

Pastor Anne's Message, September, 2022

Dear Family and Friends of Collbran Congregational Church ~

How quickly we are back in the routine of school; classes on all levels ~ home, public, private schools; colleges, universities, and new career adventures for many! While autumn is officially weeks away (September 22), I want to share with you a devotion entitled "Letting Your Leaves Fall."

Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree, "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to: "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4: 31-32.

To eliminate negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this? *By reading God's Word. By allowing His Holy Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need. By the willingness to resist bitterness and resentment towards others. By asking God to help us let go of guilt from our past.*

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits, or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this upcoming season, pray that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God. May it be so with you!

"See you in church!" Pastor Anne

(Devotion, Rachel Wojo. Dayspring, September 2021.)

Trustees Report

The past months have been very busy for the Trustees. The upstairs hallway, Narthex, and overflow room have a new coat of paint. We plan to have new lighting, soon, in those rooms and new brighter bulbs in the sanctuary.

The basement is getting a new coat of paint, thanks to Women's Fellowship. Lights will be upgraded there as well. The Kitchen and cabinets will also be getting paint and new finish.

We want to thank everyone for their patience with our projects and willingness to work around the painter and equipment. We also want to thank Terry Brown for the endless work to finish this job over the summer.

The lawns look wonderful. Thank you, Robert. We will be into the winter months before we know it and snow will be falling.

Thank you to everyone who pitches in, one way or another, to help resolve issues requiring cleaning or repairs around the church. We can all make a difference.

We had thought there might be repairs and upgrades to the sprinkler system this summer, but with all of the other work having taken place, this was not a priority.

We are seeking a replacement movie screen for the basement. Often either during funeral dinners or with the Library coming in for presentations, there is a need for a screen in the dining room. The screen that has been in place for many, many years has to be duct taped into place to keep it from retracting. If anyone has a movie screen tucked away that is no longer in use, please let Cindy Price or Sue Bellotti know. It would be greatly appreciated.

Trustees S Bellotti, J Cox, C Price, and B Yanez

Women's Fellowship Report

Women's Fellowship will meet Sept. 13, 2022 in the church dining room. We will discuss the Turkey Dinner for November, possible mission projects for the fall and winter, and review dinners served over the summer months.

Please plan on attending if you can. This is a busy time of the year.

Sue Bellotti, President



Treasurer's Report – July/August 2022



	July		August	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
	\$6857.03	\$12459.60	\$8137.00	\$10088.05
Painting and Repairs		\$3400.00		\$2343.48
General Liability Ins		\$3773.50		\$0.00
Willet/Hauser Glass				\$1968.00
Materials Expense		\$1094.85		\$99.00

The additional expenses for the past two months are the result of the painting and repairs to both the upstairs and basement. There have been bills for paint and materials from Collbran Supply. All painting and repairs upstairs were covered with Stewardship funds. The basement painting and repairs are being covered by the Women's Fellowship.

The Memorial Funds were used to cover the window replacement in the hall doors. Memorial Funds were also used for the down payment to Willet/Hauser Architectural Glass in preparation of the rebuilding of the round Rose Window in the sanctuary.

These numbers make it appear that there is a great overrun of expenses for each month but the projects have been well planned and payment for them comes from the funds in special accounts.

I would be glad to share more information with anyone having questions about the church finances.

We are seeing some pretty serious market stress in the UCFunds Investment account.

Dec 31, 2021	March 31, 2022	June 30, 2022	Aug 26, 2022
\$211,988.81	\$198,110.14	\$183,319.51	\$178,072.44

The Church Council realizes the best thing to do in this situation is to hold steady and ride out the financial flurry happening in the country at this time.

Sincerely,

Sue Bellotti, Treasurer

Music Director Report

We are all enjoying the expansion of the music program in church. The addition of the organ and often accompaniment by the flute add so much to hymns and special music. There have been offers of vocals and maybe an additional instrument (right Jerry?).

Christmas is coming soon, and there will be opportunities for more additions to the musical portion of our services. Please contact me if there is a special song you would like to hear or if you would like to participate in a Christmas vocal group for one or two special numbers.

I am so happy to see the growth in the music department right along with the growth in church membership.

Thank you all, Sue Bellotti, Director



THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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**Services start
at 11:00 am
starting
Sunday,
September 4.**

