

PASTOR'S REPORT to the CONSISTORY of RICHVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 7th, 2022

PASTORAL CARE for OCTOBER

"By The Numbers"

- Visits/Counseling Sessions: 5
- Communion (off-site): 2
- Hospital Visits: 18
- Nursing Home Visits: 7
- Funerals (off-site): 1

As of the writing of this report, we are well-into Autumn, and that means a variety of things for the life The Church. School-aged children/their families are deeply immersed in the extracurriculars of this time of year. We, as a congregation, are in the midst of assessing our stewardship for the year-ahead and preparing for the holy season of Advent. Our elder members are increasingly uncomfortable as the weather changes. One type of groundskeeping gives way to the next.

It is both "the calm before the storm" AND an exceptionally busy/complicated time of year. Nevertheless, GOD is good and we are/enjoy the "Priceless Treasures" lovingly entrusted to us!

Endeavoring to steward those gifts wisely and well, the pre-Christmas season has been discussed with Spiritual Life (our theme will be "Out of The Darkness") and we have ordered our devotional, planned a short-term Wednesday Night Bible Study series, and Christian Education is in the midst of putting together our annual Children's Pageant/Skit. The Fall Festival was a huge success (amidst post-pandemic alterations to how we do things) and saw many blessings above/beyond financial gain.

Our various property/capital improvements have continued (along with the assorted "hiccups"), but we have been blessed by the generosity of our members/donors and the faithful efforts of our elected-leadership!

Recent outreach activities (such as "Trunk-or-Treat") have been relatively successful and were/are, once again, an opportunity for RUCC to live-out our Core Values and Mission/Vision Statements.

Confirmation has now begun (with 2 students for this year and a couple more in the pipeline for next). I am in regular dialogue with other congregations to see about partnering (at least for special events/project) -so far, to no avail (as many churches don't have any confirmands). Many thanks to the parents, students, and my co-teachers for getting this year's program off-of-the-ground!

We are fortunate to be looking forward to a joint-service with a few of our fellow UCC congregations on November 20th (at St. John's Massillon). This will take the place of our ordinary gathering in our own sanctuary!

Returning to the issue of finances, I have assured both Finance and Stewardship, as well as Pastor/Parish that, if, my current salary needs to be cut, I ought to be "okay" -so long as people manage their expectations and the second job can give me additional hours, everything ought to be "fine".

These are challenging times for every local family-of-faith and The Church (at large), but we have been blessed to "weather the storms" far better than many, many congregations! It is my belief/hope/prayer that in the days ahead of us, The Holy Spirit will help us to create a church that will minister faithfully and well long into the future!

As always...

Respectfully submitted...

All Peace, Love & Blessings; your brother & servant in Christ-Jesus,



Will Stuart (pastor)