

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - EMAIL NAMES OF LOVED ONES BY NOVEMBER 2

All Saints Sunday is a traditional time to remember friends, family, and church members who have died in the previous twelve months. We often think of “saints” as those who were perfect in their faithfulness during their time on earth. However, in the early church the word “saint” simply referred to any Christian in general. This service recognizes the bond of Christians that stretches beyond this world; the common bond of the church here on earth and the church triumphant in heaven. All Saints Sunday also recalls Hebrews 12:1 in which we are “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” as we continue in faithful discipleship.

During worship we will speak the names of our loved ones. We would like to list their names, as well as dates that mark their lifetime, and their relationship to our congregation. Please email Beckie at office@portucc.org by Thursday, November 2. Thanks for your help to make this All Saints Sunday a meaningful experience.



ELEVATOR UPDATE - ONE MONTH AFTER ASSESSMENT FROM ELEVATOR COMPANY

On September 26, we received confirmation that our elevator, installed in 1991, has a serious hydraulic fluid leak due to a hole in the piston casing below ground. This means that the entire piston (15-18 feet in length) must come out and be replaced. The Property Team has been in conversation with three companies to receive bids to make the necessary repairs. The initial “ballpark” cost of the project remains in the \$60,000-\$100,000 range. Unfortunately, there is much that we don’t know about the cost of the repairs until the project begins and we discover what is going on below ground. Members of the Executive Team have been reaching out to the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund, where we received a loan to repair windows and siding in 2020, and the United Church of Christ Building and Loan Fund, to inquire about financing. We have also reached out to a local bank to compare interest rates and terms of a loan.

Last month we had hoped to be able to move quickly on receiving bids, acquiring financing, and making decisions, but the reality of working with three different companies and having them give serious consideration of our situation, has made it clear that we need to slow down. In September, the Council gave approval to conduct a Special Congregational Meeting as soon as suitable plans were developed with the best bid and financing options. When those are in hand, church members will be given two weeks notice of the date for a Special Meeting required by our Church Constitution, and we can vote on how to proceed.

It is important to lift immense thanks to our Property Team: Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, Gary Tackes, and Claude Zimmerman, who have all spent numerous hours on the phone and meeting with elevator representatives, pouring over bids with pages of “fine print” details, and sorting through the various options and bringing their questions back to the companies for answers. They have really put forth an extraordinary effort in an extraordinary year for our church building. Please see *page 9* for information on the location of our services while the elevator is out of order.