.

I can't thank you enough for your generous giving to support the people of the Kentucky mountains. You are truly making a difference during a time of incredible need. Please come visit and see your service in action with our Little School or Community Farm program. Both support the children in our mountains to learn and grow into caring loving, and Godly folds. We thank you for supporting them!

In the Spirit of Pine Mountain,

Geoff Marietta, Executive Director

If we have not yet met in person, please do accept my invitation to meet either at Pine Mountain Settlement school or where you call home. I'd love to tell you about the bright future we envision for the School, Eastern Kentucky, and the Commonwealth!



Pumpkins will arrive on Saturday, Oct. 8

Please come help set up the pumpkin patch, the time will be announced next week.

Also sign up to help sell pumpkins, a sign up sheet is posted in the Gathering Place.

The proceeds will go toward the youth programs.

WINGS - Ladies Ministry News



We are continuing our "Pack the Purse" campaign. You may bring your purses and items for filling the purses to the display located on the upper level of the Gathering Place. We will begin putting the purses together in a couple of weeks.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Fall Festival. Please sign-up on bulletin board if you can help out.

Blessings to all,
The WINGS Board

Update on Shelter

Dear congregation:

We have finally received permission from the city to move forward with construction of the Shelter!

Now we are asking for some help, as we are a few thousand short on the final figure.

Any gifts or redirection of funds would be deeply appreciated.

We the trustees are so thankful for your patience in this project.

Trustees

Lost & Found

A colorful beaded bracelet was found on Labor Day weekend, and brought to the church office. If this bracelet is yours please come to the office to find it.

Updated Church Directories are Ready



We have copies of the updated Church Directories ready, they are available at the back of the sanctuary and the church office. - Nova Kigar



Thank

you to all the people who prepared food, helped set-up and cleaned up for the Rally Day and All Church Picnic. Thank you also to Josh Burkheiser, our Magician, and the ones who helped as assistants to Josh, during the sermon and magic show.

Chrismon Project Continues—Sept. 24

This Saturday, September 24, at 9 am, we will be doing the "decorating" of the Chrismon ornaments we have been working on the last two months. Thank you to all who have helped so far. Many hands will be needed to finish them. So come, help us put the finishing touches on these beautiful religious symbols for our sanctuary Chrismon Tree. Shelley Outlaw will be leading the workshop. Lunch will be provided.

