



NEWSLETTER

THE ORTHODOX CHRONICLES

August

17th - Belonging
24th - Becoming
31st - Believing

September

7th - Rally Sunday - Philemon 1:1-7
14th - Philemon 1:8-22
21st - Titus 1:1-9
28th - Titus 1:10-16

Church Calendar



- Sunday, August 24th - 250th Celebration Service of Thanksgiving
1:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Includes Food Drive for Mansfield Food Pantry
- Sunday, September 7th - Rally Sunday, services will resume in the sanctuary at 10 am.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Congregational Church of Mansfield will host a Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday August 24th at 1:30 pm in the sanctuary. This is the closing activity to the Town of Manfield 250th Celebration. As part of the festivities on Sunday, there will be a non-perishable food drive for the Mansfield Food Pantry. These donations will be donated to the Pantry during the Service of Thanksgiving. This service is not in place of our normal 9:30 am service.



Rally Sunday is September 7th
Join us at 10 am in the sanctuary
for a time of worship and communion.



The Holly Fair is just around the corner
Saturday November 22nd 9:00 - 1 pm



Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.



DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

W.I.S.E

Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, & Engaged

As part of our vote to becoming W.I.S.E. we will begin conducting in-house workshops and discussions around various mental health topics. Please be on the look out for these opportunities to learn and grow in support of our W.I.S.E. covenant. Some topics will include but are not limited to: Autism Awareness, Homelessness and Mental Health, LGBTQ+ Community and Suicide, and Mental Health and Self Care.

If you have topics you'd like to add to our growing list of opportunities, please reach out to a member of the W.I.S.E Team.

Peter Ham
Rick Haines
Annie Schwehm
Kerrie Schlager
Nicole Reynolds
Jane Conley
Dick Kelsay
Pastor Marissa

AFSP Suicide Prevention Walk

Sunday, October 5th

Join the Congregational Church of Mansfield Team



Please support the Easton Walk this fall to help #stopsuicide

Please support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to help save lives and bring hope to...

 AFSP

Pastor Marissa Rapoza



Belonging in God's Heart

“So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” — Romans 12:5

In our church, as part of the United Church of Christ, we proclaim boldly: “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” This is more than a slogan. It is a reflection of God’s own welcome, it is extravagant, unconditional, and wide enough for every story, every wound, and every joy.

Belonging in the Body of Christ doesn’t require that we think alike, look alike, or believe alike in every detail. Instead, we are knit together by God’s love, which makes room for our differences. Our unity is not in uniformity, but in a Spirit that holds us together through grace.

To belong is to be seen as you truly are: created in God’s image, gifted uniquely for the common good, and cherished without condition. In Christ’s community, no one is “other,” and no one is left outside the circle of care.

May we live so that others feel the truth of these words—not as an invitation with an asterisk, but as a table where all have a place, a voice, and a share in the feast of life.

Prayer:

God of radical welcome, thank you for making space for all of who we are. Teach us to practice a belonging that heals, includes, and celebrates. Amen.



Emma Ceurvels, Music Director

It's hard to believe that the summer is winding down and September is right around the corner! I can't wait to have the choir back together again. Please, **JOIN US!!** We welcome all who can make a joyful noise-no, reading music is not a requirement! We'll start rehearsals again on **Wednesday, September 3rd at 7pm** in the music room. We also meet Sunday mornings at 9am prior to services. If you can't commit to both rehearsals- no problem! We'll work with you!

I've spent a lot of time this summer working on writing my own music. I've been writing a lot of music for Social Emotional Learning for elementary students (many of you know my other job is teaching elementary music!) and also just writing whatever music needs to come out of me. I'm trying to "get out of my own head" and really listen to what God is calling me to do. So often I don't put myself out there because it feels too vulnerable, but I'm trying to let it be more about God and less about me. So here's a song I recorded recently in hopes that maybe some of you can relate. May we all give ourselves a little more grace and love ourselves the way that God so fiercely loves us!

Love,
Emma

[Click here to watch "Remember"](#)

Sunday School/Children's Ministry



Sunday School Schedule

Sept 7 Rally Sunday/Communion Sunday no Sunday School

Sept 14 No Sunday School

Sept 21 Sunday School

Sept 28 Sunday School



Meghan Rego, Children's Ministry

We are excited to kick off the Sunday School year. We will be sending out a Google sheet for registration so please keep an eye out for that.

As a reminder we do need 2 background checked adult volunteers for Sunday School classes to run. We ask that families who have children attending please contact Meghan to fill out the background check paperwork and consider volunteering. Volunteers don't need to plan any classes (unless they would like to) and just need to join us for the Sunday School class and assist the kids with the activities.

Volunteers can sign up to assist with Sunday School on the Sunday Extras tab of the Worship Assistant sign up sheet.

Meghan Rego

Church Council and Ministry Leaders

Council

Moderator - Peter Ham
Treasurer - Kim Greenberg
Clerk - Rick Haines

Deacons

Chair - Eric Greenberg
Nate Adkins
Kerrie Schlager
Deb Svenson
Dick Kelsay

Parish Relations Team

Co-Chair - John Partridge
Co-Chair - Peter Ham
Laurie Geminiani
Krista Young
Will Reynolds
Kerrie Schlager

Ministry Leaders

Christian Ed. - Meghan Rego
Prayer Team - Mary Hourigan
Missions - Dick Kelsay and Kathy Haursh

Trustees

Nicole Reynolds
Carol Ham
Dick Kelsay

Staff

Office Administrator - Emma Ceurvels
office@occmansfield.org
Sexton - Ed O'Connell

Electronic Ways to Give
QR Code (paypal)
E-Giving (forms in office)



The Congregational Church of Mansfield
An Open and Affirming United Church of Christ Congregation