



October 2017



As you know, I'm usually very upbeat and optimistic. So, I was taken by surprise when my outlook began sinking while preparing for our recent retreat, focusing on environmental issues. Of course I was well aware of the global crisis we are facing before then, but there was something about studying it in detail, and thinking about the future for my granddaughter and her generation, that was bringing me down.

Just as a sense of despair was about to take hold of me, hope and inspiration came through an interview I saw on a talk show with a teenager named Xiuhtezcatl Martinez. This 17-year-old of Aztec heritage has been a climate activist since he was six years old! He is now the youth director of Earth Guardians, an international organization of children and youth stepping up as leaders and working together to create positive change in their communities. Xiuhtezcatl has been featured in many magazines and spoken before the UN. You can learn more about him in his newly-released book, *We Rise*, available in our Peace Room library.

Xiuhtezcatl and his passion for preserving nature reminded me of the work my son Brian has been doing for the last several years as the writer/producer of a YouTube reality series called Alec in WILDerland. Like Xiuhtezcatl, Alec is a teenager with a passion for the natural world. The series has thousands of followers around the globe. They have filmed all over the world with the purpose of getting kids off their electronic devices and outside interacting with nature. This increases their awareness of environmental issues.

This same sentiment was reflected in Xiuhtezcatl's message to parents in his book. He said, "Our youth are growing up with no exposure to nature and no connection to the Earth. Because of this, an entire generation is numb to the realities of the world, disconnected from the beautiful web of life. We need to love something in order to want to protect it."

So I wonder, how can we as a church, with our Center for Peace & Understanding, better engage the children and youth of our community with nature so they will become truly passionate about the environmental issues threatening their future? Therein lies the hope of the world. Shalom, Rev. Lenore



On October 1st we will observe World Communion Sunday. This tradition began in 1936 when a group of pastors were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ amid the Great Depression. They launched what was then known as World-Wide Communion Day.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

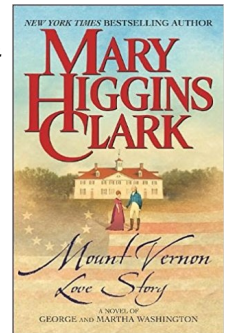
CROP WALK

Rev. Lenore will be representing our congregation in the CROP Walk Sunday October 1st. Please join her at 2:00 p.m. at the Columbus Avenue Methodist Church or support her effort with a financial donation.

The Book Club will meet Friday, October 6th to discuss *Still Alice*. At that time the book for November, *A Mount Vernon Love Story - a novel of George and Martha Washington* by Mary Higgins Clark will be distributed.

This is the famed suspense writer's long-out-of-print first novel. In it she reveals the flesh-and-blood man who became the "father of our country." The history, the love, and the man come fully and dramatically alive in her extensively researched biographical novel.

The Book 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. Everyone is welcome. Books are available from the church office.



The October Supper Club will be hosted by John Rainey and Gene Finnegan in the Multi Use Room at Parkvue on October 3, 6:00 p.m.. Please bring a dish to share. Gene will be cooking bratwurst on the grill and making his popular Sauerkraut Casserole. Also, please sign the sign up sheet in the sanctuary so they will know how much meat to prepare.

Rev. Lenore's children are coming to town to celebrate her mother's 95th birthday so she will be taking vacation days from Thursday, October 12th through Wednesday, October 18th.

If you have a pastoral concern during that time, please contact Rev. Bob Bottoms at (419) 271-0086. He will be preaching on October 15th.

Come and join the laughs, and see Julie Andrews as never before, on October 17th when S.O.B. is the feature for **Movie Night**. According to director Blake Edwards, the film involves Hollywood's "**Standard Operating Bull.**"

The 1981 comedy involves an extremely successful movie producer (played by Richard Mulligan) who makes a huge flop. He tries to salvage his career by revamping the film by adding a few new scenes, drastically altering it from the G-rated fantasy film it is, to an R-rated sex romp where its family-friendly star (played by Julie Andrews) takes her top off!

Showtime is 7:00 p.m.. Popcorn will be provided. Bring your own beverage, and a friend or two!



Since the last newsletter, we received a letter of thanks from United Church Homes for our quarterly mission donation.

GEARING UP FOR THE SPAGHETTI DINNER

Joy Berquist is once again taking charge of the November 10th Spaghetti Dinner bucket auction. She is looking for new items and gift cards. Bring your items to the church office.

We will also need volunteers to help with the meal and baked goods for dessert. Let Kim Nemeth know how you will help.

Our profit depends on you - be sure to sell your tickets!

Angela & Brent Williams	10/2
Bill & Karen Michaels	10/5
Marilyn Weiland, John Rainey	10/9
Ruth Maier	10/10
Gene Finnegan & John Rainey	10/10
Harvey Heys	10/14
Gavin Becker	10/17



DIRECTORY UPDATES

Andrew Kure 1500 E. Bogart Rd. #12B Sandusky, OH 44870

Eric & Amber Warren 4349 Azalea Dr. Evans, GA 30809



September has been beautiful around Sandusky. Let's hope some of this pleasantness floats down to the people struck by the recent hurricanes, floods and earthquake. I suppose winter is our price to pay for this summer and fall, but that seems like nothing, compared to the damage in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

The Club is going along well. Homework is starting to roll in and mid-semester report cards will be coming in October. We have a new person, Miss Sheila, who is helping the students with their school work. She is also employed by Sandusky City Schools, so she has firsthand knowledge of the day-to-day work the children have in their folders. Not to mention, the ever-so colorful and elaborate backpacks that most of the kids have nowadays. In my day, I had two arms and grocery bags. Ahh, the good ol' days. (Now where did I put my Hot Wheels lunch box?)

Since we have had such good weather, I've been taking regular hikes with the Club kids. Good walks are a tactic I will forever employ. Coincidentally, I have a cousin in California who is a life coach. She uses nature walks as a tool to help her clients deal with their personal issues. She cites the ancient Peripatetics as an endorsement of the reinvigorating powers of physical exercise combined with mental rumination.

Aristotle originated the Peripatetic school of philosophy, whereas now the term has a simple meaning of roving or being nomadic. Australia is home of the term walkabout, where Aborigines go through rites of passage in the Aussie Outback. Germany is mother of the term wanderlust, which has made its way into the English language and means a desire to travel.

I guess my point is that on a good walk, the mind and body are willing to engage whatever may come. That simple task never fails to produce a physiological replenishment, a recharge.

When I walk with the kids, they are cognizant of general rules of behavior, but they are also opened to the world around them. Nothing delights me more than watching kids fire on all cylinders, without burden. We grown-ups should be so lucky. ~ David Icsman

"But the beauty is in the walking -- we are betrayed by destinations." -- Gwyn Thomas, Welsh poet.

St. John's UCC (corner of Mason & Thomas Roads, Milan)

Swiss Steak Dinner

Friday, October 20, 2017 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$10.00



Reformation milestone: celebration and repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”

From Newsletter Newsletter, October 2017



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren - Chairperson

Sunday school is up and running under the guidance of Patsy Hicks. Retreat participants had a glimpse of what is being taught when Jacki Warren read the Creation Story to them from the children’s bible.

Now that the Retreat and Peace Room Dedication are over the Board is focusing on the Thursday Study Group. They will be using the UCC curriculum *White Privilege: Let's Talk—A Resource for Transformational Dialogue*. It’s designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. Please join these important discussions Thursday evenings in the Boardman Room at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Deacons

Kim Nemeth - Chairperson

If you enjoy fellowship time, please sign up to host. You are not required to bring any goodies. All you need to do is set up, make the coffee and clean up. Beverages are provided. The sign up sheet is on the table in the Boardman Room.

Board of Mission & Outreach *Barb Petersen - Chairperson*

The Neighbors in Need offering will be collected this month. Please read the information on the next page.

Mark & Cathy Pifer are taking charge of the September Community Breakfast. A big thanks goes to them and all who volunteered to help and/or made financial donations for the meal.

A \$200 donation was sent to the Human Rights Campaign.

CATCH BASIN TO BE REPAIRED SOON

Franklin Sanitation has been contracted to repair the deteriorating catch basin in the church parking lot. Work is scheduled for early October. They will also be inspecting and cleaning all the storm lines. After their work is done we will be contacting a gutter company to inspect and repair all our gutters.



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 29, 2017, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Please see the enclosed flyer and donation envelope.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and

peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S..

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2017</h1>					At Grace Episcopal Church: Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. Bones and Balance	
1 Communion Care & Share		3 Board of CE 11 a.m. Supper Club 6:00 p.m.	4	5 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	6 Book Club 2:00 p.m.	7
8 Mission & Outreach 11:00 a.m. Unitarians 3 p.m.		10 Leadership Team 12:45 p.m.	11	12 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	13	14
15		17 Movie Night 7:00 p.m.	18	19 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Peace Gathering 6:30 p.m.	20	21
22		24 Games Night 7:00 p.m.	25	26 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	27	28
29 Neighbors in Need Offering		31		Unless otherwise noted, our typical Sunday schedule is: 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship/Choir Rehearsal		

The Boys and Girls Club hours are 2:30 - 7:00 p.m. Monday - Friday