The MUD Church

Emanuel United Church of Christ

13989 Township Rd. 127
P.O. Box 121
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
419-294-4144
www.themudchurch.com





AT THE CORNER OF CORN AND BEANS . . .

A Heart Full of Thanksgiving

As November arrives and Thanksgiving draws near, we are reminded once again of the importance of giving thanks. Thanksgiving is more than a holiday marked by family gatherings, wonderful meals, and a little time away from our daily routines. It is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and recognize just how richly God has blessed us.

The Bible reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, ***"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*** Notice that Scripture doesn't say to give thanks only when everything is going well. It tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. That can be difficult, especially when life brings challenges, disappointments, illness, or uncertainty. But even in our hardest moments, there are blessings worth recognizing and reasons to trust in God's goodness.

Sometimes we become so focused on what we don't have that we overlook everything we do have. We worry about tomorrow, complain about today, and spend too little time thanking God for yesterday. We take for granted our families, our friends, our church, our health, and the simple blessings of another sunrise. Yet every day is a gift from God, and every blessing is a reminder of His love.

Thanksgiving also calls us to look beyond ourselves. There are people around us who need encouragement, kindness, compassion, and a helping hand. One of the greatest ways we can demonstrate our gratitude to God is by sharing His love with others. A thankful heart should lead to generous hands and a willingness to serve.

Most importantly, let us remember that our greatest reason for thanksgiving is Jesus Christ. We are thankful not because life is always easy, but because God's love is always faithful. Through Christ, we have forgiveness, hope, salvation, and the promise of eternal life. Those are blessings that no difficult circumstance can take away.

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables this year, may we take time to thank God for all that He has provided. May we remember those who are struggling, reach out to those who are lonely, and share our blessings with those in need.

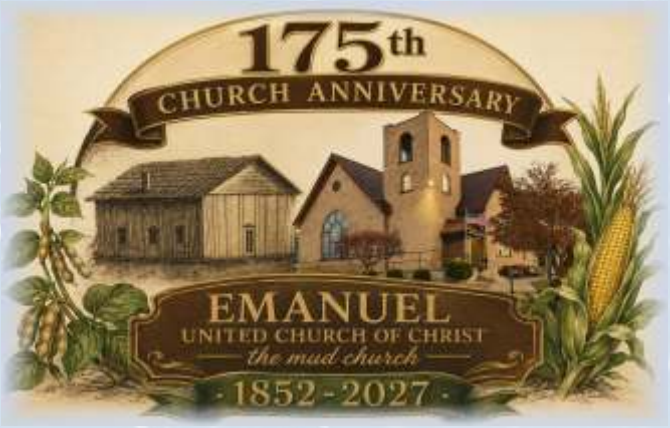
May Thanksgiving be more than a day on the calendar. May it become an attitude of the heart. And may we live every day with grateful hearts, remembering that every good gift comes from above.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!

- Pastor Jay



"The church that focuses on growth will die. The church that focuses on mission will grow." ~ Pastor Jay Scott



175th Anniversary

Emanuel UCC – The Mud Church – will celebrate its 175th anniversary next year, and we are already planning a year of celebration! Watch this newsletter, Facebook, and other media for details and announcements about opportunities to celebrate with us!



Advent Begins on November 29

As we move into the Christmas season the church will be decorated as beautiful as ever. Mark your calendar for the Women's Guild's 2nd annual **"Journey to Bethlehem,"** a special open house from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the church to see dozens of nativity scenes of all sizes, hear some Christmas music from local musicians, and experience some tastes of the season.



Heritage Sunday





We celebrated our annual Heritage Sunday on October 11. During a special worship service that day we honored those who've been church members for 50 years or more, and heard a special presentation from our Association Minister of the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Jon Komperda. Lunch included homemade stew cooked over a fire, and the day ended with a hayride!

Journey to Bethlehem: A Christmas Experience

Step into the story. Rediscover the wonder.

This December, we invite you to walk the path that Mary and Joseph traveled on that holy night. Our "Journey to Bethlehem" is a live, immersive experience that brings the Nativity to life through sights, sounds, and storytelling. Encounter the heart of Christmas in a fresh and meaningful way.

Date: December 12, 2026

Location: Emanuel UCC
13989 Twp. Hwy 127, Upper Sandusky, Ohio

Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Admission: Free & Open to All Ages

What to Expect: Scripture readings, music, and candlelit reflections, apeaceful manger moment to pause and pray, a craft for the little ones, and refreshments.



Whether you're young or young at heart, this journey offers a chance to reflect, rejoice, and reconnect with the true meaning of Christmas. Invite your neighbors, bring your family, and share in the joy of Christ's birth.

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Issue 4, Nov/Dec 2026



Christmas Eve

You are invited to worship with the Mud Church family on Christmas Eve starting at approximately 6:45 p.m. with special music, and the service beginning at 7:00 p.m. This meaningful and spiritual service includes the reading of the Christmas story and Pastor Jay Scott's annual Christmas message.

You will also experience the inspirational candle lighting ceremony as the congregation sings "Silent Night, Holy Night." The evening will conclude with cookies and refreshments as we fellowship together on our way to the birthday of Jesus.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are *WELCOME here.*

To support our ministry go to *www.themudchurch.com* and click on give.

Emanuel United Church of Christ

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

Find us on facebook

419-294-4144

December 2026 Schedule

Saturday, December 12
Journey to Bethlehem, 3-6 p.m.
See article to the left

Saturday, December 19
Kids Christmas Party, 9 a.m. - Noon

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m.