



431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July/August 2017

WELCOME BAHADIR & CEM!

During a discussion at one of the Study Group meetings this spring the comment was made that with all the foreign students coming to our area to work in the summer "we are sitting on a golden opportunity to spread peace and understanding." This eventually led to us being invited to participate in the Alliance Abroad's Friendship Family Program.



Bahadir Turan

With Rev. Lenore taking primary responsibility, we are befriending two students for the summer as a church family through our Center for Peace & Understanding. Bahadir Turan and Cem Ongan recently arrived from Turkey. Both are working as lifeguards at Kalahari and living in nearby employee housing. They look forward to experiencing American culture through the opportunities we will provide.



Cem Ongan

Please let Rev. Lenore know if you are willing to spend some time with them. You could invite them to your home for a meal, or take them to your favorite restaurant. Including them in a family gathering or taking them to a local event would also be a good idea. It doesn't have to be something special or expensive, just welcome them into your every day life. In exchange you will learn about their culture and hopefully develop a friendship that will promote peace and understanding between our cultures here and abroad when they return home.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with YOU!



Since our retreat last fall, and signing the Charter for Compassion, we have focused a lot of attention on peace and understanding.

Offering a course on loving our Muslim neighbors helped several members of the community gain a new understanding of Islam and we gained a wonderful friendship with Ali & Rihab Salhieh. Establishing a relationship with two foreign students working at Kalahari for the summer is also helping us gain understanding of a different culture as well as giving us an opportunity to spread peace on an international level. It's all about hospitality, or "love of the stranger," as it is known in the New Testament.

One of the Study Group sessions on peace this spring challenged us to think about who in our community are the strangers we fail to offer hospitality. For me that was easy. Since moving to Sandusky 21 years ago, I have been very aware of the negative feelings many residents have for the tourists.

I hear all kinds of grumbling about the traffic problems, crowded restaurants and long lines at stores. The worst comment was one I overheard last week at a crowded local coffee shop. "I don't call them tourists," an irritated man said to the person next to him, "I call them terrorists." He probably thought he was being funny. I thought he was obnoxious and insensitive. First of all, terrorism is nothing to joke about. Secondly, tourists aren't here to do harm, in fact, they help our local economy by spending money and creating the need for jobs. We should be thanking them, not condemning them. Where would Sandusky be without tourism?

We're heading into the busiest time of "the season." As we continue our work of peace and understanding, I encourage all of us to show more compassion and hospitality to the men, women and children who come here to enjoy our area's attractions.

Sooner or later, we all become tourists when we travel here or abroad. When it's your turn to be the visitor, how do you hope to be treated by the local people?

In the weeks ahead, please remember the Golden Rule and "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Also, don't forget what it says in Hebrews 13:2: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

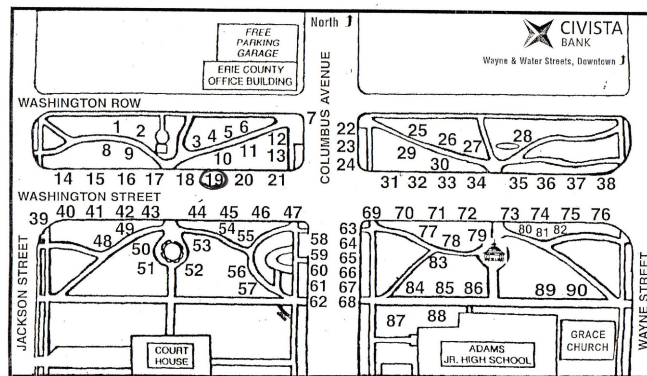
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Our summer Sunday community worship services at Shoreline Park will continue through September 3rd. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the pavilion, rain or shine. The speakers and offering foci through the end of the summer are:

July 2 - Michele Robinson	Father's Heart Ministry
July 9 - Sarah Krieger	Teen Leadership Corps
July 16 - Terri Estel	Sandusky Artisans
July 23 - Ali Salhieh	Crystal Tower Women's & Children's Shelter
July 30 - Rory McClain	4 County Recovery
Aug. 6 - Pat Wilson	Firelands Habitat for Humanity
Aug. 13 - Evan Goretzki	Humane Society of Erie Co.
Aug. 20 - Sharon Lichtcsien	Sandusky Artisans
Aug. 27 - Madison Benton	TBA
Sept. 3 - Jose Soto	Shoreline Ministries

STARS & STRIPES FESTIVAL, JULY 4TH



The Center for Peace and Understanding will be hosting a booth at the 4th of July Stars & Stripes celebration downtown. They will provide a comfort and information station and offer temporary peace tattoos. Their booth is #19, near the floral clock (see map above). Volunteers are needed to help set up, man the booth, and tear down. If you are willing to lend a hand, please see Rev. Lenore. If you have a Peace t-shirt from the retreat last fall, please wear it.



July's Supper Club will be at Eats N' Treats (2315 E. Perkins Ave.) Wednesday, July 5th at 6:00 p.m.. Reservations are required - please sign up on the back bulletin board.

In August, Supper Club will meet at Patsy Hicks's home (5807 Cambridge Circle, Sandusky) for a potluck at 6:00 p.m.. There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board in a few weeks.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Friday, July 7th to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. At that time the book for August, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King, will be distributed. This is the first in King's Sherlock Holmes mystery series.

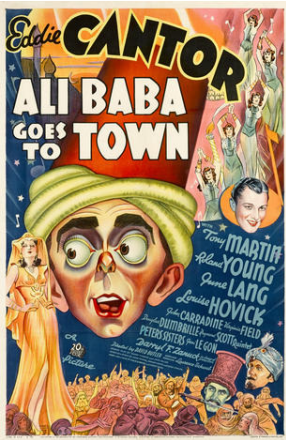
Set in 1915 the story is about Holmes in retirement. He is quietly engaged in the study of honeybees in Sussex when Mary Russell, a recently orphaned teenager literally stumbles into his life. Displaying an impressive intellect she proves to be a deft protégée and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective. They are soon called to Wales to help Scotland Yard find the kidnaped daughter of an American senator, a case of international significance with clues that dip deep into Holmes's past.

Anyone who loves to read and enjoys exchanging thoughts and ideas with other readers is welcome to attend the Book Club. Copies of the book are 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.



GAMES NIGHT

Games night will be put on hiatus until the fall, due to Tim Work's schedule. If anyone else would like to take it over for the summer, please contact Tim at 419-271-2227.

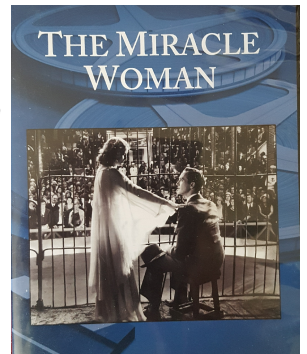


MOVIE NIGHT

The movie for July 18th will be the David Butler romp *Ali Baba Goes to Town* starring Eddie Cantor. A hobo brings Roosevelt's New Deal to ancient Baghdad, when he is transported back in time and mistaken for Ali Baba.

The August 15th movie is a potent romantic drama, *The Miracle Woman*. Directed by the legendary Frank Capra and starring Barbara Stanwyck, it is the story of a preacher's daughter who has lost her faith, and is convinced to perform fake miracles for money, until love intervenes.

Movie Club begins at 7:00 p.m.. Popcorn is provided - bring your own beverages. All are welcome - bring a friend!



THE PEACE GATHERING

July's Peace Gathering will be Thursday, July 20th, with social time beginning at 6:30 p.m.. It is hoped that our international student workers will be able to attend the meeting for a cultural exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Plans will be made for fall activities and the process discussed for The Center for Peace & Understanding to become its own non-profit entity. Anyone with a passion for peace and interest in making our community a more compassionate place, is encouraged to attend.



Community Breakfast

Our next community breakfast is July 29th. We will be serving pancakes and French toast along with sausages. Watch the board at the back of the sanctuary for sign up sheets and what for food items we'll need for the breakfast.

RIB DINNER WRAP-UP

We sold all of the extra meals we ordered for the rib dinner this year, for a total of 90 meals, plus 11 slabs. 21 people dined in. After expenses, we made \$522, about \$100 more than last year. Thanks to all who sold tickets and who worked at the dinner.



This is the July/August newsletter - There won't be another one until September!

AIR CONDITIONING FUND UPDATE

Thanks to the spaghetti dinner 50/50 winner donating part of her winnings, pledges and other contributions, the Air Conditioning Fund grew by \$471 in May. Our total as of June 1st was \$55,777.56. An additional \$1,745.00 is pledged through June, 2017. If all the pledges are fulfilled, we still have just over \$4000 to go to reach our goal of \$61,693 (the total amount borrowed from the endowment fund).

If you made a pledge, please be sure to finish paying it, or perhaps consider extending it until our goal is met. If you didn't make a pledge, why not consider a one-time donation to the Air Conditioning Fund? We are so close - let's get over the goal line!



Since the last newsletter, we have received letters of thanks from the LGBT Community Center and Parkvue for our quarterly mission donations, as well as from Doctors Without Borders for our sugar bowl donation.

We also received this special letter of thanks:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

May I thank you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church, for the special recognition you focused during Sunday, June 11th, as together we celebrated my 60th anniversary of the Rite of Ordination. It began with the letter of greetings and congratulations from Rev. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary, my alma mater, followed by congratulations from Rev. Daniel Busch, Northwest Ohio Association Minister, and our speaker for the day.

I especially appreciated, later in the Service of Worship, the stirring organ/piano duet arrangement of my favorite hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" shared by Charles Scroggy and Robin Pratt. You fellows really must contribute this thrilling arrangement again soon, for the benefit of those who were absent.

I treasured so much the special time and effort taken by Rev. Kure in planning appropriate liturgy and reflection, and making arrangements for residents of The Community of Parkvue to attend.

And my special thanks to those who planned and fulfilled the detailed, beautiful and refreshing reception following worship.

This day of commemoration honoring my 60th Anniversary of Ordination has been deeply planted in my life-book of never-to-be-forgotten pleasant memories. I do truly thank you.

John Rainey



Esther Bartle, Ron Beese, Rev. Rick Dorsch, Addy Fitzthum, Harvey Heys, Aubree Jones, Roger Jones, Debbi Keller, Don Lindsley, Kaitlyn Nemeth, Tammy Samson, Paul Slempa & Family, Emily Toth, Christine Vroman, Angie & Brent Williams, France, and the Bramel, Johnson & Nelson Families

Ongoing: Carol Antonelli, Bowyer Family, Brock Family, Izabella, Waddington Family

Homebound: Ruth Baker, Jane Brock, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM DIALOGUE

St. Peter Parish in Huron (430 Main St., Huron) will host a program featuring Fatima Al-Hayani, PhD on Tuesday, July 25th at 7:00 p.m.. All are invited to come with questions and concerns about Muslims and Islam.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Mary L. Fenker-Lindsley & Neal Lindsley
3800 Boardwalk Blvd. #311
Sandusky OH 44870

Please delete the phone number listed for Bill & Karen Michaels and replace it with Karen's cell: (410) 202-3103.



JULY

Leslie Conant & Marnay Schrock	7/2
Elizabeth Elliott	7/3
Marc Austin	7/11
Fred Nottke	7/15
David Shipley	7/16
Madison Leffler	7/19
Gracie Elliott	7/20
Marv & Deb Keller, Andy Nappi,	7/22
Diane & Bruce Wagner	7/22
Judy Harris	7/26
Chris Michaels	7/31

AUGUST

Bill Mayo	8/1
Russell Petersen	8/2
Andy & Ruth Nappi	8/5
Matthew Lickfelt	8/11
Karen Mork	8/14
Gene Finnegan, Russell & Sarah Petersen,	8/15
Diane Wagner	8/15
Jud Brandes	8/17
Andrew Lickfelt	8/19
Mary Fenker-Lindsley	8/20
Scarlet Berry	8/21
Jeanne Gilbert	8/24
Bob & Phyllis Bottoms	8/31



Congratulations to Mary Fenker and Neal Lindsley. They were married in a private ceremony at the church on June 7th. Rev. Lenore officiated.

RECOVERY WALK

The 4th Annual Recovery Walk & Rally will take place on September 16, 2017. Watch the bulletin board by the elevator for details as they become available.

THE SANDUSKY GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES - 2017

Tuesday, July 4	10:00 a.m.	Vacationland Band
	11:00 a.m.	Sandusky Jr. High Band (8th)
	12:00 p.m.	Sandusky High Band - parade
	12:30 p.m.	Erie Co. O.S.U. Alumni Band
	1:30 p.m.	The J-Markz
	2:30 p.m.	Wayne Golob Polka Band
Tuesday, July 11	7:00 p.m.	Sandusky Jr. High Band (7 th)
	7:30 p.m.	S.H.S. Jazz Ensemble
Tuesday, July 18	7:00 p.m.	Olde Mill Brass Quartet
Tuesday, July 25	7:00 p.m.	Pantasia Steel Drum Band
Tuesday, August 1	7:00 p.m.	North Coast Big Band
Tuesday, August 8	7:00 p.m.	Erie Co. O.S.U. Alumni Band

*Tailgate party hosted by first Presbyterian Church
& Sandusky Power Squadron.*

Concerts may be cancelled in case of inclement weather



Hello to the Congregation,

June arrived with a bang - I hope everyone's air conditioning kept pace. A few weeks ago, at a ninety-degree graduation party, I spoke with one of my elders and she said, "Well, how did we manage all those years ago?" We did manage and whole-house air conditioning was not a common convenience. We had electricity and fans and ice and cold water running from the yard hose. Not to mention, long trips in cars with the windows rolled down. And no cellphones. Should I even bother to tell kids what Conestoga wagons were?

Not so long ago, the church, did not have air conditioning either and we managed to stay alive and kicking. It's human nature to become so accustomed to our daily surroundings that when something is amiss, we have a driving need to fix the situation. But it's also good to use those moments as subtle reminders to what we've been through and as checks on our modern conveniences.

The Club kids are growing a small, garden planter in the back of the lot, along with a few flowers. Up front by our door, we seeded some grass and it's just starting to grow. We also did a general clean up in the back, by the shed and the dumpsters. The kids participated with great enthusiasm. You get a few old tools outside and everyone wants to ply their gardening and handyman skills. And no injuries. What could be better?

We also took our summer Cedar Point trip a few weeks ago. That amusement park is so loaded with stuff to do now, you really can't finish it in a day. Not anymore. We all know that it's about \$\$ for Cedar Point and Sandusky, but for just the cost of a ticket, you can still spend an entire day having fun there. Don't tell the city commissioners, but the Point is still Sandusky's shiniest, little gem.

Our summer program is in full swing, including the free summer lunch program, open to all children, even if they don't belong to the Club. We are adding a new staff member, and hope to take some more field trips later in the summer.

"To open the mind of a child, you need only simple tools."

David Icsman, Unit Director



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren - Chairperson

Planning for the next program year includes selecting material for the Adult Study Group and preparing for our annual retreat.

We are poring over several very interesting materials in hopes of providing thought-provoking inspiring and meaningful programs in the fall.

The annual retreat is scheduled for September 23rd at the church, exploring an environmental theme. Of course, food, fun and inspiration will be included. Save the date, and watch for details in September.

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen - Chairperson

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Strengthen the Church offering on Father's Day. We collected \$281 to help established, as well as new, churches expand and adapt to the 21st century.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School needs ROUND, sturdy plastic bottles (quart, half-gallon and gallon size - bleach bottles, detergent bottles, large shampoo bottles) for the fall. No pop bottles, please - they are not sturdy enough.

Please place your bottles in the Sunday School Room. Many thanks in advance!

NEW WEBSITE

Our redesigned website, firstconguccsandusky.com, is finally live. Check it out!

If you have taken pictures of church events, please email them to Paula at FirstCongrUCC@aol.com - we can always use more photos for the site!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2017</h1>						1
2 Shoreline 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Communion Care & Share	3 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	4  Office Closed	5 Supper Club 6:00 p.m.	6 Christian Education 1 p.m. 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m.	7 Book Club 2:00 p.m.	8
9 Shoreline 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Mission & Outreach 11 a.m.	10 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	11 Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.	12	13 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m.	14	15
16 Shoreline 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.	17 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	18 Movie Night 7:00 p.m.	19	20 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Peace Gathering 6:30 p.m.	21	22
23 Shoreline 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.	24 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	25	26	27 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m.	28	29  <i>Community Breakfast</i> 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
30 Shoreline 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.	31 Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.	Unless otherwise noted, our typical Sunday schedule is: 8:00 a.m. Shoreline Worship 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - Noon			At Grace Episcopal: Tu & Th 10 am BonesandBalance	

**Boys & Girls Club hours: NOON to 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.
CLOSED July 3rd & 4th**

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Boys & Girls Club hours: NOON to 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday through August 18th.
CLOSED August 21st - August 29th; Re-open August 30th, 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.