

*THE PARISH CRIER*  
**EMMANUEL (BAUST)**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

**October 2021**

Rita Rudner, an American comedian, once said, "Halloween was confusing. All my life my parents said, 'Never take candy from strangers.' And then they dressed me up and said, 'Go beg for it.' ". Welcome to October the month of Halloween! I am writing this in September but already people are decorating for Halloween, I mean really decorating. There are all sorts of lawn displays, illuminated houses and windows, and much, much more. Where will this all end?

Well, it seems that Halloween celebrations have wained over the past few years. According to Statista Research Department, in 2017, 71.7% of the American public said they celebrated Halloween. In 2020 only 58% said they were joining in celebrations. Of course the COVID pandemic had a lot to do with this but Americans are still expected to spend almost \$6 billion on costumes and decorations this year, again down from previous years.

On the website, [history.com](http://history.com), we find a brief statement on the origins of Halloween. The holiday may have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of [Samhain](#), when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Later, in the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

It is always amazing to me how non-Christian festivals become Christian festivals and then become completely secular in nature. We must guard against this process in our worship and our spiritual lives. Churches are losing members and younger people are not interested. Our answer to this is to try and think up ways to make worship more "relevant" which often times means better entertainment. We try to disguise what we believe by putting a "mask" on it to somehow dress it up or hide its true intention. When we do this we lose the very essence of the gospel message. Then we send out our masked participants to beg for the candy of the world.

The Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde, observed, "A mask tells us more than a face." Every movement has its ups and downs. The church is no different. The masks we decide to wear must be observed very closely to expose the true nature of the wearer. Let's make sure our October masks show to all the loving nature of Christ in our hearts.

Have a wonderful October!

Blessings,

***Pastor Jeff and Cathy***



### **What's the Pastor Reading Now?**

Anne Nelson is a very competent journalist, author and lecturer in areas such as human rights and international affairs. She won the Livingston Award for best international reporting from the Philippines. In 1995 she became the director the international program at the Columbia School of Journalism, where she created the first curriculum in human rights reporting and since 2003 Nelson has been teaching at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. So much more can be said about her background and the works that she has published but I don't want to lose you before I tell you about this month's reading recommendation - "*Shadow Network*."

Published in 2019, "*Shadow Network*" is a very well documented work which ties church sponsored political action and manipulation, mostly from the Christian right, with ultra wealthy sponsors of conservative political movements. I have often wondered about how certain religious organizations wield their power in the United States and still legally keep their tax exempt status. In a country where separation of church and state is a constitutional matter it seems that those waters have been muddied quite a bit over time and certainly continue to be ill defined today. If you have wondered, as I have, about how politics have become so polarized in America today, this book will answer many of those questions and show how certain denominations have contributed to this current state of affairs.

It is a very eye-opening and interesting read but, as in anything that has to do with the church and politics, it is controversial as well. Give it a try and see what you think.

### **SOCK Rummage Sale**

It's fall and that means it is time for a fall Rummage Sale! We will be hosting this mission fundraiser over two weekends again to provide more social distancing in the space. We will be accepting donations of used Fall/Winter clothing and used books after October 1st in the Parish Hall. (Please place items either on the back porch of the parsonage or bottom floor of the Parish Hall as the hall may be in use until the sale dates.)

**USED BOOK SALE:** October 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. & October 23, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**USED CLOTHING SALE FOR ALL AGES:** October 29, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. & October 30, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We appreciate any help that you can give - donating, sorting before the sale, working the sale, cleaning up after the sale or come to shop! All proceeds will be donated to the local schools. If you have any questions please see Susie Lawrence or Dotty Smith.

## MONTH OF AUGUST, 2021

### YEAR TO DATE

Income:	\$ 15,586.07	\$110,409.26
Expenses:	\$ 11,362.50	\$ 78,370.29
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 4,223.57</b>	<b>\$32,038.97</b>

### Capital Fund

2020 Carryover:		\$34,784.51
2021 Donation/Fundraiser	\$ 200.00	\$16,858.24
Transfer from Mem. Fund	\$	\$ 0
Expenditures:	\$	\$10,844.21
<b>Remaining Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$40,798.54</b>

### Memorial Funds

Begin. Balance 01/01/21		\$55,775.09
2021 Donations:	\$1,055.00	\$ 1,390.00
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$	\$ 2,318.24
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,055.00</b>	<b>\$54,846.85</b>

### 2021 Mission Trip

<b>Fund Carryover from 2020</b>		\$ 2,500.56
Donations & Fundraisers:	\$	\$ 0
Trip Expenses:	\$	\$
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$2,500.56</b>

### SOCK Designated Funds

Beginning Balance 1-1-21		\$ 775.02
Income 2021	\$	\$ 1,576.00
School donations	\$	\$ 0
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 2,351.02</b>

**General Fund income includes \$20,000 inherited Funds**



*Carolyn Dutterer,*  
*Treasurer*

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

There will be no Roast Pork Dinner due to the current COVID circumstances. Instead, there will be a Soup and Sandwich Sale on November 6. It will be run the same way as the previous one in March. Pre-orders only, your order will be delivered to your car and money collected. As soon as the details are finalized an order form will be available.

Starting October 3 we will be selling \$5. Shopping passes for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day on Wednesday, October 20. The Friends Helping Friends offer is a 25%\* discount shopping pass. Individuals who purchase a pass can redeem it at any Boscov's location (not valid online) on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. So you buy the shopping pass from the church, go to a Boscov's on October 20 and get 25% off purchases (some exclusions apply). The church gets the \$5.

### THANK YOU:

To Ed Dutterer and Jim Stonesifer for installing a new window A/C in the parsonage office.  
To Beth & Chris Raver for taking down 2 trees near the pond and clearing all the debris.  
To Beth Raver for working on the office email problem.



By the time you will be reading this Fall will be here. The daytime temperatures the past week showed us we were still in summer.

We were in the process of submitting a grant for A/C in the 3 rooms in the parsonage. After a recommendation of 2 units and a cost of \$12,000 it was stopped. A new window A/C with 12,000 BTU's was purchased and installed in the parsonage.

The office email of [office@ebucc.com](mailto:office@ebucc.com) should be working.

We are still looking for plumbers to come and give quotes for water in the upstairs Parish Hall. Also looking for contractor to give quote to renovate downstairs bathroom in church.

We are going to continue with same policy of wearing masks in church.

Starting January 1 the procedure for Carpenter's Table will change. The procedure was covered by Kathy Cromwell on September 20 to the congregation. The consistory will make a decision at the October meeting if we will continue participating.

We are also looking for someone to coordinate the Mature Christians. We are looking for a coordinator to plan the get together and make all the arrangements. Any questions can be referred to Betty Heltbridle, the former coordinator. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jeff or Sandra Stonesifer.

***Sandra Stonesifer, Consistory President***

### **October 31 Worship Service**

Rev. Michelle Beadle will be guest speaker October 31 while Pastor Jeff is away. You may remember Michelle served as interim pastor while Rev. Jerry Fuss was on sabbatical leave. Michelle is from the Middletown, MD area. Please support her with your attendance on October 31.



## **OCTOBER**



- 1 - April Caprarola
- 1 - Emma Grace Wilt
- 3 - Scott Derr
- 3 - Calvin Bloom
- 5 - Dylan Craig
- 9 - Amy Miller Smith
- 10 - Shirley Ecker

- 10 - Beth Brandenburg
- 12 - Betty Stonesifer
- 13 - Karen Stonesifer Barnes
- 16 - Seth Overholtzer
- 20 - Janet Hollis
- 24 - Will Wilt
- 26 - Bob Harrison

- 11 - Lisa & Don Brower
- 20 - Donna & Scott Derr
- 23 - Jim & Betty Stonesifer
- 26 - Karen & Rob Barnes

**ARTICLES FOR THE NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO HELEN MILLER BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th.**