



the MUD Church

Emanuel United Church of Christ

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

At the Corner of Corn and Beans

“¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.” – Acts 2:1-4

I've decided to continue talking a bit about the theme from my Pentecost Sunday (May 19) sermon because it is so clear in my mind that, if a church wants to grow, it needs to do its job and be in mission and service to God. People want to be part of something that makes a difference. We're making a difference here, and it shows. After what has happened in our church over the past decade, I am convinced that the Holy Spirit blew through our church, our neighborhood, and our people, and led us to where we are today.

Like the part of the Pentecost story in which all could understand the language Peter was speaking, our church began to speak a language that everyone can understand. More importantly, it is the right language. I recently experienced something that tells me not only do people understand the language of a church, they know when it's not the right language. A church focused on rules, policies, and theological practices, is speaking the wrong language.

A couple who recently moved to Upper Sandusky was looking for a church in which to hold their wedding. The bride took to

Facebook to ask for suggestions, as the churches she had contacted said they required “membership” to be able to “use the church” for a wedding. God made sure I saw this exchange on Facebook, and I contacted the bride. The wedding is now scheduled at The Mud Church for March 15, 2025. Understand this critical distinction; this couple is not “using our church.” They are not “using” me to officiate their wedding. They are coming into a house of God to vow before Him that they will honor and commit themselves to each other forever, and a minister of the Gospel will be their guide.

The things we have done to make our church feel warm and welcoming have paid off. Things like mission work, this newsletter, how we greet people at the door, having a greeter in the parking lot, having reserved parking for visitors, having space reserved for passenger drop-off, and a relaxed atmosphere during the worship, have been huge when it comes to the language our church speaks. None of it would have happened without the Holy Spirit acting in our lives, nor without our willingness to be receptive to the Spirit and the new things that came along.

So . . . what language do you speak?

- Pastor Jay



Pastor Jay helped the young folks understand Pentecost with paper flames to stick on their forehead.



The Nevada Community VBS

Monday, June 17 to Friday, June 21, 2024

6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Closing Program on Friday, June 21 at 8:00 p.m.

VBS will be held at Nevada Community Church
317 North Main Street, Nevada, Ohio 44849

Complete the form using the QR code to register
your child(ren) for VBS 2024

June 24, 2024 Blood Drive Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Please scan the QR code to the
left to arrange your appointment
to give blood!

The ladies of the church will be
serving lunch!



Schedule your blood donation appointment today!



JUNE FOOD DRIVE – HOTDOGS AND APPLE PIE

We will be conducting a food drive throughout the month of June. Our goal is to collect 100 bags of groceries by June 30. Participants can use an Emanuel UCC reusable grocery bag, which are available at the church on Sunday mornings, or use the bags from the store. Everyone is invited to participate in this food drive as much as you can or want. If you can't bring your bag to a Sunday morning service, call the church and we'll make arrangements to meet you at the church at your convenience. (419-294-4144). Volunteers will deliver the items to local food banks.

We will celebrate on June 30th with an old fashioned "hotdogs and apple pie" lunch in the Alban Room.

SUMMER SCHEDULE at THE MUD CHURCH!

Follow us on **Facebook** and watch for announcements about these activities.

June 17-21

June 24

Sunday, June 30

July

Tuesday, August 6

Sunday, August 18

Sunday, August 25

Sunday, September 8

Sunday, September 22

Sunday, October 13

Vacation Bible School at Nevada Community Church

Red Cross Bloodmobile from Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Food Drive Celebration – Hotdogs & apple pie after worship

School Supply Collection – Details to be announced

National Night Out – community event

Blessing of the Backpacks and **School Year**

Hymn Sing – Join us at 3:00 p.m. to sing your favorite hymns and eat ice cream!

County Fair Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Masters Bldg.

Harvest Sunday

Heritage Sunday

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Issue 3, June 2024

EMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"The Mud Church"

*Support
Your
Neighborhood
Church*



Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

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13989 Township Rd. 127, Upper Sandusky, OH

Solar Eclipse • April 8, 2024

I did that.
- God

Genesis 1:1-5



We're now in our sixth year of mailing our Neighborhood Newsletter. We have appreciated the feedback, which has been all positive. We have been working hard to present Emanuel UCC as a neighborhood church with a "come as you are" worship service. Our mission projects and activities are designed to give *anyone* an opportunity to find God through helping others, and by making a difference in the neighborhood and beyond. When we gather for Worship, we praise God with solid preaching, the reading of God's word, and congregational singing - all in a "come as you are" atmosphere.

At The Mud Church,
*no matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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