



# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

470 EAST BROADWAY STREET, ALLIANCE, OHIO 44601-2698

STEPHANIE LEE, PASTOR

*TO SERVE GOD BY SHARING COMPASSION AND LOVE*

Church 330-823-7136

Parsonage 330-823-9628

## Press Release

**For Release: October 24, 2015**

### **CHRIST UNITED METHODIST HONORS 50 -YEAR MEMBERS AT LAITY SUNDAY SERVICE FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**

Alliance.....Dick Diser, chair of the Church History and Records Committee and members of the Christian Education Committee of Christ United Methodist Church, honored 50-year members with special recognition on Sunday, October 18, during the service and at a Fellowship Luncheon.

The luncheon served a dual purpose: recognition of 50 – year members and the raising of financial support through donations for Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Red Bird Mission and Clinic have been providing ministries in its area of the Appalachian Mountains since 1921. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents. Hand-crafted items by the people of the area were on display, donated by Polly Waggamon.

The church's support of Red Bird Mission started in the mid-1990's following a bus trip by church members with Polly Waggmon and the late Rev. Glenn Waggamon as tour guides. One thousand dollars has been contributed yearly since.

Diser asked the congregation to remember stories about their years of membership and to share them during the luncheon. He then proceeded to share three of his memories—Dr. Craig George's acting as a waiter at a Smorgasbord Dinner during the 1960's; the creation of the Friendship II Sunday School class in 1974, and his years of making peanut brittle, which began in 1977.

New 50-year club members are Sheryl Crum Lain and William Barnes. They bring the total number of active members to 101.                    –more–



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In keeping with the Laity Sunday theme, Lay Leader Dr. Susan Haddox, gave the sermon: “The Wrong Questions”, based on the morning’s old and new testament lessons Job 38:1-7, 34-41 and Mark 10:35-45.

“Are humans wrong to question God and rail against injustice? I don’t believe that is the case,” she said. “When I read the book of Job with my students, I tell them that it is not really a book about God. It’s a book about suffering and human theological response to suffering,” she said.

“We like to think of the world controlled by God in which each gets his or her just reward. The problem is that the world is not like this. Life is unfair; it is highly nuanced and complex.... By avoiding Job’s question, God basically says, there is no way to explain suffering.”

Dr. Haddox went on to say that what matters is that in the end God restored his relationship with Job and asked Job to do the same with his friends. Regarding James and John wanting to be seated at the right and left of Christ, she said this led to bickering among the disciples and how very like that is with our own churches. “However,” she went on, “we need to remember that in the community of God we serve one another.”

“God says: ‘forget yourself, forget explanations, forget reward; instead focus on relationships...focus on ministry, focus on service.’”

Christ United Methodist Church is located at 470 East Broadway Street in Alliance. It currently is home to the offices of Habitat for Humanity, the Alliance of Churches and Men’s Challenge. For more information, visit the church’s website at [www.cumcalliance.org](http://www.cumcalliance.org).

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**Caption:** Christ United Methodist 50-year members were recognized Sunday, October 18, during the Laity Sunday Service. They are joined by Dr. Susan Haddox (in the pulpit) and Pastor Stephanie Lee (far right in the bottom row).