



431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

November 2017

November is **stewardship month**, the time when you are asked to think about your financial contribution to the church for next year. This year's theme is *Journey to Generosity - The Way of Jesus* based on Matthew 9:35 -10:23. It is here that we hear Jesus say, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." That's a great reminder that stewardship is about more than financial giving. In order for the church to grow, both in number and in the impact we make in our community, everyone must do their part to help. So, as you contemplate your pledge for the upcoming year, please also consider taking on a leadership role or in some other way doing more to help with our ministry and mission.

What we do with our money, our time, and our other resources in relationship to the church is important. All of this represents our deepest values and commitments. We are not just pledging support for a budget. We are symbolizing what we hope for this congregation, our community and even for the world.

A chart to help you calculate the percentage of your giving is included in this newsletter. While a true tithe of 10% might be unattainable for you right now, you might try inching your way toward that as a future goal with an increase in your pledge this year over what you gave last year.

Your stewardship letter and pledge card have been mailed. Please return your card on or before **November 19th, Stewardship Sunday**. The only way we can budget for 2018 and plan for the future is knowing what our expected income will be. Please give generously. Church expenses increase every year just like yours do.

Journey to Generosity

The Way of Jesus Matthew 9:35-10:23



Veterans Day will soon be here. I have always considered it to be a day to honor the brave men and women who have served in our military. Thanks to Skip Oliver and the Veterans For Peace, I am approaching it with new insight this year.

Veterans for Peace was founded in 1985 by ten U.S. veterans in response to the global nuclear arms race and U.S. military interventions in Central America. The organization rapidly grew to more than 8,000 members in the buildup to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Today Veterans For Peace has veteran and associate members in every U.S. state and several countries. Members actively work to prevent the spread of militarism in our society, change U.S. foreign policy from endless war to diplomacy and to help our national leaders have a long term vision of peace and justice. They believe one of the most important components to ending war is to work for peace.

Long before it was known as Veterans Day, November 11th was designated as Armistice Day by an act of Congress in 1926 "to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations, (and later) a day dedicated to the cause of world peace." As part of that, many churches rang their bells on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month - the hour in 1918 that guns fell silent on the Western Front by which time 16 million had died in the horror of World War I.

In 1954 the day was changed to Veterans Day and its original focus on international peace soon forgotten. According to Skip, "Veterans Day has devolved into a hyper-nationalistic quasi-religious celebration of war and the putatively valiant warriors who wage it."

This year, on November 11th, Veterans For Peace will bring back the original Armistice Day traditions and are asking churches to ring their bells at 11:00 a.m.. So, I will be ringing our bell that day at the appointed time. As I do, I hope you will join me in saying a prayer for peace.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore



CONGRATULATIONS KYNDRA!

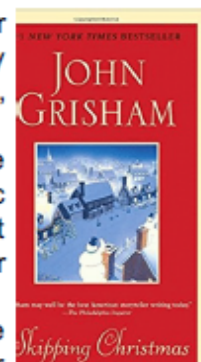
Rev. Lenore presented third grader Kyndra Yates with a bible from the congregation on October 22nd. Kyndra is the granddaughter of Laurie Yates.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet Friday, November 3rd to discuss *Mount Vernon Love Story* by Mary Higgins Clark. At that time, *Skipping Christmas*, the book for December will be distributed.

Written by John Grisham and made into the movie *Christmas with the Kranks*, this is a classic tale for modern times. It offers a hilarious look at the chaos and frenzy that have become part of our holiday tradition.

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.



Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 5th. Be sure to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed Saturday night.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On All Saints Sunday, November 5th, we will remember our family and friends who passed away during the last twelve months. Candles will be placed on the altar for: Jane Brock, Chuck Marinelli Deanna Samson (Tammy Samson's mother) and John Rainey's nephew James and family.

If you would like someone else included, please let Rev. Lenore know by November 4th.

From Kim Nemeth...

The Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for November 10th. I am hopeful we will have a great turnout! I am planning a fall themed event with delicious food and many laughs.

Everyone's help is needed and certainly appreciated. The volunteer schedule is posted on the bulletin board. We need new items for the auction...gift cards, wine, themed baskets are a big hit! If anyone has questions please call me at 419-656-1746.

Looking For Something Fun To Do?

Movie night, November 21st, will feature *San Francisco*. This 1936 musical-drama directed by Woody Van Dyke, is based on the April 18, 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The film, which was the top-grossing movie of that year, stars Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald, and Spencer Tracy.

The next Tuesday, November 28th, is **Game Night**. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share and join the fun!

Both activities start at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardman Room.



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will begin "hanging the greens" on November 26th following the worship service. The final touches will be added that evening following a pot luck at 6:00 p.m.. Please bring a dish to share. Table service will be provided.

Congratulations to Rev. Ed Shelly! Last month he married Nelda Madama and has moved into her home. Ed served as our interim pastor from 1993-1996, and "back in the day" Nelda was a member of our congregation. Please update Ed's address in your directory to 1416 Julianne Cir., Sandusky, OH 44870. His new phone number is 419-626-3332.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Trinity United Methodist Church, just down the street from us at 214 E. Jefferson St., is hosting a **Church Mini-Bazaar & Lunch** this Friday, November 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. Lunch (sandwiches/salads, soup and pie) is available from 11-1.

Castalia Congregational UCC, 205 Main St., is holding their annual **Roast Beef Dinner**, Saturday, November 4th from 4-7 p.m.. The menu includes slow cooked roast beef, homemade mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fresh salad bar, dinner roll and homemade dessert. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds will benefit local missions and ongoing church projects.

It's also time for St. Stephen UCC's **Sauerkraut Supper**. It will be held Tuesday, November 14th from 5-7 p.m.. Adult tickets are \$12, children 5-12 are \$5 and those 4 and under are free. See the bulletin board by the elevator for more information.

ALZHEIMER'S & RELATED DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUP, INC.

The Sandusky/Firelands Alzheimer's Support Group recently sent us information about their upcoming monthly meetings. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Resource room at the South Campus of Firelands Hospital. The meetings are free and open to the public. Please see the bulletin board by the first floor elevator doors for more information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 2017					At Grace Episcopal: Tu & Th 10 am BonesandBalance	
			1	2 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group 7:00 p.m.	3 Book Club 2:00 p.m.	4  Daylight Savings ends
5 All Saints Sunday Communion Care & Share	6 Staff Meeting 9:15 a.m.	7 Christian Education 11:00 a.m.	8	9 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Boardman Room reserved 4-8:30 p.m.	10 Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	11 Pray for Peace 11:00 a.m. Veterans Day
12 Mission & Outreach 11:00 a.m. Unitarians 3 p.m.	13 Staff Meeting 9:15 a.m. Leadership Team 1:30 p.m.	14	15	16 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Peace Gathering 6:30 p.m.	17	18
19 Stewardship Sunday	20 Staff Meeting 9:15 a.m.	21 Movie Night 7:00 p.m.	22	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m.	24 Office Closed	25
26 Christmas Decorating Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.	27 Staff Meeting 9:15 a.m.	28 Games Night 7:00 p.m.		Unless otherwise noted, our typical Sunday schedule is: 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship/Choir Rehearsal Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - Noon		

The Boys & Girls Club hours are 2:30 - 7:00, Monday through Friday.
November 22nd noon - 6:00 p.m. CLOSED November 10th, 23rd & 24th



School Year programming is back and we have exciting things to share!

We are happy to announce the addition of our new Youth Director, Sheila Graves to our team. She has great experience with the youth in the community and is excited to bring new ideas to the Club.

To add to Sheila's support we have wonderful volunteers Sari Kelley and Carolyn Culbertson who come in on a weekly basis to assist creative projects and the nursing students from Firelands Regional Medical Center have been assisting with homework and nutritional programming every Wednesday.

There are also some fun Halloween activities happening! OHgo is bringing a pumpkin patch, face painting and donuts to the Youth Center, and the St. Mary's Key Club will be dropping off treat bags to all of our members.

With the start of our new Child and Adult Care Food Program in January we have served over 11,000 healthy and delicious meals! We could not have implemented the food program if it were not for the support of the congregation to allow us to create our meals in the kitchen. Thank you for your support!

This year we are selling Club created Christmas cards as a fundraiser. Each package includes five designs created by the youth and are selling for \$12 each. If you are interested, please email: Lisa.Dudukovich@bgcsandusky.org.

We would like to extend an invitation for you to stop by and say 'Hi' the next time you are in the area. Our youth members enjoy visitors and love sharing about their day.

Youth Center Information
Monday – Friday 2:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Closed: Friday, November 10th

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Punky Porto	11/02
Ashley Steinmetz	11/03
Charles Scroggy, Trinity Petersen	11/04
Halley Leffler	11/05
Ron Porto	11/11
Tim Work	11/19
Cathy Pifer	11/23
Kaitlyn Nemeth	11/26
Kim Nemeth, Andrew Kure	11/29



To Bill Roche on the passing of his longtime partner and our faithful church member, Chuck Marinelli. He died October 10th. Memorial plans are still pending.

To the Brock family. Jane, a longtime member, passed away on October 12th. A private grave side service will be held later this month.

To John Rainey and his brother Robert and family. John's nephew, James, and his family perished in house fire on October 26th.

MEMORIALS

Angeline Schlett recently made a donation in memory of Matthew Schlett.

The following persons made donations in memory Jane Brock: Sue Cloak, Judy Harris and Susan Karbler. Judy Harris also made a donation in memory of Chuck Marinelli.

Please pray for Peg Anderson, Brock Family, Addy Fitzum, Gebhardt Family, Gizmo, Harvey Heys, Ruth Maier, Michaels Family, Cari Pizano, Robert Rainey Family, Bill Roche, John & Christine Vroman, Wood Family and our homebound members: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone and Elmeda Schwartz.

EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS

If the weather is unfavorable and you aren't sure about leaving the house for worship, or any other church event, please check the "iAlert" on News Channel 3 WKYC or go to wkyc.com. You can also sign up for free text alerts that will send i-alert notifications directly to your mobile device. Sign up at <http://www.wkyc.com/news/mobile/text/>.

We will also notify radio stations WCPZ(102.7 FM) and WLKR(96.1 FM) of any cancellation involving the church. Obviously, if a level 3 snow emergency has been declared, everything is cancelled! You can always call Rev. Lenore to find out what is, or isn't, going on (419-366-8729).



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren, Chairperson

The Board met on October 3rd. Bob Bottoms also attended.

After evaluating the Fall Retreat the discussion turned to the Study Group. It was decided that before we could actually begin the UCC curriculum, "White Privilege" there is much material to read right now in the news on topic. The material to be covered may be planned from week to week. Since the Oct. 12th group could be very small (Rev. Lenore and Jacki are both on vacation); it was suggested we might watch the movie Hidden Figures instead of having the regular discussion that night. Study Group will not meet on Thursday, November 9th, the night before the Spaghetti Dinner.

In conjunction with what's happening in our country and the Study Group topic, it was suggested that we might *have a speaker from the NAACP come to the next Peace Gathering.* (Note - Bob invited Jim Jackson to speak at the October 19th meeting.)

Board of Deacons

Kim Nemeth, Chairperson

We need fellowship hosts throughout November. If you enjoy this social time after worship, please take a turn. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Boardman Room.

WHAT'S GOING ON CONTINUED

Board of Elders

We will begin decorating the sanctuary for Christmas following worship on November 26th. "Many hands make light work," so please stay and help.

Board of Finance

See the back cover and please turn in your pledge card on or before Stewardship Sunday, November 19th.

Board of Mission & Outreach *Barb Petersen - Chairperson*

The Board met on October 8th. Those present were: Barbara Petersen, Robin Pratt, Chris Michaels and Bill Mayo.

The Board wishes to thank everyone for their donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. W collected xx. Thanks also for supporting the CROP Walk. Rev. Lenore and her brother Ron, along with Rev. Bob raised \$306.

When contemplating your pledge for 2018, please also consider pledging to Missions. Please indicate the amount you wish to contribute on your pledge card where it says "For our congregation's wider mission."

If you have any suggestions for missions you would like us to support, please let Barb or Robin know before their next meeting on November 12th. At that time they will be determining the 2018 budget.

Chris Michaels noted there was not much new to report in regard to the Disaster Team and no new requests have been made for buckets.

The Board is pleased to announce that Bill Mayo has agreed to join them next year. They look forward to his fresh ideas for the next year's work!

Board of Trustees

Franklin Sanitation repaired the catch basin in the parking lot and cleaned out all the gutter storm lines. Next we need to have the gutters inspected and repaired and replaced as needed.

New linoleum was installed in the meditation area of the Peace Room.



Poinsettias Color Options

It's time to order Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Plants may be purchased in memory of a loved one or to honor someone. Following the Christmas Eve service, they may be taken home, or left to decorate the sanctuary.

The cost this year is \$6.00 per plant.

Place this form and payment in the offering plate, or return it to the church office. The deadline for orders is November 12th.

My Poinsettia is in memory / honor of: (Circle One)

Do you plan to take your Poinsettia home?
Yes No (Circle One)

Number of Poinsettias @ \$6.00 per plant:

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

Total Amount _____

Your Name _____



Pink



Red



Marble



White



WE ARE STEWARDS OF FORGIVENESS

“Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’”

Our text today centers around forgiveness. When we think about forgiveness in the church, we probably first think about God forgiving us. And that is the foundation of all other forgiveness. But our text focuses on forgiving one another, particularly when someone has done something to violate you or to violate community.

When something is unforgiven, it stands like a roadblock between two people, between a person and community, or between communities. Only when it is removed can each party fully give to the relationship and receive from the relationship and engage in the mutual support that should characterize true community.

We are stewards of our time, talent, money, and other resources. We are stewards of forgiveness. We are stewards of possibility for individuals, households, and larger communities.

When we use our resources to support the church, we vote for a world in which we put the roadblocks aside and replace them with the free flow of traffic in real community.

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361