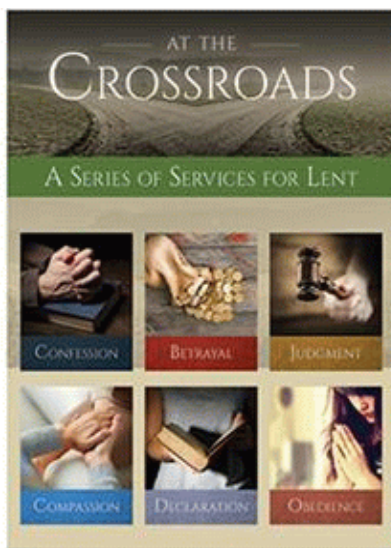




RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2017

## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES



Once again, we will join other local congregations for supper and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent. We begin with a simple meal of soup and sandwiches at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45. We will host the first one on March 8th. Pastor John Apple and Lynn Hunsicker will deliver a dialogue sermon focusing on betrayal.

The theme this year is "At the Crossroads." Many of those involved in the story of the Passion of Christ came to a crossroads and had to decide which way to go. Each service will reveal in some way how Christ and his cross also lead us to decide the path of God's will for us.

The other participating congregations are First Faith Community, First Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal, The Community at Parkvue, St. Stephen United Church of Christ, and Trinity United Methodist.

The offering will benefit a mission project of each of the hosting churches. For us that will be our Center for Peace & Understanding.

The Schedule for the remaining services is:

- March 15** - First Presbyterian Church (265 Jackson St., Sandusky)  
Preachers - Revs. Jan Smith-Wood and Jerry Fenske
- March 22** - First Faith Community Church (225 E. Jefferson St., Sandusky)  
Preachers - Revs. Cathy Lawrence and Doug Winner
- March 29** - The Community at Parkvue, (3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky)  
Preachers - Revs. Lenore Kure and Jerry Fenske
- April 5** - St. Stephen United Church of Christ, (905 E. Perkins Ave., Sandusky)  
Preachers - Pastor John Apple and Rev. Cathy Lawrence



Shortly after Christmas I saw a sign at one of the local grocery stores that said, "It's Paczki Time!" It was sitting on top of a table in the bakery department with boxes of that Polish pastry resembling jelly doughnuts. I reacted with the same disgust I have when I see a store displaying Christmas decorations before Halloween. Obviously the store, and most consumers, have no idea what the paczki tradition is all about. There is no "Paczki Time," there is only Paczki Day, and it doesn't arrive until Fat Tuesday, this year on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Fat Tuesday is the day before Lent begins. In centuries past, the use of milk, cheese, butter, eggs, and animal fats during the days of Lent was forbidden by religious customs. So all of those items needed to be used up before the Lenten fast began. Various Christian nations developed their own rich breads and desserts for one last feast before the austerity of Lent. In Poland they created packzi. The Germans made fastnachts. In Great Britain pancakes served the same purpose. For the obvious reason then, the day before Lent began (Ash Wednesday) became known as Fat Tuesday.

Lent itself, the 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter (excluding Sundays), has its roots in the early church and emerged from an extensive period of prayer and fasting that took place in preparation for the baptism of new Christians on Easter morning.

Today Lent is a time of introspection and reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. It's about improving our relationship with God by looking deep inside ourselves to see the ways we hurt one another and our world by not living as God intends, and then making necessary changes.

So, in keeping with tradition, I hope you will enjoy some goodies on Fat Tuesday and then take a serious approach to Lent by participating in our own unique Ash Wednesday service and the joint mid-week Lenten services with other local congregations (*see the schedule on the back cover.*)

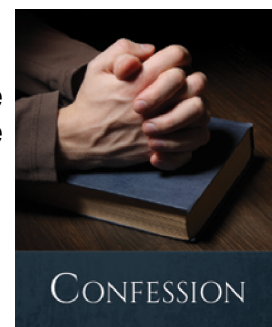
If you would like a devotional to help you focus your introspective thoughts during Lent, a variety of them are available on the back table in the sanctuary.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

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### ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Lenten journey begins on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> with our own unique traditional Ash Wednesday service, including Holy Communion, but not the imposition of ashes. Please join us in the Boardman Room at 7:00 p.m..



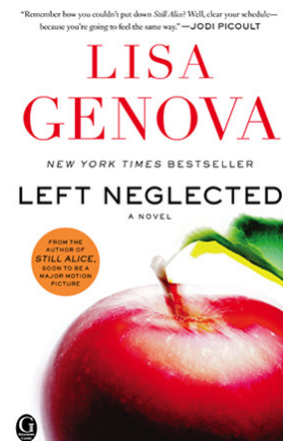
### BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss *The Shack* by Wm. Paul Young. At that time the book for April, *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova, will be distributed.

This is the story of Sarah Nickerson, a working mom busy trying to have it all. One morning while racing to work and distracted by her cell phone, she looks away from the road for one second too long. In that blink of an eye, all the rapidly moving parts of her over-scheduled life come to a screeching halt. After a brain injury steals her awareness of everything on her left side, Sarah must retrain her mind to perceive the world as a whole. In so doing, she also learns how to pay attention to the people and parts of her life that matter most.

In this powerful and poignant *New York Times* bestseller, Lisa Genova explores what can happen when we are forced to change our perception of everything around us. *Left Neglected* is an unforgettable story about finding abundance in the most difficult of circumstances, learning to pay attention to the details, and nourishing what truly matters.

All are welcome to the discussion. Books will soon be available from the church office. The Club meets at 2:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the month in Frosty's Activity Center at the Parkvue Health Care Center.





## LOVING OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

If you missed out on the opportunity last fall to learn about Islam, the Board of Christian Education has decided to repeat the five-part video series *Love your Muslim Neighbor As Yourself*. The hour-long sessions will be held after fellowship time (approximately 11:30) each of the Sundays in March.

Much of the information generated by the media these days about Islam is misleading, rooted in stereotypes and watered by fear. Come and learn from Islamic and Christian scholars presenting reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we all can be about building relationships across the lines of faith.

## SUPPER CLUB

Another pleasant evening of dinner and fun with the Supper Club is coming up! This month we're meeting at Mekong at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are required so be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.



Rev. Lenore will be out of the office from March 11<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>, attending a Mennonite Peace Center course and staying with family. If you have a pastoral concern during that time, please contact Rev. Bob Bottoms at 419-271-0086. Rev. Bob will be preaching on March 19<sup>th</sup>; see below for details of the March 12<sup>th</sup> service. Rev. Lenore will be back on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## OLD-FASHIONED HYMN SING

Join us on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> for an old-fashioned hymn sing service! The Lyme Village Pioneer String Band will play old gospel hymns, and the congregation will be encouraged to sing along. Come and join the fun!

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Don't forget to turn your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on March 11<sup>th</sup>!

## MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night continues on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.. The movie will be the joyously cockeyed *Travels with My Aunt*, starring Dame Maggie Smith (of *Downton Abby* fame) and Alec McCowen. Based on the Graham Greene novel and directed by George Cukor, the film follows the adventures of Augusta Bertram and her bewildered nephew Henry as they dash across Europe in an effort to save the life of Augusta's long-ago lover, who has been kidnapped.

Popcorn will be provided - bring your own beverage. All are welcome!



# One Great HOUR OF SHARING

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

March 26<sup>th</sup>

*Just as you did it to the one of least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40)*

Paul's letters remind us that as members of the church, we are so closely connected that we can think of ourselves as parts of one body. The New Testament constantly refers to followers of Jesus, not as Christians, but as a *family*—brothers and sisters.

Many churches live this out when someone is ill, mourning, or facing a crisis. You show up. You are there for your loved ones in need. You show that love in tangible ways, with casseroles and cards, hugs, and spoken words of prayer. These acts of kindness let your brothers and sisters in Christ know that you are present with them. They know they are not alone because you are beside them. They know that they are not forgotten in their times of trouble. When someone you care about suffers—all your truest words and most loving actions simply declare: "I am here."

The Bible tells us that God is like us in this respect. When one of God's beloved children suffers, God declares, "I am here." God hears the cries of the poor and oppressed (Exodus 3:9, Psalm 10:17, 69:33), is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18), and is near to all who call God's name (Psalm 145:18). The promise that God will be with us is a constant refrain from Genesis to Revelation.

When Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-40), he reveals to us a mystery. God is most tangibly present in this world where people hunger, thirst, lack adequate clothing and shelter, and are sick or imprisoned. Christ cares for people who suffer and says He is so present in them that when you feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger—you feed, and care for, and welcome Christ.

Not just your fellow Christians, but anyone in need, anywhere in the world—these are your sisters, your brothers, your children. Their needs might seem different than the people you worship with on Sunday, but your tangible gifts declare the same message: "I am here." By reaching out to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty, you let them know that they are not forgotten. By acting together as the body of Christ, we are able to be there for members of Christ's family.

We are there through providing well pumps for clean water, seeds and training for sustainable agriculture, and rice and oil to provide nourishment and cooking supplies. We are there through medical kits, school supplies, temporary shelters, and safe housing projects where needed most. One Great Hour of Sharing donations fund these efforts. We will be taking the One Great Hour of Sharing special collection on March 26<sup>th</sup>. An envelope is included with this newsletter - please give generously.



## GAMES NIGHT

Games Night will continue Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite game. Beverages will be provided - bring your own snacks. Faster-paced and inclusive games are recommended, as we hope to have players rotate and try out new games in the course of the evening, but all favorite games are welcome. Please contact Tim Work with any questions or suggestions for favorite games at 419-271-2227.

## BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual "Bowl For Kids' Sake" fundraiser will take place at Cedar Lanes on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>! There will be lots of fun, food, and prizes. This event benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County. If you would like to participate, there are sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. Remember, if you sign up you will be expected to collect donations or pledges before the event. We will bowl at 12:15 p.m., and hope to have two teams.





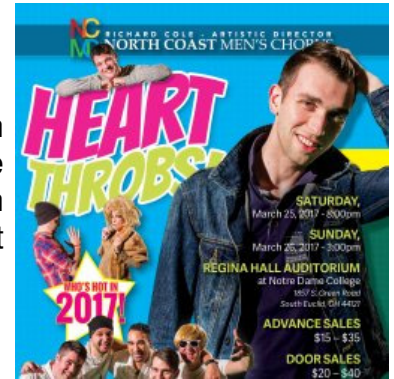


## SPAGHETTI DINNER

The spring Spaghetti Dinner will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with the dinner itself, please contact Kim Nemeth at 419-656-1746. Tickets will be available Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> - money and unsold tickets should be given to Scarlet Berry by Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be having a bucket auction. We need new or regifted items and gift cards. If you know of a business that might donate items or gift cards, please let Joy Berquist know.

## SPRING CONCERT

The North Coast Men's Chorus will present *Heart Throbs!* on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Regina Hall Auditorium, Notre Dame College, South Euclid. See the bulletin board or call 216-556-0590 for information and ticket prices. Our Glenn Gast is a member.



Hello to the Congregation,

I think the nice weather has brought an early spring fever to the playground AND to the homework department. The Club kids had generally good grade cards this term, but many of them had one bad mark in the core disciplines, like math, reading comprehension and social studies. Usually that is due to faulty homework and their lack of attention in class. The exceptionally warm weather just exacerbates those circumstances. Fortunately, elementary worksheets and ornery kids are our business.

Our education director, Miss Carol, had the opportunity to take some Club members to the recent Firelands Symphony Orchestra concert at the State Theater downtown. What's more, they got a personal tour of the backstage goings-on before the rehearsal.

Our new kitchen program is getting better with each passing day. For Miss Mary, our kitchen manager, a little trial-and-error goes a long way in the taste buds department. However, we do have to stick to a strictly healthy menu, so we've had to rearrange our routine for dinner and snacks.

I want to offer a personal *thank you* to Pastor Kure; she gave an impromptu tour of the First Congregational sanctuary to my Uncle Aaron, who visited the Club and the church for the first time. He attends St. Mary's Church and sings in the choir each Sunday.

I close with a quotation for my friend, Scott D. Hughes, who died last week:  
"They talked in the shorthand of old friends and shared memories."

— Dee Henderson, *Before I Wake*

David Icsman, Youth Center Director



Congratulations to Don Schlett on the birth of his granddaughter, Thea Rose Schlett. She was born January 30<sup>th</sup>.



Trudy Anderson	3/3
Marv Keller	3/4
Omar Meyer III, Karen Michaels	3/8
Kassidy Nemeth	3/11
Kim Files	3/12
Randi Ketchum	3/13
Tammy Samson	3/17
Libby Boros	3/18
Robin Pratt	3/22
Lenore Kure, James Smith	3/23
Sam Waugaman	3/24
Sue Nottke	3/26
Noah Wilhelm	3/31

### **CENTER FOR PEACE & UNDERSTANDING**

We are now actively spreading the word throughout the community about our vision for becoming a Center for Peace & Understanding. Rev. Lenore and Mark Pifer attended a recent Kiwanis meeting seeking the Club's support for the project. They hope to visit the other service organizations in town with the same message and suggest that they all work together with us and the City to make this dream a reality.

At the last Peace Gathering it was decided to change the name of the Center to that of Peace & Understanding in order to better clarify what it is all about. Peace can only come through an intentional effort to understand one another and why we feel the way we do about certain issues. It's also important to remember that there cannot be peace without justice, so being active in justice issues will also be part of the work of the Center.

The Peace Room (old choir room), the Center's resource library and meditation center, will soon get a facelift. Cathy Pifer is coordinating the redecorating and Bill Roche is updating the electrical work. Thanks to Bob Bottoms, two new book cases are now assembled and waiting to be filled with peace and justice resources.



### **REPORTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND BOARDS**

#### **Leadership Team**

*(The brief report of the Leadership Team meeting will no longer be printed in the newsletter. As always, the minutes of the meetings are available to church members in the church office.)*

#### **Board of Christian Education**

*Jacki Warren, Chairperson*

The Board is looking forward to working with our newest member, Debbi Keller.

Study Group will begin the Bible Study for Lent, "At the Crossroads" on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This course material will coincide with the theme for the mid-week Lenten services beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome - please stop by the church office for course materials.

Since the last newsletter, we have received letters of thanks from United Church Homes (Parkvue) for our mission donations, from Firelands Positive People and RAHAB Ministries for our Shoreline donation, and from Cross International (Kobonal Mission) for our 2016 donation.



Madison Brenton, Sue Fairchild, Jean Gardner, Kim Hawes, Debbi Keller, Ken Keller, Ralph Keller, Heyley Ketchum, Mary Ellen Longnecker, Mark & Cathy Pifer, Christine Vroman, John Vroman, The Brooks, Eats, Hughes and Stark Families

**Ongoing:** Carol Antonelli, Bowyer Family, Brock Family, Keagan Grames, Izabella, Waddington Family

**Homebound:** Ruth Baker, Jane Brock, Mary Fenker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz



## EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order Easter plants to enhance our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Daffodils, Hyacinths, and Tulips are available for \$8.25 each, while white Easter Lilies will cost \$9.50 each.

***Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant & Quantity:**

**Daffodil** \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$8.25 each)

**Lily** \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$9.50 each)

**Tulip**  
(\$8.25 each)  
Red \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink \_\_\_\_\_  
Blue \_\_\_\_\_

**Hyacinth**  
(\$8.25 each)  
Blue \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to take my plant home after the Easter Service \_\_\_\_\_

My Easter plant is in **Memory** or **Honor** of (Circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2017</h1>					<b>At Grace Episcopal:</b> Tu & Th 10 am BonesandBalance	
<b>Unless otherwise noted, our typical Sunday schedule is:</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship <b>Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - Noon</b>			1 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.	2 11 <sup>th</sup> Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	3 Book Club 2:00 p.m.	4
5 First Sunday in Lent/Communion Care & Share Study Group 11:30 a.m.	6 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	7 Supper Club 6:00 p.m.	8 Mid-week Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. First Congregational	9 11 <sup>th</sup> Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	10	11
12 Second Sunday in Lent Mission/Outreach 11 Study Group 11:30 a.m. Unitarians 2 p.m.	13	14 Joint Meeting Boards 6:00 p.m. Leadership Team 6:30 p.m.	15 Mid-week Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. First Presbyterian	16 11 <sup>th</sup> Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Peace Gathering 6:30 p.m.	17	18
19 Third Sunday in Lent Study Group 11:30 a.m.	20	21 Movie Night 7:00 p.m.	22 Mid-week Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. First Faith Community	23 11 <sup>th</sup> Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	24	25
26 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Study Group 11:30 a.m.	27 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	28 Game Night 7:00 p.m.	29 Mid-week Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. Community at Parkvue	30 11 <sup>th</sup> Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	31	

**The Boys & Girls Club hours are 2:30 - 7:00 , Monday through Friday.  
 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. on March 17<sup>th</sup>**