



Emanuel United Church of Christ **“THE MUD CHURCH”**

13989 Township Rd. 127
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
419-294-4144
www.themudchurch.org

Neighborhood Church Attracts The Neighbors



Tim and Kathy Swartz live just a few miles from the church. Tim works in a factory, and is a talented taxidermist. Kathy works at the bank in Sycamore.

“I’ve driven past Emanuel UCC, known in our neighborhood as ‘The Mud Church,’ for a little over 25 years,” Kathy said recently.

Perhaps her story is similar to yours.

“Each morning when driving to work, I always paid attention to the

announcements showing on the outside marquee. Each year I watch for the wooden cross to be placed in front of the church during Easter season. I have always noticed the beautiful stained glass windows and wondered just what it looked like on Sunday morning on the inside with the sun shining through. I watched the progression of the addition to the church and wondered what it looked like inside.”

Pastor Jay Scott, who has served The Mud Church since 2014, figures there are more families near the church who don’t have a church home, but would find a neighborhood church attractive.

“Our congregation is made up of people from both Wyandot and Crawford Counties. Some drive many miles for worship. Others live just around the corner. They come to The Mud Church because they love the Lord, and want to be part of a

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At the Corner of Corn and Beans

I’ve had a lot of conversations lately about the growth – or the lack of growth – of churches. Part of these conversations always seem to include the conclusion that “people just don’t join stuff anymore.” It’s probably true to a degree. Membership in many veteran organizations, social clubs and service clubs is down.

Naturally, some have physical and health limitations. For others who want to go to church, it seems there are now so many demands on our time that we simply can’t do everything.

This is the dilemma that every neighborhood church faces in the 21st century; staying relevant, and providing an undeniable force that compels people to join a church. That undeniable force is Jesus Christ. Our faith – and Christ’s commandments – should be that compelling thing, but it’s not always enough.

Anyone who has spent much time around me at the church has heard me say more than once, “The church that focuses on growth will die, but the church that focuses on mission will grow.”

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Neighborhood Church, continued . . .

neighborhood church with a come-as-you-are dress code, messages that are easy to understand, and to be part of community mission projects that make a difference,” Pastor Jay said.

Kathy Swartz is among the neighbors who have most recently become part of The Mud Church family.

“I kept telling myself that one day I would go to the morning service,” she said. “Well, one sunny morning not so long ago while making my daily drive work, I, again, thought to myself ‘maybe one day that will be my church.’”

That’s when Kathy’s faith in God surfaced.

“Then I heard the Lord say, ‘Just come to my house!’ So, I did! I feel blessed to have a church to call home.”

Corn & Beans, continued . . .

This statement has its basis in the Bible in a story from the earliest days of the Christian church:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:42-47)

That scripture shows that a neighborhood church that is engaged in generous, missional activity that demonstrates the love of Christ, will be blessed by increasing numbers of those who believe.

Everybody wants to be part of something that makes a difference. At The Mud Church, our vision is a church full of believers who worship, rejoice and serve together, and a changed world in which we have made an impact.” I think that’s a pretty compelling vision.

- Pastor Jay Scott

Ash Wednesday Service Is March 2

Ash Wednesday signifies the beginning of Lent, which in the church is a time of preparation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Ash Wednesday will be observed in the Sanctuary at The Mud Church on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. We will celebrate the Ceremony of Ashes. A year ago, Ash Wednesday was celebrated from our cars due to the pandemic.

The best known tradition of Ash Wednesday is the mark of a cross applied to a worshipper's forehead, painted onto the skin with moist ashes. The sign of the cross is an outward symbol of our need for repentance. (Repentance is the act of admitting the sinful errors of our ways and promising to change those ways.)

Traditionally, the ashes used to mark the cross on someone's forehead come from burning of the palm branches that were on display in the church on the previous year's Palm Sunday. (Palm Sunday is celebrated as the day Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for Passover, only to be arrested and hung on the cross later that week.)

***“All are from the dust,
and to dust all return.”***

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV



Ash Wednesday Service



Jerry Ebert greets church member Ron Wilch as he arrives for the church service.

Jerry Ebert talks with visitors who chose to remain in their car to listen to the service on the radio.



The "technology team" (left to right) Kolbie Allgyre, Allie Allgyre, and Leslie Allgyre. A training session has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on February 23 to prepare additional volunteers to work the camera and computer.



Behind The Scenes At The Mud Church

Preparing for Sunday morning worship requires the help of many volunteers. Behind the scenes at the Mud Church are some key people who make sure visitors are welcome and guided to their seats, and a team of workers readies the worship slides and prepares to start the live internet stream of the service.

In the parking lot, you're likely to see Jerry Ebert, who watches for anyone who may be unfamiliar with the church and directs them to the front entrance. He also is there to give bulletins to anyone who, due to Covid-19 concerns, wants to remain in their car and listen to the service on the radio. Greeters also work just inside the door.

Inside, Leslie Allgyre and her daughters are firing up the iPad that controls the video camera by remote control, and readies the computer that both displays the worship slides and produces the live video on the internet.

There are others who perform duties that help create a meaningful and smooth-running worship service. We'll feature more of them in the next issue of our neighborhood newsletter.

Scout Sunday

February 13 was Scout Sunday at Emanuel. The Mud Church welcomed the Scouting organizations it sponsors: Cub Scout Pack 777, Scouting for Girls Troop 776, and Scouting for Boys Troop 777. 21 Scouts, six Scout leaders, and their families were in attendance.

Four of the Scouts participated in the worship service by reading the scriptures, and Pastor Jay delivered a special message geared toward the Scouts. A total of 94 people were in attendance.



Scout troops sponsored by The Mud Church conduct the presentation of the colors at the start of the Scout Sunday worship service.

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Issue 1, February 2022

EMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"The Mud Church"

Support
Your
Neighborhood
Church



Sunday Service-10 am
Sunday School- 9 am

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themudchurch.com

13989 Township Rd. 127, Upper Sandusky, OH



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 2

7:00 p.m.

Experience the **Ceremony of Ashes**
and

Begin the **Season of Lent** with a
Special Time of Worship

† Special services also being planned for
Maundy Thursday and **Good Friday**



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Can be found at

www.themudchurch.com

- ◆ Learn all about the history and ministry of the church.
- ◆ Submit a prayer request.
- ◆ Make contact about renting the Donald and Mary Jean Alban Community Room.
- ◆ Watch our worship services live, or watch them later.
- ◆ Make a donation to Emanuel's ministry.



Making a Difference

Pledge to care for others in need. Donate to our mission.

WHEN YOU CAN'T MAKE IT

Watch Live

You can watch a live stream of our Sunday morning
worship services at your convenience.

WATCH LIVE STREAM →

